



First Session — Thirty-Fourth Legislature
of the
Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS
(HANSARD)**

37 Elizabeth II

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Speaker*



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MANITOBA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
Thirty-Fourth Legislature

Members, Constituencies and Political Affiliation

NAME	CONSTITUENCY	PARTY
ALCOCK, Reg	Osborne	LIBERAL
ANGUS, John	St. Norbert	LIBERAL
ASHTON, Steve	Thompson	NDP
BURRELL, Parker	Swan River	PC
CARR, James	Fort Rouge	LIBERAL
CARSTAIRS, Sharon	River Heights	LIBERAL
CHARLES, Gwen	Selkirk	LIBERAL
CHEEMA, Gulzar	Kildonan	LIBERAL
CHORNOPYSKI, William	Burrows	LIBERAL
CONNERY, Edward Hon.	Portage la Prairie	PC
COWAN, Jay	Churchill	NDP
CUMMINGS, Glen, Hon.	Ste. Rose du Lac	PC
DERKACH, Leonard, Hon.	Roblin-Russell	PC
DOER, Gary	Concordia	NDP
DOWNNEY, James Hon.	Arthur	PC
DRIEDGER, Albert, Hon.	Emerson	PC
DRIEDGER, Herold, L.	Niakwa	LIBERAL
DUCHARME, Gerald, Hon.	Riel	PC
EDWARDS, Paul	St. James	LIBERAL
ENNS, Harry	Lakeside	PC
ERNST, Jim, Hon.	Charleswood	PC
EVANS, Laurie	Fort Garry	LIBERAL
EVANS, Leonard	Brandon East	NDP
FILMON, Gary, Hon.	Tuxedo	PC
FINDLAY, Glen Hon.	Viriden	PC
GAUDRY, Neil	St. Boniface	LIBERAL
GILLESHAMMER, Harold	Minnedosa	PC
GRAY, Avis	Ellice	LIBERAL
HAMMOND, Gerrie	Kirkfield Park	PC
HARAPIAK, Harry	The Pas	NDP
HARPER, Elijah	Rupertsland	NDP
HELWER, Edward R.	Gimli	PC
HEMPHILL, Maureen	Logan	NDP
KOZAK, Richard, J.	Transcona	LIBERAL
LAMOUREUX, Kevin, M.	Inkster	LIBERAL
MALOWAY, Jim	Elmwood	NDP
MANDRAKE, Ed	Assiniboia	LIBERAL
MANNES, Clayton, Hon.	Morris	PC
MCCRAE, James Hon.	Brandon West	PC
MINENKO, Mark	Seven Oaks	LIBERAL
MITCHELSON, Bonnie, Hon.	River East	PC
NEUFELD, Harold, Hon.	Rossmere	PC
OLESON, Charlotte Hon.	Gladstone	PC
ORCHARD, Donald Hon.	Pembina	PC
PANKRATZ, Helmut	La Verendrye	PC
PATTERSON, Allan	Radisson	LIBERAL
PENNER, Jack, Hon.	Rhineland	PC
PLOHMAN, John	Dauphin	NDP
PRAZNIK, Darren	Lac du Bonnet	PC
ROCAN, Denis, Hon.	Turtle Mountain	PC
ROCH, Gilles	Springfield	LIBERAL
ROSE, Bob	St. Vital	LIBERAL
STORIE, Jerry	Flin Flon	NDP
TAYLOR, Harold	Wolseley	LIBERAL
URUSKI, Bill	Interlake	NDP
WASYLYCIA-LEIS, Judy	St. Johns	NDP
YEO, Iva	Sturgeon Creek	LIBERAL

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Tuesday, September 27, 1988.

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

PRAYERS

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Mr. Mark Minenko (Chairman of the Committee of Supply): Mr. Speaker, the Committee of Supply has adopted certain resolutions, directs me to report the same and asks leave to sit again.

I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Minnedosa (Mr. Gilleshammer), that the report of the committee be received.

MOTION presented and carried.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mr. Speaker: Prior to oral questions, may I direct the attention of Honourable Members to the Speaker's gallery where we have with us the Honourable Graham Taylor, MLA, Minister responsible for the Saskatchewan Government Insurance Corporation. On behalf of all Honourable Members, I welcome you here this afternoon.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

RCMP Protection Winnipeg Beach

Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Municipal Affairs. On August 23, the Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae) informed us that the RCMP policing situation at Winnipeg Beach was still under discussion. We assume that discussion involved the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Cummings), as well as the Attorney-General. Can the Minister tell us whether any decisions have been made as to the restoration of RCMP services at Winnipeg Beach?

Hon. Glen Cummings (Minister of Municipal Affairs): Mr. Speaker, no, I am not able to give a definitive time line and process as to the restoration of that police service. But I can assure you that there has been a considerable amount of discussion within the Municipal Affairs Department, discussion with the people who are setting up the guidelines for policing in this province. We certainly hope that we can have adequate policing for them next year.

Mrs. Carstairs: With a supplementary question to the Minister of Municipal Affairs. Can the Minister tell us why, at the present moment, one of the married quarters RCMP buildings is being moved from Winnipeg Beach?

Mr. Cummings: That is a fairly specific question and I would take that as notice on behalf of the Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae).

* (1335)

Mrs. Carstairs: Will the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Cummings) today commit himself, along with his First Minister (Mr. Filmon) and the Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae), that there will be no further removal of buildings from Winnipeg Beach until a thorough review of this policing situation has been made?

Mr. Cummings: To talk specifically about buildings or whether or not the physical services will be supplied in a particular manner would be somewhat premature. Let us suffice to say that we will stand behind our commitment to make sure that there is adequate policing in this province. We have already demonstrated that that will be the case. For the Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs) to be raising the concerns that there will not be a physical presence there is pure speculation.

RCMP Protection Winnipeg Beach

Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition): With a question to the Premier (Mr. Filmon), this Government during the last election campaign made a commitment to the restoration of rural RCMP services. How is that restoration going to be possible when the physical facilities are being moved out at this very moment from Winnipeg Beach?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): It may be that there is other accommodation available. It may be that there are rental quarters available. There may be a whole host of reasons. Let us not presuppose or prejudge what is being done or what the reasons are for it being done.

The Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Cummings) has indicated very clearly that there have been ongoing discussions, that there will continue to be ongoing discussions and that the bottom line is our commitment to improve RCMP services throughout this province. We have restored the funding cuts that were there under the NDP. We have already restored services specifically at the detachment in Reston. We have increased the funding for the RCMP in the Budget which she voted against, so she has absolutely no record upon which to stand. She was not interested in additional policing services when we were discussing the Budget. She was not interested in many of these things. She voted against those increases for the RCMP, so let us not have the bleating from the Leader of the Opposition on this issue.

Mrs. Carstairs: With a question to the First Minister (Mr. Filmon), who will perhaps listen to bleats of the

people of Winnipeg Beach that he promised service to. A tender was granted and issued for the removal of buildings. Will the First Minister undertake to contact the RCMP immediately and stop those withdrawals of buildings from Winnipeg Beach?

Mr. Filmon: I told the Leader of the Opposition that I would look into the matter. The matter has been taken as notice by the Minister of Urban Affairs (Mr. Ducharme). We have said we will investigate and we said we will respond to it. We have said that our bottom line is a commitment to maintain and improve RCMP policing in rural Manitoba. That is a heck of a lot better than the commitment that those people got from the Liberal Party who voted against increases in expenditures for rural RCMP.

Child Abuse Police Services

Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition): With a question to the First Minister, a meeting was held yesterday between the official delegation of the City of Winnipeg and the Government of the Province of Manitoba. Can the First Minister (Mr. Filmon) tell this House today if additional services will be made available for the Child Abuse Unit in the City of Winnipeg Police Department in order to ensure adequate servicing for the young people in need in this province?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): That matter was raised at the official delegation meeting. We are awaiting a response from the City of Winnipeg on that matter. We impressed upon the city our concerns that those services be maintained and in fact improved so that there will not be the backlog in services on abused children. So obviously our concerns have been expressed; they have been laid on the table. She, if she had any knowledge of the process, would know that we now have to wait for their response on it.

* (1340)

Home Care System Policy Change

Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Second Opposition): My question is to the Minister responsible for the Treasury Board. Manitoba has been recognized as having one of the best, if not the best, home care systems in Canada, indeed North America, a system that allows us to work with people in a fair and dignified way and keep them out of the high cost and sometimes distant institutions.

My question to the Minister of Treasury Board is has there been any change in policies? There has been an equal amount of 23 percent increase in funding over the last two Budgets. Has there been any change in policy in terms of the service delivered to the people of Manitoba under the home care system in this province?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): Mr. Speaker, I will take that question as notice.

Funding Cuts

Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Second Opposition): I would ask a further question to the First Minister (Mr. Filmon) while he takes that question as notice. Can he inform Manitobans why we are getting calls from people: a gentleman who is over 80 years old who has been informed that his meals will no longer be prepared under the Home Care Program that he had before; a person, or a woman, in Beausejour who has had a heart attack or stroke and has been confined to a wheel chair has been called to be told that her services after seven years will be cut off in a month and a half?

Will the First Minister please check into some of the cutbacks we are hearing about in our offices on a daily basis in terms of the home care delivery system in this province?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Leader of the New Democratic Party (Mr. Doer) would be prepared to give me the names and the telephone numbers so that I could do a thorough investigation of it and report back to him and to the House on that matter.

Mr. Doer: There have been a few individuals who do not want to be identified. There are others that will, and I have their names and phone numbers for the First Minister so he can follow up on a check.

Policy Change

Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Second Opposition): My other question to the First Minister, while he takes that question as notice in terms of the home care system in this province, can he find out what policy change has taken place in the health bureaucracy, under the leadership of the Government, that has meant that seniors who normally received a bath on a weekly basis from the home care system have been told that they can no longer use orderly services in this province, some of whom have to wait up to three weeks now to get a bath in their own home contrary to the former policy of the former Government?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): I know that within the budget there has been a substantial increase in funding for home care services, so I would have to be informed of specifics. I will be happy to take that as notice and bring the information back to the Leader of the New Democratic Party (Mr. Doer). It does not seem to coincide with the facts as I understand them about the increased expenditures that we are undertaking in home care services.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member from Concordia, with a final supplementary question.

Mr. Doer: A final question to the First Minister (Mr. Filmon). Given the fact that both Budgets increased the home care system 23 percent, and what we are seeing is some kind of policy change in terms of the delivery of this very important service that keeps people out of institutions, I would ask the First Minister to

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please get together with his Health Minister (Mr. Orchard). We found with the closing of the beds at the Health Sciences Centre that there was very little communication between the two, and I would ask the Minister responsible for the Treasury Board to follow up on those issues we have raised in this House today.

* (1345)

Mr. Filmon: Clearly, if the Leader of the New Democratic Party wanted to get direct information, he would be posing those questions to the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard). He is trying to play a cute game here and put them to the Minister responsible for the Treasury Board. I will go along with him and I will play his game and I will bring back the information as he has requested, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Doer: Mr. Speaker, a point of order.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member for Concordia, on a point of order.

Mr. Doer: The First Minister is impugning motives. This is a very important and serious issue, and it is time he took it seriously instead of throwing cheap shots across the House on important issues.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member does not have a point of order.

St. Boniface Hospital Obstetrics Ward Transfers

Mr. Gulzar Cheema (Kildonan): I have a question for the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard), the Minister who, as a Health critic just a short time ago, was quick to demand action; but now, when he has the opportunity to act, has chosen not to.

A serious problem at St. Boniface Hospital has been allowed to exist for four months. In the last four months, the hospital has been forced to close its labour and delivery floor 18 times. Patients in labour have been transferred to other hospitals because St. Boniface could not provide space for them. My question is will the Minister of Health tell us what he is going to do to correct this serious and unacceptable situation?

Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health): Let me indicate to my honourable friend that St. Boniface Hospital became some four years ago the centre for birthing on a decision made by the previous administration to close the obstetric wards at Seven Oaks Hospital and Concordia Hospital. Commiserate with that, there was an understanding at the hospital that should the need arise that additional resources and space may well become part of that centralization of obstetrics from the Seven Oaks and Concordia Hospitals.

The program at St. Boniface has been operating, as I have indicated to my honourable friend, and as he knows, if he is discussing it with any of the obstetricians and management of St. Boniface Hospital, from time

to time is running at over 100 percent capacity. In circumstances like that, patients of low-risk delivery, which is the best assessment of the physician in case, are transferred to Misericordia Hospital which is operating substantially below capacity.

