

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Thursday, 28 May, 1987.

Time — 1:30 p.m.

OPENING PRAYER by Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER, Hon. M. Phillips: Presenting Petitions . . . Reading and Receiving Petitions . . . Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees . . .

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS AND TABLING OF REPORTS

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

HON. H. PAWLEY: Madam Speaker, I have a statement on the Western Premiers' Conference which concluded yesterday in Humboldt, Saskatchewan.

I have also tabled the seven joint communiques which were issued during the conference.

Premier Devine, Premier Getty, Premier Vander Zalm and I all agreed that the conference was worthwhile and productive. For Manitoba, the most important results were strong consensus statements on agriculture and on western diversification.

I would like to draw members' attention to some of the most important sections of the communiques from our perspective.

Communiques No. 1 and No. 2 both dealt with agriculture.

The first communique states:

" . . . Current circumstances and the complexities of the GATT process require an increased level of domestic farm income support until progress in the international policy arena is reflected in price and income improvements for farmers. The Premiers, therefore, called on the Government of Canada to make an early announcement in 1987 for an increased and substantial deficiency payment, due to the continuing decline in prices and incomes.

Premiers called for the method of the federal deficiency payment to fairly recognize provincial and regional differences and to cap individual payments at equitable levels.

The Premiers also called on the Government of Canada and other world grain producers and exporters to adopt a "fast track" to negotiate an end to subsidies and a reduction in world stocks.

Western Premiers also requested a more proactive and humane approach towards world food aid and agriculture. The excessive world food surpluses and growing numbers of people are an unacceptable situation. The Premier has called upon Canada, and other countries, to direct their aid programs to move these surpluses to those most severely in need. The Western Premiers offered to work with the Government of Canada to develop programs in this aid area.

The second communique on general agricultural issues deals with farm debt, stabilization, grain

transportation, milk marketing and research for cost reduction.

The specific section on farm debt states:

"The Premiers expressed the need for action on the growing debt crisis in agriculture. They asked their Ministers of Finance and Agriculture to conduct an early review of existing programs, including the Farm Credit Corporation, as well as new approaches to agricultural financing, such as, the specific equity financing proposals.

As part of the review, western provinces will examine ways of restoring the dominant federal role in agricultural financing across Canada. Premiers agreed that the Federal Government must be more aggressive in capital programs as well as in traditional means of agricultural financing, such as, operating loan guarantees".

The same communique also includes the following important statement under the Grain Transportation heading:

"The Port of Churchill, once again, received the support of Western Premiers. They urged continuing efforts to take advantage of opportunities for expanded activity at Churchill".

Along with agriculture, Manitoba's other top priority for the Humboldt Conference was western diversification. Here, too, the Western Premiers sent a clear message to the Government of Canada.

Communique Number five on Western Diversification states:

" . . . The Premiers urged that an early announcement be made detailing the federal strategy for economic diversification in Western Canada.

The Premiers expressed concern over federal practices which direct most industrial expansion and development assistance to central and eastern Canada, and reiterated their desire for more equitable federal participation in western diversification, with particular attention to each province's economic circumstances, strengths and potential.

A further area of inequity is the disproportionately low percentage of federal procurement directed towards Western Canada. A fair procurement and federal agency decentralization program would increase employment and provide significantly more security for Western Canadians.

Underlining their commitment to a cooperative approach, the Premiers agreed to establish a western Ministerial working group on diversification to design, with the Government of Canada, the imminent federal strategy, and to promptly report progress to the Premiers.

Communiques were also issued on:

- Renewable and Non-renewable Energy Resources
- Trade Negotiations
- Federal-Provincial Regulation of Securities, and

- The Meech Lake Accord.

Because the Western Premiers' statement on Meech Lake Accord has received considerable attention, I believe I should read it in full for the record.

The communique states:

"The Western Premiers expressed their collective satisfaction that efforts begun at the Annual Premiers' Conference in Edmonton in 1986, to bring about Quebec's full and active participation in the Canadian federation, were on the point of achieving success. They unanimously reiterated their commitment to the spirit of the Meech Lake Accord and pledged themselves to the conclusion of a constitutional amendment which was fully reflective of that agreement. They called on all First Ministers to reject pressures to alter the intent of the Accord.

"The Western Premiers also discussed their respective objectives in relation to the second round of constitutional discussions provided for in the Meech Lake Accord. British Columbia and Alberta expressed support for the Triple E Senate. Manitoba and Saskatchewan agreed to consider a wide range of reforms."

The next regular meeting of Western Premiers will take place in British Columbia in the spring of 1988.

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

HON. H. PAWLEY: What did I say? Did I? I'm sorry, Madam Speaker. I'm told I said 1968. I know Opposition sometimes accuse me of living 20 years behind times - 1988.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. G. FILMON: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I thank the Premier for giving us that summary of the Western First Ministers' meeting that he recently attended in Humboldt. Perhaps the slip that the Premier made in referring to 1968 is reflective of the fact that normally, when he's looking for a response to questions or criticisms from this side, he has to try and delve back into previous Conservative administrations to find a source of response.

Madam Speaker, I do want to acknowledge the efforts of the Western Premiers in arriving at agreement on a number of issues, particularly Western diversification, an issue of importance, of course, to all of us in the West, and particularly the statements that they make with respect to agriculture, recognizing the importance that they place upon agriculture as an industry central to our fortunes in Western Canada.

I acknowledge the fact that there were some of the longer range issues to do with trade, to do with the tariffs, the supports that are being imposed to the detriment of western farms, and the necessity for us to ensure that we attack that, as well as provide the needed temporary assistance for our farmers over the short term.

Madam Speaker, I do have to acknowledge though that the Premier's comments toward the needed federal support ring a little hollow when we compare his urging

of more and more federal aid to his own action, his government's action. Madam Speaker, we need look no further than to look at his provincial partners who, as well of course, with I think a good deal more credibility, were able to put forward the call for federal support in deficiency payment, because they have put their money on the table to indicate their commitment to agriculture.

For instance, Saskatchewan - \$1.5 billion in their most recent budget, \$1.5 billion; for instance, Madam Speaker, Alberta - over a half million dollars (sic) committed; Manitoba - \$84 million. That's the comparison that we have to make when we look at the commitment of Manitoba versus the commitment of other Western Provinces, with respect to the saving of agriculture and the support of agriculture at its time of dire need right now.

Madam Speaker, looking a little further at the communique that's been issued, I regret that the Premier seems to have taken a doctrinaire position against the Triple E Senate; a doctrinaire position that won't allow him to go along with the wishes of, I believe, the vast majority of Manitobans. Madam Speaker, I think that's regrettable given the outcry that this Premier put forward after the CF-18 issue, when he suggested that we must have a transference of powers to Western Canada; a greater regional power for Western Canada to ensure that we could fight against decisions such as that in future.

Madam Speaker, many, many Manitobans, I would venture to say hundreds of thousands of Manitobans, believe that Senate Reform is the key to that distribution of power for the western region, and that it involves a concept such as the Triple E Senate, so that we can, once again, have the opportunity to have a stronger voice in the central Government of Canada.

Unfortunately, this Premier is taking a very narrow doctrinaire view and opposing that kind of movement for Western Canada that would give us the benefits that we look for.

But, Madam Speaker, having said that, having said that I thank the First Minister for his report, and we will debate some of these issues further in the Legislature, because we believe that the Premier, although the problems have been identified, thanks to the collective efforts of the Western Premiers, that this Premier isn't necessarily in touch with the proper solutions.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS AND TABLING OF REPORTS

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

HON. A. MACKLING: Yes, Madam Speaker.

It is with pleasure that I table the 1986 Annual Report of the Pay Equity Bureau of the Department of Labour.

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Government Services.

HON. H. HARAPIAK: Yes, Madam Speaker.

I'd like to table the Supplementary Information for the Department of Government Services for the 1987-88 Estimates.

MADAM SPEAKER: Notices of Motion . . .

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

HON. E. KOSTYRA introduced, by leave, on behalf of the Attorney-General, Bill No. 46, The Charter Compliance Statute Amendment Act, 1987; Loi de 1987 modifiant diverses dispositions législatives afin d'assurer le respect de la Charte.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MADAM SPEAKER: Before moving to Oral Questions, may I direct the attention of honourable members to the gallery, where we have 9 students from Red River Community College, under the direction of Miss Karen Cohen. The school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Minister of Housing; and we have 58 students from Grade 5 from the Meadows School under the direction of Miss Beverley Ransom, and the school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Brandon West.

On behalf of all the members, we welcome you to the Legislature this afternoon.

ORAL QUESTIONS

Meech Lake Accord - changes in wording by Premier

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. G. FILMON: Yes, Madam Speaker.

During the course of the past 10 days or so, my question is for the Premier I might indicate, during the course of the last 10 days we've heard the Premier musing or commenting to the effect that he wasn't happy with some of the wording of the Meech Lake Accord, yet he has presented to us a communique which indicates that he has given his support to a statement that says that "the four Western Premiers unanimously reiterated their commitment to the spirit of the Meech Lake Accord, and pledged themselves to the conclusion of a constitutional amendment which was fully reflective of that agreement."

Can the Premier indicate, given that next week he will be getting together with his fellow First Ministers and the Prime Minister to put the finishing touches on the final legal wording of the Constitutional Accord; will the Premier, or will he not, be demanding any changes in the wording of the Meech Lake Agreement when he meets with his other First Ministers next week?

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

HON. H. PAWLEY: Madam Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition referred to the communique from Humboldt. It clearly specifies, not the Accord, but the intent and the spirit of the Accord.

And as I indicated, prior to my departure, in response to a question from the Member for River Heights, I do support the intent, the spirit of the Meech Lake, in fact, as interpreted by the Prime Minister in the House of Commons, I fully agree with his definition of the intent of Meech Lake.

I have expressed some concerns in respect to some of the interpretations that had been given to, particularly the power of the Central Government vis-a-vis federal-spending programs. Some of the interpretations that we have seen given to that by constitutional and political people, particularly from the Province of Quebec, I believe that the spirit of the Meech Lake Accord - because as I indicated upon my return April 30th, a statement of principles must be reflected clearly in the legal text.

So, yes, there is a meeting of officials, in fact, taking place tomorrow further working on wording. We do have some need, I think, to satisfy ourselves that that intent is very clearly reflected in the wording that finally results from Meech Lake. And I must satisfy myself, and I know Manitobans would want to satisfy themselves, that the legal text reflected the spirit and intent of Meech Lake.

MR. G. FILMON: Well, I wonder if the Premier could indicate then whether or not it is his intention to put forward changes in wording for that legal text.

HON. H. PAWLEY: Madam Speaker, I am certainly considering some minor and some technical wording changes that I believe ought to be considered at Meech Lake in order to ensure that that provision, which is the one that we're most concerned about - I know other Manitobans may be concerned about other provisions - truly reflects the intent, so there is no possibility of any ambiguity which, I think, has given rise to some of the interpretations that are being given gratuitously by a number of spokespersons in Quebec.

MR. G. FILMON: Madam Speaker, I would hope that the Premier would share those changes that he's going to put forward, if he decides to put some forward at that time.

Native self-government - Premier withholding signature

MR. G. FILMON: Madam Speaker, I understand that some Native groups have also approached the Premier, in fact, our meeting with the Premier prior to his meeting next week, with the request, in fact, the demand that he not sign the Accord on the constitutional amendment, unless and until a guarantee of Native self-government in the Constitution is achieved. Will the Premier be submitting to that demand and withholding his signature as a result of that position?

HON. H. PAWLEY: Madam Speaker, it is true, as the Leader of the Opposition has indicated, that I will be meeting with some leaders of the Native community who are quite concerned in respect to whether or not their position has been compromised, in regard to future discussions, relating to the process of arriving at a system of self-government.

It is our view, when this was discussed - in fact I raised this matter at Meech Lake, the aboriginal concern - it was felt in the discussion that took place at Meech Lake that the Native population are assured now, under Section 36, I believe it is, that the process can be picked up at anytime, to have further discussions toward establishing Native self-government.

I would hope, and I would certainly urge fellow First Ministers and Native leaders, at the proper time, to again pick up the issue of Native self-government and give it another attempt, to see if we cannot resolve these very, very difficult issues that do relate to the aboriginal people in Canada and their desire to obtain self-government. Certainly, from Manitoba's perspective, we will support efforts to do so.

I do not believe that the wording of the Meech Lake statement prejudices the cause on the part of the Native people in finally arriving at the self-government objectives they've set for themselves.

MR. G. FILMON: Madam Speaker, so I then would presume that he is not prepared do withhold his signature on that issue? Thank you.

Meech Lake Accord - powers to provinces

MR. G. FILMON: Madam Speaker, my further question is that former Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau has recently denounced the Meech Lake Accord; in fact, has questioned the political motivation of the Premiers in joining in on the Meech Lake Accord; and has, in fact, accused the Premier and his fellow First Ministers of rendering the federal state totally impotent, as a result of their participation in this Meech Lake Accord.

I wonder if the First Minister can indicate what powers will be given to the provinces, at the expense of Ottawa, under the Meech Lake Accord?

HON. H. PAWLEY: Madam Speaker, first I must say that I think it's regrettable that the former Prime Minister felt it necessary to attack the messengers of a message that he disagreed with, and that attack, I think, was unfortunate in respect to all First Ministers, including the Prime Minister. I don't think it helped the former Prime Minister's message to do so.

I guess, Madam Speaker, my vision of Canada differs from the vision of the former Prime Minister of Canada. I don't see the Constitution enshrining some rigid central authority, in which there's no room for flexibility from province to province, insofar as the development of national programs that are in the exclusive provincial jurisdictional area.

I believe there must be room, Madam Speaker, on the part of individual provinces to have breathing room in order to develop, with their creativity, their own sense of innovation, programs relating to the individual provincial circumstances that exist in different regions and areas of Canada. So it's a question of finding a proper balance.

I believe the former Prime Minister has gone to an extreme in believing that everything must be very centrally designed and crafted. It's contrary, I must say, to what the former Prime Minister wrote a number of years ago before he became Prime Minister, about the need for indeed that kind of creativity on the part of provincial administrations.

He appears to have changed his mind after his election to the Federal House of Commons, from papers that he had written prior to his election to the House of Commons.

I'm sorry, Leader of the Opposition, I know you're impatient, Madam Speaker, in getting into some detail.

I forgot the final question that the Leader of the Opposition had raised, what particular areas of responsibility were devolved from the Federal Government to the provinces? And I know the Leader of the Opposition wants me to answer that, if you wouldn't mind, Madam Speaker.

First, Madam Speaker, the provinces I think were given an important acknowledgement in their being able to provide to the Federal Minister of Justice a list of candidates that they would recommend insofar as appointments to the Supreme Court of Canada.

No. 2, there was the opportunity for provinces, if they so wished, to enter into immigration agreements. Just as was requested on the part of Quebec, any province can enter into a similar immigration program so that it's not a situation that Quebec got something quite different than other parts of Canada.

As honourable members know, and I've acknowledged my own particular leanings in this respect, but we were given the option of providing lists of names insofar as Senate appointments were concerned.

All provinces were given the right to participate in unanimity insofar as any further changes were concerned, to constitutional changes vis-a-vis the House of Commons, the Supreme Court composition and the Senate. That was included in, I believe, Section 41, by way of a revision.

Transfer of powers to render Fed. Gov't impotent

MR. G. FILMON: Madam Speaker, just one final supplementary then. Is it his position, the First Minister's position then, that those powers having been transferred will render the federal state totally impotent?

HON. H. PAWLEY: Well, Madam Speaker, I certainly disagree with that interpretation. I don't know how that can be a suggestion in any way, shape or form; and I acknowledge my surprise that that interpretation could, at all, be given to what I believe were reasonable compromises arrived at within a spirit of unity by all 11 First Ministers at Meech Lake.

MTS survey of province to include questions of political preference

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. G. FILMON: Madam Speaker, I have a brief question for the Minister responsible for the Telephone System arising out of this morning's committee hearing.

It was revealed at that time that the Telephone System Board has approved and will be very shortly undertaking a major survey of the province. I believe a sample of 5,200 will be surveyed by criteria and research at a total cost, including telephone costs, of some \$150,000.00.

Well, Madam Speaker, given that in the past every time this government has done surveys, for instance, as the Manitoba Hydro did for the Limestone project, as they have done on other economic development issues, and they have hired a pollster to do this, they

have piggybacked on it questions on political preferences. Will the Minister indicate whether or not it is the intent, or whether in fact they will be piggybacking questions of political preference on that survey of 5,200 Manitoba households?

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister responsible for MTS.

HON. G. DOER: Madam Speaker, at the committee hearing you heard very clearly that the survey, which is very, very significant in terms of the long-term Capital development of rural improvements in this province, has been the whole evaluation of that survey at the technical level, the qualitative level, at the evaluation level, at the executive staff level of the Telephone System and then to the board, was outside of any political interference at all, and they will stay that way, Madam Speaker.

I said again at the public hearing this morning it's a survey that will be used to consult with Manitobans about their priorities for rural improvements and that is a survey that will be made public, and at that time, Madam Speaker, you'll see very clearly the survey will be dealing with improving rural services, a priority for this government, not dealing in the past.

MR. G. FILMON: In the past, these surveys that have been done, as I say, by the Manitoba Hydro on Limestone . . .

MADAM SPEAKER: Does the honourable member have a question?

MR. G. FILMON: Yes. . . . were not surveys of a political nature, but on those surveys were piggybacked questions of political preference. Will he assure the House that there will absolutely not be any questions piggybacked on that survey of political preference?

HON. G. DOER: Madam Speaker, I can't respond to the polls from the past, but I would say that this is going to be a survey that is going to be used to establish the priorities of rural Manitobans in terms of where the major capital expenditures are going to be made in this province; and that is the only thing that will be on that survey, Madam Speaker.

It will be a survey on the priorities of people, in terms of telephone service, nothing else, Madam Speaker.

Infant deaths - mother from Northern Manitoba

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Norbert.

MR. G. MERCIER: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Community Services.

Yesterday she referred to two infant deaths, one of which involved a 16-year-old mother and a 3-week-old infant. Could she inform the House whether the mother was from Northern Manitoba and, therefore, under the care of her department, rather than the Northwest Family Services?

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Community Services.

HON. M. SMITH: Madam Speaker, I did undertake yesterday to report on the status of the two deaths, plus the six from last year, plus the process followed with the deaths. I'm prepared to do that, but in answering the specific question, both cases are in the hands of the Chief Medical Examiner and the police and I've been advised not to make further comments at this time with regard to the details.

I can though, if this is the appropriate time, outline the process that we follow in reviewing a death.

MR. G. MERCIER: I'm only asking the Minister, who had jurisdiction over that case? Was it the Northwest Child and Family Services or was it in fact her department, in view of the fact the mother was from Northern Manitoba?

HON. M. SMITH: There are several factors with regard to jurisdiction that concern us. The immediate concern about Northwest had to do, not with the current status of the case, but with their termination of the case, we believe, in appropriately a short time before.

Again, I do not wish to go into too much detail because when there are police investigations, there is some risk, that if we comment too much publicly, prior to a decision about a court case occurring, we may in fact jeopardize the case. As I say, I think the general approach that is taken with regard to a death, there is an internal investigation within the department that proceeds, there is also the involvement of the child protection centre, the police and the chief medical examiner and, if appropriate, the courts. And then a return to our agency and the determination then, to make public the findings, only after the court case is decided and the termination of the appeal period. With regard to the jurisdiction of this particular case, again I will be prepared to comment in specific terms when that total review is made.

Hasiuk, E.- areas of dissatisfaction

MR. G. MERCIER: Madam Speaker, the Minister said yesterday, with respect to Mr. Hasiuk's removal as director of Child and Family Services, that this was an admission to the agencies that the director has not performed at an optimum level. Would she indicate the areas where the directorate has not performed satisfactorily, and for how long a period of time has that unsatisfactory level of services been carried on?

HON. M. SMITH: Madam Speaker, in the carrying out of Child and Family Services, government has never had a fully developed accountability process. It didn't exist under the old Child and Family Service Agency in Winnipeg and it is one of the areas still being worked on in the development of the new. The new legislation does give the authority to the directorate to develop that accountability, but in the working with the agencies, many of them have been insisting on autonomy. It's been the position of the government all along, that the legislation does give the accountability responsibility to the directorate, working in a sense by delegating authority to the agencies and then calling them accountable. What we have now is less than optimum, but it's not as if there ever has been a procedure here,

or in fact our research tells us, elsewhere in Canada, to hold community agencies fully accountable. It's that challenge that we are undertaking to develop, Madam Speaker.

MR. G. MERCIER: Madam Speaker, it's very difficult to get an answer. The Minister has said that the removal of Mr. Hasiuk was an admission of the failure of the directorate to perform satisfactorily. In which areas was the directorate not performing satisfactorily and for how long?

HON. M. SMITH: Madam Speaker, the directorate has never played a strong proactive role in terms of the accountability through the system. They have administered the act and the agencies have been held accountable through the courts, Madam Speaker. It is our belief that we must have an additional set of procedures whereby, in an ongoing way, the agencies in their carrying out of their program and the delivery of the services, are held much more explicitly accountable. There has been an accountability process through the courts under the legislation, but it's our belief that we must move to have much tighter and more timely, both control and accountability procedures that are clearly understood.

We have acknowledged in Estimates that the volume of increase in the Child and Family Service and the complexity of the large number of cases in child abuse, have produced a period of time in the directorate where we have not felt that we were moving as quickly or effectively as we wanted in the accountability area, and it is that area of work which we are now concentrating on.

Mr. Mendelson and Mrs. Turnbull - role in and reason for removal

MR. G. MERCIER: Madam Speaker, the Minister has removed Mr. Hasiuk and suspended Mr. Maloney. She has not made any mention of former Deputy Minister, Mr. Mendelson, and the Assistant Deputy Minister, Mrs. Turnbull, who have been in control of this program while she's been Minister. What has their role been in this whole matter, and why were they removed from their responsibilities?

HON. M. SMITH: Madam Speaker, we have been building a system in the Child and Family Service and in the child abuse area. We have been building from a time when many of the agencies were not accessible or sensitive to large numbers of people, where there were boards that didn't have a clear accountability to the community, and where the legislation and the dollars for programs were limited in scope.

Now we have been moving throughout the department to new legislation, a broader range of services, more culturally appropriate services, but it is a building process, Madam Speaker. The level of responsibility of each person in the system is determined by the job description and we have dealt with these personnel issues in what we think is an appropriate manner.

MR. G. MERCIER: Madam Speaker, the Minister has condemned a career civil servant, Mr. Hasiuk. What

comments will she make, or what was the role of Mr. Mendelson and Mrs. Turnbull? Did they also perform unsatisfactorily in their positions over the last three or four years, while they were in positions in authority above Mr. Hasiuk?

MADAM SPEAKER: That question is repetitious.

Child and Family Services Directorate - people reviewing role of Directorate

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Norbert.

MR. G. MERCIER: Madam Speaker, who is reviewing the role in organization of the Child and Family Services directorate?

HON. M. SMITH: Madam Speaker, would he repeat the question please?

MR. G. MERCIER: Madam Speaker, the Minister indicated in her press release yesterday that the senior staff were directed to review the role and organization of the Child and Family Services Directorate. Who are those people and what are their positions?

HON. M. SMITH: Madam Speaker, the Deputy Minister working with the team of ADM's are working jointly to look at the role and responsibility, and have made great progress in developing the task ahead. Again, I remind members opposite that we are moving from a time when the system did not have many of these capacities and developing a more effective and accessible system.

MADAM SPEAKER: Order. I remind Ministers that answers should be brief.

Northwest Child and Family Services - removal of board

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Norbert.

MR. G. MERCIER: Madam Speaker, when this government was upset with the Children's Aid Society they removed the entire board and established their own board. Does the Minister intend to remove the whole board of Northwest Child and Family Services, or is she exercising ultimate authority and control over the activities of that board?

HON. M. SMITH: Madam Speaker, it is our view that we are working cooperatively with the community boards to build a more effective system in Manitoba. Now we are prepared to work with boards, as we were prepared - or under my predecessor - to work with the old CAS board. It was meeting an impasse there and also having legislation that didn't give any option, other than persuasion or takeover, that was a limiting factor.

We now have legislation that does enable us to move, as we have with a directive, to remedy a situation, which we think is risky, investigate it. And it is our intention to work with the board, again, most of the

board have accepted their role and their accountability and are willing to work with us. When we have satisfied ourselves that the problems have been dealt with and corrective action taken, we do expect to return full authority to the board.

Infant deaths - tabling of investigative reports

MR. G. MERCIER: Will the Minister now table the investigative reports into the infant deaths?

HON. M. SMITH: Madam Speaker, the six deaths from last year, I am prepared to give an update on where we are at. Now the reason for not tabling the information at the moment with several of the cases, is that they are before the court. There is an internal investigation and remedial action proposed between the directorate and the agency, along with a parallel review by the Chief Medical Examiner and the police. Then, if there is a charge, the case goes to court, and until that is complete and the appeal period, we are not in a position to table the report.

The Felix report, was tabled; the Abraham report will be ready next week; the Mynette report is complete except for a report that we're awaiting from Alberta. There are no police charges in it so it won't be cause for further delay. With regard to the Templeton, Pratt and Dmyterko reports, there are criminal charges laid so we must wait until they are complete before we can table reports.

Then with the two new cases, until the Chief Medical Examiner and police have come to their determination, we cannot make further comment. If there is no court case, we will then make available a summary in short order.

Maloney, Tim - suspension of

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for River Heights.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

My question is to the Minister of Community Services. Yesterday the Minister stated that Child and Family Services were mandated by her department, to provide services and, therefore, the boards of these mandated agencies had a large degree of autonomy. Can the Minister explain why, if they are autonomous, Tim Maloney was suspended at the request of her department?

HON. M. SMITH: Madam Speaker, they are autonomous within the mandate given by the department through the legislation, but they must be held accountable. It is in our determination that we moved in with the directive to temporarily suspend Mr. Maloney while we looked at the particular problems.

Because, with the coming to light of the last two cases, particularly the last one, we had very profound concerns about the handling of the protection part of the case. This is a traditional responsibility and role carried out by the agencies. There are well-established standards there, Madam Speaker, and the information brought to us on Tuesday gave us such concern that

that agency was not, in fact, following good practice that we felt moving in with the directive and the temporary naming of a new executive director gave the appropriate balance between recognizing the autonomy and responsibilities of the board, and our responsibility as the department with the legislation.

Dept. of Community Services - changes re lines of responsibility

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: A supplementary question to the same Minister.

Madam Speaker, can the Minister tell this House what changes will be made immediately in her department, so that there are clearly delineated lines of responsibility between her department and mandated agencies?

HON. M. SMITH: Madam Speaker, the strengthening of the directorate and the call upon them to deal with those very issues, has been an ongoing concern, and part of the initial phase of the new regionalized agencies was to support them in their own development, and give them a real sense of ownership and responsibility. Their accountability under the legislation has always been there, but it's been primarily affected through the courts. What I have asked my directorate to do, through the deputy - and in fact they have given me a work plan now with some clear time frames - is to come up with a plan whereby their role and responsibility, and the agency's, in terms of accountability and how to strengthen that total system, I have that in place, and will be working with them very closely to see that they meet the timetables and that we do in fact build in that accountability.

But, Madam Speaker, I have been inquiring whether there are other models that we can follow, or other provinces, and to date, Madam Speaker, no one has found a model, so in a sense we're developing . . .

MADAM SPEAKER: Order please, order please.

May I remind the Minister again that answers to questions should be brief.

Dept. of Community Services - inquiry re functions of senior management

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for River Heights.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: Thank you, Madam Speaker. A final supplementary to the First Minister.

Will the First Minister call for an independent inquiry which will be conducted, either on a judicial basis, which would be my preference, or at least by independent consultants into the functions of senior management of the Department of Community Services to determine lines of responsibility and spending priorities to ensure that this department is meeting its obligation to children and families in this province?

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

HON. H. PAWLEY: Madam Speaker, I think in responding to that question we should look at the

background prior to the development of the present function of that department.

Madam Speaker, the Minister has taken leadership in ensuring that there be development of a better process in order to ensure that there be better child family care. Some of the cases, in fact, that have come to light would never have come to light under the old system. We wouldn't have a chance to debate them because we wouldn't know about them under the system that existed prior to the initiative on the part of this Minister.

Madam Speaker, in addition, we were not aware of many child abuse cases. It has been this government that has increased resources in order to ensure that child abuse cases be dealt with in the Province of Manitoba. It's because of changes, by way of the department, by way of the changes in the structure, that we're now able to deal with child abuse cases; able to bring those child abuse cases to light, Madam Speaker. And, finally, by way of reference to the Member for River Height's question, it has been this government that has responded with major, new resource allocations over the last number of years toward this area, as well as legislation.

Madam Speaker, any government takes a chance when it's prepared to initiate change to overcome what is an outdated situation. We were prepared to do that and, Madam Speaker, we're making improvements, improvements required in the future, we'll continue to make those improvements in this area.

Manitoba Beef Commission - producers to sell animals through auction marts

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Virden.

MR. G. FINDLAY: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Agriculture about the Manitoba Beef Commission.

Madam Speaker, farmers enrolled in the Manitoba Beef Plan are forced to sell their fat animals through the Manitoba Beef Commission using the central desk-selling principle.

Madam Speaker, with the closing of Canada Packers, there's now much less competition in the carcass bid price. The result is that producers are now losing five cents to six cents a pound on animals that are sold through the central desk-selling system. This is five cents to six cents a pound that producers could receive if they were able to sell their animals through the auction rings, the auction marts of Manitoba, Madam Speaker.

I would like to ask the Minister if he's now prepared to allow producers of fat animals, who are enrolled in the Manitoba Beef Plan, to sell their animals through the auction rings of Manitoba to receive full payment for their animals.

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

HON. B. URUSKI: Madam Speaker, first of all, the honourable member's comparison, in terms of who is getting short or losing money, it depends which market one compares to, Madam Speaker. The honourable

member should be aware that the price differential in the Manitoba market and those in Western Canada are very close. There is, of course, a greater differential between other markets in terms of cattle. It depends to which market the member is in fact comparing to.

Madam Speaker, the most can be received out of the market if, in fact, producers cooperate and market their animals centrally, is where we can get most out of the market rather than, in fact, splitting the market as between sellers.

Madam Speaker, it is my hope that, in fact, the suggestion made by the Manitoba Beef Commission to feedlot operators, that we combined our marketing efforts and strategy and use whatever course of action, whether it be by auction, whether it be on rail grade, those kinds of options be considered, but that the selling of cattle be done on a cooperative basis to gain the most out of the marketplace, to gain the most competition out of the marketplace, for those animals that are there.

MR. G. FINDLAY: Madam Speaker, I'm glad that the Minister would like to see competition because, Madam Speaker, right now the auction ring is . . .

MADAM SPEAKER: Question?

Manitoba Beef Commission - Minister to prevent robbery of Manitoba producers

MR. G. FINDLAY: Madam Speaker, I would like to just have a sentence of introduction to the question, please.

Madam Speaker, the auction ring is where the competition is now that Canada Packers is no longer in Winnipeg.

Madam Speaker, there's a \$50 robbery going on, on the backs of Manitoba farmers. I would like to know if the Minister will act immediately to prevent this robbery of Manitoba producers in terms of the fat cattle sales through the Beef Commission right now.

HON. B. URUSKI: Madam Speaker, it appears that the Honourable Member for Virden is now making allegations that those buying cattle are making daylight robbery. Madam Speaker, that's quite an allegation coming from a Conservative member, Madam Speaker.

If producers were to cooperate and market centrally, we could in fact eliminate some of that highway robbery that the member is alleging occurs in the marketplace, and producers could gain the most out of the marketplace that they could, by cooperating.

I certainly agree with my honourable friend that to gain the most out of the marketplace one has to cooperate and have a solid force there; and the solid force in the marketplace, Madam Speaker, is the Manitoba Beef Commission's central marketing desk.

Manitoba Beef Plan - fat animals to be sold through auction ring

MR. G. FINDLAY: Madam Speaker, given that calves and feeders can be sold through the auction ring under the Manitoba Beef Plan, why will the Minister not allow fat animals to be sold by the same principle?

HON. B. URUSKI: Madam Speaker, my honourable friend should be aware that there is only a certain size

of market within this province. Whether those cattle are marketed through an auction ring, or whether they're marketed through some other means, there is only a certain market, Madam Speaker, and that market can well be satisfied by the central and coordinated offerings of beef cattle through the Manitoba Beef Commission; rather than splitting it apart and, in fact, losing even more money by not coordinating the sales and being able to batch the cattle that are uniformly finished, and put them on the market in a uniform way, to get the most out of that marketplace.

MR. G. FINDLAY: Madam Speaker, when farmers market through the auction ring they get their payment the next day. Madam Speaker, it takes two weeks to get payment through the Manitoba Beef Commission. Will the Minister address that problem immediately?

HON. B. URUSKI: Madam Speaker, that has been a situation that has been evident and clear and recognized from the day that the plan started. In fact, we've acknowledged that there is a delay in payment, but the delay, Madam Speaker, is because of the support and the calculation of the support level under the Beef Commission.

A MEMBER: What support is there now?

HON. B. URUSKI: Madam Speaker, the member says: "What support is there now?" Madam Speaker, the system has to still do the calculations. He would be the first member that would get up and say that we didn't get our support if there was a miscalculation, and now he's advocating some other change in the system to basically screw it up.

MADAM SPEAKER: Order please. The time for Oral Questions has expired.
The Honourable Opposition House Leader.

MR. G. MERCIER: Madam Speaker, we're prepared to grant leave for one more question from the Member for River Heights before she leaves. In view of the fact that, Madam Speaker, didn't recognize her when she was on her feet.

MADAM SPEAKER: Does the honourable member have leave?

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: Yes, Madam Speaker, my question . . .

MADAM SPEAKER: Order please. Did I hear the honourable member has leave? It would take unanimous consent. (Agreed)

Child abuse - lack of information on prior to NDP Government

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for River Heights.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is to the First Minister.

In his statements a little while ago, he would have us believe and stretch our credibility, that children were murdered in this province, prior to the NDP coming to office and changing the policy, that we didn't know about it.

Does the First Minister have proof that, in fact, children were killed in this province, for which there was no information, provided either in this Legislature or in public?

HON. H. PAWLEY: Madam Speaker, there is a very lengthy history of child abuse, prior to the changes that have taken place for many, many years, prior to the changes that had been implemented by this Minister and the previous Minister responsible for Community Services.

Madam Speaker, many instances and cases of child abuse, and I stand by the statement that what we do have now is a system by which the light is cast upon those cases of abuse, as it ought to be, to a much more extensive way than what it was previously.

I don't recall having accused anybody of murdering any children, but I'm saying, Madam Speaker, in answer to the Member for River Heights's question, that the new system has cast light on the serious question of child abuse and has been prepared to deal with child abuse in a much more open, much more effective way in the Province of Manitoba.

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Madam Speaker, I'd like to ask leave of the House to make a non-political statement.

MADAM SPEAKER: Does the honourable member have leave? (Agreed)

NON-POLITICAL STATEMENT

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise today to congratulate the students and organizers of the recent relay race in Winnipeg. Over 21,000 students and teachers from 85 Winnipeg schools participated in the run on Tuesday of this week.

The run was organized by Kelvin High School's Cross Country Team and the Manitoba Marathon. Special congratulations should go to Lionel Orlikow and Allen Finkle, who spearheaded the event.

The event began at Kelvin High School at 7:20 a.m. and ended at 5:00 p.m. at Assiniboia Park. There were 16 circuits and 93 batons. This relay race was the world's largest relay race ever and had nearly five times as many runners as the previous record holder.

The relay race was an excellent way to celebrate Fitness Week and I'm sure all members agree that such events as this, and the Manitoba Marathon, do much to heighten public awareness just based on physical fitness.

I might add, Madam Speaker, that the Manitoba Marathon, coming up next month, on June 21, is the

second-largest marathon in Canada. I encourage all members to consider participating in that very worthwhile event.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Culture, Heritage and Recreation.

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I ask leave to make a non-political statement.

MADAM SPEAKER: Does the Honourable Minister have leave? The Honourable Minister does not have leave.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Government House Leader.

HON. J. COWAN: Madam Speaker, I believe - I'm somewhat hesitant to ask for leave - there is an inclination on the part of all members to forego Private Members' Hour today, by leave.

MADAM SPEAKER: Is that agreed? (Agreed)
The Honourable Government House Leader.

HON. J. COWAN: I, therefore, move, Madam Speaker, seconded by the Minister of Municipal Affairs, that Madam Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee to consider of the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

MOTION presented and carried and the House resolved itself into a Committee to consider of the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty with the Honourable Member for Lac du Bonnet in the Chair for the Department of Environment, Workplace, Safety and Health; and the Honourable Member for Burrows in the Chair for the Department of Culture, Heritage and Recreation.

CONCURRENT COMMITTEES OF SUPPLY

SUPPLY - ENVIRONMENT AND WORKPLACE SAFETY AND HEALTH

MR. CHAIRMAN, C. Baker: Committee come to order. We are here to review the Estimates for the Environment and Workplace Safety and Health. We'll start with a statement by the Minister.

HON. G. LECUYER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I do indeed, as I have advised the official critic, wish to begin by putting basically an overview of the department's operation on the record, and I have supplied a copy to my colleague.

If I may begin then, Mr. Chairman, I am honoured first to present the Estimates of the Department of Environment and Workplace Safety and Health. This government remains firmly committed to the protection and enhancement of the quality of the workplace, public and natural environments, for the health, safety and well-being of present and future generations of

Manitobans. In accomplishing these objectives, the government is equally committed to providing opportunity for all Manitobans to exercise influence over the quality of their living and working environments.

Members have received a copy of the departmental Supplementary Information for legislative review of Estimates. This is the second year that the department has participated in the preparation of this information. You will note from this year's document that additional program information has been provided, and it is my sincere hope that this expanded information will assist members in proceeding with this Estimates review.

I wish to extend my sincere thanks, as we begin, to all departmental staff, to the many organizations, largely volunteer, that participate on an ongoing basis in the public consultation process and to the many hundreds of Manitobans who have contributed to the delivery of the departmental programs. With their help and, yes, at times, criticism, I believe that we are more effective in fulfilling our mandate.

It is apparent when looking at the overall allocation to the department that resources continue to be extremely scarce. Given this scarcity, I am very pleased with the progress the department is making in the areas of Environment and Workplace Safety and Health. Operational efficiency is crucial if we are to fulfill our mandate. The department is proceeding with a number of very significant initiatives, and I will be telling you more about these shortly.

Let me begin by focusing my remarks on Workplace Safety and Health. Improving safety and health in Manitoba's workplaces can be related directly to the strength and commitment behind discretionary decisions centered in each individual workplace.

Prevention measures are dependent on the meaningful participation of both workers and employers of the workplace. It is through joint Safety and Health Committees and worker safety and health representatives, established by The Workplace Safety and Health Act, that problems and concerns may be identified and addressed in the workplace. Maximizing the strength of the system at workplaces across the province in order to reduce accidents and illness is a goal of my department.

My department plays a crucial role through both enforcing and supporting effective workplace action in addressing and controlling health and safety risks to workers. The department utilizes a framework of interconnected strategies for workplace safety and health, which include the creation of law, its enforcement, and the provision of education and service support to workplaces. The development and application of incentives, advocacy activities, and research and development are other areas where the department's efforts are directed. All of those strategies are interdependent and work together toward ensuring that Manitoba's work sites are safe and healthy places.

The foundation of our continuing efforts to prevent workplace accidents and industrial diseases is our vigilant attention to ongoing activities such as conducting enforcement inspections of workplaces, organizing and assisting Workplace Safety and Health Committees and worker safety and health representatives, conducting industrial hygiene surveys, providing training assistance and support to Workplace

Safety and Health Committees and other interested groups. These endeavours are a cornerstone of past and future progress in workplace safety and health in the Province of Manitoba.

As the knowledge and experience of workplace participants matures or as conditions of workplaces change, new issues emerge for our immediate attention. Within the last year, our activities have focused also on areas such as smoking in the workplace and AIDS in the workplace.

In addition, each year there are a number of workplace safety and health issues in specific situations that require particular attention from the department. Workplace concerns regarding anesthetic gases in hospital operating rooms and air pollution concerns in art rooms in schools and taxicab security have been pursued by the department over the last year. Our efforts in these issues utilize the underlying principles of workplace safety and health that form the base of our activities in all workplaces.

You may recall from my remarks of last year, it was my department's intention to introduce a workplace health regulation, which is a major initiative developed in consultation with employers and workers. The introduction of this regulation has been slightly delayed, but I am pleased to confirm that this regulation will, in fact, be implemented very soon.

I believe it is evident to anyone who has had opportunity to review drafts of this regulation that there is a substantial job ahead of us. The benefits in reducing health hazards, however, are significant. Our goals in the first year of implementation of this regulation are to obtain and train field staff necessary for ongoing implementation; to develop and disseminate educational programs for employers, workers and Safety and Health Committees; to provide assistance with acquisition of information on hazardous materials; to provide monitoring equipment and training in its use to committees; to conduct workplace inspections to ensure compliance and to identify areas that would benefit from educational assistance; to foster the development and growth of alternative sources of assistance; to monitor and review prevention plans; and, finally, to develop a data base system to record information.

In order to meet our government's objectives, substantial additional resources have been approved to implement the regulation and to allow us to advance to a more effective role in preventing work-related injury and illness. In overall terms, this amounts to an increase in staff years, along with additional funding of approximately \$300,000.00.

I am also pleased to report that the national Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS), which has been under discussion for several years by representatives of industry, labour and government, has also been adopted and will proceed to implementation nationally. Manitoba has played an active and significant role in this process.

This project was initiated to ensure that information on chemical hazards would be available in the workplace and that a single uniform system would be in effect across Canada. Manitoba sees the results of this effort as being both useful and complementary to the safety and health delivery system in general and to the workplace health regulation specifically.

It has been recognized during the consultation process dealing with the workplace health regulation that we must be cognizant of the economic impact of this regulation on small business in the province. In order to ensure that the regulation does not alter the economic viability of this important sector of the provincial economy, a study being conducted by department staff will assist in recognizing the particular needs of small business in this regard. It is my expectation that this study will be completed by the end of the calendar year.

In addition to this very major regulatory undertaking, the department is proceeding with the development or amendment of other regulations and codes of practice. These include: a code of practice relating to asbestos; the construction of regulation Parts III and IV; a revised spray processing regulation and code of practice; a lead code of practice; a revised first aid regulation; revision to the Safety and Health Committee regulation and codes of practice; and a new industrial regulation.

In addition, a revised mines regulation was completed, adopted and announced publicly at the Mine's Safety Conference in Thompson this last February.

Although the workplace health regulation is the flagship of our new initiatives in Workplace Safety and Health, there are a number of other very important activities that are taking place in this area.

I made reference last year to a study to review occupational health service needs in the province. This study is now close to completion and I expect to receive a final report from the Study Advisory Committee very shortly. Without attempting to prejudice the contents of this report, it is nevertheless my expectation that a number of positive recommendations for important improvements will be outlined in the area of occupational health services.

Another sector within Workplace Safety and Health that will undergo change during the 1987-88 fiscal year is that of radiation protection services. In past years, these services were provided to the Workplace Safety and Health Division by way of contract with the Manitoba Cancer Treatment and Research Foundation. In order to ensure that this service is provided in the same fashion as are other workplace related services, the department is recruiting radiation expertise and establishing its own in-house program. The division will hereafter monitor and audit employer compliance in the area of radiation protection.

Finally, I wish to make a few brief remarks about the Hearing Conservation and Noise Control Program. The Hearing Conservation and Noise Control Regulation has been in effect for approximately 17 months. There has been substantial activity to promote public awareness and voluntary compliance with the regulations; as well, several training courses have been presented. During the months that this regulation has been in effect, some 66 improvement orders have been issued to employers with satisfactory compliance schedules received from 29 employers, and progress being made with the remaining 37.

In addition, the Divisional Equipment Loan Program (sound level meters and noise dosimeters) to employers and safety and health committees has been very successful, and has resulted in many employers implementing hearing conservation measures voluntarily.

Several associations have provided valuable assistance and support in implementing this program, including the Mining Association of Manitoba, the Manitoba Speech and Hearing Association, the Manitoba section of the American Industrial Hygiene Association and the Manitoba Federation of Labour - Labour Education Centre. I would like to take this opportunity to publicly express our sincere appreciation for their cooperation.

A major effort is currently under way to facilitate implementation of hearing conservation programs within educational institutions. Further work will continue to ensure compliance by all affected industries.

I now wish to speak to you about the Environmental Management Division of my department.

Although most of my remarks will focus on three significant initiatives, namely, The New Environment Act, the progress being made with respect to hazardous and special waste management and the Manitoba Hazardous Waste Management Corporation, there are numerous other ongoing activities within environmental management that I will also touch upon.

Acid rain continues to be a major international environmental issue and one in which I am pleased to say Manitoba plays a very positive role. In addition to continuing with ongoing monitoring and participating in discussions with other provincial jurisdictions and the Federal Government, a proposed regulation limiting Manitoba's SO₂ emissions to 550 kilotonnes per year by 1994 from the current 738 kilotonnes per year has been drafted and public hearings are currently being held in the North and in Winnipeg.

Our stance is a very proactive one. We are taking action before experiencing the problems that now face our eastern neighbours. In April of this year, I signed an agreement with my federal counterpart, the Hon. Tom McMillan, which outlines the commitments of both of our governments to fight acid rain. Specifically, we have now the assurance of some federal financial assistance, if necessary, which will assist in meeting our emission control targets.

Although the department's main legislative thrust revolves around the new Environment Act, there are also a number of other regulatory initiatives that the department continues to pursue. We are placing high priority on revisions to our waste disposal ground and gasoline and associated products regulations, and to the development of a new waste water treatment facilities regulation.

In the longer term, we will be developing new regulations to control asphalt plants, stack sampling facilities and public water supplies; and we will also be looking at possible revisions to our swimming pool and livestock production operations regulations.

With respect to the Churchill Scrap Metal Clean-up Project, which I referred to in my remarks last year, I am pleased to advise that this project has been completed with some 4,000 tonnes of scrap metal having been removed from Churchill and transported to Southern Manitoba for recycling. As well, the Northern Litter Study has been completed. The department will continue to work with affected northern communities to follow up on the recommendations of this report.

I am also pleased to advise members that as part of Environment Week Activities, it is the intention of

my department to conduct household hazardous waste days on an annual basis. Based on the success of the program carried out last year, it is my belief that it is important to continue to make available to City of Winnipeg residents a means of properly and safely disposing of hazardous and other unwanted products.

With respect to the Manitoba Waste Exchange, as members will recall from previous Estimates reviews, the department has for the past two fiscal years provided 100 percent of the funding support for this operation. I must advise that the department is withdrawing its direct funding support for the Waste Exchange. This is not to suggest that the department does not support the concept of recycling nor that the efforts of the Manitoba Waste Exchange will have been for naught. Options are being explored to arrive at a less costly method of continuing the provision of this service. I am optimistic that, either through the department directly or through the Manitoba Hazardous Waste Management Corporation, these re-use opportunities can continue. But I must add that we continue to provide a grant annually toward the operation of the Canadian Waste Exchange.

As you may recall, concern about the recovery and recycling of the new aluminum beverage containers was raised during the 1986-87 Estimates review. I am pleased to report that a program by the Manitoba Soft Drink Association has been operating since last fall. The highlights of this program are as follows: the collection of containers is occurring at 17 shopping centres on a biweekly basis; the main collection depot operates on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., and on Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Manitoba education is utilizing an information package prepared on the program for use in schools. Payment for aluminum cans is based on current market value of aluminum. From September 16, 1986 to January 31, 1987 some 283,000 cans have been collected or 12,000 lbs. of aluminum. Efforts will continue to establish third-party depots in Thompson, The Pas and other rural centres. It is hoped that plastic bottles can also be included in this program sometime during the course of this summer.

Pesticide management continues to be a high priority with the department. Two hundred and fifty pesticide use permits were issued during the last year. On the basis of last year's operations, it appears that no major problems were identified with respect to receiving applications and issuing permits.

The department's pesticide container disposal activities continue to operate quite successfully at the municipal level. During the past season, some 66 drums of pesticide residue were collected for storage at the Gimli facility. As well, approximately 145,000 metal pails were reported as being drained, crushed and recycled or buried at municipal landfills. In addition, some 169,000 plastic containers were rinsed and disposed of by incineration or burial at local landfills.

Recently, I and other provincial Ministers, through the auspices of Canadian Council and Environmental Ministers, met with the federal Ministers of Agriculture and Health regarding the pesticide registration process. The meeting was successful in that we received a commitment from the Minister of Agriculture to improve the flow of technical information regarding pesticides to the provinces, and to provide the provinces with

written justification for decisions made regarding particular pesticides. This information is critical for the provinces in implementing site-specific control programs, and I look forward to excellent cooperation from the federal authorities.