Mr. Cheema: My supplementary question to the same Minister, besides the 18 times the labour and delivery floor at St. Boniface Hospital has been closed in the last four months, on two occasions it was closed for high-risk patients in labour. Given that the 17 patients who were pregnant, and most of them in labour, had to be transferred from St. Boniface Hospital to Victoria, Misericordia Hospital and Health Sciences, exposing themselves and their babies to a risk, will the Minister today telephone the head of the obstetrical units at St. Boniface and Health Sciences and arrange a meeting to discuss this problem and solution to it? Will he do it today, right now?

Mr. Orchard: I appreciate my honourable friend's desire to negotiate on behalf of a specific medical discipline at a specific hospital, but my honourable friend ought to be aware that in determining the resource allocation within hospitals that the management of hospitals, management that are paid substantially to do exactly as my honourable friend has suggested, meet with the heads of the various departments in that hospital to determine the priorities for spending and request for additional resources that the management then makes the Government.

If my honourable friend now wants to intervene on behalf of obstetrics at St. Boniface, what other specific discipline and what other hospital will he then bring to the floor of the House? The job of management of hospitals is to bring those matters to the Manitoba Hospital Services Commission in an informed and orderly fashion, balanced with the needs of the hospital, and make an appropriate request.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member for Kildonan, with a final supplementary question.

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the same Minister, St. Boniface Hospital is now projecting that it will handle nearly 5,000 births this year. This is 1,000 more than what is considered acceptable for the space available. That is why St. Boniface had to close the labour and delivery floor 18 times in the last four months.- (Interjection)- Mr. Speaker, could we ask the question and they can settle their dispute maybe outside the House?

* (1350)

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member for Kildonan will kindly put his question now.

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Speaker, the action is required now. Will the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) today, as a temporary solution, take steps to ensure that there is a 24-hour anaesthesia and urology coverage at Misericordia and Victoria Hospitals so that they can accommodate also high-risk patients? Will he do it

today, take some action, so that he can at least tell the pregnant women of Manitoba that he is serious about his job?

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Speaker, I regret that my honourable friend would attempt to imply to the people of Manitoba that I do not take my job as Minister of Health in a very serious manner. That is why I tend to follow the process which has been followed by previous administrations. Maybe the Liberals would operate differently should we be so unfortunate as to have them as Government at some point in time in the distant future. Those specific requests, if there is a problem, are made to the Manitoba Health Services Commission.

When the Member raised this issue some several weeks ago, I investigated the alleged difficulties of patient transfer to other hospitals, and it was indicated to me at that time that where there is a transfer it is generally low-risk deliveries which are transferred. He has today indicated that there were two high-risk patients transferred to other hospitals. If that is the case, then normally those transfers are accomplished to the Health Sciences Center where such full range of services are available.

Drought Assistance Federal Compensation

Mr. Laurie Evans (Fort Garry): On the 16th of this month when Mr. Mazankowski was appointed as the new Minister of Agriculture, he stated that his first priority was to develop a compensation package for drought-ravaged grain producers. My question is to the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Findlay).

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): Retroactive crop insurance again, Laurie?

Mr. Laurie Evans: Oh, later.

My question is to the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Findlay). Has he, in fact, been in contact with Mr. Mazankowski since the 16th of September, and has he made any recommendations to the new Minister as to the level of compensation that he feels is required by Manitoba producers?

Hon. Glen Findlay (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I will tell the Member that on the Friday after the announcement, which would be the 16th or the 17th, whichever the Friday was, I wrote a letter to the Minister of Agriculture detailing two requests. One is that tripartite stabilization discussions, as laid out, be followed immediately, and that the compensation for the drought affected areas of Manitoba be dealt with immediately, and that the proposal that appears to be getting some high level of support across western Canada should be followed by that Government.

Mr. Laurie Evans: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to see that action has been taken, and I would ask the Minister if the proposal that has been supported by him and the Government is in fact the proposal that has been submitted by the Keystone Agricultural Producers, or is it a variant of that?

Mr. Findlay: I would tell the Member that the Crop Insurance Corporation has had some discussions on the proposal that Keystone had brought forward. There are some problems with the way it was brought forward in terms of getting the money out fast enough, but I would ask the Member maybe we could get into some discussion on that in Estimates this afternoon when Crop Insurance will be here. But, yes, we are supporting what they have done and working to find the mechanism to put it in place as quickly as possible.

Mr. Laurie Evans: A supplement to the same Minister and that is regarding the timing of the announcement. I would ask whether the Minister would be prepared to contact Mr. Mazankowski immediately and ask him to at least indicate the level of support that will be given rather than delay this so that it can be coincident with the federal election call.

Mr. Findlay: Mr. Speaker, I find it unfortunate that the serious situation that ag producers in southern Manitoba face has to become politicized by the way the Member approaches the question. The objective of the federal Government and the provincial Governments of western Canada and Ontario is to meet the need of the producers in terms of getting an announcement out as quick as one can be prepared, and whether an election is called or not is secondary as far as the producers are concerned.

Unemployed Help Centre Funding Cuts

Mr. Steve Ashton (Thompson): My question is to the Minister responsible for Employment Services (Mrs. Oleson). In the short time this Government has been in office, we have seen a true agenda of the Conservative Party emerging more and more in terms of cutbacks, in terms of social agencies, the Labour Education Centre, the announcements yesterday of cuts in funding to the Workplace Innovation Centre and the Unemployed Help Centre. Today, Mr. Speaker, I received confirmation that this same Minister has also cut funding for the Brandon Unemployed Help Centre. Only yesterday, she suggested that these type of centres only deal with helping people with UIC appeals, which surely in itself is probably positive enough. But, in fact, they deal with counselling, they deal with advice and assistance to unemployed people in a general sense.

My question to the Minister is why has she cut funding for the centre now in Brandon, as she did yesterday with the centre in Winnipeg? Why, when the United Way has been increasing its funding by 20 percent last year to the centre, why will she not do something for the unemployed of this province?

Hon. Charlotte Oleson (Minister responsible for Employment Services and Economic Security): As I indicated yesterday, in discussions with the Leader of the NDP (Mr. Doer) when he asked questions about the Winnipeg one, the Department of Employment Services and Economic Security does have a function in helping people find jobs; and jobs are the priority. I would also indicate that I have contacted officials of

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the Unemployment Insurance Corporation and Canada Employment and my officials have discussed with them. As a result of that, they have put in four front-line staff to help people with unemployment insurance claims—three in Winnipeg, and one in Brandon—so that the federal Government will look after this federal Government program.

* (1355)

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member for Thompson, with a supplementary question.

Mr. Ashton: Mr. Speaker, the Minister obviously does not understand the issue. We are talking about advocacy help for the unemployed. My supplementary question follows from the statements made by the First Minister (Mr. Filmon) yesterday, when he talked about my "cooperation and consultation." I would like to ask what consultation took place with the agencies affected, and in fact ask the Minister why she has not met with the Innovation Centre, the Workplace Innovation Centre, despite repeated requests for meetings; why she has not met with the Unemployed Help Centre, despite the fact they have been requesting meetings repeatedly since June of this year, despite the fact they have written to her twice and made many phone calls requesting a meeting? Why has she cut funding without meeting with the groups involved?

Mrs. Oleson: I am aware that those agencies have been requesting meetings and my staff has been trying to fit them into my timetable. I felt that I should make these announcements in plenty of time to give these agencies lead time in winding down their operation, if that is the case. If they can get other funding, that can also be done with this lead time, and I thought it was only fair to give them that kind of notice so that they would have an opportunity to apply for other funds.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member for Thompson (Mr. Ashton), with a final supplementary question.

Mr. Ashton: My final supplementary, as the Minister has just acknowledged that she has not met with the groups involved, why will she not meet with the groups first before sending letters out marked "Personal and Confidential," trying to hide the fact, I suppose publicly, that these groups have been cut back, and why would she not now meet with the groups, put on hold the cutbacks in funding, talk to them first, and then reinstate the funding that they deserve to help the unemployed in this province?

Mrs. Oleson: As I indicated before, I realize that these people would need notice. I have plans, my agenda has been made so that I will be meeting with these groups, but I also would like to repeat to the Member that the department has, through the Job Opportunity Service and other services, and job creation programs within the department, counselling service for people who are unemployed. We feel that this is a federal Government program, the Unemployment Insurance, that the federal Government should take care of it.

Autopac Invalid Registrations

Mr. James Carr (Fort Rouge): My question is for the Minister responsible for the Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation (Mr. Cummings). Last May, a woman by the name of Mary Dalman registered a vehicle and drove it for a week, only to receive a call that she should immediately return the plates because they were invalid. Naturally, she was appalled and upset because she thought she was driving a vehicle for an entire week without the proper insurance. Just recently, Miss Dalman received in the mail two registration forms from Autopac, one with a valid license plate number, and one with an invalid license plate number.

I understand this is not a unique problem. The Minister is aware of many such cases and I wonder if he would tell the House what is the wrong with the Autopac computer.

Hon. Glen Cummings (Minister responsible for Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation Act): The question does identify a problem that the corporation has been faced with this year. It is not to say that the problem that the Member identifies is not given a great deal of serious concern, and I am going to be following up on that particular item. But the problem has arisen going back to early in the year when the corporation had a massive overload of applications that had to be hand printed and hand processed through the corporation computer. In fact, Mr. Speaker, they had literally rooms full of applications and the backlog simply overwhelmed the ability of the employees and the equipment at the corporation to handle the backlog. This is not to say that the problem is excusable, but certainly it flows from an excessive overload starting in March.

* (1400)

Driver Rebates

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge, with a supplementary question.

Mr. James Carr (Fort Rouge): Since Members opposite are obsessed with the accuracy of computers, maybe I can continue on the same line. The former Government established a program to rebate motorists who have good driving records, and the Minister is aware of that. Errors were made, presumably by the Autopac computer, and some motorists were sent registered letters requesting that their rebates be returned or they would risk losing their licence and their insurance. Is the Minister supportive of this method of apologizing to motorists for the computer's mistakes?

Hon. Glen Cummings (Minister responsible for the Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation Act): I certainly do not condone any type of strong-arm tactics, Mr. Speaker, but in fact the particular problem that the Member alludes to, the corporation very clearly is attempting to be as cooperative with the public as they possibly can and they will not be going to the limits

of their legislative ability. They wish to be user-friendly, I can assure you.

Time Payment System

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge, with a final supplementary question.

Mr. James Carr (Fort Rouge): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, with a final supplementary to the same Minister, as the Minister knows, motorists who chose the time-payment plan this year were charged \$20 late fee if they paid their final installment on August 31, rather than August 30 which was the actual due date. Now Manitobans surely, Mr. Speaker, can be forgiven for thinking that August ends on the 31st. Will the Minister instruct those who program the Autopac computer to be a little less rigid and a little more friendly to the customers of the corporation?

Hon. Glen Cummings (Minister responsible for the Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation Act): Mr. Speaker, again, a very legitimate question that the Member raises. Part of the problem is that the payment system was set up on a given number of days, rather than at the end of the month. The other problem that flows from the using of a time-payment system for the corporation, and something that the public, and probably most of us in this Chamber do not recognize, is that using the time-payment system at one point the corporation had 80,000 collections in arrears. It is a massive problem when the corporation is faced with a time-payment system that is related to registration and insurance in this province, and certainly the corporation, on more than a number of occasions, refunded the late payment fee if it could be shown that the mailing went out late to the customers involved. But if the mailing was on time, the corporation proceeded with the late payment fee.

Chemical Exposure Threshold Limit Values

Mr. Harry Harapiak (The Pas): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Environment and Workplace Safety and Health. Mr. Speaker, there is concern being expressed by employees in Manitoba in regard to the Workplace Hazardous Material Information System known as WHMIS. This Act is coming into effect on November 1. They are afraid because there is a lack of education and information coming forward dealing with threshold limit values, which is the limit an employee can be exposed to a chemical for an 8-hour day without any harmful effects, and they want the information so they can see if they fall within occupation exposure limits which would make it necessary to change the operations of a plant to fall within the accepted levels.