High-level nuclear waste disposal will continue to be an issue in the province for the foreseeable future. We will not in this area be relaxing our vigilance, and I won't say more on that particular issue in that there is currently a bill which is at the Second Reading debate stage.

I also wish to reiterate the government's commitment to the new legislation before the House, which is designed to prevent the establishment of a nuclear waste disposal facility in our province.

Before moving on to those three key areas of environmental management which I mentioned in my introductory remarks, I wish to briefly comment on the numerous ongoing activities in which the Environmental Management Division is engaged: public health inspection, water, air and terrestrial quality monitoring; the enforcement of Clean Environment Commission orders; ensuring that existing water and air standards and guidelines are maintained; continuing to apply environmental assessment and review procedures are all a routine part of the division's mandate. The department's input into major government projects, such as the Limestone Hydro Generating Plant, to minimize adverse environmental effects are merely examples of these ongoing efforts.

In addition, the department continues to operate one of Canada's most modern and cost-effective environmental laboratories, which supplies analytical services to both my department and other government departments as well as the public.

Perhaps the most significant environmental undertaking of this Ministry, both during the last year and continuing into the current fiscal year, is the development of the new environmental legislation which will govern our relationship to Manitoba's environment for many years to come. You will recall from my remarks last year that the main provisions of this legislation, and those I reiterated at the Second Reading stage yesterday, are: a broadened scope in legislation whereby all environmental damage will be considered together, no longer will pollution and other forms of environmental damage be considered separately; secondly, the system for reviewing pollution-related developments will be effective and expeditious with licences being issued by the department; thirdly, environmental assessment will be done on a "single window" basis so that only one licence will be required for all environmental aspects of a development; fourthly, there will be extensive provisions for public consultation in environmental decision making; and finally, enforcement provisions are in keeping with the public mood that people should not benefit from damaging the environment through pollution or other means.

I am pleased to report that the public consultation process involving many hundreds of Manitobans is achieving the objective of obtaining public input. The end result will be much more practical and pragmatic legislation. During the course of numerous public meetings throughout Manitoba, the majority of which I personally attended, enables me to state quite categorically in confirming that it is the public's desire

to have implemented a broader, stronger Environment Act with emphasis on prevention. The public consultations I have just referred to represented the first critical step in bringing forward legislation for your consideration.

As a result of that public input, many of the suggestions, proposals and comments received have been incorporated into the proposed legislation. As well, the principles that are the foundation for the new legislation have received - and I stress - unanimous support and, I hope, will also be supported by all members of the Opposition.

I would now like to move on to the Hazardous Waste Management Program. As you will recall, this program commenced in 1983. At that time, it was indicated that it would take several years to have an effective hazardous waste management system in place. I am pleased to note that the timetable that was struck in 1983 is being met, and the department continues to progress towards the goal of having a complete hazardous waste management system in place in Manitoba.

Specifically, on the hazardous waste program side, I would like to bring to the attention of the members that, most recently, the Manitoba Clean Environment Commission has undertaken public hearings to solicit public input and suggestions with regard to the type of hazardous waste management system that would be appropriate for Manitoba, and to establish criteria for site selection. These hearings were well attended, and well-reasoned proposals were received from the public. The Clean Environment Commission has just recently finalized its report. At the departmental level, numerous activities are continuing with respect to the overall implementation of this program.

On the regulatory side, a number of regulations are either in the draft stage or are about to be finalized. Included among these are the regulation dealing with the registration and licensing of hazardous waste generators which will take effect June 1, 1987, the manifest regulation, and an environmental accident reporting regulation.

In addition, a number of federal-provincial agreements dealing with the program are close to finalization, namely, a federal-provincial agreement regarding the enforcement of Transport of Dangerous Goods regulations, a Canada-Manitoba Accord and a Dangerous Goods Inspectorate Training Agreement.

Departmental staff continue to respond to public requests for information regarding this program in providing clarification to industry as to the requirements of the program, and are continuing in their assessment of waste types, existing waste-disposal facilities, etc.

I am extremely optimistic that, during the 1987-88 year, following receipt of the Clean Environment Commission Report referred to earlier, the next phase of the program, which will see the determination of site-selection criteria, as well as various technical studies that may be necessary to support the siting activity, will be well under way.

The third major environmental initiative that the department continues to focus on is the operational establishment of the Manitoba Hazardous Waste Management Corporation. You will recall that enabling legislation to establish such a corporate entity was passed during the last Session. I am pleased to report

that the corporation is starting to take life. A chairperson has been appointed, along with the other members of the board of directors. Action is proceeding to recruit at this very time a chief executive officer, following which other key corporation staff will be recruited. At the same time, the corporate agenda will certainly take shape with the issuance of the Clean Environment Commission's Report.

As well, the department is undertaking discussions with the corporation about the possible transfer of certain functions, which up to now have been carried out by the department, that more appropriately should become the responsibility of the corporation. Included among these are activities relating to the Manitoba Waste Exchange and the Gimili facility. The corporation has already assumed financial responsibility for provincial support to the Household Hazardous Waste Days activity. I expect that the activities of the Manitoba Hazardous Waste Management Corporation will accelerate quite significantly during the upcoming fiscal year.

I also wish to mention, as members may be aware, that I, as Minister of Environment and Workplace Safety and Health, chair the National Task Force on the Environment and the Economy. This task force was established under the auspices of the Canadian Council of Resource and Environmental Ministers to recommend a Canadian action plan to better link environmental and economic-planning initiatives. The task force will also be reviewing the Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development.

This task force is composed of seven Environment Ministers, seven senior business executives and three representatives from the university and environmental community. Our task force has met twice already, and a third and final meeting is scheduled for mid-August in Toronto. The final report of the task force will be submitted to the Annual Meeting of the Council of Ministers in Quebec City on September 23. I am looking forward to sharing the results of this endeavour with my colleagues in the House.

Before concluding, there are other areas of the department to which I want to refer briefly. The Worker Advisor Office continues to provide a most necessary support service to claimants who are experiencing difficulty in having the Workers Compensation claims resolved by the Workers Compensation Board. Although I wish I could say that claims of this type are diminishing, unfortunately with the increased number of claims being submitted to the board, there is also an overall increase in the number of claims being addressed by the Worker Advisor Office. Statistics indicate that the level of activity and the need for advisor involvement in assisting claimants with their claims has not diminished.

With respect to departmental support services, the Community Relations Branch continues to provide all communication requirements of the department. In addition to its regular communication activities, this branch is also responsible for supporting the communication requirements of our major new initiatives, the new Environment Act, the Hazardous Waste Management Program and the Workplace Health Regulation.

As well, the Community Relations Branch is playing a very significant role in chairing the National Task Force on Environment and Economy Secretariat.

The department's Planning, Research and Evaluation Branch is making substantial progress towards the development of a comprehensive departmental strategic plan. I suppose that's an ongoing activity but at least we're getting a handle on it. It is expected that this plan will be completed during the 1987-88 fiscal year. As well, Planning, Research and Evaluation staff continue to be extensively involved in a number of special projects, such as the Occupational Health Services Study, the implementation of the Workplace Health Regulation, trend monitoring and program evaluation.

Just before I conclude, Mr. Chairman, and members of the committee, I want to express my sincere appreciation and thanks to my assistants and to a group that is rarely mentioned, the secretaries and all those involved in the support staff of the department, who play in the shadows a very significant ongoing support role to all members of my department.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Minister.
The Member for Niakwa.

MR. A. KOVNATS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I thank the Minister for his report. I hope that he's around in a year's time to give the next report to see what's going to happen in some of the things that he has mentioned in his introductory speech.

Inasmuch as some of his department has been taken away from him, particularly the Workers Compensation, it leads me to believe that there had to be a reason, and I would think that the reason being is that there was a deficit of some \$84 million in the Workers Compensation for this year and maybe it's just a matter of changing Ministers so they don't have to come up with the answers on why there's that big a deficit. I have some special feeling on the change inasmuch as I have been the critic on Workers Compensation these last few years, and we've gone through three Ministers. I guess when it comes down to a point of trying to explain, they change Ministers so that they don't have to explain.

I see where the Minister has been thrown out to sacrifice and I don't know how he's going to explain it, but I guess he's going to try a little later to explain on why he's no longer the Minister. The new Minister is here at the committees listening, so that he can be responsible for the remarks made by the now Minister of Environment, Workplace Safety and Health when he takes over this department next year.

I'm not asking for the Minister to resign under any circumstances, but I think that the way that the New Democratic Party Government handles things, he won't have to be asked to resign, they'll probably just replace him, because he's on a trial basis. I thought he was doing a half decent job, but I guess whoever makes the decisions had the opportunity of removing him and making a change.

I still can't understand why it was broken up into the manner in which it was, Mr. Chairman, because you know we're talking about workplace safety - or Workers Compensation, I should say - and the Minister still has the responsibility of worker advisors and part of the Workers Compensation portfolio, because Workers

Compensation and worker advisors and workplace safety seem to work hand in hand. I guess it's greater minds than mine can see the importance of splitting it up, but I certainly can't.

There'll be more on it as we go on a little bit further. These are just my opening remarks and when we get down to the line-by-line part we can get into more detail.

I'm not about to get into any great debate on The Environment Act and the disposal of high level nuclear waste because we do have bills before the House at this point, Mr. Chairman, that we can get into some heavy debate. By and large, I do agree with quite a bit of the bills that are coming through.

I think that we do have to protect the environment. We do have to protect the future of our young people. I think that it's something that we must be working together. I'm not here to be critical. I think I'm here to work with the Minister and this department to see that things do get corrected. We've always been able to come to an understanding and I think rather than getting into any great fights, if we can come to an understanding which benefits all Manitobans, then I would be satisfied.

The Minister mentioned in his opening remarks about Environmental Week starting next week. I think that it's a good thing that we keep the public informed on environmental problems and things in Environmental Week and I will be in support of this particular aspect of his department.

But he mentioned acid rain and that's a big problem. It's not just a provincial problem, you know. Every time that we bring up acid rain and some of these other problems, I get an answer where the Minister says, well, you know, it's not my department, it's a federal responsibility, or it's a municipal responsibility, but I say that if we've got a problem I think that we jump right in.

It kind of reminds me of the story of the waitress who was in a restaurant and standing there right next to a table and there was one of the customers choking on a bit of food, and the party with the customer choking said, waitress, please, a glass of water. And the waitress looked over and said, no, I'm sorry, that's not my table, it's not my responsibility. I don't want to get an answer like that from the Minister.

I think that whatever problems we have on Environment, Workplace Safety and Health are the responsibility of this Minister and cannot be just passed off to other groups, mainly the Federal Government, which we seem to always go back to bashing.- (Interjection)- I'm not here to support the Federal Government; they're pretty big boys and they can look after themselves.

But I think that we have to do something. I'm getting tired of listening to the complaints that we have against the feds, the municipal, and other provincial jurisdictions.- (Interjection)- Well, you know, I just don't think that we should be blaming them altogether. I think that we should be doing something.

You know, we bash the feds, we bash the Americans, you know, and we do have a problem there. Let's get to acid rain, and I don't want to get that specific, but I can recall attending a conference where I think it was an American Senator made a remark that he didn't give a damn about the acid rain affecting Manitoba forests, and if it was going to affect the employment

of one American in his constituency, he didn't give a damn how many Canadian trees went down.

So I think we have to make them aware of what's happening. I don't want to alienate our friendship with the United States because they are our friends, they are our best friends as a matter of fact, but I think that there are times that we can deal with them not just on a federal level, on an international level, but on a provincial level.

I know that the Minister has made some particular efforts to discuss problems - mutual problems - particularly with the clean water supply that we get from the United States, but I think that we have to spend more time in making them aware of the problems that they are giving us through some of their mismanagement and they just have to be made aware.

The Minister made no remarks about the problem we've got about the drinking water supply out at Shoal Lake. Again, we just can't pass it off and say it's somebody else's responsibility. It is our responsibility; it's our drinking water. I think that the Minister has to make some effort to correct this situation and not just complain that it's the Federal Government and it's the municipal government. I think he's got to jump in and ensure that our water supply in Winnipeg is at the highest of levels.

I think that there has to be investigations made on the Limestone site and whatever future sites that we have where we are putting new Manitoba hydro projects into use - we're talking about Conawapa and Limestone - and we just don't jump into these places without having the proper environmental studies done, and I think that, in some cases, we have.

In addition, we're talking about the potash in Western Manitoba where we don't know at this point whether the potash is a viable industry or not. I hear the Minister responsible saying that it is a viable operation. We're talking about 10 or 15 years down the line. Has there been an environmental study of where we're going to be storing all this potash that we're going to be mining for the next 10 or 15 years? Because I don't see where we've got a possibility of selling it, particularly with the flood on the market right now. So, in fact, we do have to find a place to store all of this potash. And what will be the environmental impact on storing hundreds and hundreds of tonnes of potash?

The Minister made some remarks about the public consultation process. Well, I guess I was a little bit involved with it because the Minister said that he had been to many of these meetings that went on throughout the province, and I had been to a few myself. I guess the Minister's statement was right. He was at a few of them because the ones that I was at, I saw the Minister. We talk about public consultation. Sure it's nice to listen, and I wonder whether, in fact, we are going to get the reports of the public consultation and the public commitment that were made to the government.

It leaves me a little bit cold when I see that the decision is the government's decision under all circumstances - the final decision is the government's. But I listen to the government's decision and I see where the Clean Environment Commission is holding public hearings, and what is happening at these hearings is that there are recommendations being made to the Clean Environment Commission by the Minister's staff so that the Clean Environment Commission can make

recommendations back to the Minister's staff. So I think that maybe we should just have a little bit more consideration as to this process that we're going through.

If the Minister's staff were going to be making recommendations - the recommendations were good; I'm not complaining about that - but I think that maybe we're attaching too much importance to this public consultation because I think what the Minister is ultimately doing is trying to get off the ultimate hook of taking the responsibility of what's happening because he can't say somewhere in the future that well, this is what the people wanted. If it's bad, it's not what the people want, and I think that further considerations and investigation have to go on.

I don't want the Minister to keep saying that we're going to be monitoring situations, looking into, checking the feasibility, weighing the prospect. These decisions are yours, Mr. Minister, and I think it's about time that the decision has been made.

I hear where we're talking about site selections on the disposal of hazardous waste. I don't know what's come about at this point, but I think that the Minister has probably come up with some site selections, and maybe we're not going to have any site selections for hazardous waste, maybe we're going to be shipping it out of the province and maybe that's the best way to go, but I think that we ought to be told about it.

It's not responsible. I think that the Minister has to make these decisions. It's been over a year now when I last asked him about it and I've been getting, you know - again, I hate to keep saying, you know, the program evaluation, we're looking into it and checking the feasibility of all that.

The Minister is writing very quickly and I guess what he's doing is sending notes to his staff so that they can give him a list of the site selections, or if he's got them, I'm sure that he's going to give them to us so that we can be critical or maybe we're going to be . . .

A MEMBER: Supportive.

MR. A. KOVANTS: Or supportive - that's right. I'm not going to prejudge, but I've waited over a year now to find out where these site selections are.

I hope that the Minister is going to give us some idea as to these site selections and whether he's going to bring us up-to-date on the disposal and the storage of PCB's - and I didn't forget the last letter of the PCB because I did one time where I said that we had to get rid of - I made a small error where I said we had to get rid of "PC's" and I meant "PCB's."

HON. J. COWAN: If we had said that, there would have been a call for a judicial inquiry.

MR. A. KOVNATS: Well, there still might be a call for a judicial inquiry because, you know, I'm looking at human rights and I hate to be laughed at when I make a small error; but the more I thought of it, the more humorous it became and I was able to accept it.

HON. J. COWAN: I only prefer to be laughed at when I make a big error.

MR. A. KOVNATS: That's right. I don't mind making big errors and being laughed at, but . . .

HON. J. COWAN: But small errors - we should let them go by.

MR. A. KOVNATS: Small errors, yes, but you know, I hope the Minister is going to give us the cost of converting, like we bought some equipment and there was nothing in the opening remarks about how the conversion of PCB's, at least low levels, that we had bought some equipment from Sun, Ohio and there was nothing in the Minister's opening remarks about it, but he'll have an opportunity of justifying the purchase of the equipment and give us an idea of how much of this stuff has been converted and neutralized because it's important.

I hope that the reports that the Minister is getting from the public hearings that, by the time we get them, are not edited reports. The new Minister of Workers Compensation had made an error and it was just an error, and I understand that. I'm not about to prolong the discussion where he said that the Workers Compensation Report had to be edited. I hope it wasn't a Freudian slip, but I know that the Minister will not be editing the report. At least, I would suggest very strongly to the Minister, who is sitting right across from me right now, please don't edit the report; let us have a look at the report in its fullest stage.

The Minister didn't give us any idea on other problems that we've got, and I know there really wasn't that much room in the report where he could have brought us up-to-date on PCB's and on asbestos. There was a mention of asbestos, but there will have to be possibly a little bit more brought up on the asbestos.

The Minister made no remarks about radon which I've been reading about. Well, you know, I've been reading about Saskatchewan, and you know what, through our television here in Winnipeg, we pick up Detroit stations and they have a problem in Detroit with radon gas coming into basements. The Minister has got to bring us up-to-date on how he's protecting our environment against radon gas.

I think my leader will be coming in before too long and he has some information on radon and I think that he wanted to ask some questions on radon which we will get to.

The Minister was complimenting his staff and I have to compliment some of his staff too, but -(Interjection)- I said some of his staff, because there has to be -(Interjection)- Come on now, I'm not here to stick a knife into the staff or the Minister. I see what happens where the New Democrats do stick knives into some of their own people. I saw the Chairman of Committees make a small error and I was kind of embarrassed because I thought that whether he was right or wrong, he should have received the support of the . . .

HON. J. COWAN: He did.

MR. A. KOVNATS: . . . New Democratic Party because -(Interjection)- Well, I was embarrassed that it never got to that point.

I wanted to make a particular reference to some of the staff, Mr. Chairman, where we had a dump location out at Cornwallis that got to a point where it was critical. The staff had allowed this dump location to proceed. It was down to the final stages, and if the people in

the area hadn't brought it up to my attention and the Minister's attention - I can't take all the credit; I think the Minister can take the credit for acting very quickly when it was brought to his attention - but the staff had allowed it to get out of hand, and I think that there has to be some revision in the manner in which these locations do proceed to fruition because thank God that the Minister was able to put a stop to it at my recommendation and the people's recommendation in the area.

We're talking about site locations, site situations. It's not just these dump locations. We've got one here in the City of Winnipeg. I think it's in the Minister's constituency where they're going to be transferring garbage sites or garbage from trucks. They do something to it and then they send it on to the dump, and I don't know too much about it, but it takes place just down Lagimodiere Blvd. and it's right over a garbage dump now where the methane gas is coming out and the people were forced out of that area for health reasons and now are looking to go back into that area because of some recommendations by some city environmental groups.

The Minister is going to have to make a decision as to whether he's going to allow it. Sure, it's a municipal problem, but it's environment and I think the Minister has to stand up and say that we are going to do something about the environment there and at least investigate.

I see one small reference to AIDS which is getting to be one of the greatest problems. Well, the Minister made reference to AIDS in his opening remarks.- (Interjection)- Yes, it was, because we're talking about health in the workplace and we've got a critical situation. It's a communicable disease; it's an industrial - I can't say it's an industrial disease, but it is causing us problems in the workplace, and I think that the Minister has to come up with some regulations because we've got regulations where people don't have to work where there's a health danger in the workplace. I don't want to cause any panic, but I think that we can't just sit back and wait too much longer. We've got to come up with some regulations concerning AIDS in the workplace so as to protect the health in the workplace.- (Interjection)- I'm going to talk about mosquitoes in just a minute.

We have health committees and worker safety and health representatives in the workplace and, by and large, it's a beautiful system, and I think the Minister is going to speak on that, but we've got to use professional help to give us some understanding of what's happening in the workplace. Sure we can get people who are representatives of the workplace, but it's the professionals who we have to rely on, and these are professionals who don't just take a very fast training program and then have to be responsible for health in the workplace. I think that we've got to be prepared to act.

We were talking about, well, here, taxicab security. We keep jumping back and forward, and I'm almost as much at fault here because I couldn't make up my mind. I've got one foot on each side of the fence firmly implanted and I'm just not about to . . . But we do have to make a decision on that. Or is it working with the manner in which we've got, whether it's mandatory? I hope the Minister is going to give us some action on

it. These are the responsibilities of being the Minister; he has to make a decision.- (Interjection)- That's right, he can't have it both ways.

I've made a few remarks, and before I go any further, I want to thank the Minister for giving me his introductory speech in advance because it does save the discussion. I would have had to waste some time, so I had a chance to read it. I do thank the Minister for all of that.

I had made recommendations to the Minister a year ago concerning painting pipes in different locations with coloured paints to advise what kind of liquids were flowing through pipes in case there was a fire and one of the pipes broke, then you would know exactly what type of materials you were combatting. I got many thank you's and that it was a good idea, but nothing's ever been done about it.

We talked about mine regulations in the past. I think the Minister has tried to do a job, but we brought it to a point where talking about mines inspectors, about how some mines inspectors were chosen. I hope the Minister is going to be bringing us up-to-date as to what has happened where, in my opinion, the best mines inspector wasn't hired, because I think what had happened is that there was political influence being brought to bear.

I wouldn't want to see any of this ever happen where political influence is brought to bear on any of these things that affect the life, dignity and safety of miners, people in the workplace, you know, down the line.

The Minister indicates that the regulations could have an impact on small businesses, and I wouldn't want to see small businesses be discouraged from coming into the province. We have so many other things that discourage small business from coming into the province, the payroll tax, all kinds of discouraging factors in keeping small business out of the province. I hope the Minister isn't coming up with some regulations that are going to discourage businesses from coming into the province. If the impact to the environment is going to be detrimental, well absolutely, but there's got to be some encouragement to small businesses.

The Minister has got a program on hearing conservation and noise control. It's been in effect for approximately 17 months. I still can't hear out of my left ear. I don't know whether the program is working or not, but I've had problems with my left ear in the past. But you know, something comes up. Are we looking at providing people with damage to their hearing because they are in the workplace? How does some person like myself go and try to get some Workers Compensation because of the loss of hearing in my left ear?

MR. D. SCOTT: That's because you talk too loud.

MR. A. KOVNATS: Well, it's not I who talk too loud and I've listened to the things that go on in the House about the yelling and screaming back and forward, and I know that our side does it somewhat also. Our side does it somewhat, but most of it comes from the New Democrats, and I would say that's exactly why I'm able to get my feelings on this one.

The Minister neglected to make any remarks on the mosquito control which he has been in favour of

eliminating in the past. I know that, if it was a matter of choice, we would have no control at all for mosquitoes, at least by spring. I was out to my farm the other day, and there has to be some kind of control for mosquitoes in the rural area also. You know, we keep talking and saying only that mosquito control should be in the urban area. Well I'll tell you, they just about drove me crazy when I was out planting, and I think that the farmers should be given as much consideration as the city people when it comes to controlling of mosquitoes and other problems.

The Minister also mentioned that we had a scrap metal clean-up in Churchill. This is something he did mention. It cost us \$51,500 or at least that was the estimate. Is that the correct figure, \$51,500, or has it been increased or reduced? What has happened? I know that the scrap metal was shipped into Selkirk, Manitoba. Was that just given to the people in Selkirk, Manitoba gratis? Were they given a bonus because they were able to take this scrap metal? Have they been able to sell it? Did we, Manitobans, get anything back for our effort of giving them this scrap metal?

Just before I conclude, I think that I would like to bring to the Minister's attention about the soft-drink containers.- (Interjection)- Well it's the aluminum beverage containers. I don't want to make a great big issue of it. I had asked the Minister some questions about it in the House, and the Minister just didn't give me the answers. I guess he didn't have the answers at the time. He said that the program was for a whole year, but you can't just wait till the end of the year and say that we don't have a good program or we do have a good program. I think it has to be monitored all the way down the line.

The Minister has given me some figures, on page 13 of his remarks, about 283,000 cans have been collected. How many have gone into the environment? I think we're talking about millions, and we've got back 283,000 cans. That's 12,000 pounds; it seems like a drop in the bucket, but I hope the Minister is going to bring us up-to-date on what's happening with these soft-drink cans into the environment because it's a big thing. I see where the payment for the aluminum cans is based on the current market value of aluminum.

What is going to happen with the plastic bottles that are coming back? I don't imagine that there's any current market value at all for the plastic - well, could be just a fraction of pennies, but what are we going to do? How are we going to set up a program for plastic containers? What is the payment going to be based on? I hope the Minister is going to give me a ratio of sales to recovery on the aluminum cans.

We're talking about pesticides and the permits and the program on pesticides. Well, I think that there's got to be some discussion on that. I know that one of my colleagues is going to be asking some questions on the burning of stubble and the feedlot operation. I think that has to be answered because we have a problem there, and it's a problem that needs some help. I think that the farmers from the Province of Manitoba need some help in getting rid of their stubble. I know that burning can give them some problems, but there are other ways of getting rid of their stubble. I hope that the Minister is going to give them some assistance in getting rid of that stubble.

I think that we're talking about high-level nuclear waste. I don't want to get into too much of that at this

point. The Minister just touched on it, I just touched on it, but there has to be some discussion on that. I guess that discussion will come when we get into the bill. But I think that we mustn't be turning our friends against us in some of the conflict.

He just finalized it, and I'm just going to finish off where the Clean Environment Commission will be finalizing its report very shortly. I hope that report will be coming through unedited so that we can see what the Minister has taken from the report and what he has rejected from the report.

I think with that - I had made remarks about the Worker Advisor office. I guess that's about what I have to say on the opening remarks in answer to the Minister's opening remarks. With that, Mr. Minister, I hope that you are around next year at this time when we go into Estimates again. I don't want to prolong it because, at this point, I'm going to suggest that I hope that you are around so that we do have some continuity in what's happening. We've lost the continuity in the Workers Compensation, but I guess continuity has to be broken when you have an \$84 million deficit.

With those remarks, Mr. Chairman, I would ask the Minister to invite his staff and we can proceed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, do you want to bring your staff forward and introduce them?

HON. G. LECUYER: Just before you throw it open for questions - (Interjection) - no, I won't. The member asked whether I'm going to get even with him now. He's covered too much ground and, therefore, I am not going to cover all of the points that he's raised, and I just want to touch on some of them, well, in part to get even with him, yes, or at least to give some answers. He seemed to be looking for some answers, so I'll at least provide some explanations.

Further I might say that the member raises a lot of points on which I did not comment. Obviously, if I had commented on everything, then I wouldn't have left him anything to ask questions on, and I certainly didn't want to do that.

As well, there are many things that are ongoing. I could certainly have kept members of the committee here till midnight tonight just to cover all activities of the department. There are countless activities that are ongoing. Because we're a regulatory department, every aspect of the department carries on ongoing activities of inspections and, just in terms of the statistics, I could be providing very extensive replies with a lot of information, but I think that is not the aim of the committee here. It's basically to provide the information that is pertinent, that reflects the major activities or the most major focus of the direction in which we are moving and, as well, to give an opportunity for the members to ask questions of issues that appear pertinent to them.

The member will have an opportunity to ask, and I'm not going to take all of those points that he's raised to reply to them now, because I know he will raise some of those as we move into the Estimates under the proper section.

But I do want to comment on one particular area which he says with, I expect, some regret that he hasn't got an opportunity to go after me for the compensation

responsibility. I could chide him for that, but I think perhaps he's troubled because he's got to go after two of us, instead of just one now. I hope that doesn't confuse him.

But I also want to add, the fact is I certainly did enjoy the opportunity to respond to questions in that area. The member says, probably I was relieved of the responsibility so that he could not continue to question the current Minister responsible for deficits, which we have chosen to call unfunded liabilities with an explanation as to the difference between the two.

I think that the member knows full well that he can - and he probably will - go after the Minister who's responsible for the dossier of the Workers Compensation Board. I wish I had the opportunity to respond to whatever questions will be raised on that one.

But the member also knows that, while I had the responsibility for the Compensation Board, I initiated a review of that system, one which had been long in coming and one which I could take the opportunity of chiding his side for not undertaking, even though they had stated a number of times in response to questions in committee that they were going to initiate that particular review. It wasn't one that was easy to set up. It's one that comes late in time when we consider how long the act has been in force and how long since the last review. I suspect their recommendations will be numerous. They will be complex in some respects, and it's going to take some major review.

Having said that, I also want to add that this year, when the report of the Commission comes forth, there has to be time to deal with that report. As a Minister responsible for Workplace Safety and Health and the Environment with a number of major initiatives on the drafting board, initiatives which I've referred to in my opening remarks, I think that personally, although I would have liked to be able to carry on with the job and take it to conclusion - because that's the way I like to do things, personally, to be able to complete something I've started - and I would have liked, and I say that in all sincerity to the member, to have that opportunity to complete that job. I would have liked to be able to sit here today and respond to his questions on that particular one.

On the other hand, I'm not alone and others are very capable and I'm sure will do just as good and probably a better job than I could have done, especially with the other responsibilities that I have to currently take to conclusion, and I'm referring to the new Environment Act that is going to be a major task to bring to full implementation. I was talking a while ago about the Hazardous Waste Management Corporation which is in the process of being established. The whole hazardous waste system is not fully established, and the member referred to that, a workplace health regulation which is soon in the process of having to be implemented. So there are major initiatives which we are addressing at the same time on the environment side and on the workplace safety and health side. And it's for those reasons that the Premier chose to relieve me of some of those responsibilities to give me added time to devote to those initiatives.

So I give that by way of explanation, and I don't intend to try and defend. I think it's fairer for the member to zero or focus on the remarks as he's done in that

particular regard. Were he to be in my place, I would have done likewise, so I have no problem with that.

I am glad to hear that the member, in making reference to the two pieces of legislation that I put on the record - in fact, that I introduced for Second Reading already at this point in time - that he is generally supportive of those. I'm sure that he'll get an opportunity to look more in-depth at the details of those bills but, in the spirit of the necessity for protecting the environment generally, for protecting current and future generations of Manitobans, especially in regard to that very precious treasure which is our environment, one which is so fragile, one which we so often take for granted, one which we have so often in the past abused and degraded, and it is very important that we change our ways, or attitudes and our way of, I suppose, coping with the environment which is vital to our every day survival.

The member has referred to acid rain, and I think I did mention that there was a draft regulation currently undergoing - Clean Environment Commission hearings - and I want you to know that the reference in there to the Federal Government was not at all passing the buck, because I've said that we will take that responsibility as a province. We have made that commitment as a province; we have signed that agreement, because we wanted to make that commitment as a province, in cooperation with the other six provinces east of us, to limit our sulphur dioxide emissions which eventually cause acid rain or one of the factors that cause acid rain. We believe and we accept the fact that we as a province do not live in a vacuum where we are part of a global society and air emissions are part of a global problem and we want to share into the solution. So that is why we have signed an agreement; we will assume our responsibilities under that agreement and I want the member to know that.

While I'm touching on the Clean Environment Commission, the member perhaps rightly referenced the fact - and perhaps that's for a lack of understanding of the role of the Clean Environment Commission and the environment - that, when the commission holds hearings, the department makes presentations to the commission and the member says that the Minister has to make decisions. I want to assure the member that the commission, when it holds hearings, is open to receiving submissions from all sectors, from the other departments even.

So we make submissions to the Clean Environment Commission because not to do so would be like to say we have no views on an environmental issue. We do have views; we have expertise and, when we make presentations to the Clean Environment Commission, I'm sure that it is welcome on their part. I'm sure they take it into consideration, as well as all the other submissions that are made to them before they consider this and sit down to make recommendations.

When the recommendations are made, they're not always recommendations. Very frequently, these are reflected on an order which is made on an operation. The Clean Environment Commission will say, on the basis of those hearings, here is the order, or we choose to vary an order or we choose not to vary an order, and the recommendations would be in line with that. Then the Minister will have to deal with that report and we do.

I refer again now to some of the things that the member commented on last year and I don't want to touch upon these unless he asks questions very specifically. The member said last year, at the very opening of his remarks, and to a certain extent I agree with it, that he doesn't want to hear vaguenesses like monitoring feasibility studies, etc.; we'll look at it. I know what he means but, on the other hand, I want to again repeat to him, monitoring is an ongoing activity. It's an activity of taking count of actual emissions, of actual effluents, and the word "monitoring" means that. Feasibility studies, on the other hand, are something that has to be done very often before you make a decision, but once you have that information you can make a decision.

The member referred to such things as the mines inspection. I don't intend to comment on that because that was raised last year, that was raised the year before. I provided answers and assured him that the best person had been hired and that's the answer I have for him now.

Churchill Scrap Metal - the member says, what benefit did we get? Well, we cleaned an environment. We provided benefits to Manitobans in that community. Perhaps we had nothing to do, as a government, as individuals presently making those decisions, with the problem that is there. The fact is, there is a problem and we say that, and increasingly in the future, we're going to have to consider how we can reuse the wastes of the resources that we exploit, because we're going to run out of them and, because there are gains to be made, there are savings to be made in producing new products from the wastes of products that we have used. We cannot continue to use resources and then throw into our landfills, especially when these still have reuseable value. This was an example, to transport, to get this waste metal out of the Community of Churchill is a costly proposition. Most of this stuff was there because it was part of a defence operation in the past.

We thought that the Federal Government should assume the full responsibility for removing it because of that. Maybe eventually we could have prevailed, we couldn't at the time, so we decided that we would offer to cooperate with them. On that basis, they said they would go along with that and we cost-shared that proposal. It cost money to transport that stuff and to get it out. The company that did it eventually, probably got some revenues, but probably did not make undue profit because the amounts we paid were to cover the retrieval and transportation, so they were not part of the profits per se.

Mosquito control - the member knows my views, but if he says, we have to start controlling mosquitoes in the rural areas as well as in the city, he's proposing something of a gigantic proportion. I have to say on that one - and it's not facetious at all, it might sound funny - I have to say to him, he better start doing what I did last weekend, start building bird cages and hanging them up there so the birds can eat some of those mosquitoes.

MR. A. KOVNATS: They're eating my tomatoes now.

HON. J. STORIE: The birds or the mosquitoes?

HON. G. LECUYER: They're not eating the tomatoes, they're eating you while you're planting your mosquitoes

(sic). But as I say, you have to find ways of controlling them without putting in danger our environment.

I guess I will stop here in terms of a response because I know the member will want to ask specific questions.

Just one final statement, I think the member referenced the fact that the consultation process, and I don't know if the member did not get a copy of the report from our consultation process on the new Environment Act. That report was made available to all those who attended the hearings with a covering letter from me and it covers basically all that was said at those hearings. If the member did not get a copy of it, I would like to pass a copy at this present time.

A MEMBER: He said he was planting mosquitoes, he was planting tomatoes.

A MEMBER: I know.

HON. G. LECUYER: One small correction, Mr. Chairman, that might also be of interest to the member. In the final analysis, the actual cost of the Churchill scrap removal ended up costing us 42 versus the amount that was originally provided of 51, because we had overestimated the actual costs and it ended up being 42.

MR. A. KOVNATS: One more question before we proceed then, did we get anything back from the - I think the company was in Selkirk, Manitoba that the material was sent to - did we get anything back or did we just give it to them gratis? Here, help yourself. Whoever gave it to them, did they get any special considerations for giving them this material?

HON. G. LECUYER: In response to that, to details on that particular issue of Churchill Scrap Metal, as I told the member some time last year already, this was a tendered contract and the company actually had to put in a lot of money to do that job. All we did was actually subsidize the transport of the scrap metal to Selkirk. If the price of metal were to go up, there's a very remote possibility that those costs would still be further reduced. By the time they finalize the recycling of that metal, we get better prices for it than originally estimated. That cost that I indicated might still be further reduced, but there's only a remote chance of that happening. As the member knows full well, the world market for metals has not been the best in the last couple of years. So I doubt that we are going to get out of it for less than that amount, but that still remains a remote possibility.

MR. A. KOVNATS: Do you want to, at this point, Mr. Chairman, call out the item on which we are proceeding with?

MR. CHAIRMAN: 1.(b)(1).

MR. A. KOVNATS: We're talking about Administration. This is Executive Support, 1.(b)(1). I've just got to get my figures together here.

Okay. What staff did we have last year, and I think that we have some of that information in the Supplementary Information for Legislature Review,

Manitoba Environment, Workplace Safety and Health. I thank the Minister for providing that particular booklet to us because it is most helpful.

Can the Minister compare why we had a staff of eight last year and seven this year? Why are we cutting back? I'm not against it, but I'm just asking why.

HON. G. LECUYER: The process of finalizing each department's Estimates is one that is a lengthy one which is arrived at with some give and take. Initially, as part of that process, we are requested to, what is it that we can do without or that we can do less of, and we call that the trade-off exercise. As part of that exercise, there was a position in the Executive Support Branch, that of the Deputy Minister's assistant position was deleted.

MR. A. KOVNATS: Are you saying that the Deputy Minister has now taken the responsibility of all of his department? It was an assistant to the Deputy Minister was one of the staff man-years, and I see that it's now been eliminated. Has the Deputy Minister become more proficient or has he got other staff replacing the assistant?

HON. G. LECUYER: As I said to the member, as part of the making the utmost efficiency of the funds we have, knowing full well that the demands are great from not only in other areas of my department, but as well from all other departments, and as part of that trade-off exercise we had to arrive at a percentage and an amount which we could cut, and we had to determine from where we would get this. Eventually we, I think in the whole department - anyway, I've got the exact figures, but substantial amounts.

The member will find that, in various sections of the department, there are changes like that which affect staff or which affect the operating funding and reduction that is consequent to that. On the other hand, there were increases that are due to increased emphasis in some of the existing programs or new programs.

So we had to try and respond to the priority demands of the department and, as a result, the Deputy Minister doesn't have an assistant and counts on, without saying exactly how he copes with that, I'm sure he put some more responsibility on to his secretarial staff, on the staff in his department and has to move more on his own. We had to, as part of the total trade-offs - the figure I was looking for awhile ago was \$560,000 and some 8.5 staff years that were involved with that in terms of deletions, versus other additions that we're making in terms of new initiatives.

MR. A. KOVNATS: What happened to the assistant to the Deputy Minister? Where is he now, or she?

HON. G. LECUYER: She has been redeployed in the department.

MR. A. KOVNATS: At what position?

HON. G. LECUYER: She's in personnel Administration, training in the personnel department.

MR. A. KOVNATS: Does the Minister still take advantage of the use of this assistant that he had before,

even though she's in another department? Is she still used in the same type of work as what she was doing in the past?

HON. G. LECUYER: Mr. Chairman, she's doing an entirely new and different job than before.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 1.(b)(1)—pass; 1.(b)(2)—pass.

1.(c)(1) Planning, Research and Evaluation - the Member for Niakwa.

MR. A. KOVNATS: In the supplementary it says that, in this department, it's "the development of a departmental strategic plan and coordinating the departmental planning cycle to ensure implementation of planning priorities." Is this the group that puts together the bills, the environmental bill?

HON. G. LECUYER: They would certainly have some input in that, but certainly don't have the lead responsibility, because that would be in the actual section of the department, whether it's environment, whether it's workplace safety and health.

The Planning, Research and Evaluation would be the first involved in developing the strategic planning for the department that I referred to a while ago, monitoring accomplishments of departmental objectives, program evaluation, and it deals with needs and impact assessment of the legislative initiatives. That's why I say they would be involved in legislation, but not initially in drafting it but primarily in determining what other needs derive from that legislation, what impacts this legislation is going to have.

They're also involved in the special projects, such as the Occupational Health Study that I referred to a while ago. They would be involved in a number of other initiatives from the department. The national task force that I referred to a while ago, they'd also be involved in that particular activity. Water quality policy, they would be involved in that. It's not a large component within the department, as the member will have noticed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 1.(c)(1)—pass; 1.(c)(2)—pass.

1.(d)(1) Community Relations: Salaries - the Member for Niakwa.

MR. A. KOVNATS: This is something that we as Opposition have been critical of, in bringing in personnel so as to beat the drum of particular departments, particular Ministers, to walk around with the little Jack Horner syndrome about putting in their thumb and pulling out a plum and saying, what a good boy am I! Is this the department, are these the news personnel who walk around and make releases at the expense of government, who make these news releases and hire these people to do political work at the expense of the government? Are these the personnel who we're talking about in this regard here?

HON. G. LECUYER: The member may notice that there's a small addition in that department, 5.26 to 5.39 staff years. Having done that, and basically that was to permit the secondment of a media specialist who would be able to help in coordinating the public participation and the communication in regard to the

new Environment Act specifically and also to the department.

That section, for instance, forms the nucleus of the secretariat for that national task force that I referred to a while ago. In fact, we've had to add a little bit to that section because they haven't got enough staff to do the work that is required of them now. I assure the member they haven't got any time now to do any, nor is it their job to do any political activity. Their job is primarily to increase public awareness.

We're not going to be able to achieve the end goals of increased awareness of needs in the Environment side and needs to reduce in accidents and illness in the Workplace Safety and Health side without having a substantial number of releases, news items, providing information which is intended to get a better appreciation and involvement in environmental and workplace safety and health concerns. That's their primary responsibility. That's what keeps them involved full time.

MR. A. KOVNATS: I can accept that if that's the way it's going to be, but I wouldn't want to ever see news releases coming from this department saying how great the government is, because this is what we see in some of the other departments. I hope the Minister can control it to the point where all that's going to come out is news releases on what's happening.

If the public want to consider that this is how great the government is because of these news releases, I'll accept that. But I wouldn't want it to become political, because that's not what it's intended to be. I see it happening in other departments, and I've got enough confidence in the Minister that he wouldn't let it happen in this department, but I have to bring it to his attention.

HON. G. LECUYER: I do want to explain, first of all, that very often the department gets requests from members of the general public from Manitoba or outside of Manitoba or members of different government departments within the province or other provinces - in fact, from other countries - special requests coming from the United States, for instance, on matters such as acid rain, on matters such as nuclear waste, etc., and somebody has got to respond to these requests and supply the information.

There are also substantial requests coming on environmental issues, workplace safety and health issues, coming from students and schools who do projects. We have to provide them with information. That's also part of the responsibility that falls under this department.

But when this department prepares or drafts news releases for the Minister on communications that have to do with - I don't know - an announcement of a program, whether it's the workplace health regulation or whether it's the environmental act and stuff like that, and they will send the Minister a draft news release, I can assure the member that, if the Minister feels that we're doing something right when we're going ahead with that, the Minister won't shy from putting that slant to the news release because indeed, certainly when we feel we're doing the right thing in what we're doing in a particular program that we're proceeding with, when we have achieved a milestone, we'll certainly not blame

ourselves for doing that. I'm sure the member wouldn't expect that either.

So we'll advise the public because they need to know. We'll advise them because we feel that it is important from an awareness and appreciation and involvement standpoint, but also if we feel that we're doing the right thing we'll take the credit.

MR. A. KOVNATS: Pass.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 1.(d)(1)—pass; 1.(d)(2)—pass.

1.(e)(1) Salaries: Financial and Administrative Services - the Member for Niakwa.

MR. A. KOVNATS: We discussed this last year about the payroll processing and all of that and I have got the answers last year. I think just for the record that you are not running your own payroll, you are preparing the payroll for payment to the Department of Finance, and just so that there's not any misunderstanding, so we do understand what this department is about, and I think we can pass that item.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 1.(e)(1)—pass; 1.(e)(2)—pass.

2. (a)(1) Salaries: Environmental Management - the Member for Niakwa.

MR. A. KOVNATS: I think that we're going to discuss at this point - the Member for Virden had some remarks he wants to make on that and I'll let him make those remarks and we'll carry on from there.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Virden.

MR. G. FINDLAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I guess I'd like to hear the Minister's comments on some aspects relating to agriculture with regard to the access of his department and particularly looking at the new Environment Act that's coming in, and how it's going to impact upon agriculture first, as a general question, then I've got some specifics.

HON. G. LECUYER: Mr. Chairman, for the Member for Virden, I'll advise that as we were developing this legislation we, of course, as part of that public process involvement, I've had an opportunity to talk with people from agriculture in many parts of the province. I certainly heard their involvement and their concerns about the new act.

What I've told them at the time, generally speaking, was that this act would impact very little on their current operations because much of what they might be concerned with comes under existing regulations, for instance, whether it be their livestock operation, which comes under Livestock Protection Regulation, whether it be other projects, such as the Agricultural Chemicals, which presently come under the present act and are not affected by any changes with the new act.

There are such things as, for instance, odours and noise, which come under The Nuisance Act. I guess I'd have to say, Mr. Chairman, that in terms of agriculture, the new act follows the principle which I heard some farmers tell me that why fix it if it's not broken, and basically that's what we've done.

But having said that, the member may have heard me in my opening remarks mention some of the

regulations that we propose either during the current year or coming the following year. We always plan to do more than we can do, so that's why I hedge a bit, but we have indicated to these farmers that in adopting the new act nothing changes. But that is not to say that those regulations that are in place now would not have changed in time with the existing ones; and that is not to say that those regulations will not change under the new act. But if they do and when they do, the guarantee that we've given them is that we will involve them in that public process; and we have an extensive public process.

I would ask for copies. I don't know if the member got copies of how we proceeded last year when we developed a regulation, for instance, and I would like to make copies of that. There are many steps that we follow, that we go through. Generally speaking, the community out there knows now how this department functions in terms of modifying its regulations.

Anybody that is impacted or that we think might be impacted by the regulation that we propose to adopt, or that we propose to change, has an opportunity to have input in it. Eventually we have to make a decision, but we would not make that decision before knowing what it is and how they feel about those proposal changes.

Sometimes we have sent the first draft of that regulation. First of all, we draft what we think is best, we send it out, we get those comments back, we redraft, we send it out again. We've sometimes sent the same regulation out three times and benefited from the input of the opinions and comments made. Of course, in the end we want to bring about, if we propose to change a regulation, some improvements to it; otherwise, we wouldn't proceed with it. Sometimes it takes a long time to proceed on that basis.

I referenced a while ago a regulation that was called Hearing Consultation and Noise Regulation which was in the development stage for about, I'm not so sure, three maybe - and looking over there - it might have been four years is what I see a nod to, so it took four years to develop it. In the end, I'm sure it didn't please everybody, but everybody said I can live with that. I can live with that and we could live with that because it was a significant step in progress and a significant step forward. Maybe we'd have liked a little more movement forward, some would have perhaps, but we accept that we can progress or achieve improvements in stages.

The copy of that process will be given to you, so that you get an opportunity to familiarize with it.

MR. G. FINDLAY: Just get into some specifics now. In your opening comments this year and I understand also last year, you made specific reference to livestock production operations, so obviously there is some thought on your behalf or within your department to be bringing in some regulations. Obviously last year under the old act and now under this new act, that is going to impact on livestock operations. I would like to know what the Minister has in mind and what kind of livestock operations he's thinking of imposing restrictive regulations on.

HON. G. LECUYER: Just the last phrase in that comment or question?

MR. G. FINDLAY: Restrictive regulations on livestock operations. What kind of livestock operations are you looking at and what issues are you trying to control with livestock operations?

HON. G. LECUYER: Mr. Chairman, at this point in time all I can say is that the staff of the department haven't even completed an internal review of that regulation; so it's impossible for me to comment on anything, because I personally haven't seen any proposed new draft of that regulation. So I cannot say what it would be about. But I know that I had heard concerns expressed from the farming community and I got a letter from the Keystone Agricultural Producers on that expressing some concerns.

We had expressions of concerns in regard to how we would proceed and did provide certainly in terms of reply to the Keystone Agricultural Producers Association in response advising them of the process we have in place. In fact, we got a letter from them on May 26, which is just today that I got the letter, and the general manager references the letter that I had sent to them on January 9, of this year, in reference to the new environmental legislation and the procedures for amending regulations in the future.

So he acknowledges that we've had that discussion and ends up by saying, "In light of your assurance to us of the January 9, 1987 meeting that there will be extensive consultation with all interested parties prior to any amendment of the regulations, we trust that if the above recommendation is not acceptable, you will discuss the matter with us before making the regulation any more restrictive." And that kind of assurance I will be providing in response to this letter as well.

MR. G. FINDLAY: I guess I'd like to know what has prompted your department to look into this area.

HON. G. LECUYER: In this particular regulation.

MR. G. FINDLAY: Yes.

HON. G. LECUYER: Mr. Chairman, I can't answer in specifics. I get some of that information, perhaps, or some tidbits of enlightenment in that regard. But while this is being provided to me, I can indicate to the member that all regulations need to be reviewed periodically. I think that we would be doing, in this case, if we're talking about regulations that have to do with farming operations, the farmers a disfavour in time if we were to keep in place, for instance, the regulations and enforcing regulations that are no longer up to date. Because the farmer, by that same token would say, well, that was good 10 years ago, but it no longer applies to the way we do things today, so we wouldn't be enforcing a regulation, or provisions of a regulation that are outdated. For that reason, regulations should be periodically updated, but we can't do it all in one year or five years because there are too many of them. So we try to rotate that and make sure that on an ongoing basis there is an update.