On September 8, the Minister took as notice a question on how many safety and health officers would be cut off. He said he would come back to the House telling us who would be giving us the educational program because he did cut the funding for the Labour Education Centre. I am wondering if the Minister has

come back with that information as to who will be delivering that education for the dealing with the regulations of WHMIS.

Hon. Edward Connery (Minister of Environment and Workplace Safety and Health): Yes, and I do have that answer here. I wondered if the Member was all that sincere in getting it. I guess he was, and I appreciate him for that.— (Interjection)— It was quite a while in coming back, Mr. Speaker.

I did check into whether there was a backlog. I checked with the director and there is no significant backlog. If there is a priority case, it is dealt with within 24 hours and all cases are dealt with expeditiously.

I am also very concerned about the education for the various programs that are coming into place, so I spoke at length with our director. We are putting on programs on a continuous basis. While the numbers turning out for these programs are excellent, and we are very pleased with that, never has the program been fully booked. There has always been room for additional people to take the course. We are continuing to give the courses, we will continue to ensure that all people who want to have information, and everybody should have information, because WHMIS is a very important Act, along with The Health Hazard Act. The programs are ongoing and I wanted to ensure that all people would be educated in these programs.

Mr. Harapiak: I can assure the Minister that I am concerned and the workers and employers out there are extremely concerned. It is unfortunate he would not have brought the information sooner if he had it.

There was an impact study, which had both representation by industry and Government, and it was dealing on the effects that WHMIS would have on employers in the province. It showed that there would be very little effect on small business but there would be some effect on the employees in the province. Now the Minister is going and asking for an additional—he went to the Chamber of Commerce seeking additional staff recommendations to do a further study. What is the purpose of this study? Is it to reduce the list of occupational exposures lists? What are the purposes of that additional study to deal with the impacts of WHMIS?

Mr. Connery: The Member should know that there was nothing to do with WHMIS. We are having ongoing consultations with all interested parties that want to give us input into the Health Hazard Regulation. The Health Hazard Regulation is a very far-reaching and a very important regulation in preventing health problems to workers in the workplace. We are looking at all of the concerns that all parties will have. There will be input from all people into the regulation. While he says we are working on WHMIS, WHMIS is an ongoing process. There are some concerns with regulations; there always will be. Anybody who has a concern with regulations has the right to come to our department. Whether it be from the management side or from the employee side, all people are welcome to give us their concerns in the workplace.

PCBs Storage Thompson Site

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member for The Pas, with a final supplementary.

Mr. Harry Harapiak (The Pas): I have an supplementary question for the same Minister on a different subject, I have recently received a call that there were six barrels of PCB stored in a yard by a skip dump loading site at the T1 Head Loading Frame at Inco in Thompson. This is not their storage site that they have identified in the list that the Minister identified. Will the Minister check into this and report back to this House? Will he also undertake to verify the list that he distributed earlier, because the list that he distributed earlier was not accurate. It has Campbell Soup of Portage la Prairie listed as a place that did not have PCBs. That has proved to be particularly embarrassing for him seeing that it is his own constituency. Will the Minister come back with this information?

Hon. Edward Connery (Minister of Environment and Workplace Safety and Health): I thank the Honourable Member, Mr. Speaker. We will definitely check into the concern at Inco, and if it is, in fact, that way and it has not been handled properly, we will deal with it in the proper manner.

* (1410)

When we put the list out, the federal Government—and it was a federal list put out by the federal Government—indicated that they knew that there would be some inaccuracies, that some had been cleaned up, and the process was to identify accurately all places where PCBs were. Mr. Speaker, the Manitoba Hazardous Waste Management Corporation is in the process of working with individuals whether it be schools or the individuals or hospitals who have small amounts of PCBs around who want to dispose of them. We are collecting these at no cost or a very low cost to ensure that anybody with a small amount of PCBs that they are disposed of in a very proper and safe way. So the Hazardous Corporation is doing a good job in assisting people to—

Winnipeg Airport Noise Levels

Mr. Paul Edwards (St. James): Mr. Speaker, my question is also for the Minister of the Environment. My constituents in St. James are suffering and have suffered for some time from noise levels which have been reported—

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Edwards: The Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) sees fit to insult the people of St. James and also to insult this very important issue, that is his right. The people of St. James will be happy to hear that comment, and I will certainly pass it on to them.

If we can get some seriousness from the other side, because this is an extremely serious issue, there is a

health hazard in my constituency. That health hazard is excessive noise. There have been recordings in excess of 110 decibels as a result of planes flying into Winnipeg International Airport. The Minister of the Environment (Mr. Connery) knows, as the Minister responsible for the Workers Compensation Board, that any noise levels in excess of 115 decibels, any exposure to those noise levels, poses a health hazard and risks permanent hearing loss.

My question to the Minister is this: is the Minister aware of these noise levels and has he made contact with Transport Canada to discuss possible noise reduction solutions for the people of St. James?

Hon. Edward Connery (Minister of Environment and Workplace Safety and Health): We are well aware of the noise levels and we are aware of the complaints. Part of the problem why the traffic over St. James is higher than normal is that they are repaving the runways at the International Airport.

The contractor approached us last week with the concern with the delay in paving due to the inclement weather we have had for some time, asking for permission to run the asphalt part only out at the quarries of Stonewall. We gave that contractor permission because fall is coming in and the last thing we wanted to do is to see the runways not completed and have that problem go through the winter.

So we are concerned. We are aware of it, and we are taking action to ensure that this noise level is lessened very quickly.

Mr. Edwards: We are certainly aware that the runway is being built. That with respect is not the issue. Frequency has been increased by the runway construction. However, those noise levels, those decibel levels, have been suffered for many, many years and there are always planes that have flown over St. James

Mr. Speaker: Does the Honourable Member have a question?

Mr. Edwards: My question is has the Minister contacted as well or in addition the military base, the Winnipeg Air Base, and solicited their advice as to what monitoring they can do of the situation and what possible noise reduction solutions they have with respect to the very noisy, high powered military jet exercises that occur in and around the St. James area?

Mr. Connery: There are controls for noise levels. There are maximum levels. At times, of course, with airplanes and conditions, these noise levels will be exceeded. Our department continues to monitor and if there are concerns and I have had very few expressed to me personally, but we have had some come to the department. We are cognizant of it, and we are concerned about it. So if there is a major concern, our department will deal with whatever body that is necessary to ensure that the noise levels are reasonable within St. James and, in fact, all of Winnipeg.

Mr. Speaker: The time for oral questions has expired.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Hon. Clayton Manness (Minister of Finance): I move, seconded by the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Cummings), that the 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.

We will return to the prescribed list agreed to earlier, namely, calling for Agriculture in the Chamber and Community Services in Room 255.

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 Minnedosa (Mr. Gilleshammer) in the Chair for the Department of Community Services; and the Honourable Member for Seven Oaks (Mr. Minenko) in the Chair for the Department of Agriculture.

* (1430)

CONCURRENT COMMITTEES OF SUPPLY SUPPLY—COMMUNITY SERVICES

Mr. Chairman, Harold Gilleshammer: The committee will come to order on Community Services, 3.(a) Administration: (1) Salaries, \$368,100.00. Shall the item pass?

Ms. Avis Gray (Ellice): No, I am wondering if the Minister has the organizational chart with her today.

Hon. Charlotte Oleson (Minister of Community Services): No, we do not.

Ms. Gray: In the discussion under this subappropriation yesterday, there was some discussion of the quality assurance position. I would ask the Minister, because I was a little unclear even as I read through the Estimates this morning, is this a position that was in place before? It has been vacant for a year and a half. I assume that there was someone in that position before that time.

Mrs. Oleson: No.

Ms. Gray: The Minister is indicating that there has never ever been anyone in this quality assurance position? How could it be vacant for a year and a half?

Mrs. Oleson: I understand that the position was never fully occupied. The position was created a year and a half ago. The person who was in it took on other duties as well and it was never fully occupied. It is now vacant.

Ms. Gray: This person who is partially in the position, who was that individual and what other responsibilities were they assuming?

Mrs. Oleson: It was Mr. Lewis and he was acting as executive director, an acting position.

Ms. Gray: With this position being vacant for a year and a half, could the Minister indicate if that position

has been used or has any term time or anything been applied against that position for use in other areas?

Mrs. Oleson: No, there was no term time applied to it and the ADM is looking at the whole structure and reviewing it.

Ms. Gray: Again for clarification from the Minister, I understand this position is under review. Is it the intent of this particular part of the department that in fact the quality assurance position will be reinstated?

Mrs. Oleson: That is a possibility.

Ms. Gray: If there is a decision made that this position will be reinstated, would this position be designated an Affirmative Action position?

Mrs. Oleson: Yes.

Ms. Gray: Then from the answer that it is Affirmative Action or it would be designated as such, would this position be bulletined internally within the Civil Service or might it be open outside?

Mrs. Oleson: It would be wide open if it is advertised.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister assure us that if this position is reinstated that it will be bulletined at least internally within the department?

Mrs. Oleson: I cannot assure the Member that because the Government has a redeployment list. It depends on whether that redeployment list has anyone on it who would be suitable for the position.

Ms. Gray: Is the Minister aware if, in the redeployment list with the department, there are individuals on that list who would have had experience similar to a position of an HS7 level?

Mrs. Oleson: The Member should be aware that the redeployment list is a Government-wide list. It is not strictly in this department.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister assure us that someone will not be appointed to this position and that there will be a competition, should it be filled?

Mrs. Oleson: I just answered the Member that if it can be filled through the redeployment list, then that is a possibility. I cannot assure her for certain that it will be advertised.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister assure us, given that she may be looking at redeployment lists and given that the position has been designated an affirmative action position, that we can be assured that position would be filled with someone from one of the target groups?

Mrs. Oleson: Any positions that are filled are attempted to be filled with the target list in mind.

Ms. Gray: The other day in Estimates, the Minister indicated a number of times that her Government was

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seeking a balanced approach in reference to services to the mentally handicapped. I am wondering if the Minister could explain for us what she means by that balanced approach and explain it in terms of the policy of her Government.

Mrs. Oleson: As I have discussed before when we were talking about a balanced approach, I had indicated that what we need to do is stabilize the situation at present, be sure that the people are getting the services that they need and be sure that the institutions are kept up and people are well looked after in them. What I meant by a balanced approach was being sure that we did not slot people into definite positions as to their residence. There needs to be some flexibility in that parents may want one particular thing for their child and we should try to accommodate them.

Ms. Gray: With the previous administration, the NDP Government, there certainly was a clear policy statement and a mission statement in regard to the services for the mentally handicapped. Whether one agrees with their policy and direction, certainly we would give them credit for at least being willing to indicate their policies and directions on paper. I am wondering if the Minister could then tell us, this policy and direction as established by the previous administration, is this the same policy and direction that currently her Government is operating under.

Mrs. Oleson: We have not changed the policy, but we may change the way in which it is implemented. But the policy itself is still the same.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister then indicate to us what is the policy in regard to returning clients to MDC?

Mrs. Oleson: That is based on individual client assessment, if that is the only place for them or the best place for them. You have to take into consideration the needs of each individual client. There may be cases in which there is a return to MDC but that is not our goal, it is to send people back there. In some cases, there may be a necessity because that is the only placement that is really suitable for them.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate if she is aware what the policy was with the previous administration in regard to returning clients to MDC?

Mrs. Oleson: I understand it was similar.

* (1440)

Ms. Gray: My understanding is that in fact and particularly in Winnipeg, the policy before was that clients could and would not be returned to MDC. This caused a lot of frustration within the region. I am wondering, if this is the assumption that staff and supervisors in the region were under, has there been a change in that policy.

Mrs. Oleson: Crisis Intervention was used before. There has been no change in the basic policy. I will indicate that it is certainly my understanding, if that is the only

avenue for the care of a particular client, they could be returned to MDC. You would have to look at each case individually to assess what were the specific needs of that person.

Ms. Gray: My understanding and I believe the understanding of regional implementation teams composed of community groups and members is that the policy was that an individual would not be returned to MDC. The Minister has just indicated there is no change in basic policy but that we must look at individual needs. I find that a confusing answer as I think the community groups might as well. I am wondering if she could clarify her statement.