But one of the main reasons, I'm told, for looking at reviewing that particular regulation would be to try to update it to meet some of the complaints we get in regard to conflicts or land-use conflicts, especially

close to residential areas. So we'll see if we can bring in improvements in that regard.

MR. G. FINDLAY: Okay, I guess that really twigs on to what I wanted to get into.

In many cases, objections that I hear come from people who object to the smell of manure, either from a facility or from an operation of spreading that manure on land. It's been an ongoing practice for many years and, in order for farmer economics to work, livestock has to be raised in reasonably concentrated conditions. There's no livestock yet that can't be raised without manure being produced.

In many cases, I think it's probably fairly general to say that farmers came first. Farmers started an operation in an area and then people decided to develop a residential area around there, or they have moved out of a town or a city and bought 20 acres or 5 acres or whatever and built a home. Then they feel they have the right to object to a farmer carrying on his operation. But he was there first and they intruded in his area, in his space, where he's trying to make a living.

I can understand why somebody objects to the smell of this or that; it can be obnoxious. But, Mr. Minister, farmers came first and they're the basic industry of this province. Should we not, before you start making regulations to control their operations, you as a Minister of this government, should you not be bringing in right-to-farm legislation, which gives the farmer prior jurisdiction in a particular area so that the people who infringe upon that area are clearly given notice that they've waived the right to object to the farmer's operation if they choose to live there.

HON. G. LECUYER: Mr. Chairman, I don't know what necessarily has to come first. I don't see that there is an intrinsic link between the right to farm and the concern or the conflicts that are there today.

The member may be absolutely right. He certainly is right in certain circumstances where residential areas have been encroaching on farm land and we know that is the case, for instance, in many parts of the city - or not of the city, but in the periphery of the city, dormitory towns and stuff of that nature. But the reverse sometimes is also true, and the farming operation, especially commercial farming operations, sometimes that start encroaching in areas that were traditionally or had been established for a lengthy period of time.

There is no easy way to resolve that, but sometimes you have to deal with a conflict that is there. We don't, as a department - and I have to deal with that question, I think, every year it's asked - give these permits to start these operations. Our responsibility has to do with the environmental aspects of this operation. Sometimes it's not just a land-use conflict issue, sometimes it's an environmental problem that an operation poses, a real environmental problem, that may affect underground water, that may affect nearby surface water or atmospheric conditions, livestock operations for instance, along Pipestone Creek, which the member may be familiar with, were certainly a source of frequent and numerous environmental complaints.

We have, with the new legislation, the clause in there which would enable us to initiate mediation between the conflicting parties, not expecting that this will

necessarily bring a solution to the problem. At least if we can bring the two parties to talk to one another so that the one who's getting rise to the complaint may hear them and see if there's not something about his operation that he can modify and still carry on his operation.

I agree with the member. Agricultural operations were there generally first. After all, it's not so many years back where a high percentage of the whole population here was in the rural farming sector. I come from there myself.

The fact is there has been a radical change, especially since the war, and the movement has been the other way. As a result of that, we've seen growth in some of the smaller cities and towns. We've seen growth in certain areas where we wish it hadn't, because indeed it does put out of production some valuable farm lands in some instances.

There is another mechanism in the act which communities where these conflicts cannot be resolved by this new process that I referred to as mediation - and that was already in the existing act, not as the abatement system, the measure. If the operation is such, for instance, that it affects a whole community, it may be that they can solve it to one another's advantage and bring peace all the way around by initiating this type of abatement procedure, whereby the town or the municipality would agree to, for instance, perhaps subsidize the cost of moving one operation. We would contribute towards that, or at least we would entertain a proposal in that regard and look to see if we could not assist that process in resolving that problem.

I repeat what I said before. It's not an easy one to solve, and it does require that there be a great deal of common sense and understanding. The member is quite right, you cannot carry on an activity, especially in a livestock operation, without having some of those side effects. But it is not to say that there are not available today measures which will go a long way in reducing the problem.

I suppose our responsibility, first of all, is to advise them what these measures are and to assist in reducing these problems. I think that, as part of the redrafting of the regulation, that in itself is a process whereby we can bring together a greater measure of dialogue between those who complain and those who cause or give rise to these complaints. Very frequently, what's lacking is a better understanding of one another's concerns. I think what we try to do is try to resolve it with environmental considerations in mind of course, as well.

MR. G. FINDLAY: I guess going to the new Environment Act, to Section 24(1) and 24(4), these are, emergency action by the environmental officer or by the director, the emergency action that they can move in on anything that they deem is unsafe conditions or causing irreparable damage to the environment. I'm wondering if that power extends to agricultural operations that basically are exempt by regulation, whether an environmental officer driving down the road sees somebody spraying or spreading manure or something and makes a decision. Does he have that power when the operation basically is exempt under regulation?

HON. G. LECUYER: The clause which the member refers to which is indeed entitled, "Emergency action by environment officer," is one that hopefully will very, very infrequently be resorted to. It's intended to enable an environmental officer to act in a situation that is brought to his attention that would cause very serious or irreparable - the words are used in the act - which would "result in unsafe conditions or in irreparable damage to the environment." It could have, for instance, impact on human health, etc. It would have to be a situation that is of imminent threat.

It's the only reason that clause is there, to cover circumstances where it would not be wise for him to go through the other requirements that are outlined there for him to normally act to deal with known or suspected problems. This is intended indeed purely for emergency situations and, I repeat, there would have to be shown imminent threat as part of it.

MR. G. FINDLAY: I guess I'd like to know what your position is on stubble burning now that we're into actions that can cause irreparable damage or affect people's health. Stubble burning is an operation that farmers are discouraged from practising, but there are certain conditions and certain kinds of crops like flax for which there is really no other management tool at certain times to handle straw.

Last fall, when there was a heavy crop production, a lot of straw, and the crop came off late so that the straw could not be worked into the land, farmers reluctantly resorted to having to burn it. It's not an accepted practice. It's not a recommended practice and it's one that I don't practice, but it's a management option that farmers still need. I say specifically with flax straw and sometimes pea straw, which cannot be incorporated in the land because of the nature of the fibres.

I would like to know what the Minister plans to do with this issue, because I'm sure he's on record as having made a statement last fall that he was going to act upon this and do something. From a farmer's point of view, I think we need to have some clear understanding from the Minister what he plans to do. If his plans are to impede with our ability to use this process, I'd like to know now.

HON. G. LECUYER: It's one of those issues that just won't go away. I'm glad to hear that from the member that is neither one of the practices that he resorts to.

It certainly was an issue that was raised quite frequently in those public meetings, one on which I have asked advice from numerous sources. I've read a number - I have to tell the member - quite a few articles on it. In fact, I guess it could be said that, in terms of scientific data on that, it's not entirely all one-sided because there are pros and cons to both sides of this issue. But overall, it seems to be, and the general agreement, that it's better not to. But to not burn, as well, takes some of the nutrients from the soil, etc. It does contribute more than it takes away when you burn.

I've had a number of option papers prepared on that, and I guess one of the things I said to the public in those consultation meetings that, in the same manner that I wouldn't pass a regulation affecting them without consulting them, I agreed to do the same in this regard.

What I'm going to do in terms of stubble burning is - I know that the Clean Environment Commission has been very busy of late and they still have a number of things on their plate, but I'm going to be asking the Clean Environment Commission to hold hearings on this issue. So it will give an opportunity for members of the public to do what I said a while ago, that is to share information through a dialogue so that they can better understand one another. I think that it's the general accepted practice among farmers generally not to burn when they can.

Now, as time goes by, I hope that we will find increasingly new alternatives as well such as, for instance, using the flax straw as a source of energy. I understand that a number of plants already are equipped in a manner that they could - in fact, Genstar here, right on the outskirts, does use significant - I don't know if they do every year. I know that I had figures for that last year, and I gave figures in terms of the amount of energy. In fact, it was well over \$100,000 of savings that they had as a result of using mainly flax straw as another source of energy.

I know that, for the farmers who happen to be relatively close to the border and other sources, the fact that on the American side they do purchase a significant amount of that straw to be turned into linen and paper. Hopefully, as time develops, we will find new and other varied sources for that straw.

As I say, hopefully that will bring forth anyway at least a better understanding and perhaps new solutions when the commission gets to have the time to hold their hearings, and that's been one of the main problems of late because of the numerous other activities. I did not consider that one to be, as I would say not facetiously, but a burning issue.

Also I want to end by saying that, on the Clean Environment Commission, of course, there is also a representative from the rural sector. Therefore, I'm always assured that the Clean Environment Commission will give a fair hearing to the public.

MR. G. FINDLAY: A final comment, not really another question, but I have to rush off to an urgent phone call here. I've got some questions on some other topics I'll get to a little later, but certainly I don't believe that farmers have the right to pollute other people's air space with smoke. I hope that, through the course of the hearings, we can find some way of accommodating everybody's desires without affecting other people's health.

I would also like maybe you, as Minister in this area, to pursue the Minister of Agriculture a little bit to get some more research dollars directed. The research dollars are now already allocated, directed to finding further alternative uses for those kinds of straw-like flax for which there is difficulty in working it into the land. There are many farmers who do dispose of flax in the ways that you mentioned, but there isn't enough demand for it to use up all that is produced in the province. We need to have these other sources researched a bit and find techniques to allow companies to utilize it for producing heat, because it's a great heat producer, there's no question about that. Anyway, I'll have some more questions later.

Thank you.

HON. G. LECUYER: Can I just add one comment before the member goes? I appreciate his knowledge of the issue and the comments that he makes.

The member should know that there is a relationship with the Department of Agriculture, and they are indeed attempting to provide the farming community with increased information on that so that, wherever possible, they do not burn. I know I spoke to some farmers who said, unless we're talking about flax straw, there is no reason to burn. Any farmer who wants to can avoid burning straw, especially farmers who do indiscriminate burning, what they call black-burning. That is simply allowing the field to burn, all of it. That's fairly damaging to their own potential soil resources, because it can blow away much more readily afterward. They are losing a lot of the moisture, etc.

So I think the only area where there is still a problem, the member raises the straw related to crops of peas that might be a problem. I was not familiar with that, but I know that flax can present a problem. That's basically the only problem that exists, and the member is right. We have to seek new or other alternatives so that we can overcome that problem.

He is also right when he says we have to recognize that it is a problem that can affect the health of individuals, especially in areas close to the city. We've had occasion to experience that in the past, and those who have respiratory problems know full well that - and we've had checks on that, and hospitals do experience a great deal more people coming to the emergency wards on days when we have a lot of smoke in the city. So we have to find solutions. We are actively working on it, and the Clean Environment Commission will give everybody that opportunity as soon as they can hold those hearings.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Niakwa.

MR. A. KOVNATS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Is the Biomass group, are they funded at all from your department in this particular regard, because it seems to me that they were working on finding alternate uses for this flax straw? I think they were quite involved in the experiment that you mentioned earlier about the company out in Fort Garry.

HON. G. LECUYER: Genstar.

MR. A. KOVNATS: Yes, Genstar, using this Biomass product, this flax straw, but it was just an experiment. Are they not using it this year, and what's the involvement of Biomass? Are they funded by this department?

HON. G. LECUYER: Mr. Chairman, no, they aren't funded by this department. I know they get some grants under the Department of Energy, but no grants from my department.

MR. A. KOVNATS: I'd like to carry on, not for too much longer, Mr. Chairman, but I'd like to get into the Environmental Management where we talk about the continued delivery of Environmental Control programs, including water pollution control.

There are a couple of instances here that I would like to bring up, specifically the City of Winnipeg drinking

supply at Shoal Lake. If we could carry on with that just for a few minutes, and I don't want to get into a heavy debate. I know it's only partially the responsibility of this department, but it is somewhat the responsibility of this department.

Can the Honourable Minister bring us up to date on what's happening with Shoal Lake and protecting the water pollution control of our drinking supply?

HON. G. LECUYER: Mr. Chairman, I can give two types of answers to the member, one that's very, very lengthy and one that's very brief. Let me begin with the very brief one.

MR. A. KOVNATS: That one would probably be satisfactory.

HON. G. LECUYER: I'll begin with that one but, if it doesn't work, we'll have to go into the longer one.

MR. A. KOVNATS: Okay.

HON. G. LECUYER: The discussions are at official's level, the Deputy Minister who represents the province, the department. There have been, over the lengthy period of time that issue has been alive, numerous meetings or, I should say, they have been on and off depending on the time. In fact, when the member was part of the government prior to 1981, that issue was already one that was being discussed, and the proposal that gave rise to the concerns was already on the table. I've gone back into the records and looked at all the things that were said, and that's why I said, if I'm going to go into a full explanation, I've got lots of territory to cover. I've got lots of information to use in that regard.

I think that I could briefly restate our position. The position is this, that of course we want to do all we can to protect the quality of the water supply for the citizens of Winnipeg. Secondly, we believe that the Indian reserves also have a right to seek ways to improve their economic well-being. Generally speaking, those two things are not in conflict. This particular place we're talking about, two things happening in the same area which happens to be a source of that water supply.

I hasten to add that is not the only activity taking place in that area that could potentially affect the water supply. We've been monitoring and that has been going on for many years. There's a Memorandum of Understanding that exists with the Province of Ontario, based on which we meet periodically, generally once a year to review things, to review the developments. There are no as far as we know major operations taking place now but there is exploration. There are other private citizens that are considering developments.

Our position is that, in order to resolve this issue once and for all, all parties that have an interest in this issue: the City of Winnipeg, because of its water supply; the province, because we have that concern, a double concern; the Federal Government, because it comes under their jurisdiction, in more ways than one, because we're talking about lands, Indian reserve lands, which come under federal jurisdiction, we're talking about transboundary waters, which come under federal jurisdiction. No matter what alternatives eventually form

part of that solution, we cannot come to a solution which doesn't involve the three parties that I mentioned.

Of course, added to that, the fourth party, which is the Indian reserve, if we're talking specifically about the cottage development. Having said that, the negotiations are pretty well at a standstill right now. The very fact that we are waiting a reply from, and I've sent the telegram to my counterpart, the Minister of Environment, on May 5. At that time, the Member will recall that Mr. Chretien represented the band that came to Winnipeg and had made some statements to the effect that things could be unleashed or gotten on track very rapidly, unless they got fairly large sums of dollars on the table and that the project would go forward. There were rumors of the Minister Responsible for Indian Affairs sort of giving the green light very rapidly and, because of those concerns, I did send a telegram to my counterpart asking him to intervene.

Since then I've heard expressions that there would not be any speedy fast actions on the part of the Indian Minister in terms of the ready approval to proceed, because things are where we know they are. That is, the band has said and has been required to provide impact assessments to the Federal Environmental Assessment Review Office and they have provided that information. The FEARO hasn't proceeded with the assessments or the hearings or the analysis of these with the idea that, if there were other alternative solutions found, it might never be necessary to proceed with these hearings and that review.

That would be unleashed only if the Indian reserve were to say, we're at a complete standstill. We walk away from potential buy-outs or other solutions and we request the FEARO to proceed. They haven't received that kind of a direction from the Indian reserve and therefore FEARO has never proceeded.

It is our understanding that the cottage development could not occur unless FEARO would hold that review and those hearings. Therefore, there is nobody who needs to have that kind of a panic type of reaction in regard to the proposed development project. On the other hand, we would like to see that resolved.

I know that my Deputy Minister and the chief negotiator for the City of Winnipeg have jointly sent a letter to the federal member, the Assistant Deputy Minister from Indian Affairs, who was representing the Federal Government on the negotiating table, asking him to rejoin the negotiating table. He was there and had been appointed to sit there last summer, did join a number of meetings and withdrew on October 22, last fall. We want them to come back. The city has a draft proposal which they believe might, if everybody were sitting around the table, make it possible to arrive at a solution. That can only be affirmed or we can only find out that is not the case once the members, the parties that are affected, sit down and talk about it. And that's what we want to see happen.

MR. A. KOVNATS: Thank you, Mr. Minister. It appears that you've given us some sort of assurance that our drinking water will not be contaminated, that it's been looked at to the point where the projects just won't go ahead at this point without us knowing about it, and then we should be able to take some action to counteract if it's unfavourable to our drinking water supply.

Can you bring us up to date on what's happening with the water supply coming up the Red River from the United States? I don't want to open up another can of worms, I just want a very short answer. Is there any danger, has everything been put to rest at this point, or is there still some danger of unwanted fish coming into our system?

HON. G. LECUYER: There were, since we last sat around this table to deal with the Estimates of my department, no new developments as far as the Garrison Project which might have caused any changes from what I have provided in the past. The water, when it comes down the Red River in Winnipeg, is not affected by at this point in time, and hopefully it never will. The diversion project is being modified so that they would not cause negative impacts to the quality of the Red River and, at this point in time, that's where matters stand and I can add simply that the quality of the water of the Red River, as it comes to Winnipeg, is quite good. As it leaves Winnipeg, then we're in that can of worms that the member referred to.

MR. A. KOVNATS: Well, as it leaves Winnipeg and we send it up to Selkirk, Manitoba where the Premier lives, is that where you say that it's not pure, coming up there?

HON. G. LECUYER: Mr. Chairman, depending on the distance it flows, from the time it leaves the boundaries of the City of Winnipeg, the longer it flows, the better it gets. But it hasn't been flowing for long enough by the time it gets to Selkirk, most days.

MR. A. KOVNATS: I think that the Member for Virden might just want to finish off, otherwise - you had enough? Okay.

Mr. Chairman, might we call it six o'clock?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is it agreed by everyone to call it six o'clock? (Agreed)

SUPPLY - CULTURE, HERITAGE AND RECREATION

MR. CHAIRMAN, C. Santos: Committee of Supply, please come to order. We have been considering Budget Item No. 2.(b) Grants Administration.

The Honourable Member for Springfield.

MR. G. ROCH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

To continue where we were at on Tuesday, I'd like to ask the Minister what organizations benefited under the deficit reduction plan in 1986-87 and who will benefit in 1988.

I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman, I didn't hear the answer. The mike wasn't turned on, I think.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

I answered that question at the very end of our last session. The answer is on page 2457 of Tuesday's Hansard.

MR. G. ROCH: I'd like to know also what Special Initiatives were undertaken in 1986-87, who is targeted for 1988, under the same program.

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: The Special Initiatives for 1986-87 comprised a grant for Bridges Youth Cultural Centre, Manitoba Engineering Centennial Committee, the Brokenhead Village Museum; hospitality grants to support, among others, the Transcona 75th Jubilee; several conferences held in Manitoba, including the Victorian Studies Association, the Manitoba Genealogical Society, the Military Collectors Club, the Association for Canadian Studies, and the Learned Societies.

In terms of '87-88, no decisions have been made in that respect.

MR. G. ROCH: I would like to know who has the spending authority for these grants.

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: Mr. Chairperson, the spending authority for this line is no different than for any other part of the budget.

MR. G. ROCH: Mr. Chairman, I didn't hear the answer.

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: The answer is "normal procedures," Mr. Chairperson.

MR. G. ROCH: Unless other members have questions, I'm ready to move on to 2.(c).

MR. CHAIRMAN: Item No. 2.(b)(1) Grants Administration: Salaries—pass; 2.(b)(2) Other Expenditures—pass; 2.(b)(3) Grant Assistance—pass. 2.(c)(1) Cultural Resources: Salaries; 2.(c)(2) Other Expenditures - the Member for Brandon West.

MR. J. McCRAE: Mr. Chairman, on 2.(b), is this the heading for Grant Assistance to organizations whose purpose is to advance the status of women in Manitoba?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: I'm not sure I understand that question.

MR. J. McCRAE: Mr. Chairman, under 2.(b)(3) Grant Assistance, is this the right place to ask a question about the support of this government to organizations whose objective is to advance the status of women in Manitoba?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: It's a little hard to answer that question without knowing what it means exactly. Certainly the member could ask anything under this line, although this is the line where basically it deals with grants to our major institutions and Culture, Heritage and Recreation purposes. However, certainly throughout all of our funding, we try to ensure that women have access to Culture, Heritage and Recreation grants.

But if he's meaning specifically the Status of Women area, that's another part of the whole budget of the Estimates. It should follow at the very end of Culture, Heritage and Recreation.

MR. J. McCRAE: Mr. Chairman, when we come to that heading in the Estimates, is that the proper time for

honourable members to deal with the support this government provides to organizations whose objective is to advance the status of women? I mean operating grants to women's organizations.

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: I believe the answer is yes. I'm not sure I understand the gist of the question there. If he's referring to the coordinating role of the Status of Women Directorate, then the advisory council and their responsibility within government, not withstanding the fact that it doesn't have a granting capacity and provide operating grants to any organizations. That's about the best I can do to answer that question.

MR. J. McCRAE: Mr. Chairman, for instance, the Manitoba Action Committee on the Status of Women, is that organization funded in this government and, if so, at what point should we be discussing that?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: That organization is not funded by this department, Culture, Heritage and Recreation; it's not funded by Status of Women. I believe it might receive some funding through the Department of Community Services, but I can't be certain of that fact.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Pass.
The Member for Springfield.

MR. G. ROCH: Mr. Chairman, are we moving on to 2.(c)?

MR. CHAIRMAN: 2.(c)(1) Cultural Resources: Salaries.

MR. G. ROCH: There has been, I notice, an 11.6 percent decrease in funding for this section. Although the note at the bottom of the page, page 38, of the Supplementary Information book explains it as a transfer of touring responsibility. I would like to know, there has been a decrease in funding every year since 1984; from 1984 to 1988 there has been a decrease of 30.5 percent in this section. Can the Minister explain this, under the Expected Results of this section, on page 37, and talks about the increased level of consultation and financial support?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: I believe that any decrease over that three-year period reflects transferring of part of this branch's responsibilities into Lotteries.

MR. G. ROCH: On page 37 of the Supplementary Information, it mentions community-based cultural organizations. My question is: How many of those are outside Winnipeg?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: Most of them, Mr. Chairperson.

MR. G. ROCH: Did the Minister say most of them? Okay, thank you.

Skills development and training information, who provides the training and what type of training?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: There are a number of programs which fall under that general category of Skills

Development and Training, and Community Development, including the Skills Transfer Program, the Coordination Assistance Program, the Public Events Sponsorship Program, Arts School Assistance, Linguistics Report, Ethnical for Support and so on and so forth.

MR. G. ROCH: On page 38, there have been significant decreases both under Capital and under Operating Expenses. Can the Minister elaborate?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: It's a reduction due to reduced operating costs as a result of the cut of one SY.

MR. G. ROCH: Does the one manager under the appropriation's funding also look into the Lotteries section? Otherwise it would seem that eight staff years look after \$351,000 under appropriations, while four staff years look after \$2.2 million under Lotteries.

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: It's essentially one branch with one manager and the four, plus seven staff that the member's referring to.

MR. G. ROCH: As the primary component of this area is training, is there any professional staff on board or is it contracted out?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: Our approach has been, through these programs, to provide communities with the tools to create training opportunities and to develop skills and to encourage the community development model.

MR. G. ROCH: I don't know if the Minister misunderstood the question, but I asked if there was any professional staff on board or whether it was contracted out.

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: I believe the first question was any professional training staff? And my answer was that our way of dealing with the question of training is to provide meaningful programs and grants that will encourage that to take place at the community level, in other words, to give the tools to the community to help themselves. One excellent example of that would be our support for community arts councils.

MR. G. ROCH: So you are saying, if I understand correctly, that the communities are looking after the hiring themselves or getting the necessary staff themselves.

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: Yes, through assistance from my department, communities have the means by which to put on training opportunities for community workers, to help encourage volunteerism and to, in essence, develop community arts and culture at the grass-roots level.

MR. G. ROCH: Taking from data from the 1986 grants list and comparing it to the grant assistance under Lotteries on page 39 of the grant assistance for community arts operating grants, in 1986 the amount

was \$121,300 and, in 1988, it will be \$237,000.00. That's almost a 100 percent increase in a two-year span. Can the Minister explain the expansion of this program?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: That increase reflects the consolidation of grants and programs previously funded under appropriation now being funded through Lotteries.

MR. G. ROCH: I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman, I have to apologize. I didn't hear the answer. I was getting a message from the Page.

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: Mr. Chairperson, the answer to that question is that this represents a consolidation of programs and grants previously funded under appropriation now being funded through Lotteries.

MR. G. ROCH: Under Annual Project Grants in the next item down, there has been a 600 percent increase since 1986. Which groups have been funded out of this heading for the past few years?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: Sorry, Mr. Chairperson, my speaker wasn't working, if he could repeat the question?

MR. G. ROCH: Yes, under the item, Annual Project Grants, there has been a 600 percent increase since 1986. What groups have been funded under this heading in the past two years?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: That increase doesn't reflect new programs or new grants or new assistance. It's the way in which we've displayed the information. If the member wants, we could try to get him that information, but there is no change from the basic programs listed in the grants listing that he received.

MR. G. ROCH: So if I understand correctly, there has been no basic change, but there have been some changes that could be supplied by interdepartmental mailing, I assume.

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: There are no changes, period. It's a matter of the way in which the information is presented.

MR. G. ROCH: Why was there a change in the way the information is presented?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: It reflects a shifting of where the information is displayed, in this case, from Grants Administration to Cultural Resources, so he will notice above in this line under Cultural Resources.

MR. G. ROCH: Okay, unless other members have questions, I'm ready to move on to 2.(d).

MR. CHAIRMAN: 2.(c)(1) Cultural Resources: Salaries—pass; 2.(c)(2) Other Expenditures—pass.
2.(d)(1) Recreation Services: Salaries; 2.(d)(2) Other Expenditures - the Member for Springfield.

MR. G. ROCH: Mr. Chairman, in 1986-87, there was a 1.4 percent increase; '87-88, a 6.5 percent increase.

But if you take the combined years from 1984-88, there was a 23.3 percent decrease. That's an average annual decrease of almost 6 percent in grants from Lotteries and provincial agencies.

The point is that, in 1986-87 and 1987-88, according to the Supplementary Information book, all the funding comes from Lotteries and none from departmental appropriations. Also the funding for agencies seems to have decreased from \$91,600 to \$78,000.00. That's a 17.4 percent decrease. Can the Minister elaborate as to the reasons for this?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: The decrease that the member refers to reflects a transfer of a grant to the Boys and Girls Club from Recreation to Regional Services.

MR. G. ROCH: So the grant was transferred, if I understand correctly, from Recreation to Regional Services.

The Minister has been touring Manitoba with a discussion paper on recreation. Apparently the government wants to develop a comprehensive policy statement on recreation, which is specific to the province. How far has this White Paper progressed in formulating policy?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: Considerable progress has been made on the development of this policy. A very thorough consultation process took place over the past fall. We have received a lot of information and continue to receive briefs from organizations and communities right across the province. We are now in the process of compiling that information and using it to draft a draft policy statement. Once that has been completed, it will be circulated back to all of those organizations and communities who expressed interest. Based on that feedback, we will begin steps towards the preparation of a formal policy statement on recreation.

MR. G. ROCH: How does the recreation policy integrate with the culture and heritage policy?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: We have applied, accepted a definition of recreation that is broadly defined, that looks at all aspects of leisure and quality of life matters. In our view, the issues of recreation, issues of heritage, issues of culture, as well as issues of sport and so on and so forth are all important aspects of development of a leisure policy and enhancing our quality of life.

MR. G. ROCH: Today, recreation is only well planned in rural Manitoba. It seems to be ineffective in Winnipeg and other large centres, such as Brandon and Thompson. How does the Provincial Government interface with the City of Winnipeg or other municipalities for that matter on planning for recreation? I'll give you an example, Mr. Chairman. The Community Places Program deals directly with the grass-roots funding and bypasses municipal governments, which leads to planning chaos.

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: Let me begin by rejecting the assumption to that question. It's just not accurate at all. There's been a considerable consultation and

cooperation between levels of government and community groups in the development of the Community Places Program. We certainly, through our regional staff and through our links with community groups and with municipalities, have kept a close eye on the needs of municipalities, and feel we've responded within our abilities to those needs. That co-operation and consultation will continue, as evident by the nature of the consultation process around recreational policy where, both in rural Manitoba and in the City of Winnipeg, municipal officials, community leaders, volunteers, staff of local governments have all been a part of the process. We'll continue to consult with them and look forward to doing so in the future.

MR. G. ROCH: Mr. Chairman, I agree that it's the government's role and responsibility to meet with the municipal people and others to consult with. Given the information that we received yesterday, it's obvious that most of the consultation was only political people more than anyone else.

In the area of needs assessment, to assess whether the present system of gaming funds distribution is meeting the needs of the communities, it is important to see whether it is meeting the needs of the communities and whether it is supporting the needs of non-profit organizations. How many consulting firms are available locally to do this type of study?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: On the first comment made by the member, it's obvious that we have a disagreement, and it's obvious that he does not appreciate the kind of distribution of the grants to arts groups, churches, community councils, day cares, disabled organizations, ethnocultural organizations, Indian bands, libraries, museums, recreation groups, seniors' organizations, social services and women's groups. Perhaps it's best to set that disagreement aside and let me address . . .

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister has the floor.

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: Thank you.

I would like to continue to answer the question posed by the Member for Springfield. Although we're not into Lotteries Estimates, I'll certainly be prepared to answer that question.

The needs assessment is something that is being carried out through the Lotteries Foundation, under my responsibility as Minister responsible for Lotteries, to assess the distribution system. We are in the process of receiving proposals on a tender and, based on initial interest, can say that there are certainly a good number of local consulting services that we can draw on.

MR. G. ROCH: I realize we're not in Lotteries, but this affects recreation greatly. Who has the Minister had discussions with regarding the contract?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: Well, I've had discussions with staff. I've set up an advisory committee made up of representatives of all of the umbrella groups, and we've had some thorough discussions about the whole process.

MR. G. ROCH: What estimates are there on what the study will cost?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: I'm not sure I heard the question but, if he was asking about an estimation of costs for the study, I'm not able to provide that. We're asking each of the consulting firms to provide us with a proposal and to give us an estimation. This is the normal process for a contract arrangement.

MR. G. ROCH: So we're not sure what this is going to cost us.

Where is the information available for the study coming from? Is it from all the different groups that you mention earlier or are there other groups?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: Once the consultant is in place, Mr. Chairperson, advice and information and research and resources will come from all of the existing umbrella groups, all of the groups that they serve, and all of the groups in the entire non-profit community generally.

MR. G. ROCH: Again, Mr. Chairman, I have to ask. Aren't we wasting money on this study? As we have staff available and you have hand-picked experts on the boards of your umbrella groups, they should have all the information you need to make these decisions. You know, is this another farce like your so-called Task Force on Multiculturalism?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: Again, Mr. Chairperson, we obviously have different approaches on these kinds of matters. I guess when it comes - let me deal first with the question of multicultural policy.

I find it hard to take seriously the comments of the member opposite in light of the fact that, if one wants to decide to review the program or a policy and all of the agencies that were involved in that and all of the government departments but one decided to carry out that review by having someone from the staff of one of those departments or those agencies or a members of those groups actually do the review, I just wonder how much credibility the Member for Springfield would give to that study, and I wonder how seriously all of the groups concerned would take the study.

Our approach has been that, if you are going to take seriously the question of developing a comprehensive multicultural policy which does involve many departments - it involves a review of my own department, it involves a review of agencies like the Manitoba Intercultural Council, it involves programs and policies and legislation generally - then I don't know of any other way to carry out a review than to have it done from an independent point of view. I don't know how seriously the results would be taken if it was done otherwise.

The same holds true, Mr. Chairperson, for the review of the Lotteries distribution system. The request for an independent look at the system came from the umbrella groups and came from the other organizations in the system who would like to see some share in the Lotteries distribution system. They would view any study that was done any differently as a total farce.

I fail to understand the Member for Springfield's point and all I can say is that, if we're serious about a review

of any one aspect of government or any one aspect of policy, then the approaches I've outlined seem to me to be reasonable and ones of integrity.

MR. G. ROCH: Mr. Chairman, first of all, I question the independence of that task force and, since the NDP often like to brag that they've been in power for 14 out of the last 18 years, I wonder how come they don't know the needs of the communities at this point already. They should know the needs of the communities, and they are supposed to serve, like they often brag, instead of just paying lip service.

In any case, isn't it the government's role to decide what is needed? As a matter of fact, is that what will happen here as well, that only what is politically expedient will be implemented from the report?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: I'm not quite sure I understand the question, but if I've heard correctly, let me say that on both counts with respect to both policy areas, our approach has been as a direct response to the demands of the communities involved. In both cases, a request for a review that was not undertaken by staff or by anyone tied to any of the existing agencies be carried out, that's certainly not an indication of any lack of faith in staff or in agencies or in any of the organizations involved. In fact, it's the exact opposite. It shows a faith in their judgment because we have followed their advice.

I must say in fact further to that, Mr. Chairperson, that if we're talking about the multicultural policy, members of the ethnocultural community have a great deal of faith in the staff and the programs of my department and other departmental efforts pertaining to multiculturalism and, in fact, are quite prepared to point to our record in this area being outstanding across the country and point to the fact that, in the space of about six years, funding and services to the ethnocultural communities has increased 500 percent or 600 percent, and this whole policy direction was taken from very little, from the days when members opposite were in government, to a very nationally acclaimed, prominent and well-accepted policy and set of programs.

MR. G. ROCH: Mr. Chairman, I have no doubt there are some members or supporters within the ethnocultural communities which have requested this, but as was reported on the news after the announcement, many others disagree with the need for the reports. Therefore, I guess we'll just continue disagreeing on the *raison d'être* of the task force.

In regard to the recent \$20,000 grant to build a facility for a new winter sport, I believe it's called - I may not be pronouncing it right - bandy - it came in his capacity as Minister for Amateur Sports - what will the total cost of the capital expenditure be?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: Could I ask for what, Mr. Chairperson?

MR. G. ROCH: It's to build a facility for a new kind of winter sport called bandy. It was a \$20,000 grant which was awarded.

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: I'm really not sure what the member is talking about.

MR. G. ROCH: Well, there was a Community Places Grant.

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: There were 531 applications. There were 250 applications approved. I certainly don't have the details of those applications at my fingertip. If the member would like more information, I'd be happy to provide it, but we certainly have passed the item dealing with this program, and I'm not sure what kind of information he is expecting me to provide in these Estimates on that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Charleswood.

MR. J. ERNST: Mr. Chairman, perhaps I can clear up the matter. It was for a grant to the Manitoba Bandy Association, which is a scheme similar to ice hockey played on a large field about the size of a soccer field, covered in ice. I understand it's to be installed in the Flood Bowl in Norwood, and the grant was for \$20,000 to provide the lighting for that particular facility.

The member asked what the total cost of the facility was going to be.

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: Well, I'll have to check the list of 250 projects that were approved and - (Interjection)- 253 projects, did you say? I'm not sure I understand the Member for Charleswood's point, and if you would like to - I provided him with a total list of applications made with the total sum of dollars involved in each project, as well as a list of approvals. If he has already been provided with the information, I'm not sure what more he would like me to do.

MR. G. ROCH: Mr. Chairman, I have not already been provided with the information. What I am asking - and if the Minister does not have the information at hand, I'll ask her three questions and possibly she can supply the answers at a future date. I'm asking specifically in regard to that bandy grant.

What will the total cost of the capital expenditure be? As well, I'd like to know what will the ongoing operating expense of the program cost yearly? What programs will be cut in order to fund this new sport?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: Mr. Chairperson, I can certainly try to find the information he's asking for, although he has been provided with a list of the projects, the list of approvals, and a list of the total cost for each project, as well as the total amount approved. So if he subtracted the total amount approved from the total cost of the project, he would have the balance. Those are the only three figures I'm able to provide. I think that's all he's asking for in terms of the latter part of his question. That's obviously a facetious question when he knows the nature of this program and the entire allocation process.

MR. G. ROCH: Mr. Chairman, unless other members have questions in this area, I'm prepared to move on to Item 2.(e).

MR. CHAIRMAN: 2.(d)(1) Recreation Services: Salaries—pass; 2.(d)(2) Other Expenditures—pass.

2.(e)(1) Public Library Services: Salaries; 2.(e)(2) Other Expenditures; 2.(e)(3) Grant Assistance - the Member for Springfield.

MR. G. ROCH: Mr. Chairman, public libraries are an important resource for both those people who are pursuing an education and all of those who read for recreation and for general information.

Can the Minister give me the rate of utilization in the province and compared to other provinces in Canada? When I say rate of utilization, I mean the public libraries.

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: Would he like that for rural Manitoba or for Winnipeg?

MR. G. ROCH: The province as a whole. But if you can break it down, that would be appreciated.

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: Could I ask the member just to clarify? Is he talking about the number of people who use libraries? Is he talking about what proportion of the province is not served by libraries? Or is he talking about number of books per capita? It would help to have a specific question.

MR. G. ROCH: Basically what I'm asking is: what is the rate of utilization of the libraries by people themselves? How many people actually make use of libraries, how many books go out, that nature of a question?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: I don't have the exact statistics, Mr. Chairperson. I know that Manitobans in general are heavy users of libraries and our library services, and I can also report that about 20 percent of the entire Manitoba population does not have access to library services.

MR. G. ROCH: I understand that total library funding in 1987 increased by 9.6 percent, but in '88 there will be a decrease of .7 percent. From 1984-1988 there has been an increase of only 8.8 percent in funding, for about an average of 2.2 percent per year. This does not even reflect the increase in the Consumer Price Index.

Grant Assistance has increased from \$2.1963 million in 1984 to \$2.447 million in 1988, for an 11.4 percent increase over four years, which isn't quite the 3 percent increase per annum in funding.

Compared to Grant Assistance increases in either Cultural Resources or Historic Resources, it's actually a pitiful increase in library funding.

Can the Minister explain the deterioration in library funding for this most important resource, which is needed by most Manitobans wherever they may live?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: I think if the member looks at both the information provided under appropriation and the information provided under Lotteries, he will see that there's been a significant increase in spending for public libraries and Public Library Services in Manitoba, and that this is one area where there has been a much higher than a cost-of-living increase, a big leap in support for this very vital service.

I can refer again, as I've done in the past, to the major increase in the operating grant for the City of Winnipeg Library and a major increase in the per capita operating grant for the Rural Library Services.

As well, we have in effect found the means from within to embark on a major new initiative involving

\$120,000 and that's a program, Automated Cataloguing Support, which is really seen as a vital addition in support to our Public Library Services. All of these improvements have been supported strongly by Manitobans everywhere.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Brandon West.

MR. J. McCRAE: Mr. Chairman, I would like to read to the Honourable Minister a letter I received, dated February 18 of this year, from the Western Manitoba Regional Library, signed by 11 members of the Board of Trustees. I'll read part of it. If the Minister wants, I'll read it all.

"Over the past four years, the provincial grant to libraries has increased from \$3 per capita to \$3.50 per capita. This represents a 16.7 percent increase. The town and municipal grants in this same period have increased from \$3 to \$4.75 per capita which represents a 58.3 percent increase.

"During this same time period, overall expenditures have risen 43.4 percent with the cost of books rising by 56.9 percent. Staff salaries have not kept pace with the rising cost of living. In spite of independent fund-raising programs, such as Brandon's Buy-A-Book campaign, we fear we will be unable to meet the demands for library services within our communities.

"We have reduced costs as much as possible without cutting services to patrons. While our resources are declining, the demands for more services, longer hours and larger collections have increased. The increased circulation over the past four years reflects this greater demand.

"At this time, we do not hope to expand library services, but we would like to maintain existing services. If additional funding cannot be obtained, we shall be faced with deteriorating library services and book holdings which do not adequately meet the needs or reflect the demands of our patrons."

Mr. Chairman, what response does the Minister have, and have there been any developments since February 18 which this letter would not reflect?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: Mr. Chairperson, I'd like to read a letter dated April 21 from the Western Manitoba Regional Library.

"Dear Ms. Wasylicia-Leis: The Board of Trustees of the Western Manitoba Regional Library would like to express its appreciation to you and your department for the recently announced increase to the operating grants for rural public libraries. It was also very exciting to learn of increased financial support for the services provided by the Public Library Services."

To skip down, so I don't take up all the time of the member: "The leadership and support which your announcement demonstrates is very much appreciated. We respectfully hope for the future that regular increases in provincial contributions can be considered. This financial support would show an interest and encouragement that would motivate us all. Your personal interest in Public Library Services is also encouraging. Thank you for all your efforts on our behalf," signed Mr. Pool, Secretary-Treasurer of the Western Manitoba Regional Library Board.

Mr. Chairperson, we recognized early on the state of libraries in rural Manitoba and recognized the

seriousness of the situation. It was through consultations and letters, such as the one the Member for Brandon West referred to, that helped us consolidate our views and our position on this matter and helped us to do the difficult task of finding resources from within, given no overall increase in the department's budget for this very important service.

It is that commitment and that seriousness with which we take this issue that has resulted in the increase from \$3.50 per capita to \$4.25 per capita. That will be a major boost to rural libraries. We know it's just a start; we know we have a lot more to do, and we know we've got to find ways to provide ongoing and regular increases.

I think it would help to have that support from members opposite and I'm pleased to hear the Member for Brandon West's comments, particularly following so soon after the Member for Springfield's criticism of our increase to Rural Library Services and the higher increase for Rural Library Services than to Winnipeg. As I said to him at that time, we regret that we don't have more money to plow into the system. We know the needs are great everywhere but an increase in this magnitude of, I think it's close to about 21 percent for Rural Library Services, and an increase of something like 16 percent for Winnipeg Public Library Services, to me is a major boost and reflects the seriousness with which we take this issue.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Springfield.

MR. G. ROCH: Mr. Chairman, I would like to correct the incorrect comments that this incompetent Minister made. I never criticized the increase for rural funding; I was just pointing out inequities. Being critic of the department, I feel I have to treat the areas equally, both in urban and rural areas.

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: I don't have the exact Hansard reference here, but I could certainly find that, when the Member for Springfield began by questioning our decision to give a higher rate or higher increase to Rural Library Services than to Winnipeg Public Library Services.

I just wanted to explain to members opposite the reasons why we -(Interjection)-

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please.

Under Rule 42, when a member is speaking, no member shall interrupt except to raise a point of order or a matter of privilege.

The Honourable Minister.

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: I had finished my remarks, Mr. Chairperson.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Brandon West.

MR. J. McCRAE: Mr. Chairman, can the Minister tell me what the per capita contribution is by her department to libraries in the City of Winnipeg and what the per capita contribution is by the city?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: We've taken a number of steps over the last three years to improve services in

the Winnipeg public library system, and have indicated a commitment to the city and to the board for developing a long-term strategy for continuing to make such improvements.

This year, our increase was in the neighbourhood of 16.5 percent, with an additional \$160,000 being made available, which brought the per capita up from \$233 to \$250.00.

As well, we had just handed over a cheque for \$500,000 targeted exclusively for book acquisition, and the previous year saw a per capita increase also in the neighborhood of 12 percent to 15 percent.

So there's been a sizeable amount of money that has gone into the Winnipeg Public Library System and, in fact, for 1987 it totals 1.4656 million.

Let me say that we're interested in working closely with the city to improve the system generally. We have indicated a commitment of working together and of trying to maintain a level of provincial support that will keep us in a leadership position across the country, and look forward to that cooperation.

MR. J. McCRAE: I'm sure it's just an oversight, Mr. Chairman, but would the Minister also tell us the contribution made per capita by the City of Winnipeg?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: I don't have that chart in front of me, but I can get back in about five minutes to the member if he's willing to wait.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Charleswood.

MR. J. ERNST: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I want to echo the expressions of concern that the Library Board in Western Manitoba indicated in terms of rising costs and abilities to cope with those increases in costs based on the funding that's available.

Mr. Chairman, the Minister has indicated that the contributions and the great leadership that the Minister and her government has provided with respect to libraries shows a per capita grant to Winnipeg libraries of somewhere in the area of \$2.50 per capita, and libraries in rural Manitoba are somewhere in the area, I believe, of \$4.50 per capita. If that's leadership, Mr. Chairman, I'm beginning to wonder what's going on.

The Minister has indicated she wished she had more money to provide to these kinds of situations. Well, the first thing she ought to do, I think, is address the question of equity between the City of Winnipeg and rural Manitoba, because many people in the vicinity of Winnipeg and in rural Manitoba in fact utilize the City of Winnipeg library system. No one is objecting to that situation, Mr. Chairman, but to suggest that discrimination should take place between rural and urban library systems and still have the rural people getting the higher per capita grant, still utilizing the Winnipeg system, I think is wrong and needs to be addressed by the Minister.

In addition to that, if the Minister is concerned about getting some additional money, I can give her one place to start. She could stop giving grants to Lesbian and Gay Film Festivals and put that kind of money into where it should belong, into the library system for the education of the people of this province. That's the kind of expenditure of money that needs to take place

and not the other kind of frivolous grants that are passed out to these kinds of organizations.

Certainly, the question of the equity of the library system between Winnipeg and rural Manitoba needs to be addressed, and it needs to be addressed quickly. I raised this matter last year during Estimates, and the Minister has ignored that over the last year.

There is the question of a great 16 percent increase in funding and I don't think that the City of Winnipeg objects, certainly. They are very happy to get whatever they can. But certainly, when the base is wrong, when the base is half, virtually, of what it is elsewhere, then the question of a percentage increase, Mr. Chairman, makes a significant difference. If that percentage increase applied to the lower grant level, Mr. Chairman, you know, on paper it looks great that there's a 16 percent increase in Winnipeg and a 16 percent increase in rural Manitoba, but when it's applied to a base that's half the dollar value, it makes a significant difference.

We have to address this on the basis of equity, we have to address it on the basis of fairness as we talked about the last time Estimates were up. We had a great sermon from the Minister opposite about the fairness and equity in the grant system that was going on at that particular time, even though subsequent analysis proved to be somewhat different. The fact of the matter is we got the sermon just the same, Mr. Chairman.

Well, if the Minister is going to deliver sermons like that, then it's time she started living up to those self-same sermons that she's delivering. And I would hope that the question of fairness and equity now in the distribution of grants for libraries on a per capita basis is dealt with by the Minister before the next time Estimates roll around.

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: Let me try to deal with a couple of issues that were raised. The first, I guess, is the conflicting advice I'm getting from members opposite. The Member for Brandon West has asked that greater attention and greater resources go into rural libraries, and the Member for Charleswood and the Member for Springfield would like to see . . .

MR. J. McCRAE: A point of order, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: A point of order being raised by the Member for Brandon West.

MR. J. McCRAE: All I ask from this Minister - it's hard to ask for a whole lot from her, Mr. Chairman - but I do ask that this Minister be truthful.

HON. E. KOSTYRA: Oh, sit down, you jerk!

MR. J. McCRAE: You better take that back, Eugene.

HON. E. KOSTYRA: No. You said "untruthful." That's unparliamentary.

MR. J. McCRAE: Take that back, Eugene.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Brandon West has no point of order.

MR. J. McCRAE: I have a second point of order, Mr. Chairman.

I'm asking you to rule this afternoon, Mr. Chairman. For a Minister of Finance to call an honourable member of this Chamber a "jerk," I ask you to rule that unparliamentary and to ask the Minister to withdraw that and apologize.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Finance.

HON. E. KOSTYRA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I am prepared to withdraw any implication that the honourable member across the way is a "jerk" if he stops calling other honourable members in this House "untruthful."

MR. J. MCCRAE: Mr. Chairman, may we have a ruling on my point of order, please?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Finance has withdrawn the remark. I heard distinctly.

MR. J. MCCRAE: Mr. Chairman, it was a conditional withdrawal, and I'd like to have an unconditional withdrawal.

Mr. Chairman, I have a further point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN: According to Beauchesne, the word "untruthful" appears on both sides of the list. It depends on context and intentions. So it has been ruled both parliamentary and unparliamentary.

I just caution the Member for Brandon West to be very careful about the words he uses.

The second point, the use of the second word that was in question, that was withdrawn by the Minister of Finance conditionally. I would request the Minister of Finance to withdraw the word without any condition.

The Honourable Minister of Finance.

HON. E. KOSTYRA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Did I hear you correctly that you had ruled on the first . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is no point of order, because it is both parliamentary and unparliamentary, the word "untruthful."

HON. E. KOSTYRA: I will withdraw my reference to the honourable member opposite as a jerk.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Brandon West.

MR. J. McCRAE: Mr. Chairman, I will withdraw my reference to the Minister of Culture, Heritage and Recreation, except I will point out, Mr. Chairman, that I did not call the Minister untruthful. I just asked her, please, to be truthful in her responses.

Earlier in my question, Mr. Chairman, I read a letter and I asked the Minister for her reaction, and that was all I asked. For the Minister to assume . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: We are discussing a point of order here.

The Member for Brandon West.

MR. J. McCRAE: For the Minister to assume, Mr. Chairman, that I did something more than that was not

truthful, and I respectfully submit the Minister, on thinking it over, would admit that, and the Minister of Finance would also understand that if he had been listening earlier.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The second word has been withdrawn unconditionally. The point of order is disposed of.
The Honourable Minister.