Mrs. Oleson: It is not confusing at all. The policy is the same. It is maybe the way it is carried out that is a little different at this time. But from my understanding, it is indicated to me that the policy is the same now as it has been. If the Member is telling me that under no circumstances anyone would ever be returned to MDC and she feels that is the policy of the former Government, then I will be differing from that because I do feel that probably there are some occasions, some particular circumstances under which a client would need to be housed in MDC for one reason and another. As I will indicate again, it would depend on the needs of that particular client.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate to me, given her last statements about where with individual clients there may be a need to look at a return to the institution for a period of time, could she indicate if in fact that—and I would consider that a change in policy direction—has been clearly communicated to the various regions throughout the province?

Mrs. Oleson: Yes, the staff are aware of that. There are other avenues that can be followed before that step would be taken of returning them to MDC. There is the Crisis Intervention and special needs—what is the term?—Additional Care and Support. All these things would come into play to see if that would be suitable for the client. Also, as the Member herself said, this could be done on short term for a respite need and, as I indicated before, the particular needs of a particular client.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate or tell us what the process is if a field worker feels that for whatever reason the best course of action is for at least a period of time to send an individual back to the MDC, what process would that field staff have to follow?

Mrs. Oleson: That would be an individual assessment on that client by the workers in concert with parents and other care providers.

Ms. Gray: The Minister has indicated that the process would be an assessment done by the field staff, care providers and parents. Therefore, if it was then decided by care providers, parents and the worker that the best interests of the clients were being met by that person going back to MDC, if that is the process, then I assume it would occur?

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Mrs. Oleson: I should have added, with the regional director's concurrence as well and of course consultation with MDC.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate who actually has the delegated authority to make the final decision as to whether a client should be returned to MDC?

Mrs. Oleson: The regional director.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate to us, when clients are sent back to MDC, are they sent back for a specific period of time? Is that field worker still to maintain contact with the client so that the MDC return is hopefully short term, and there would be some future planning to have that person returned again to the community?

Mrs. Oleson: As I indicated before in answering questions of a similar nature, it would depend on the needs of the client how long the stay was. Sometimes it is to stabilize medication and it would depend on the severity of the problem how long they would be there. Sometimes there are behaviour problems. Also, with a referral to MDC, there is an Admission and Discharge Committee of MDC that would also take a look at that.

Ms. Gray: Would the Minister tell us how many clients since April 1 have been returned to MDC?

Mrs. Oleson: Mr. Chairman, it is in the MDC line and we can get that number for you in a few minutes.

Ms. Gray: While you are checking those figures, would there also be figures available as to how many individuals were returned to MDC in the last fiscal year as well?

Mrs. Oleson: Yes, if the Member has other questions with regard to numbers of that sort, we could get it all at once for you. It is under the MDC line which we would come to later in the Estimates. But if you have any other questions pertaining to the same line of figures, we could get them all at once.

Ms. Gray: I may have more questions in relation to specific numbers but not at the moment.

The Minister has indicated that her Government is looking at a balanced approach to services. Has her department outlined specific objectives as to what they would like to see accomplished in regard to specific results for services for the mentally handicapped in this fiscal year?

Mrs. Oleson: Yes, for the Member's answer to that question, we have to, this year, deal with children who are coming out of the child welfare system. We have to look at day programs for the mentally handicapped and we have to, as I had indicated before, stabilize this system to some extent to make sure that people who come into the communities under the Welcome Home Program are being adequately looked after.

We will also, when Mr. Wiens is finished with his review, be looking at those recommendations that he

will be making with a view to how they will be implemented. Also, there are improvements being made during this fiscal year at MDC, improvements which do fall under the Department of Government Services and which could probably be better answered in that department, but there are some ongoing improvements that need to be made and they have to be phased in when they can be managed fiscally.

* (1450)

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate to us, in regard to day programs, what has her department or her staff or herself identified as some of the major issues affecting day programs?

Mrs. Oleson: The number of spaces has certainly been brought to my attention that there are not enough spaces, and it has also been brought to my attention that the per diems, there is a problem with the per diems in the operating of some of those centres.

Ms. Gray: What specifically is the problem with the per diems?

Mrs. Oleson: The amount, they are too low.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister tell us if there are any initiatives on the part of her Government to increase the per diems paid to day programs?

Mrs. Oleson: The division is reviewing the subject of per diems, and we will be looking at the recommendations.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister tell us—she has mentioned the division is reviewing it. Could she tell us what type of consultation her division will be pursuing in regard to looking at the whole area of per diems and day programs?

Mrs. Oleson: The staff have been in contact with the providers of day programs to get some input from them on the needs of their centres, and that will be taken into consideration when we review the per diems.

Ms. Gray: The Minister has indicated that there are a lack of spaces in day programs. Could the Minister tell us if there are spaces in day programs right now which are available and ready for clients to be placed?

Mrs. Oleson: There will be some. There is usually some turnover, so that at any given time there will be some that are vacant.

Ms. Gray: Would the Minister tell us what the current status is in regard to number of spaces vacant at WASO?

Mrs. Oleson: There could be up to 40 vacant approved spaces.

Ms. Gray: The Minister has indicated there could be up to 40 vacant approved spaces at WASO?

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Mrs. Oleson: Over the year, there are 60 approved spaces in the centre.

Ms. Gray: Would the Minister tell us does she have the figures as to how many vacancies there are currently at WASO?

Mrs. Oleson: I could not give the Member any answer for today because that agency places their clients into industrial settings, other settings, and so the clients come and go from the centre. So at any given time, there may be up to 40 vacancies, but that varies with the placement of the clients.

Ms. Gray: A number of weeks ago, I had asked the question of the Minister in the House specifically regarding day programs, and I am not sure whether I referenced WASO as the example. The question at that time was that the WASO Board had indicated to me that they had approval for 10 spaces to be filled and they also had a waiting list of individuals who had been accepted by the WASO admission and discharged to enter the facility, but in fact these people had not been placed because there were no per diem dollars that could be attached to their placement. Could the Minister indicate to us the status of that situation?

Mrs. Oleson: That facility is licensed for 60 spaces. But the Member must realize that there is a budget allocation for the per diems and it has been given a 3 percent increase this year. I guess what you would have to say is that at no time it could meet every need. If you are going to live within a budget, there have to be, unfortunately, times when every need is not met.

Ms. Gray: Is the Minister suggesting there is a freeze on getting into day programs?

Mrs. Oleson: No, I am not suggesting there is a freeze. I am indicating that there are certain amount of funds allocated and the department tries to live within that allocation. There can be occasions however when money, if it is not used in one other line of a particular department, it could be reallocated, redirected, but as the Member would also know there is not an awful lot of money floating around that is not absolutely needed in the line to which it is directed.

Ms. Gray: We are at the completion almost of the second quarter of this fiscal year. Could the Minister indicate to us if there is any money left in the budget under that line for day programs, so that people can enter day programs throughout the province?

Mrs. Oleson: Since we are, as the Member indicates, just halfway through the year, there may be, later on, some money that can be reallocated. There is a waiting list, but people will be fitted in if they possibly can.

Ms. Gray: If an individual or a parent or relative of an individual has a son or daughter who wishes to participate in a day program and there happens to be approved vacancies at a particular day program facility, are there dollars available so that person can enter the day program?

Mrs. Oleson: We are not aware of spaces that do not get utilized. Each region has its allocation of funding and they try to fit in as many people as they possibly can, but we are not aware of spaces that are not being used at this time.

Ms. Gray: If the Minister is not aware of spaces that are not being used, does that mean then that I can be assured that those 10 spaces and people awaiting placement into WASO have probably now been placed?

Mrs. Oleson: There are 60 spaces allocated at the agency that the Member is talking about. I cannot give her an absolute yes, that every one can be accommodated who wants to enter the program there.

Ms. Gray: I am not referring to everyone who wants to be accommodated, I am referring specifically to 10 spaces where there were 10 individuals who had been approved to enter WASO and who are on a waiting list. Because I had raised the question in the House some four weeks ago, I am wondering if the Minister has updated information on that.

Mrs. Oleson: We will have to get that answer from the region and we have not got that information, whether those 10 have actually been able to be funded. We will have to get the answer from the region.

Ms. Gray: There was, I understand, a directive that was sent to various regions and the regional implementation teams and staff were aware that in order to have someone placed in a day program, the only way that someone could be placed was if someone else left that day program and there was a vacancy created. So it was one for one. Could the Minister indicate if that is still the current understanding of how people move into day programs?

Mrs. Oleson: Yes, that would be true, unless there were additional funds that could be allocated.

Excuse me, is the Member talking about approved spaces or individual clients? Which is she talking about, people or spaces?

Ms. Gray: Well, there have to be spaces in order for the people to enter into them, so once a facility has been given approval for a certain number of spaces then I am asking, if those spaces or vacancies are there, if there has to be a one-to-one shift or change. In other words, does someone have to leave a particular workshop in order for a new client to enter?

Mrs. Oleson: The regions have to allocate the funds and the Member could be right; in some cases there would have to be someone leave before someone else could enter. It would depend on the number of clients that the region was funding. It would often depend on the nature of the needs of a particular client.

Ms. Gray: This is certainly a change in policy direction because before there was not the understanding that in order for an individual to enter into a day program where there were vacancies that another individual had

to leave. Could the Minister indicate why there has been this change?

* (1500)

Mrs. Oleson: I think I explained that to the Member. There are only a certain number of spaces and there are a certain number of dollars attached to the budget of each region for their use in providing these day programs. In some cases, of course, as I indicated, there could be reallocation of funding but when we prepare a budget and Estimates we have to apply to that line a certain dollar figure. In order to keep budgets in line, we have to adhere to that particular budget.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister tell us if there was in the budget that is currently under discussion any consideration for any increases in the dollars that will go to the day program line or are those amount of dollars allocated the same as last year's budget?

Mrs. Oleson: They are allocated the same to the regions, but there was a 3 percent increase in funding this year.

Ms. Gray: Mr. Chairperson, if the dollars that have been allocated to the regions are the same as last year, even with—

Mrs. Oleson: Three percent.

Ms. Gray: —plus three percent, could she indicate why there is this change in direction so that now, rather than placing clients in need in day programs, as vacancies exist in a workshop, there has to be a movement of one individual out of that workshop before a new person can come in?

Mrs. Oleson: I would remind the Member that this is not a mandatory program; it is not a universal service. Unfortunately, there are not spaces for everyone. There are unmet needs and that is very unfortunate. The dollars are allocated to the regions and they are responsible for managing within the allocation. Sometimes within the region there can be reallocation within the province, there can be reallocation of dollars.

As I remind the Member, this is not a mandatory program in that anyone who applies automatically has to be taken in. Unfortunately, there are shortages that are experienced from time to time and there are people waiting for programs. This is one of the things that I had indicated earlier was a problem and that we are looking at it.

I think the Member is really expecting a bit too much if she feels that every single person who applies would automatically have to be accommodated in that particular year, whether there was budget there or not. This is one of the problems that we are faced with in real life is that we have to live within budgets.

Ms. Gray: The Minister has totally missed the point and I wish she would quit trying to put words in my mouth. I am not speaking to the issue which is a different issue which also needs to be addressed. I am not

referring to the fact that there is always a shortage of day program spaces available throughout the province. We know that there are more clients out there who are in need of various kinds of day programs and what day programs are available.

What I am referring to is that we have existing workshops and day programs throughout the Province in Manitoba where there has been approval given for X number of spaces of people to be accommodated within those workshops, and some of those workshop are day program situations. There are spaces available, there are vacancies. My understanding is that now, in order for a client who has been approved by that particular workshop, admission and discharge committee or whatever the process is, in order for that client to enter into a workshop, the only way that person can do so and have dollars which would go to the day program is that another client would have to have left that day program for whatever reason or move to another region, received a job or outside employment or for some reason that person must leave before another person could come in because we are moving the dollars. The dollars have to be freed up by one client so that another client can come into that particular workshop. Is that correct? Is that the current status of day programs?

Mrs. Oleson: The funding is as allocated for the spaces that exist. I would remind the Member that 15 spaces have been added and then there is a 3 percent increase. There is a turnover of people; people leave a program, other people come into it. Some clients have more expensive, shall we put it that way, needs than others. The spaces that have been approved are funded. The people can come into them when there is a vacancy. But I think the Member is misunderstanding that the spaces and the funding allocation, they sometimes do not match specifically because of a need of a particular client. Unfortunately, there are waiting lists and there are people who cannot get into programs.