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

I certainly wasn't intending to reflect on the Member for Brandon West's character or to call him anything less than an honourable member of this House. I was just simply pointing out that I felt I was getting quite conflicting advice from members opposite.

I know that on different occasions, I've been asked to, on the one hand, increase rural library grants, per capita grants; and on the other hand, to increase City of Winnipeg library grants. Well, we did both this year, Mr. Chairperson, and we're quite pleased that we were able to find the resources to do so for this very important library service.

Mr. Chairperson, as I said earlier in this House, to compare the Winnipeg public library service with the rural library service is like comparing almost apples and oranges because they're at such different stages of development. I think that all rural members opposite will attest to the fact that they just do not have access to the kind of service and the kind of acquisitions that are available in Winnipeg. So I think we have some responsibility to begin to try to equalize that situation.

I also mentioned earlier that there's about 20 percent of our population that still does not have access to libraries. They would be in remote parts of the province and on reserves. I think our next priority should probably be to try to find a way, the means, by which we can provide library services in those communities.

It's not uncommon - in fact, it's quite a common practice across this country - for provinces to provide higher per capita to rural libraries in recognition of lower services that are possible, given the higher capacity of larger urban centres like Winnipeg to raise funds.

Earlier, the Member for Brandon West asked me a question about the City of Winnipeg's share for the Winnipeg public library system. I don't have the latest figures, based on the most recent council decision but, at the time of our budget planning and at the time of our decision-making, the City of Winnipeg was near the bottom or at the bottom of major centres right across this country in terms of its share toward the city public library.

The Cities of Regina, Toronto, North York, Thunder Bay, Vancouver, Saskatoon, Ottawa, Windsor, Victoria, Kitchener, Mississauga, London, Burnaby, Richmond, Sudbury, Calgary, York, Edmonton, Montreal, Brampton, Halifax, Oshawa, and Quebec all have a higher per capita amount going towards their city libraries than does the City of Winnipeg.

Our share, which is now at about 14 percent, of a city library system is one of the highest in the country. That's not to say we're saying that nothing more needs to be done. We all know a lot more needs to be done. We'd like to do that cooperatively with the city to find

a way to keep increasing our support in proportion to the city's contribution to that system and, as I said earlier, look forward very much to cooperating on this matter.

I should also point out that, when we're looking at the rural-urban situation, that one-time only \$500,000 grant for material acquisition was available only to the City of Winnipeg. I know that there has been concern that we haven't been able to provide the same amount for rural acquisition.

We're trying to deal with that broad problem in this budget with a three-part strategy: one is to get up the level of support, which we've done in both cases, city and rural; two is to put in place this automated cataloguing support service which will be of enormous benefit to libraries right across the province; and three is to make improvements in book acquisitions, particularly for books that are needed by the disabled in our society.

While I'm on my feet, I have the information about the Manitoba Bandy Federation. Apparently, they applied for a grant of \$60,000.00. The total project cost was \$80,000, and they were approved for a grant of \$20,000.00.

The other information is as the member - I'm not sure which member I gave this information - it's for the installation of lighting, and it's a rink to be operated by the Norwood Community Club and so on. I hope that answers the member's question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 2.(e)(1) - the Member for Springfield.

MR. G. ROCH: If there are no more questions, I'm prepared to move on to section (f), Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 2.(e)(1) Public Library Services: Salaries—pass; 2.(e)(2) Other Expenditures—pass; 2.(e)(3) Grant Assistance—pass.

2.(f)(1) Historic Resources: Salaries; 2.(f)(2) Other Expenditures - the Member for Springfield.

MR. G. ROCH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

In 1986, \$223,243 was given to museums. Where they one-time capital grants?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: These were for operating grants, Mr. Chairperson.

MR. G. ROCH: How many museums that were funded in 1986 have now closed due to a lack of funds?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: The quick answer is that I am not aware of any. However, we'll do a check on that question.

MR. G. ROCH: I would just like to point out that there is a typographical error here on page 47 on the Adjusted Vote, 1986-87 staff years. I believe 31.08 should read 30.6. Is that correct?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: Actually, it is correct as it is written, Mr. Chairperson.

MR. G. ROCH: Well, it didn't seem correct when I was adding it up but, anyway, it is a minor point. I'm willing

to move on to the next item unless other members have questions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Item 2.(f)(1) Historic Resources: Salaries—pass; 2.(f)(2) Other Expenditures—pass.

2.(g)(1) Regional Services: Salaries; 2.(g)(2) Other Expenditures; 2.(g)(3) Grant Assistance - the Member for Springfield.

MR. G. ROCH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I notice that for the period of 1984-1988 there has been a deduction of 20.5 percent or an annual average decrease of about 5 percent. It seems that in reality there is no increase in funding as suggested under "b" on page 51, but a decrease in total grant assistance.

On page 51, on the Grant Assistance, I question the ongoing grant to the Winnipeg Boys and Girls Clubs Inc. of \$20,000 when, under the Expected Results, the greater focus is to be on the needs of less developed and more remote communities.

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: A good number of our programs and grants certainly do respond directly to the needs of those in remote and rural communities. This grant for the Winnipeg Boys and Girls Clubs meets a need of equal proportion within the City of Winnipeg by serving those in the Inner City, by serving those in our ethnocultural communities, and by giving members of that part of our city the tools and the training and opportunities to develop fully and to gain equal respect and dignity in society.

MR. G. ROCH: I certainly wasn't questioning that, Mr. Chairman. It's just that, under the Objectives, it specifies regional offices in rural and Northern Manitoba. I was just questioning whether or not it was in the right classification. If there is no other classification for it at this point, if it's serving the purposes intended, I would have no problems with it. I would suggest though that it be properly reclassified in the future.

The Estimates indicate that there is a specialist in consultative services available in the nine regional offices. Are these professionals involved with policy formation, implementation and evaluation, to ensure the effectiveness of tax dollars?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: Mr. Chairperson, these staff years are individuals who are located in the regions of the province, who work on community development initiatives, who are involved in supporting the leadership and the resource development capacities of those community organizations, and to work in strengthening regional identities, and dealing with demands for services.

MR. G. ROCH: Mr. Chairman, does this department take the initiative in establishing volunteer organizations by providing support services. In other words, does staff go into the community to help the grassroots establish a program for themselves?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: Basically, yes, we provide some assistance for communities to develop the tools for community development.

MR. G. ROCH: And the Rural Recreation Districts Program, which is on page 51, for an amount of

\$305,000, be compared to grants to recreational districts on page 9 of the 1986 grants list of \$320,500, which used to be paid out of departmental appropriations.

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: I'm just trying to figure out, since he didn't ask a question, what the Member for Springfield is actually getting at. I think he is referring to a reduction in grants to recreation districts and asking for an explanation.

The reduction is explained by the fact that we no longer provide the City of Winnipeg with a recreation district grant.

MR. G. ROCH: Yes, Mr. Chairman, unless other members have questions, I have no further questions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 2.(g)(1) Salaries—pass; 2.(g)(2) Other Expenditures—pass; 2.(g)(3) Grant Assistance—pass.

2.(h)(1) Provincial Archives: Salaries; 2.(h)(2) Other Expenditures; 2.(h)(3) Less: Recoverable from Other Appropriations.

MR. G. ROCH: Mr. Chairman, let's wait until the Minister is finished consulting with the deputy critic.

Mr. Chairman, earlier in the Estimates debate, I had some questions in regard to the Freedom of Information Act. I was told the proper time to ask would be here. Therefore, I ask the question: What type of information will members of the Legislature and the general public have access to?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: Under the Freedom of Information Act, it will be possible to have access to any record in the custody or under the control of a department, including any information which discloses information about the applicant. There are some exceptions and limitations, and that's outlined in considerable detail in the act.

To be specific, in most cases, the right to refuse access is mandatory if the information sought had been provided by a non-government body and permissive if the information was generated by the Manitoba Government itself. "Records relating to federal-provincial relations may be exempt from access if their disclosure could reasonably be expected to be injurious to the conduct of inter-governmental affairs."

MR. G. ROCH: Is the announced date of the spring of '88 a firm commitment by the Minister that this act will be proclaimed?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: It's a goal. I indicated that we were aiming towards the spring of 1988, and that we would be working very hard to put in place the Access Guide.

MR. G. ROCH: Yes, yes, same answer.

Mr. Chairman, this department's objective is "to contribute to the development of an informed public by acquiring, protecting, and providing access to information vital to the interests of Manitobans."

There has been an increase in staff years and in salaries. In 1987 salaries increased by 12.3 percent; in 1988 they increased by 9.6 percent. If you take the

years from 1984-1988, the total increase has been 32.6 percent.

Other expenses increased 21.3 percent in '86, 6.1 percent in 1987. The total amount from '84-88 was an increase of 30.6 percent. Well, I guess it costs a lot of money to keep the government shredders going. Anyway, these increases are a reflection of "additional staffing and operating costs required to support Freedom of Information Legislation," which the Minister has said the spring of 1988 is just a goal. The question regarding possible days has been raised many times, and still we don't have any guarantee of when it will come out. We just have a goal of spring of 1988.

Mr. Chairman, the Chief Archivist says the government's state of records is horrible and the act cannot be proclaimed until they are in a better state of affairs, and that's supposed to be in due course. Is that possibly one of the reasons that the Minister only has a goal of 1988, although the Attorney-General at one time promised that this act would be proclaimed a long time ago?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: The state of the records, I believe members opposite should be quite familiar with, since it was in the dying days of their administration that they began to seriously look at the question of records management and, in fact, had the benefit of a pictorial essay to show the state of some of the records.

It certainly required a great deal of energy, resources and staff years to ensure proper records management and more certainly, working as fast as possible, to develop the proper system and provide the necessary resources for the public to access the Freedom of Information Act.

I don't think the response that I've given is unreasonable. It indicates that, given the inability to go in the opposite direction budget-wise that the Member for Springfield seems to be suggesting, this is a reasonable approach to the entire matter and I look forward to providing him with updates on that.

MR. G. ROCH: If I understood correctly, the Minister said she would be providing an update?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: I hope, certainly close to the spring of '88, to be able to give the member more information about the progress with respect to Freedom of Information.

MR. G. ROCH: Would the Minister have any update right now as to when the government records will be ready and how much more money it will take to get those ready?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: I am not sure of the question, given my previous responses that we would be working very hard to have the records management process in order and the Access Guide at least partially completed by the spring of '88.

MR. G. ROCH: Mr. Chairman, I am wondering, have the staff at the Archivists Office received any additional training in following normal procedures to make sure information and, of course, storage does not end up in the shredder.

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: I asked for a complete report from my Chief Archivist on the whole matter of records disposal process, and I look forward to receiving that in the near future. I have asked him to look at that process going as far back as 1967 so we can get a complete picture of this whole area and how it's been handled since the legislation came into effect.

MR. G. ROCH: Well, I appreciate that answer, Mr. Chairman, because we certainly cannot afford any more coincidences as has happened in the MPIC affair.

Mr. Chairman, unless other members have questions in this area, I'm prepared to move on to the next item.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 2.(h)(1) Provincial Archives: Salaries—pass; 2.(h)(2) Other Expenditures—pass; 2.(h)(3) Less: Recoverable from Other Appropriations—pass.

2.(j)(1) Legislative Library: Salaries; 2.(j)(2) Other Expenditures - the Member for Springfield.

MR. G. ROCH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The objective listed in this section is "to support the conduct of public affairs and the development of a well-informed society."

It's interesting to note that while the objectives are laudable, funding for this department has been eroding over the past several years. Total funding has decreased almost 5 percent - 4.9 percent, to be exact, from 1984-1987. The 5.5 percent increase this year was all for staff increments but no other increases are apparent.

Sometime ago, there appeared in the newspaper a Civil Service Commission job bulletin advertising the position of a legislative librarian. Can the Minister indicate where the incumbent, Mrs. Joyce Irvine, is going and the reason for her departure from the library?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: The individual in question has simply taken a deferred salary leave plan and that position has been filled on a term basis.

MR. G. ROCH: When will the appointment be announced?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: The position is in the process of being offered to the successful candidate.

MR. G. ROCH: Can I assume that it will be announced shortly? A nod will do.

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: Yes, Mr. Chairperson.

MR. G. ROCH: Last year - and I'm sure the Minister will recall this - we raised the question about the binding of documents which are in the possession of the library. Mr. Chairman, binding of documents is a rather important matter in order that the document or documents can be kept in some reasonable condition. The problem was quite serious last year, and I was wondering if the Minister can indicate whether or not this situation has been resolved or what state it's in, exactly.

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: The library is making every effort to provide materials for its priority clients in the

Legislative Assembly and throughout the government. Therefore, some essential items are bound each year and, wherever possible, the library is using its automated services to provide the desired information on-line rather than in the original form. Other binding is done on a priority basis and in relation to other requirements.

MR. G. ROCH: Earlier this Session, we had the tragic accident at the Public Archives in which the active files of the Minister responsible for the Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation were shredded. Anyway, according to the Minister, it was by accident.

We have the Legislative Library and Public Archives under the ministerial authority of this Minister, and as a result a thorough investigation could not be done as to who was at fault regarding this particular incident by the Legislature. Now, I have done some research into how other legislative libraries are handled, and the vast majority are controlled by the Legislative Assembly through the Office of the Speaker and the report to the Committee of the Legislature as to the operations, etc., and so forth.

I know for some time that this used to be the practice here in Manitoba where the House had a committee which used to discuss the report of the Legislative Librarian, and have the Librarian appear before the committee to report on what was happening in that institution, to the Public Accounts, which bears our name. Can the Minister indicate whether or not her departmental officials have given consideration to transferring back the responsibility of the Legislative Library or the Public Archives to the Legislative Assembly and, if they haven't, Mr. Chairman, can the Minister give this committee the justification as to why not?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: The member is dealing with two different sections at once. The question of records fell under the previous section under Provincial Archives, and that whole question of records management belongs in that area. As I indicated, I have asked for a review of our policies at the Archives regarding disposal of records. As well, the member will know that we've asked the Auditor to do an investigation of that matter.

With respect to the reporting relationship of the Library, generally the current arrangement seems to be a standard practice in terms of a reporting relationship for a Legislative Library, and we have embarked upon no plans to change that reporting relationship.

MR. G. ROCH: Mr. Chairman, I brought up the remarks about the shredding which was in your section because it falls under the same Minister, and I think a Legislative Library is important enough that, until we hear the outcome of the investigation and the report is out, I am just not very satisfied with having this library under this department.

But I have no further questions in this area so, unless other members have, I am willing to move on to the next section.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 2.(j)(1) Legislative Libraries: Salaries—pass; 2.(j)(2) Other Expenditures—pass.

2.(k) Manitoba Intercultural Council - the Member for Springfield.

MR. G. ROCH: I'd like to state that, while any initiative that is taken to ease and facilitate cultural integration into the Manitoban community is welcome, I have to again say that the Minister's recent announcement of a Task Force on Multiculturalism in Manitoba is puzzling.

It would seem that the Objectives for the Manitoba Intercultural Council, stated on page 56 of the Supplementary Information - and again I would like to quote it - it says that it is "... an advisory and consultative body established to provide information and advice to the Government on all matters relating to ethnocultural development in Manitoba." Would it not be the organization to fulfill this role?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: As I have indicated earlier, Mr. Chairperson, it was our view that if one was to embark upon a major review of multicultural policies and begin the process of developing a comprehensive multicultural policy, and if that review included - if we were true to our original endeavour and included all aspects of multicultural policies and programming, which means by implication all departments and all related agencies - then it made sense in our view to establish a task force that was independent from government, but one that also included the involvement of the Manitoba Intercultural Council. We place a high value on the role that the Manitoba Intercultural Council can play throughout this process. As I indicated earlier in the House on a previous occasion, the MIC has been certainly one of the more outspoken organizations calling for a review of policies and the development of a comprehensive multicultural policy.

We're looking forward to the input of MIC at three very critical steps. One is directly as a part of the task force with the chairperson of MIC, Dr. Yantay Tsai, a member of the task force. We're certainly welcoming the input and advice as outlined in the section that the Member for Springfield has quoted from throughout the process and throughout the consultation meetings and in the collection of important data.

Finally, which is probably the most critical point in all of this, that it will be the role of MIC to take a look at the recommendations that come forward from the task force. That is precisely in line with the advisory capacity of the Manitoba Intercultural Council, and the fact that it plays a very important role for the Manitoba Government in advising and critiquing of government policies and planned actions.

So we look forward to the role that the Manitoba Intercultural Council will play now, during, and once the task force has made its final report. It becomes a matter of determining which recommendations to act on and how to act on them. The MIC will be critical at that juncture.

MR. G. ROCH: I find it very frustrating to see this government and this Minister appoint yet another committee, another board, another task force to do yet another study. It should be done by a group already in existence.

It would seem that this task force is just an easy vehicle to put together what appears to be mainly a

group of NDP loyalists and pay them to travel throughout Manitoba without any firm direction and therefore without any firm expected results.

If the Minister states that this task force is desperately needed, then that begs two questions, the first being: What has the government been doing on multicultural policy over the past five years? Was this government really sincere in its efforts to fulfill the needs of the ethnocultural communities if it takes five years for the government to realize that one must operate under basic policies to make efficient use of tax dollars?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: I have no apologies to make about the establishment of this task force.

First of all, let me say it's been something that has been asked for and requested by a very broad cross-section of the multicultural community and we have received since that announcement a great deal of support for the announcement. I think the ethnocultural community, in general, appreciates the make-up of the committee and the independent position it holds from government, knowing that it has that kind of flexibility and room to develop a broad, comprehensive multicultural policy.

On the question of this government's record on multiculturalism, as I said earlier, I think we probably are seen across this country as having one of the best records in this area.

The funding for multicultural organizations since 1981 has increased by well over 500 or 600 percent. The activities that have been undertaken as a result of that funding are noticeable wherever one goes in Manitoba. There's a new vibrancy and a new excitement in our multicultural community and that's showing up in all kinds of interesting and important ways. I could point to some examples: the importance and significance of Les Dancers de la Riviere Rouge, which the Member for Springfield will be familiar with. It's growth in national recognition is important. The whole energy that has been coming through other performing groups like the India School of Dance, the various Ukrainian dance groups and the choirs has placed Winnipeg and Manitoba on the map in terms of a true commitment to ethnocultural diversity and what it means.

There are a number of programs I could point to that are looked upon across this country as significant and outstanding, including our Heritage Language Support Program; including the work of my colleague, the Minister of Employment Services and Economic Security around immigration settlement; including the work of my colleague, the Honourable Minister of Education and the work that he has been doing and the role of the Multicultural Education Resources Committee. We can point to a whole number of activities that have come into light and come into being over the last number of years. I think that is in sharp contrast to the kind of support that those communities saw under the administration of members opposite when they were in government.

MR. G. ROCH: I would like to point out, Mr. Chairman, I've only been here a little over a year. I've never been in government as much, it's a matter of time. Many of the achievements and many of the items which the Minister referred to all happened before this task force

was established. Therefore, she is actually pointing out that these groups can achieve success without spending more money on NDP hacks and flacks.

If the task force is needed, as the Minister seems to think it is, then the Minister has to take a serious view to reorganizing the Manitoba Intercultural Council in a different form altogether. Has the Minister any such plans?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: First, let me say that I don't think the community as a whole would view the members of this committee with anything less than full admiration and respect and see this committee as one of integrity and incredible expertise. The members, who include Dr. Neil McDonald, who is a well-known expert in the field of multiculturalism; Dr. Claudia Wright, the Chair of the Human Rights Commission; Dr. Yantay Tsai, the Chair of the Manitoba Intercultural Council; Joyce Santos, an active member of the . . .

MR. G. ROCH: Mr. Chairman, I didn't ask for the names of the members of the . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is the member rising for a point of order?

MR. G. ROCH: Yes I am, Mr. Chairman. I didn't ask for the names of the members of the task force. I asked if the Minister had any plans to reorganize the Intercultural Council in a different form altogether. She's supposed to answer the question according to your rulings yesterday.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is no point of order.

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: Joyce Santos, who is a garment worker and will bring an important perspective to the task force; Prem Bhalla, President of the India School of Dance, and head of the Multicultural Education Resources Committee and the Multicultural Book Fair; Tony Lussier, a historian and member of the Metis Federation; Alexis Kochan-Budyk, a specialist in music working for the Public School System; and Meir Serfaty, a political scientist and former president of the Multicultural Centre for Westman.

All of those members bring a great deal of expertise and integrity to this process and we look forward, as does the ethnocultural community in general, to the results of the task force.

Let me explain briefly the purpose of the task force so as to clarify for the Member for Springfield the purpose of it and why we felt it was so important. It's our concern that we begin to look at some of the new issues and some of the difficult issues facing all of us in an ethnocultural society, in a racially, culturally and linguistically diverse society.

Our approach to the whole development of this policy has emerged - I don't know if the Member for Springfield actually wants to hear, Mr. Chairperson. Those of us on this side of the House have recognized that there are a growing number of issues that must be dealt with by governments and by society if we are to be true to our goal of cultural diversity and maintain our commitment to the question of tolerance and justice for all peoples. So it's our interest in taking . . .

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. CHAIRMAN: When a member's speaking, people listen. Let's have order.

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: So it's our interest, Mr. Chairman, in taking our building on our well-established record for contribution to the development of ethnocultural communities right across this province and, to take that a step further and to address the questions that they have asked us to address, the questions of full integration into all aspects of society, whether that be cultural integration, economic integration or social integration or, I might add, political and legal integration.

All of those areas require our full attention and they require some new creative approaches on the part of government. They also require a coordinated and cooperative approach on the part of all of us. That, in essence, Mr. Chairperson, is the reason for our task force and why we think the results of this policy review and development process are so important.

MR. G. ROCH: The reason I am pursuing this line of questioning is because here we have a government which more often than not is busy engaging task forces, committee reviews, consultant reports - we just had one such useless report in Municipal Affairs recently - and all sorts of other activities with only two objectives in mind, No. 1, to do absolutely nothing while looking busy; and No. 2, to appoint NDP hacks and flacks in order to make them feel useful, possibly even to get them ready for provincial appointments to the Senate, as we see the Premier recently in favor of provincial appointments all of a sudden, almost contradicting his federal leader's stand.

In any case, there is no doubt that more often than not the prime purpose of these appointments is to reward the party faithful. Now we in the Opposition know that this government has been full of rhetoric in its multicultural objectives and now the people of Manitoba, and especially the minority groups, will recognize that this NDP Government never had and still has no commitment to really working with and developing and achieving a true multicultural society.

A federal report released last December showed Manitoba as having the highest numbers of visible minorities in low-paying and unskilled jobs. What this government has been involved in is a process of preventing and avoiding what I have indicated earlier in my opening remarks, cultural integration and economic assimilation. They want to be into the mainstream of Canadian society and this is not happening under this government, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 2.(k) - the Honourable Minister.

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: In response to those comments from the Member for Springfield, again let me repeat that I'm delighted that the Province of Manitoba has decided upon this very important course of action to respond to some very important issues as we go into the 1990's, and I'm confident that this reflects the wishes of the ethnocultural community, generally speaking, and confident that we together will be able

to produce some recommendations that will help us deal with some of the questions being posed to us.

We are not at any moment at any point saying that we have arrived at all the answers and that we have achieved all the solutions. That's the reasons for the task force, to take our society another step further and forward in terms of integration in all aspects of our society. I think, unlike the Member for Springfield, who emphasizes assimilation, our goal is to emphasize integration and to emphasize the cultural mosaic that has been a principle, and a guiding principle for all of us, not only in Manitoba but across the country.

So our interest, Mr. Chairperson, is to find ways to ensure that integration in all aspects of society is possible, as well as to continue to find the means for ensuring that all of our ethnocultural differences, all of our languages, all of our traditions, all of our heritages are preserved, celebrated and shared by all Manitobans.

MR. G. ROCH: Mr. Chairman, again the Minister takes my remarks out of context. I specifically said "economic assimilation." There's a hell of a difference and, if you don't know, get yourself a dictionary. You know very well that I said in my opening remarks that we want to retain our identities and our languages but, overall, people by and large want to be Canadians first, and don't forget it. Don't try the old socialist divide-and-conquer technique, which is what you're trying to do with the ethnocultural communities. Many of these people have run away from socialist countries. They don't need to have socialists here telling them what to do, Mr. Chairman.

In any case, Mr. Chairman - (Interjection) - Look at that, Pretty Boy Floyd and the Gestapo over there are making fascist comments at me.

In any case, Mr. Chairman . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: The member will address other members of the House by their constituency.

MR. G. ROCH: Okay, I apologize to you, Mr. Chairman, for not following your rules.

I am prepared to move on to the next item, Mr. Chairman, unless other members have questions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 2.(k)—pass.

2.(m)(1) Manitoba Film Classification Board: Salaries;
2.(m)(2) Other Expenditures - the Member for Springfield.

MR. G. ROCH: Yes, Mr. Chairman, under this item, the Film Classification Board, while funding has decreased by 12.8 percent in 1987 and 14.7 percent in 1986, in 1985 funding increased by 356 percent. From 1984 to 1988, it means that spending increased 238 percent. I'm wondering why that happened.

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: Generally, the increase has been a result of preparation for an interprovincial agreement dealing with classification for videos, and all of the work that's been required in developing a video classification system.

MR. G. ROCH: So, if I understand correctly, it's because of the - Mr. Chairman, I'm having trouble hearing.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I cannot hear the Member for Springfield. The Member for Springfield has the floor.

MR. G. ROCH: If I understand correctly then, it's because of the new area of home video film classification which has caused the increase in this department. I had trouble understanding earlier.

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: That's part of it but, as the whole classification system has been implemented, there are obvious costs associated with that. There are costs involving couriers and the transporting of tapes, and there are costs pertaining to ensuring a classification in line with the provisions of the legislation.

MR. G. ROCH: I read, again in the Supplementary Information, that this department's Objective is to provide information guidelines to the public about, No. 1, the content of films and videotapes and, No. 2, to classify films and to restrict public access to material on the basis of age.

I'm wondering, Mr. Chairman, were the movies shown at the International Gay and Lesbian Festival, which received over \$3,000 of taxpayers' money, screened by the Film Classification Board prior to their being shown at that film festival.

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: Yes, Mr. Chairperson.

MR. G. ROCH: What was the classification?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: I didn't hear that question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Member, please repeat the question.

MR. G. ROCH: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

What was the classification of those films.

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: Restricted, Mr. Chairperson.

MR. G. ROCH: Therefore they were soft-core pornographic-type films. Is that correct?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: Not at all, Mr. Chairperson. The classification system is based on a variety of factors and they include such things as stereotyped portrayal of individuals, harsh language, violence, sexual activity and so on and so forth.

None of these films were seen as offensive by members of the police, who made a point of seeing the films. In fact, all of the film festival was given a very positive rating and a very complimentary review by film critics.

MR. G. ROCH: I have no more questions in this section, unless other members have questions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 2.(m)(1) Manitoba Film Classification Board: Salaries—pass; 2.(m)(2) Other Expenditures—pass.

Resolution No. 43: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$13,466,000 for Culture, Heritage, and Recreation for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1988—pass.

Item No. 3.(a)(1) Communication Services, Executive Administration: Salaries; 3.(a)(2) Other Expenditures - the Member for Springfield.

MR. G. ROCH: Mr. Chairman, I don't have any questions under 3.(a) unless other members do.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 3.(a)(1) Executive Administrations: Salaries—pass. 3.(a)(2) Other Expenditures—pass.

3.(b)(1) Client Support Services: Salaries; 3.(b)(2) Other Expenditures; 3.(b)(3) Public Sector Advertising; 3.(b)(4) Less: Recoverable from Other Appropriations - the Member for Springfield.

MR. G. ROCH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Under this section, the expected results are, to quote from the book, "Improve services to clients," I take it that means agencies and Crown corporations, "in planning their advertising and communications programs."

One of this government's Crown corporations, Venture Tours Manitoba Limited, specifically the Gull Harbour resort, has a toll-free number listed in the Manitoba Vacation Guide, but this telephone number, unfortunately, has been disconnected. I'd like to ask if that is the "cost-effective communication and coordinated production of printed material."

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: Mr. Chairperson, I understand that this was a decision taken by management of Gull Harbour to, in effect, save money.

MR. G. ROCH: Sorry, Mr. Chairman, I didn't hear the answer.

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: It's my understanding that this was a cost-saving measure by the management at Gull Harbour.

MR. G. ROCH: There must a lot of cost-saving measures going on, I don't know. It seems that it's kind of ironic that there's a number listed and this number is no longer in service. It's also kind of ironic that there's no number for Venture Manitoba Tours, just a Winnipeg number for the Gull Harbour resort.

Mr. Chairman, the same corporation, when the telephone was unable to supply information on the new group packages that had been announced in a news release by the Minister of Natural Resources early in May, the group sales office did not really have the information on hand either. They had to keep asking for verbal advice from some people in a back office.

Although Hecla resort, including the hotel, has been financed on a federal-provincial basis and also receives promotion under the Canada-Manitoba Tourist Agreement, which has targeted interprovincial and international markets as their target areas, the new management plan is focusing its advertising on the Manitoba market. Was this change in focus communicated to this department, so the correct and appropriate and cost-effective advertising could be planned?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: I'd be happy to take the concerns of the Member for Springfield to the Minister responsible for that area.

MR. G. ROCH: Well, Mr. Chairman, again here in Client Support Services, it clearly states the Expected Results: "Improved services to clients in planning their advertising and communication programs." This Minister is responsible or irresponsible, one or the other.

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: Let me define the word "clients," as listed here in the program title. The clients refers to, in this case, primarily departments or Crown corporations, those aspects of government that are receiving a service from this branch in the development of a marketing plan and advertising plans.

MR. G. ROCH: Well, the way I understand it, I take it this Minister doesn't want to take any responsibility for the fiasco in that other department. That, I suppose, is fair enough.

Mr. Chairman, in the area of Salaries, from 1987 to 1988, there was an 11.2 percent increase, '86-87 of 3.7 percent, which makes it a total of a 15.8 percent increase. Last year, there was a huge increase in the Other Expenditures under Supplies and Services, and the answer was that it was due partly to ongoing market research and computer analysis to improve advertising effectiveness. I repeat again, if one Crown corporation can't even coordinate a placement of a toll-free number in our major tourist handbook and the plan to focus advertising in Manitoba and a disconnection of that service, how much of the \$83,600 under that item was paid to make that "improved advertising effectiveness," and that's a direct quote?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: The Member for Springfield is mixing up a couple of ideas and departments. This department provides a service to other departments with respect to marketing plans and advertising arrangements, has nothing to do with the administration of a particular facility or a particular resort.

In the particular case that the Member for Springfield is referring to, I indicated that it's our understanding - and I would certainly be happy to get more information from the Minister responsible - that this number was discontinued, but that their marketing plan is working just fine, because their bookings are up considerably.

MR. G. ROCH: I'm very glad to hear that, must have appointed some Tories to the board. In any case, I hope the \$70,000 under Capital Expenses this year is for another computer, as we were advised the same for last year. Could you perhaps make sure that the bill for the disconnected toll-free number is now paid and possibly improve advertising effectiveness?

Gee, I've got my notes all mixed up here.

A MEMBER: We don't have a staff of six people . . .

MR. G. ROCH: I know, just myself and . . .

Mr. Chairman, unless other members have questions in this area, I'm prepared to move on to Item 3.(3).

MR. CHAIRMAN: 3.(b)(1) Client Support Services: Salaries—pass; 3.(b)(2) Other Expenditures—pass; 3.(b)(3) Public Sector Advertising—pass; 3.(b)(4) Less: Recoverable from Other Appropriations—pass.

3.(c)(1) Communications Advisory Services: Salaries; 3.(c)(2) Other Expenditures; 3.(c)(3) Less: Recoverable from Other Appropriations - the Member for Springfield.

MR. G. ROCH: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I have to agree with some of the comments made. It would be nice to have a staff of three, four, five people around to help me too. In any case, given the fact that we, in Opposition, are doing a better job than government without staff, we'll continue as we are.

Mr. Chairman, in this section, salaries are up 8.4 percent. This increase is well above the cost-of-living increases, which are recognized by private industry as being about in the 4 percent range. Is that 8 percent, therefore, composed of other elements, perhaps like merit increases or change in position levels?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: Mr. Chairperson, on the first part of his comments, my staff would be perfectly willing to brief the Member for Springfield on the nature of the department, so he has a better understanding of the purpose of this division.

The increase of 8.4 percent is attributed to, as well as cost-of-living increases and merit increments, reclassifications and increased provision for some overtime.

MR. G. ROCH: I thank the Minister for the offer of her staff help, and while they're at it, maybe they could provide the same service to the Minister.

I understand, from reading last year's Estimates, that a decrease in recoverables was due to the art and design groups not being contracted out and the resulting loss of income. This branch was now going to be a consultative service. Therefore, is the increased recoverable strictly for consultation in audio visual or the actual production of material of use?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: Basically an increase in audio-visual demands, Mr. Chairperson.

MR. G. ROCH: I have no other further questions in this section, unless other members do, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 3.(c)(1) Community Advisory Services: Salaries—pass; 3.(c)(2) Other Expenditures—pass; 3.(c)(3) Less: Recoverable from Other Appropriations—pass.

3.(d)(1) Public Information Services: Salaries; 3.(d)(2) Other Expenditures - the Member for Springfield.

MR. G. ROCH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

In 1985, Citizens Inquiry Services operated under a total budget of \$212,700.00. In that same year, a department called Information Services operated a budget of \$335,400.00. In 1986, a new department called Public Information Services was formed with a budget of \$546,500.00.

Is this department an amalgamation of Citizens Inquiry Services and Information Services?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: Yes, Mr. Chairperson.

MR. G. ROCH: Does it still do the same work it did last year?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: Yes, Mr. Chairperson.

MR. G. ROCH: The reason that I'm asking this question is that in the Supplementary Information Book of 1986-

87 under Salaries, there were in the managerial and professional under 1986, 12 staff years; in 1987, 12 staff years; Administrative Support, 2.17 in both years, for a total of 14.17 in both years.

In this year's Supplementary Information Book for the Estimates of 1987-88 under Salaries, there are: Managerial, 1 staff year; Professional/Technical, 5 staff years; Administrative Support, 8.17 staff years, which works out to a total again of 14.17. The Administrative Support has gained 6 staff years, and Professional has lost one to management and 6 to staff years and has kept the remaining 5 in the Professional/Technical instead of Managerial/Professional.

If more staff was put into the Administrative Support ranks, wouldn't the total budget for Salaries decrease instead of increasing by 4 percent?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: Mr. Chairperson, I believe the Member for Springfield is referring to staff who are part of Citizens Inquiry Service and they're classified at the Clerk level but, because of the nature of their jobs, are part of that management section.

MR. G. ROCH: What was the reason for these reclassifications?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: There's been no change at all, Mr. Chairperson. It's simply a matter again of display of the information and a change in definition of the codes. Last year, these staff years appeared under the category of Professional and this year under the category of Managerial.

MR. G. ROCH: That still doesn't explain why there has been an increase rather than a decrease.

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: Mr. Chairperson, if I'm understanding the member's question correctly, there has been no increase. It's just been a movement where those SY's are displayed. And let me correct my previous answer. I said previously in Professional and now Managerial; I meant previously Professional and now under Administrative Support.

MR. G. ROCH: I'll have to accept the Minister's answer. I have no further questions on this section, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 3.(d)(1) Public Information Services: Salaries—pass; 3.(d)(2) Other Expenditures—pass.

3.(e)(1) Salaries; 3.(e)(2) Other Expenditures; 3.(e)(3) Recoverable from Other Appropriations - the Member for Springfield.

MR. G. ROCH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Under Other Expenditures, under Supply and Services, there is a \$1.084 million increase in cost, and I quote here, "due to the reprinting of the Manitoba Statutes in a bilingual format."

What is the projected cost for this item expected to be on an annual basis because, no doubt, there will be a need for updates to be added on a regular basis?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: Mr. Chairperson, the total expected expenditure for this item is \$1.8 million, as

a one-time-only expenditure, and spread over three years.

MR. G. ROCH: What are the estimated printing costs for all the other works which have been translated?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: I believe each individual department would be able to answer that question for the Member for Springfield. This branch of my department is responsible for statutes.

MR. G. ROCH: I'd like to know what the extra costs will be every year.

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: As I said, Mr. Chairperson, it's a one-time-only expenditure of approximately \$1.8 million. It's not a matter of there being an increased expenditure each year; it's a matter of spreading out this project over a three-year term. I should add, Mr. Chairperson, staff have just informed me, as I knew, that this is part of a cost-shared arrangement with the Federal Government.

MR. G. ROCH: What is the share between the Federal and Provincial Governments?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: Negotiations are under way currently and, once that has been finalized, we'll have a better idea for the member.

MR. G. ROCH: So at this point, we're not sure what the cost will be. Is that correct?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: Yes, we've estimated again the cost to be around \$1.8 million.

MR. G. ROCH: I meant as far as the provincial share, or is this amount the estimate of the provincial share?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: The 1.8, Mr. Chairperson, is the total share.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Morris.

MR. C. MANNES: Mr. Chairman, could the Minister tell us what the additional cost would be to the government of providing bilingual statutes in the years to come? The Minister may want to give this in terms of this present year and indeed next year, the year after all the new series of statutes printed in both languages have been provided.

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: Mr. Chairperson, it's difficult to answer that question precisely. Basically, the cost of the program depends on the workload in the Legislature at the Legislative Assembly.

MR. C. MANNES: There's some estimate that's put before the Assembly as to the total cost of providing that material. Now, obviously, it's going to have increased somewhat because of the ruling of the Supreme Court, and there must be an estimate for that before the Minister.

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: I'm sorry. I misunderstood the Member for Morris' question because we had already gone through that issue.

The \$1.8 million is the estimated total of costs pertaining to the translation of the statutes, and we're expecting to spend about \$1 million of that in 1987-88, complete the final project over three years, resulting in a total expenditure of \$1.8 million with, we hope, involvement by the Federal Government. From there on in, any question or issue pertaining to new costs as new legislation is drafted is tied, as I indicated earlier, to the whole question of the legislative workload.

MR. C. MANNES: Well, I agree and I disagree with what the Minister has to say.

If she's saying, quite frankly, we can't estimate what the cost will be a year or two years down the road because we don't know what indeed we'll consume or produce in terms of paper, passed statutes, journals, regulations, and so on and so forth, I say, okay. I can understand why a hard forecast can't come, but indeed there must be some forecast as to what this will cost because the Minister is, at this present time, negotiating with the Federal Government as to shares. Surely, nobody attempts to sit down and is prepared to enter into an agreement where shares are being decided unless they have some understanding as to what the total global cost will be and the share that will apply to it.

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: I guess I just haven't been very clear or articulating very well the issue.

To repeat, the total cost for the program is estimated at about \$1.8 million and we're currently negotiating with the Federal Government to cost-share this cost, this arrangement, this project, with them.

As the member stated, this has been a result of the whole Supreme Court decision. We have estimated the cost at \$1.8 million, and we hope we can carry out the project within a three-year time period. Any new costs would be related directly to the business of the Legislature.

MR. G. ROCH: Mr. Chairman, what losses will there be on outdated inventory that will no longer be able to be sold because of language changes?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: Mr. Chairperson, basically the answer to that is that we're keeping stock to a minimum.

MR. G. ROCH: What will be the increased cost to purchase a complete set of statutes and regulations?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: The costs for a complete set are estimated at about \$1,500, and then approximately \$330 for updates to that set.

MR. G. ROCH: If I understood correctly, it was \$1,500 for a set, and \$330 for additions. What is the difference between the existing costs as they have been to date?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: Generally, Mr. Chairperson, we're maintaining the same price structure.

MR. G. ROCH: What will it cost the various municipal governments to resupply their offices?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: Mr. Chairperson, all current subscribers will receive one complete set at no cost.

MR. G. ROCH: Therefore, if I understand correctly, the Provincial Government will bear the cost on behalf of those local governments?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: All subscribers, Mr. Chairman, will bear that cost.

MR. G. ROCH: I'm sorry, I didn't hear clearly. Did you say the government will bear the cost for all subscribers?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: All subscribers will bear the cost. I'm sorry, your interpretation was the correct one, that we will bear the cost for all subscribers.

A MEMBER: She's just tired . . .

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: I'm very tired.

MR. G. ROCH: On a different subject - we're all getting tired. We'll be rising soon.

I'd just like to know if the delay in the publication of Hansard this Session arises as a result of a staff deficiency - I don't mean deficiency in the quality of the staff, but within the department itself, the Queen's Printer. If not, what are the reasons for the delays this Session in publication of Hansard and also not just for the sittings in the House, but the committee Hansards?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: Mr. Chairperson, that question - and it's been asked previously in the House - is not under my responsibility. It's part of Hansard, which is under the responsibility of the Speaker. We certainly turn around the product as quickly as possible once it's translated.

MR. G. ROCH: I realize that it's not the responsibility as far as the Hansard office, but it is printed by the Queen's Printer and, really, what I was asking is if any part of the problem existed within the Queen's Printer office or if it is just strictly in the Hansard office?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: No, Mr. Chairperson.

MR. G. ROCH: Unless other members have questions, I'm prepared to move on to the next item.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Queen's Printer: Salaries - the Member for Kirkfield Park.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: I may not have heard the answer. Did the Minister tell the House what the cost is to supply all subscribers with one complete set of the statutes?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, the cost per set is about \$1,500.00.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: My question wasn't what one set is costing. I want to know what the complete cost will be to give every subscriber. I imagine every law office in the province has a set of statutes. I want to know what the complete cost of substituting the statutes will be.

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: I'm sorry. The staff don't seem to have that information on hand, so I'll try to provide it as soon as possible.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Morris.

MR. C. MANNESS: Mr. Chairman, that begs a question, there is no fee for anybody in society, any law firm that wants to have the new statutes. I think there must be and can the Minister tell us what that fee is?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: As I indicated, we've basically said that current subscribers should be entitled to one complete set at no cost. However, any additional subscriptions or any additional purchases beyond that one set, or any new subscribers, would be required to pay the \$1,500 per set as well as \$330 for updates.

MR. C. MANNESS: How many subscribers are there at present?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: In the neighborhood of 2,000.

MR. C. MANNESS: 2,000 times \$1,500.00. Now, is the cost of producing them \$1,500 or is there a markup in that?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: Yes. It's estimated that the cost of production of a set would be about \$500 to \$700, and so there is a markup making up the difference between that and the \$1,500.00.

MR. C. MANNESS: Why would there be such a monumental markup on statutes?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: I think my colleague, the Minister for Health, really hit the nail on the head when he said that the cost that we're bearing, all of us, to replace existing sets is significant and that it would make good practical sense to try to recoup some of that cost through new sets. It's certainly not an unreasonable markup, but it would help us recoup the cost that the member is talking about.

MR. C. MANNESS: Mr. Chairman, do I hear right? Is the new subscriber then subsidizing the old subscriber?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: Mr. Chairperson, I've certainly had a lot of calls or letters from municipalities who would be quite concerned about having to pay for the replacement of their statutes, and I would think that members opposite would share that concern and would want to ensure that we don't make life unbearable for local municipalities by requiring them to purchase a new set of statutes. I think it's not unreasonable for us to replace those sets, and then to put in place a reasonable system for new subscribers.

MR. C. MANNESS: Mr. Chairman, we have a system here where the government obviously is forecasting some number of sales at \$1,500 a volume, in effect, cross-subsidizing existing users. Can the Minister then tell me, firstly, how many forecasted sales they have written into their fee revenue, which will obviously show up as an estimate of revenue in the revenue side of government?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: Mr. Chairperson, we really don't anticipate a lot of new sales. I think our biggest

task is to replace the sets of current subscribers with new sets, and it's a fact that there might be a small growth in requests for new sets, but a large volume or a great demand is not anticipated.

MR. C. MANNES: Will there be any prohibition, for instance, for the Union of Manitoba Municipalities from taking an original set and running it off several times? Is there any regulation preventing that?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: No, Mr. Chairperson.

MR. C. MANNES: Does the \$1.8 million estimate of cost of translation, does any portion of that cover the cost of the several hundreds - I think, was it 2,200? - present subscribers? Does it cover off any portion of the cost of issuing statutes in both languages, the new statutes?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: Mr. Chairperson, again it's our estimate that the \$1.8 million will cover the total production costs of the re-enactment of the statutes, and translation is, by matter of course, being done through the Attorney-General's Department. So we're talking only about production costs and the replacement of current subscribers' sets. We expect that should be accomplished within the \$1.8 million figure that I've mentioned.

MR. C. MANNES: A final question, Mr. Chairman, let me review then, of the 2,200 - was I right? - 2,200 subscribers or 2,000? (Interjection) Roughly 2,000 subscribers who are now being reissued a new set of statutes in both languages, costing somewhere between \$500 and \$700 to produce each. In other words, using the mid-figure of \$600, \$1.2 million cost of production, that \$1.2 million will be covered off by the \$1.8 million appropriation or cost figure that is now being decided between governments as to how it is to be cost-shared. Is that a fair, general assessment of the situation?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: Yes, Mr. Chairperson.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 3.(e)(1) Queen's Printer: Salaries—pass; 3.(e)(2) Other Expenditures—pass; 3.(e)(3) Less: Recoverable from Other Appropriations—pass.

3.(f)(1) Translation Services: Salaries; 3.(f)(2) Other Expenditures - the Member for Springfield.

MR. G. ROCH: Mr. Chairman, I notice that in '86-'87 there was a departmental total of 2.9 percent increase, and this year in the Estimates it's an 8.1 percent increase. From '84-'88 there has been a 32.8 percent decrease due mostly to a large increase in costs in other spending in 1984. What was that cost? Was it a capital purchase and will we need to replace it soon?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: I believe the difference can be accounted for, the fact that back in '84, legal had been included in the service and that has now been moved out. This current line reflects a general service, not a legal service as part of that.

MR. G. ROCH: Where has it been moved out to?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: The Department of the Attorney-General, Mr. Chairperson.

MR. G. ROCH: Under Salaries, Professional/Technical, there are the same number of staff years in 1988 as in 1987, but an increase of 12 percent for salaries. Can the Minister explain why that is so?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: The increase in salaries is attributable to cost-of-living increase, merit increments, provision for reclassification, overtime and active status pay.

MR. G. ROCH: Will any more translators have to be hired to meet the requirements of time limits in the translation of Manitoba statutes and other legislation?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: That is an area that does not fall under my jurisdiction. It is the responsibility of the Attorney-General to oversee the translation of statutes.

MR. G. ROCH: Is the Minister saying there's another translation department within the Attorney-General's Department?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: Yes. The Translation Services of this department is to provide to all departments and all Ministers a translation service for documents, letters and policy statements and so on, whereas the translation service in the Attorney-General's Department is to provide for the translation of legislation and regulations and legislative-related documents.

MR. G. ROCH: I have no further questions, Mr. Chairman, unless other members have.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 3.(f)(1) Translation Services: Salaries—pass; 3.(f)(2) Other Expenditures—pass.

Resolution No. 44. Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$4,309,300 for Culture, Heritage and Recreation, Communication Services, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1988—pass.

Committee rise.
Call in the Speaker.

IN SESSION

The Committee of Supply adopted certain resolutions, reported same and asked leave to sit again.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER, C. Santos: The Honourable Member for Kildonan.

MR. M. DOLIN: I move, seconded by the Honourable for Lac du Bonnet, that the report of the committee be received.

MOTION presented and carried.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hour being 6:00 p.m., this House is now adjourned and stands adjourned until 10:00 a.m. tomorrow (Friday).

(English translation of dialogue in Vol. 55, Page 2443.)

MR. G. ROCH: First of all, if I'm understanding this as I should, this committee is only looking after internal matters. What sort of mechanism does the government use for examining what is external?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: I don't have a precise answer to this question, but I imagine this committee will implement a process which will possibly include a questionnaire, an examination of our program, of the policies of each part of our department, and make recommendations for future action.

MR. G. ROCH: Yes, but in the case of allocation of money and resources externally, what group will be in charge of ensuring that allocations are equitable and that they are prioritized, and for what purpose?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: Does the question apply to the internal committee?

MR. G. ROCH: I'll repeat the question in English, Mr. Chairman. Specifically in relation to external assessment, what kind of a mechanism is in place to ensure an equitable allocation of funds and resources, and whether they are on a prioritized or needs basis?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: I can't understand the question, either in French or in English.

MR. G. ROCH: Is there anyone higher than the Minister who could answer the question?

A MEMBER: The super Minister. Where's the super Minister when we need him?

MR. G. ROCH: A while ago, I asked about . . . and whether these are on a prioritized or on a needs basis.

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: As the member knows, by the nature of his questions in the House today, we are going to set up a working committee of eight members to look at the entire policy on multiculturalism for the Province of Manitoba, examining all activities of the departments of this government, to develop goals and objectives into a policy on multiculturalism, and to make recommendations to the government.

MR. G. ROCH: Mr. Chairman, unless the other members have questions on 2.(a), I'm prepared to go on to 2.(b).