Ms. Gray: The Minister has said that if spaces are approved and the funding is there, then to me it would follow that in the case of WASO, if the spaces have been approved and therefore we know the funding is there, given what the Minister is saying, I would assume, and I will certainly check this out as well with WASO, that those 10 spaces that now they will have had an okay or the approval to move people into those spaces. Would that be a correct assumption?

Mrs. Oleson: The individual subsidy is for the space and not for the capacity of the facility. What we are looking at is funding annualized plus 3 percent, plus spaces equals \$682.1 thousand which is a 12 percent increase over '87-88 budget this year. So we are working toward increasing spaces, increasing funding to people in the spaces.

Ms. Gray: The Minister has told us that 15 new spaces have been added. Could she tell us where those spaces are?

Mrs. Oleson: They are in the process of being allocated.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister tell us if any new spaces, other than the 15 that she has mentioned, have been approved in this fiscal year?

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Mrs. Oleson: No, that is 15 for this year.

Ms. Gray: Is the Minister then saying that no new spaces have been allocated either to Sturgeon Creek Enterprises?

Mrs. Oleson: I said that we were in the process of allocating them.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister tell us what process is being used to determine where those spaces will be allocated?

Mrs. Oleson: One of the things that would be taken into consideration is need, another is waiting lists and regional input.

Ms. Gray: The Minister has mentioned the need, waiting lists and regional input. Will her staff be also consulting with the various day programs as well as to where those 15 new spaces perhaps should be allocated?

Mrs. Oleson: Yes, that would be part of the regional input, that would be part of the study of the need.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister tell us if there is a plan to have some of these spaces allocated in rural Manitoba?

* (1510)

Mrs. Oleson: There has not been a final determination of that.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister tell us when, if she has an idea, as to when the decision will be made, where these new spaces will be?

Mrs. Oleson: Within the next couple of weeks.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister tell us if all regions still have money in their budgets for day programs so that wherever those spaces are allocated, there is money in the budget so that clients can enter into the day programs?

Mrs. Oleson: That is part of the allocation.

Ms. Gray: Is the Minister suggesting that part of the space allocation will be determined partially by the amount of money remaining in regional budgets under the day program allocation?

Mrs. Oleson: Mr. Chairman, this is new money we are talking about. If we are allocating new spaces, then this is a new allocation of money.

Ms. Gray: Is the Minister indicating that new allocation of money then is not currently in the regional budgets? It is above and beyond?

Mrs. Oleson: That is right. It is not in the regional budgets presently.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister tell how, with 15 new spaces—I am still not sure as to how it will be decided

where those new spaces will be—will part of the process be looking at current waiting lists in the various regions across the province to try to make some determination as to what clients might be more in need of a day program, so thereby approving spaces in day programs that may be in somewhat close proximity to where those clients are?

Mrs. Oleson: Yes, the Member is correct. That would be part of the determination.

Ms. Gray: If this is part of the determination and the decision will be made in a couple of weeks, I would assume, given the number of people on waiting lists, that a fairly thorough examination of each client on a waiting list and their particular needs will have already been made.

Mrs. Oleson: Yes, the regions have that information.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister tell us exactly what the current status is for waiting lists for day programs now, and break that down into rural Manitoba and Winnipeg, as in total rural and total Winnipeg?

Mrs. Oleson: Mr. Chairman, we could get that information for the Member.

Mr. Chairman: Item (a)(1), shall it pass?

Ms. Gray: No, the Minister has mentioned about day programs. Could the Minister tell us what consultation her department has had with the Manitoba Council on Rehabilitation Work?

Mrs. Oleson: Mr. Chairman, yes, the staff have had several meetings with them and will be meeting with them again shortly.

Ms. Gray: With the Welcome Home Program as part of the changes and progressiveness in looking at services for the mentally handicapped, there was a move towards having workshops attempt to develop programs whereby clients would be actually moved out of workshop situations and placed into integrated work situations in the community. I believe there was a direction from the Government that there should be a certain percentage of clientele who would be able to move into community work. Would the Minister be able to comment for us what the status of that movement has been? Do we have workshops whereby—I am not quite sure what the percentage was—clients have been able to move into integrated work settings in the community? Could she give us some information on that?

Mrs. Oleson: Yes, WASO is an example of a workshop where people go out of the agency or the workshop into the community to work. There are other examples where that takes place. I think that is certainly a very useful and productive thing for them to do, to train people so that they are eventually able to—on an individual basis, depending on the needs and the abilities of the client, go into the workplace. There are many employers who have undertaken to hire some of

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these people from the workshops. I happen to know in my own constituency, for instance, of a community where the business people have hired several people who have been trained in workshops and they are finding them very good employees.

Ms. Gray: Would the Minister tell us if there are admission and discharge committees presently operating in various regions in regard to who should enter into day programs?

Mrs. Oleson: No, none that we are aware of. A particular region may have some mechanism in which they assess this, but there is none that we are aware of as in the formal sense.

Ms. Gray: With the regional system where regional implementation teams were established, again my understanding was that in fact admission and discharge committees were also established to look at referrals into day programs and into community residences. Is the Minister then saying that these committees have been disbanded?

Mrs. Oleson: They are there for the purpose of referrals, not for control. They have not been disbanded.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister tell me what she means by they are there for the purpose of referral and not control?

Mrs. Oleson: These committees advise the regions and make suggestions or referral to workshops, but ultimately the regions manage the program.

Ms. Gray: I thought that with the admission, discharge committees, that in fact regional staff were part of those committees, so I am not quite sure how the Minister delineates between what the admission and discharge committee does and what the regional people do, since the regional people are, I thought, part of the admission and discharge committee.

Mrs. Oleson: They are part of the committee, but the final decision rests with the regional director who, of course, has to live within the budgetary limitations.

Ms. Gray: Is the Minister suggesting that then for referrals for day programs and community residences that the approval for those referrals all go through the regional directors?

Mrs. Oleson: He has the ultimate authority to manage his budget.

Ms. Gray: Do regional directors actually see these referrals, or is that something that is delegated by regional directors to other staff?

Mrs. Oleson: It varies from region to region.

Ms. Gray: The Minister indicated that she was not aware that there were any admission and discharge committees. Then she suggested there may be some that were informal, and then she said that there were

committees and they were there for referral, not control, and that they have not been disbanded. Would the Minister tell us exactly what the purpose of the admission and discharge committee is, and do workshops in the community and residences, do they have direct access to this committee? Is that who they deal with on a regional basis?

* (1520)

Mrs. Oleson: It is my understanding that different regions handle things in different ways, so there is no set, rigid rule, so different regions will refer in different ways and handle their advisory committee, if you want to call that in a different way.

Ms. Gray: With various regions having obviously various procedures as to how they handle admission and discharges, with the concentration of day programs and a variety of workshops and community boards in the City of Winnipeg who would certainly provide service to individuals all across the City of Winnipeg, can the Minister assure us that at least the three regions in Winnipeg would operate the same way, so that consistency and some standardization would at least be available for these workshops which would be dealing with three regions?

Mrs. Oleson: We are reviewing the Winnipeg regions to be sure that there is consistency in coordination in the handling of these matters. That is one function that is going on between the Community Services Department and the Health Department.

Ms. Gray: When there is a vacancy in a day program and there is a waiting list, if that day program is located in a particular district in Winnipeg, do clients and staff of other regions in the city have access to that day program space?

Mrs. Oleson: Yes.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister tell us where is the control mechanism, who actually makes the decision as to which individual will enter into that day program—providing three or four may be eligible—as to who will enter into that particular space?

Mrs. Oleson: The regional director, but if it crosses boundaries, there will be consultation between the regional directors of the regions that are affected.

Ms. Gray: Is the Minister suggesting then that for waiting lists in the City of Winnipeg for day programs that the waiting lists are directly managed and controlled by the three regional directors?

Mrs. Oleson: By their staff.

Ms. Gray: Is there an inter-regional committee that is in place that periodically meets and reviews the waiting list and makes some determination as to who will go where?

Mrs. Oleson: No, there is no inter-regional committee, at the present time anyway.

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Ms. Gray: Could the Minister tell us how the waiting list for day programs is coordinated throughout Winnipeg?

Mrs. Oleson: Because there is a difference in the facilities and a difference in the needs in regions, there are separate lists for each region emanating, of course, from the facilities themselves that have the waiting list to enter them. One facility might not suit someone on the waiting list, so it has to be coordinated.

Ms. Gray: The Minister has mentioned it has to be coordinated, but could she tell me how it is coordinated across Winnipeg?

Mrs. Oleson: Through cooperation of the program directors and coordination—in that way, consultation. They get together and part of their agenda when they meet is to discuss these problems and items.

Ms. Gray: My concern is, and I really hate to use that word, but—

Mrs. Oleson: It is an overworked word.

Ms. Gray: —it is an overworked word by our “Minister of Concern,” the Minister of Environment (Mr. Connery).

A problem that has been identified by a number of constituents who phone is that depending on what part of the City of Winnipeg you live in may depend on the ability or availability of day program spaces. Obviously some districts or parts of Winnipeg have better resources in terms of day programs than others do. There are a variety of reasons. The concern is that because there are now three regions that there really is not a coordinating mechanism in regard to waiting lists, similar to what there was in the past.

The Minister has indicated that there is no formal meeting set up by staff but there is some discussion about waiting lists. I am wondering, has there been consideration given to the fact—and I can appreciate the three regions are under review, but in the interim—some formal mechanism to ensure that some sense of equitable treatment would be given to clients across the City of Winnipeg who need to enter into the variety of day programs.

Mrs. Oleson: The Member indicated that there was no meeting of staff. The staff do meet to discuss these issues, which I had mentioned before. The Member raises a valid point, that there may be variance from place to place in the city. One of the things that would be entered into, whether or not a person could use a particular facility, too, would be the distance to that facility. It is very similar to education, to other services that are provided for the population, that they do vary from region to region somewhat. Some of the things that have been identified by the Member is the very reason for the fact that Health and Community Services are reviewing the regional structure to be sure there is proper coordination.

Mr. Harry Harapiak (The Pas): I am particularly interested in this area of community living because I

have a son who is an infantile autistic. He has been that way since birth and so he has resided at Hydra House which comes under Community Services and he is now a resident of Project Growth, which is also a home under Community Services.

I guess as a parent I have been concerned about the need for parents to take either one stream or the other to declare their son or daughter or family member mentally ill or mentally retarded, and you are forever in that stream. Is there any consideration by this Minister, this Government, to try and streamline the two different areas, so that people, once they make a choice, are not forever in that stream?

Mrs. Oleson: I am glad the Member raised that. It has not been raised to me as a problem and it is certainly something that I could undertake to take a look at.

Mr. Harapiak: I hope that the Minister would take it under consideration because I guess as a parent who has lived through the experience, you are always having to make choices and there is never enough information as to what options—they are no longer available to you if you go into one stream or the other. I have often felt and I have spoken to previous Ministers on it saying there is the need of sort of bringing the services together, and so I hoped you would look at going in that direction.

I was just wondering, is there any intention of your Government to further reduce the number of people who are living in the institutions. You may have answered this earlier when I was not present, but is there any formula in place that you are going try and reduce by a certain percentage on an annual basis?

* (1530)

Mrs. Oleson: Yes, the Member is correct. We have discussed this before on several occasions and I had indicated that we wanted some balance in the whole area, that we feel we need to stabilize the situation as it is to be sure that there are facilities for people in the communities. There certainly is an admirable goal to have people out of institutions and living in a more homelike setting. That certainly is our goal.

I have not, as a Minister, set a target of exactly how many people would be moved out of institutions this year, that year or the next year. I feel that there needs to be flexibility in choice. Some parents may feel for one reason or another that their son or daughter should stay in an institution and I think we should respect the feelings of those parents. Others, of course, will want their family member to move into the community. We try to meet the needs of people, but we always have to be aware that there is funding needed for the very programs we were talking about earlier this afternoon, for day programs and so forth, to make sure that once people are living in the community, they have something meaningful to do in that community.

Mr. Harapiak: The day programs are not as readily available in remote parts of the province as they are in the City of Winnipeg. Is there some special effort

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being made to try and locate more day programs in outlying areas so that there can be a greater move for these handicapped people to go back to their home community, because I think there is a support base that is there if they can go back to the home community?

I know when a project is first proposed for any community, there is a reluctance on the part of the community to accept either a home for the handicapped or a day program because of the fact that there has not been much education, in most cases, of how harmless these people really are. Once they move into the community, then the community becomes advocates for this day program or the home. I am wondering if there are any special efforts being made to create more facilities in remote areas.

Mrs. Oleson: The Member raises a very valid point and that is something we will be considering in the allocation of spaces. I think, as the Member said, there is more awareness and more understanding and tolerance on the part of many communities now to have people live in the community, mentally-handicapped people, and I think their families would certainly want them to be as close to them as possible. This is certainly something that we will look at. In a smaller community, sometimes it is more difficult because of the numbers and you have to look at the program for individual people, but wherever possible it certainly would be good to have facilities in remote communities as the Member said. It is certainly something that will be taken under consideration.

Mr. Harapiak: You mentioned earlier that per diems were not high enough. I guess there is a difference in the per diems between the children's rate and the adults' rate. Is there any consideration being given to increasing the adult rate as well?

Mrs. Oleson: Yes, we are reviewing all the rates.

Mr. Harapiak: One other area that is of concern to many people is the fact that there are no facilities to accommodate the people who are living in homes for a holiday. I think that these people should be entitled to holidays the same as any other citizens of our society. As children, there are facilities that they can go to for a summer holiday, but once they get to be adults, there are no facilities that I am aware of that they can go to. Is there any consideration being given to starting up some camps or some farms or some area that the mentally handicapped adults can go to for a summer break?

Mrs. Oleson: I am wondering if the Member—I first thought he was referring to the family wanting a break, and there is respite care for that for adults and for children. Is the Member really referring to the mentally handicapped persons themselves going somewhere for a summer holiday? In that case, there is a facility near Portage, on Lake Manitoba, that is run by the auxiliary to the MDC. I do not know how many people they can accommodate. I am not sure of the numbers at the moment, but I can get them. That is one facility that takes people for a summer break.

Mr. Harapiak: I was aware of the respite, but I was referring to the handicapped people themselves. Many

of them are in need of a holiday as well. If they are continuously in community living, they hear of other people going away on holidays and there is certainly a shortage of facilities for that area. So that is the area I was referring to. I was wondering if there were any efforts being planned to expand on the one facility that is available now.

Mrs. Oleson: It is something that we could take under consideration. The one that the MDC auxiliary runs, I understand, is mainly for residents of MDC, but I understand they do take others. Of course, that is a small facility when you are thinking of the total numbers. That is something that could be considered. Some homes, of course, maybe have different programs within their facility. It is something that we could certainly take a look at.

Mr. Chairman: Item 3(a)(1), shall the item pass?

Mrs. Judy Wasylycia-Leis (St. Johns): No, Mr. Chairperson.

Yesterday, I believe the Minister took as notice a couple of questions pertaining to waiting lists or numbers of people waiting to get into the system in a couple of different areas. One referred specifically to respite care, group home care and then I guess I used the word "voc. rehab," but more specifically, day programming. I apologize; I had missed the first hour. Did the Minister table that information or does she have it?

Mrs. Oleson: The information is being gathered. I can give it to you later.

Mrs. Wasylycia-Leis: Yesterday, the Minister was beginning to differentiate between voc. rehab and day programs. Could she explain for me how she differentiates between them? Is day programming not part of voc. rehab or a component of the program?

Mrs. Oleson: It is part of the system, but day programs are to prepare people who might want to get into a vocational rehab program. They are different lines in the budget; they have a slight difference. They are not one and the same.

Mrs. Wasylycia-Leis: With respect to day programs, how many spaces are there now available?

* (1540)

Mrs. Oleson: I can give you the number of individuals attending by region, which would coincide with the number of spaces. This is at the end of March 1988. In Central Region, 261; in Eastman, 224; Interlake, 111; in Parklands, 163; Norman, 22; Thompson, 21; Westman, 207; Winnipeg, 575; for a total of 1,584.

Within Winnipeg, I could give you the breakdown: Winnipeg South, 162; Winnipeg Central, 175; Winnipeg North, 238, plus 15 new spaces which we are in the process of allocating.

With regard to the Vocational Training Program, funding is approved on an individual-needs basis to

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assist disabled adults in securing training, education and other goods and services which will lead to employment. The allocation and monitoring of funds is through the Vocational Rehabilitation Training Selection Committee, which is comprised of a representative from Community Social Services, Education, and Canada Employment and Immigration.

An Incidental Living Allowance is distributed to clients who are attending vocational training programs to offset incidental expenses such as coffee or lunch. These funds are not duplicated by other funding sources such as Economic Security or Canada Employment and Immigration. Room and board payments are paid on behalf of individuals in approved training residences and to people who, because of eligibility criteria under other programs, that is, attending out-of-province programs, cannot access board and room payments. Transportation services are also provided on an individual-needs basis.

I could give the Member, also, the number of clients served by their major disability: post-mentally ill, 247; mentally handicapped, 246; physically disabled, 271; sensory disabled, 120; learning disabled, 51; other, 3; making a total of 938.

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: To seek clarification on yesterday's discussion, since I guess I was using maybe the wrong terminology, could the Minister now clarify if there is a waiting list with respect to the day programs and/or a waiting list with respect to the Vocational Training Program?

Mrs. Oleson: There is no waiting list for the Vocational Training Program. There are varying lists for day programs depending on when it is. That changes from time to time, but there are waiting lists for people wanting to access day programs.

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: With respect to day programming, the Minister mentioned 15 new spaces. Could the Minister indicate where those spaces are and why? I hope I am not duplicating previous questions. If I am, I will not ask where they are. I simply want to know on what basis it was decided to approve 15, and what does that leave in terms of proposals to the Minister? Although she does not have the information on the waiting list, could she give me a rough indication of how far that goes in terms of meeting the waiting list?

Mrs. Oleson: As I indicated before to questioning by the Member for Ellice (Ms. Gray), those 15 spaces are in the process of being allocated and the decision to fund those many spaces was based partly on need, partly on how much budget was available for the purpose. As I say, those spaces are being allocated and should be allocated within the next short while.

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: Could the Minister, although she does not have the figures with her, verify that there were at least 300 eligible persons waiting to get into day programming that had not been receiving it?

Mrs. Oleson: Mr. Chairman, I can get that information for the Member. We do not have the figures, so I cannot

confirm or deny the figures if I do not have them with me.

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: Is 300 in the range in terms of people on the waiting list, eligible but not receiving day programs?

Mrs. Oleson: I am sorry, I—

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: The question was, is it in the range? Are we looking at plus or minus 300?

Mrs. Oleson: We will get the information for the Member. I am sorry we do not have it with us so I would hate to comment on what range it was because we do not have it with us.

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: Okay, assuming then that we could be looking at at least 300 on a waiting list annually, and the Minister has planned for 15 new spaces, could she indicate what is the department's short-term plans for dealing with that waiting list? How is it being handled now? What directives are going out to regional offices? What directives are going out to the individual facilities?

Mrs. Oleson: Mr. Chairman, we have added 15 spaces to what previously existed and the regions are funded on the basis of the number of spaces that have been approved. That is within this year. As soon as we have finished these Estimates we will be into preparations for Estimates and budget for next year, at which time we will allocate as many as possible and look at all the criteria for approvals and so forth, with the hope that we can next year add more spaces.

I was going to say, if they are necessary, but I know that there will be people wanting to access this and we will deal with it as best we can. I did remind the Member for Ellice (Ms. Gray) when we were discussing this earlier that it is not one of the services that are mandatory. We do not have to provide a service for everyone who wants it, like you do for the school system or health care and so forth. It is certainly something we want to provide as much as possible and we will work toward the provision of those services.

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: I can appreciate the situation and realize that whether we are talking about last year, this year or next year, there is a waiting list and there will likely be a waiting list for some time. My concern is more with respect to how individuals wanting to get into the system—new people coming into the system—are handled by the department. What directives have been given to regional offices and to these facilities or operators in terms of dealing with requests and waiting list, and so on?

Mrs. Oleson: Mr. Chairman, the criteria is exactly the same as it was under the previous Government. The regions are allocated funds. The needs are assessed of individual clients and they are fitted in when possible. There has been no change in direction from what was previously in place.

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: Could the Minister clarify what that direction is then?

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Mrs. Oleson: To prioritize the greatest need, keeping in mind the resources available.

* (1550)

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: Although I realize this is a different area than respite care, has any flexibility been given to regional offices, people in the field for dealing with the demand on the system for day programming?

Mrs. Oleson: The flexibility is to determine the level of need of a client, and these criteria have not changed.

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: Is there any flexibility in terms of regional budgets as there is with respite care to, say, shift money around to fund new spaces in response to the need that is being expressed?

Mrs. Oleson: Not from one program to another, but if there were available funds within one region, they could be moved to another. It is probably not likely that they would not all be used in one region, but that is possible. If there are funds available, they could be redirected.

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: Can the Minister indicate whether or not at any point in the last few weeks any memo was forthcoming from either her or a department official to regional offices and/or operators and facilities with respect to implying that there was a cap or a freeze on new spaces?

Mrs. Oleson: In vocational training there were some guidelines sent out, but there has been no freeze on respite or vocational training, but there were some guidelines sent out on how we could accommodate people.

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: So is the Minister saying there was absolutely no written directive or verbal directive from either her or a department official indicating that there was, in effect, a cap or a freeze on spaces in the day programming field?

Mrs. Oleson: No, except the reminder of budgetary limits, and there has to be an assessment made from time to time during the year of committed funding to be sure that we were within the funding limits.

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: Could the Minister indicate how she puts that to staff in the field and to workers in the field in terms of budgetary limitations? Is she once again suggesting to them that they will have no capacity for dealing with new people coming into the system, and then if that is the case, then what are they directed to do with students graduating from school and trying to get into day programs or voc. rehab or voc. training programs? What directive is given to newcomers coming into the province seeking such programming? What directives are given to parents and clients who have suddenly made the decision that this is the appropriate programming for their child?

Mrs. Oleson: The new spaces which are being allocated are the 15 that I spoke of earlier could be, possibly

will be used by children coming out of school. The department has to live within its budget, and that is of course expected by all people down the line, but we have to meet as many needs as we possibly can within the budgetary limits.

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: Given that that message has gone out about budgetary limitations, and given that only an increase of 15 spaces, are newcomers to the province, are graduates from school trying to get into voc. rehab programs or day programs being told to—what are they being told? Are they being told to stay home and that is it?

Mrs. Oleson: They would be put on a waiting list and fitted in when they possibly can be, on a prioritized basis of need.

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: The Minister mentions directives pertaining to—she said there were no specific written directives in the area of day programs, but that there were with respect to vocational training, I believe, or voc. rehab generally. Could she indicate what directives she was referring to?

Mrs. Oleson: There was a clarification of guidelines.

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: Could the Minister indicate if she has given any thought to previous recommendations made, and certainly no doubt being considered over a period of time, to some sort of review of this whole question of day options, to meet the needs of both the clients and the operators, and to deal with the fact that there is an incredible demand and ability on the part of the Government to respond immediately to all of those demands? Has any consideration been given to some form of—I hate to suggest a task force or a study since that is not always in the best interest of an immediate problem, but some way to address this whole area, to seek input from the community, to seek input from the Association for Community Living, to seek input from all of these individual operators for dealing with the incredible pressure on the system and this demand for community living and working arrangements?

Mrs. Oleson: The staff is doing an ongoing review of the needs and the facilities available and that, of course, will all be taken into consideration. It is a result of an ongoing need that has been expanded quite a bit over the last few years and is something that we will not be able to meet the demand completely in the short term. But we certainly are looking at it with a view to how we can meet the needs of people who require day programs, require their services. So as I repeat it, it is part of an ongoing review by staff of the department.

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: Could the Minister indicate whether or not she has received any assurances from her colleague responsible for the Community Places Program, that facilities in this area, facilities pertaining to day programming, or voc. rehab training will be covered under the new guidelines at the Manitoba Community Places Program?

Mrs. Oleson: I will be speaking to her about that to find out what the guidelines are. I have to be quite

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honest with the Member, I have not taken that up yet, but I will take it up with her.

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: Could the Minister give us a status report on the, I believe it is called, Red River Workshop, the program that was ruled to be ineligible for funding under the Manitoba Community Places Program by her Government since becoming Government?

Mrs. Oleson: I believe it is still under review. It has not been resolved or settled yet.

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: Could I get clarification? Does that mean the workshop and its future has not been resolved or the question of Government funding through this program has not been resolved?

Mrs. Oleson: It is the funding that is under review. We do not determine its future.

* (1600)

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: Is there another program under this Government for Capital funding of workshops and other voc. rehab facilities?

Mrs. Oleson: We would have to get more information but this department does not do Capital funding.

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: How does the Minister and her department respond to requests in this area, given that there is such a demand? What advice is given for operators and organizations willing to expand in this area?

Mrs. Oleson: We cannot respond to every request, unfortunately, but we do respond to what we can. As I understand it, the Department of Housing also is involved with some of these—that is more in the residential part of it. But I will undertake to have a look at the funding of these programs because I know it is a problem, and undertake to communicate with the other departments to see what is being done. It has not come to my attention that there has been any change, but I will undertake to find out.

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: I raised the questions because of a previous decision by her Government to limit funding from the Manitoba Community Places Program to Capital projects that had already received a certain level of funding from that program, which has meant an important project like the Red River Workshop has been denied a last bit of funding to complete the project. And I also understand that the whole question of what is being funded vis-a-vis Capital projects like workshops, like day cares is under review. I would like to know, given that, if the Minister can indicate to us today that she is prepared to demand of her colleague, to work with her colleague and ensure that funding for those important Capital projects in the social service field will be eligible for funding under the Manitoba Community Places Program?

Mrs. Oleson: I think the Member's questions would be better directed to the Cultural Affairs and Historic

Resources Department, under those Estimates. I cannot speak for the Minister in how, at this moment, she is dealing with those items, so I think the questions would be better directed in that department. This department does not deal with Capital funding. I do not know whether it ever has and I would have to look back historically to see if they did, but at the moment we do not. I think the Member's questions could be better dealt with in that department.

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: I will pose the question again because I would like to receive some assurances from the Minister that she is prepared to raise this matter in a very serious way with her colleague and take a more pro-active approach through her department. Certainly I think it is quite clear that the fact the Manitoba Community Places Program in the past included Capital funding for social service projects, like workshops and day cares was a result of an active approach on the part of the Department of Community Services and the Minister of Community Services, and beyond that, the department played a critical role in the whole review of applications and the provision of recommendations pertaining to those facilities and those applications. Is the Minister aware of that previous role her department has played? Is she prepared to ensure that the department continues and she herself continues to play a proactive role with respect to what would appear to be limited Capital funds available for Capital projects in the social service field?

Mrs. Oleson: As I had indicated before to the Member when she was discussing this, I would be quite happy to discuss it with the Minister of Cultural Affairs and Historic Resources (Mrs. Mitchelson). I have no trouble discussing these items with her, and I certainly would be happy to.

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: I appreciate those assurances and I hope they go beyond just discussing with the Minister and in fact concerted lobbying will take place with her colleagues on this very important matter.

On the question of vocational training, the Minister has given us the statistics for clients by major disability area. Could she indicate if there is a waiting list? I think she said yesterday there was no waiting list. I think that is what you said again, absolutely no waiting list in terms of this area?

Mrs. Oleson: No, there is no waiting list for vocational training.

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: Could the Minister indicate what—this is taking I guess this whole area, the next step—numbers or how many individuals are actually now integrated into workplaces throughout the Province of Manitoba?

Mrs. Oleson: We can get the figures for the Member. We have not got them readily available but we can get them.

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: Is it through this Department of Community Services or through her other Department

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of Employment Services that assistance and policies exist with respect to encouraging and assisting individuals into mainstream workplace situations?

Mrs. Oleson: I am informed that it is both. I wear two hats and I wear them both at once sometimes.

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: I take it from the Minister's comment that encouragement and assistance is given to individuals to enter mainstream workplace situations?

Mrs. Oleson: Employment Services has some special projects.

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: Is it a policy of this Minister and this Government to work with Members of the mentally handicapped community to integrate them into mainstream workplace environments?

Mrs. Oleson: I do think that is a good goal that people who can and wish to join the mainstream and the workplace. I have indicated to, I believe it was the Member for Ellice (Ms. Gray) in questioning earlier today, we discussed this very matter that there are many people who can and want to, after they have received some training and of course some encouragement, go into the workplace and we certainly encourage that.

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: Could the Minister indicate the status of the follow-up for goods and services funding that was recently put in place?

Mrs. Oleson: There are a couple of projects that are indicated to me, but there is no program in place.

* (1610)

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: Could the Minister indicate the status of a funding arrangement put in place in, I believe, January of this year for follow-up assistance to members of this community who have integrated into mainstream workplace situations?

Mrs. Oleson: There is an employment support program under ACL and Premier Personnel, which is under review.

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: Could the Minister indicate whether or not this funding is still in place at this moment?

Mrs. Oleson: Yes, it is.

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: So the Minister is prepared to indicate that there has been no cut of any sort for the follow-up goods and services funding program?

Mrs. Oleson: No, there is no cut. It was done on a trial basis.

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: Mr. Chairperson, I am not sure I am getting any clear answers on this. The project I am referring to would have only been in place in January '88. My question is is that project, whether it is a pilot project or not, in place or not? Has it been cut or not?

Mrs. Oleson: It is in place. As I indicated before, it has not been cut.

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: I guess I heard two different answers here this afternoon: No. 1, that it is has not been cut; and the other that it is only a pilot project and therefore not ongoing. Could the Minister indicate if that project is still up and running, that this follow-up program through her Department of Community Services, which was put in place as early as January '88, is still in place, that the dollars that were put in place in January '88 are still in place, that the assistance to the employees and employers providing the service and working with the mentally handicapped in these situations is still in place?

Mrs. Oleson: Mr. Chairman, I am advised by staff that it is still in place. It is ongoing, and it is under review for future funding.

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: The Minister is saying that there has been no cut of even \$1 to this program area, to this pilot project, to this federal-provincial arrangement, to whatever we want to call it?

Mrs. Oleson: It has been indicated to me that there has been no cut.

Mr. Chairman: Shall the item pass?

Mr. Reg Alcock (Osborne): Actually, I have a couple of questions for the Minister on the administration of this division of the department. Has there been a change in policy relative to the placement of people at the Manitoba Developmental Centre?

Mrs. Oleson: Mr. Chairman, no specific change in policy. We discussed this earlier. I am sure the Member was busy with something else but we discussed this at some length before.

Mr. Alcock: So the Minister is saying there is no departmental intention to move people back to the institution?

Mrs. Oleson: Mr. Chairman, no, there is no plan to reinstitutionalize people.

Mr. Alcock: Is there currently a departmental review of community placements, particularly of high-cost community placements?

Mrs. Oleson: No.

Mr. Alcock: Does the department take the position that mentally handicapped people living in the community have the same rights before the law as other people in the community?

Mrs. Oleson: Yes.

Mr. Alcock: Then with reference to a specific case, I am wondering why the department is acting to remove somebody from the community before they have had the right to due process before the law.

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Mrs. Oleson: I wonder if the Member would, not of course as part of this debate but perhaps afterwards, give me the name and particulars so that I can look into that, but I am not aware of anything like that taking place.

Mr. Alcock: Perhaps, rather than dealing with the identity of the individual involved, we could simply refer to or ask the Minister whether or not she is aware that the department is currently the object of a restraining order preventing them from removing somebody?

Mrs. Oleson: It has been indicated to me that is not the case unless it is something that has happened just during this day.

Mr. Chairman: Shall the item pass?

Mr. Alcock: The Minister is stating that there has been no action taken to prevent the department from moving someone back to Portage?

Mrs. Oleson: We are aware of a move by the court, but I cannot really discuss a specific case. If the Member wishes to discuss it with me later, then we could do that, but it is difficult to discuss specific cases in this forum.

Mr. Alcock: I understand the concern about discussing an individual, and I am certainly not anxious to identify an individual as such, but I am a little confused about the answer the Minister has given.

You are saying the department at this point is not aware of the fact that they are the subject of a restraining order, or in fact the suggestion is that such a restraining order does not exist, preventing them from moving someone from the community back into the institution?

Mrs. Oleson: We have not moved the individual, if we are thinking of the same individual. This is a problem when you are discussing these things in this forum. We are aware of court action and the department has not moved the individual to MDC. Therefore, there is no point to the restraint order.

Mr. Alcock: But was such an order sought in order to prevent the department from moving somebody. I agree that the person has not been moved, but is the reason they are not moved because a restraining order was sought?

Mrs. Oleson: I understand that was the preliminary move, that there was an order, but that was not the reason that the individual was not moved.

Mr. Alcock: Just to help me clarify this, the department was then the subject of a restraining order?

Mrs. Oleson: You cannot be restrained from doing something you are not doing. We were not moving the person.

* (1620)

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: Is—and I hope I am not asking a question that has already been asked earlier, the question with respect to The Mental Health Act. I know we touched on legislation earlier on in Estimates, but is The Mental Health Act being reviewed for amendments for compliance with the Charter for new legislation? I know that under the former administration there was talk about new legislation because this is fairly old, antiquated legislation. Where are we at with respect to that, where is the department at, where is the Minister at?

Mrs. Oleson: The Mental Health Act has been reviewed in part, but not the part that deals with the mentally handicapped. It is a subject of review though.

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: One part of that piece of legislation, I believe, relates to some of the questions from the Member for Osborne (Mr. Alcock) and that pertains to Section 32 of the Act and the question of whether or not, in the Minister's view and in this Government's view, it is appropriate for an individual to have the power to commit someone basically at the stroke of a pen?

Mrs. Oleson: That is a cause of concern.

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: It has been my understanding that Dr. Glen Lowther has been delegated authority under this section of the Act to have the power to commit individuals. Does he still exercise this administrative authority under Section 32, Part II, of The Mental Health Act?

Mrs. Oleson: Yes, he is delegated by the Provincial Psychiatrist.

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: Could the Minister indicate how many times in the past couple of months individuals have been ordered back to institutional care?

Mrs. Oleson: Perhaps the Member could clarify by whom?

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: I am asking the question of individuals who are in the community but, through powers under this Act, have been put back, sent back to institutional care. How many times in the last eight months, or how many individuals in the last, sorry, two months?

Mrs. Oleson: We can undertake to find out but there would be very few.

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: While the Minister is finding that out, could she find out, given her previous comments about the administrative authority that still rests with Dr. Lowther, how many times he was actually involved in the orders, in the decisions to send those individuals back to the institution?

Mrs. Oleson: I have indicated before that we would undertake to find that out. I would remind the Member that this is not a legislation that I or my Government put in place.

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Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: I think we all realize it is fairly old legislation, in fact, going back before my time, and I think we are all concerned with an updating of that legislation. In fact, as I indicated, I had understood that there was some work being done on a Vulnerable Person's Act to replace this part of The Mental Health Act.

My concern is more to do with what practices are now in place by this Government with respect to using provisions of that Act, what discretion or what authority has been given to Dr. Lowther in this particular case, for example, to exercise that administrative authority under Section 32 of The Mental Health Act.

Mrs. Oleson: There has been no change. He has the same powers that any psychiatrist has.

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: Has there been any change in directives or communication to field staff with respect to dealing with individuals who perhaps maybe have had some—I am trying to think of the right terminology—behavioural, the questioning around individuals and involvement with respect to psychiatric examinations and so on, has there been a change in direction, a change in what is communicated to field staff, to regional offices, for dealing with this area generally?

Mrs. Oleson: No, there has been no policy change. If the Member has some specific case in mind, perhaps she would like to draw it to my attention outside of this forum and I would be glad to discuss it with her if that is the reason for her questioning is that she has some specific problem in mind.

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: I would certainly like to follow this up a little better when we get the details, because it is very difficult to follow up without knowing how many times in the last short while individuals have been ordered back to institutional care, how often the psychiatric investigation has come into play, and what general practices are going on with respect to the relevant provisions of the Act. I am referring now in a general way to the situation, although there is obviously a specific case before us, and I think we need to get those statistics and information about directives in order to pursue this. So I will pass over to the Member for Osborne (Mr. Alcock) for now.

Mr. Chairman: Shall the item pass?

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: No.

Mr. Alcock: I would like just to come back to the question of the restraining order, and if I understood the response that we got, it was that there is no need for a restraining order if the department is taking no action. However, I think that sort of side-steps the question of whether or not a community group who provides support to mentally handicapped people living in the community thought it was necessary to get a court order to restrain the department from acting. Can the Minister confirm that some group took that action?

Mrs. Oleson: Yes, the group took the action on the assumption that we were going to do something.

Mr. Alcock: Can the Minister help us understand why a group that has had a working relationship with the department for some time, and who has a history of advocating for people living in the community, felt it necessary to seek legal redress?

Mrs. Oleson: There may very well have been a disagreement with the group on what were the facts of the case. I would have to review that. You would have to ask the group to get the clarification of why they did that. I cannot answer for the group.

Mr. Alcock: I can appreciate that and I certainly have and will. However, I would like to support the Member for St. Johns (Ms. Wasylycia-Leis) in her request for information in that certainly the group feels, given a large number of changes in staff in the division, that there is in fact a change of policy and that there is in fact an intention to move a number of people from community placements into more restrictive placements.

I guess I would like to ask the Minister—one of the principles that has been used in determining placements in the past few years has been the concept of least restrictive placement. Is that a principle that her Government supports?

Mrs. Oleson: The policy of the least restrictive environment is a policy that is still in place.

* (1630)

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: Just following up on that last question and answer, the Minister says that the policy that was in place is still in place. It is my understanding that policy, under the previous administration, was one of doing whatever possible to keep the individual in the community and not to resort to institutional care if at all possible.

I would like to know specifically have directives gone out to reinforce that position or in fact have regional directors been instructed to deal with the demands on the system, to deal with the high cost associated with certain individuals by moving them back to institutions, by putting in place the process of getting them back into institutional care? Can the Minister indicate which policy is it that is in place? On the one hand, we are talking about the previous NDP administration's practice and, on the other hand, what appears to be happening in the field.

Mrs. Oleson: There was no absolute policy in the previous Government. There is no absolute policy now. Every case has to be looked at with the needs of that individual. The needs of that individual are of primary importance.

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: Could I ask the Minister then, when she brings back information about statistics or individuals who have been sent back to institutional care, if she could go beyond the two months that I

have asked for and give us stats, perhaps going back a year, so that we can try to understand trends with respect to this whole area? Can the Minister be more specific with respect to Dr. Lowther's present role with respect to her administration?

Mrs. Oleson: The contract and the role is the same as it was previously; and, yes, I will undertake to get the additional information that the Member asked for. I believe she said she wanted statistics going back a year and we would be happy to provide that for the Member.

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: Could the Minister provide us with more detailed information about the present role of Dr. Lowther and what duties he is performing now for this administration?

Mrs. Oleson: He is delegated under the Provincial Psychiatrist to act under The Mental Health Act. It is the same as it was before.

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: Further to my question for an indication from the Minister for his involvement with respect to the individuals who have been ordered back to institutional care, could she indicate whether or not he has been involved on the basis of that provision under the Act or involved as a medical consultant?

Mrs. Oleson: Both are the case. In addition, he is a medical consultant.

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: Could the Minister, either now or when she comes back with more detailed information, indicate on a case-by-case basis when the order was made on the basis of the provisions under the Act or when he was acting as a medical consultant for the administration, for the Government?

Mrs. Oleson: We could provide the information for the Member. Is the Member wanting to discuss individual cases? Because we really cannot do that in this forum. If she wants to discuss individual cases that she feels—and she may have some valid concerns that I would be happy to hear about.

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: No, I am seeking statistics with respect to a number of individuals who have been sent back to institutional care. I am seeking information about Dr. Lowther's role in each of those cases, not on the basis of the individual case, but simply what authority he was using when the order was made.

Mrs. Oleson: Yes, I will undertake to get that information for the Member, as I indicated before.

Ms. Gray: Since the Minister is going to be coming back to us with some information, I am wondering, as well, if she could bring back information with respect to the number of spaces approved per day program facility, and the number of vacancies that currently exist in those facilities, and if she could indicate whether those spaces are designated as at \$10 or \$20 per day. I am wondering if she could also indicate to us, has there been a decision made with the 15 new spaces,

whether they will—what per diem rate those new spaces will be at.

Mrs. Oleson: I could get the information for the Member on the number of vacancies, waiting list, etc., but there is no decision on the latter part of her question. There has not been a decision made yet.

Ms. Gray: The other day in Estimates the Minister indicated that there were no administrative grants given to community residences, other than the portion of the basic per diem rate which was calculated to go for administration. I am wondering if the Minister could clarify. My understanding is that there are six community residences throughout the province who do receive, above and beyond the basic per diem rate, an administrative grant. One of those residences is Aveyron in Swan River and also Brandon Community Options.

Mrs. Oleson: It is not the residence that receives the funds, it is the organization that receives the additional funds, because they perform another function besides the fact that they have a residence.

Ms. Gray: The Minister has indicated it is the organization, and in the case of Swan River, Aveyron, that receives the administrative grant. Is that grant for the purposes of running the community residences or is it for other purposes as well?

Mrs. Oleson: As I indicated before, it is for other purposes.

Ms. Gray: Would the Minister tell us what those other purposes are?

Mrs. Oleson: These are multi-service agencies that get this extra grant and they run day programs and other programs. That is a day program, as an example, of a program they run. Another one that they run is individual supervised living.

Ms. Gray: Would this administrative grant then that would go to the organization, would part of that administrative grant be used for staff to be hired, to ensure that there is appropriate operation of these multi-services which would include a community residence?

Mrs. Oleson: That is the main purpose for the grant, to pay the staff that run the programs.

* (1640)

Ms. Gray: And these staff who are paid to run the programs, would that include staff who are involved with the community residences?

Mrs. Oleson: Just the overall management portion of that.

Ms. Gray: I think, in my question as well the other day, I had indicated that were there community residences or boards in the province who received an administrative grant, but I am glad that we have clarified that here today. Could the Minister tell us what she

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means when she says there are no waiting lists for vocational rehabilitation?

Mrs. Oleson: At the current moment there is no one on the waiting list. When I said there was no waiting list, that is what I meant. The applications are taken and processed. At some point or other there are sometimes people waiting to get in a program, but not at the present moment.

Ms. Gray: The Minister then is indicating that there is no individual who is waiting to get on the program with respect to vocational rehabilitation?

Mrs. Oleson: There is no waiting list. There may be individual clients who are waiting for a program to start, but they are processed and approved and my understanding is that there is no waiting list.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister explain for us how she defines vocational rehabilitation? This may be the cause of the confusion in the discussion.

Mrs. Oleson: It includes many things, as the Member may know, but I can just give her the overview from a departmental point of view. Funding is approved on an individual need basis to assist disabled adults in securing training, education and other goods and services which will lead to employment.

Ms. Gray: Is the Minister indicating then that there are no waiting lists for individuals to enter into Skills Unlimited, the Career Orientation Program at Red River and Doray?

Mrs. Oleson: What I indicated was that there is no waiting list for accessing the funds. I did not say there was no waiting list for individual programs that are involved in the whole mix.

Ms. Gray: I am sorry, I still do not quite understand the Minister's comments about there being no waiting list for vocational rehabilitation. The Career Orientation Program through Red River, what is the process by which an individual enters into that course?

Mrs. Oleson: I should indicate to the Member that there are no waiting lists at the facilities that she mentioned like Skills Unlimited and so forth, and the last question, would the Member repeat the question, please? I was anxious to get the answer to the other one and missed your latter question. Sorry about that.

Ms. Gray: I am asking the Minister what is the process by which an individual receives approval or can enter into the Career Orientation Program at Red River Community College?

Mrs. Oleson: We will have to get that answer through the cooperation of the Education Department. We do not have that information here.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate, does there not have to be an approval through the VRDP Committee for people to enter into that particular course?

Mrs. Oleson: If someone is asking for sponsorship, yes, that would be the case. We will have to get the information from the Education Department.

Ms. Gray: Would the Minister clarify, when a person who is post-mentally ill, who, in most cases, would have a mental health worker or a vocational rehabilitation worker through Regional Services, and that client through discussions with the worker has mutually decided that the individual may wish to enter the Career Orientation Program, which has been developed particularly for the post-mentally ill and is a program to assist them in getting ready for work opportunities, does not that client have to have their application approved through the VRDP Committee?

Mrs. Oleson: Yes, the VRDP Committee in the region.

Ms. Gray: The Minister is indicating there is a VRDP Committee in each region?

Mrs. Oleson: Sorry, the region applies to the VRDP Committee. Sorry about that.

Ms. Gray: Is this VRDP Committee not part of the senior staff in the Minister's Department?

Mrs. Oleson: It is part of Programs Branch.

Ms. Gray: Did not the Minister indicate the other day that Mr. Hasiuk was also involved with the VRDP Committee?

Mrs. Oleson: Yes, he has many duties.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister tell us why she would have to consult with the Department of Education for answers about this particular course?

Mrs. Oleson: The Member asked how you process an application to Red River Community College and that is under the Department of Education, so I assumed that she wanted that type of information.

Ms. Gray: What I was asking for is how does an individual receive approval, in other words, receive approval through the VRDP Committee or receive money so that they can enter that particular course?

Mrs. Oleson: By the region applying to the VRDP Committee.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate to us how many spaces are available in this Career Orientation Course for the post-mentally ill?

Mrs. Oleson: We do not have the information here, but we could get it for the Member.

Ms. Gray: Is the Minister aware if there are any waiting lists, or people who apply for this course, because of a limited number of spaces, do not receive approval to enter?

Mrs. Oleson: That is possible, but we can find out for the Member.

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Ms. Gray: When a client or an individual is referred to Vocational Rehabilitation Services, the Minister has indicated there are no waiting lists. Does that mean that when a client is referred to Vocational Rehabilitation, given that there are no waiting lists, we are implying that worker can work with the individual client to ensure that some form of vocational rehabilitation service is provided?

Mrs. Oleson: Yes, within the resources and time. There is not an infinite number of dollars assigned to that, but there can be some expectation that they could be fitted in at some time.

Ms. Gray: Mr. Chairperson, I am sorry to keep asking this question, but I am still a little unsure and if the Minister could explain it to me in a different way what she means when she says there are no waiting lists for vocational rehabilitation?

Mrs. Oleson: There are no waiting lists to be processed under the VRDP Committee.

* (1650)

Ms. Gray: Does the Minister feel that vocational rehabilitation is synonymous with the VRDP Committee?

Mrs. Oleson: No, but that is one of the aspects of this department in this area.

Mr. Gray: There has always been a concern expressed over the last number of years that with the Career Orientation Program, the funding to that particular program, approval was always given at the last minute, and workers in the field and clients who were interested in entering this program, there was always an unsureness as to whether in fact the program would even run. So some sort of long term or even intermediate planning by individual clients and their workers was virtually impossible. I am wondering if the Minister has reviewed the funding to Career Orientation through VRDP, and is there some move towards actually stabilizing that funding base?

Mrs. Oleson: I have not been made aware of any problems with delays and accessing it, but I can ask the staff to review it and make sure that it is running as efficiently as possible.

Ms. Gray: Would the Minister be open to looking at the possibilities of actually providing stable funding for the Career Orientation Program so that in fact rather than being approved year by year, there was an indication that it was a program that has proven itself and we would know that stable funding was available so that workers and clients could plan ahead?

Mrs. Oleson: I would undertake to review that with the Department of Education. The Member must be aware that there are many, many areas of this department looking for stable funding.

Ms. Gray: There had been some recommendations made last year, I believe, by a number of groups,

including community groups involved with the vocational rehabilitation, and that was that there was a request to the Government that a formalized day program planning group be formed. Could the Minister indicate to us if she is aware of this request?

Mrs. Oleson: That is under way, but it has not been completed.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate what specifically is under way?

Mrs. Oleson: There was an undertaking to review all the day programs. We know that there is a continuing need for day programs, and we are undertaking to review it and set guidelines and attempt to set acceptable funding levels.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister tell us—is there going to be a review team formed, an actual committee made up of obviously her staff but members from the community as well?

Mrs. Oleson: The committee already exists. There is a steering committee and other subcommittees.

Ms. Gray: Would the Minister tell us who is on that steering committee?

Mrs. Oleson: It is staff and agency people. We do not have the list of people. If the Member wants it, we could supply her with that list.

Ms. Gray: Yes, it would be useful to have that information. Would the Minister be able to tell us if MCRW is represented on that steering committee?

Mrs. Oleson: Mr. Chairman, we can provide the Member with the list, then she would be sure to see who was on it. We are not sure at the moment.

Ms. Gray: Would the Minister agree that with this committee that is in place to look at day programs, that it would be crucial that representation be there from the Manitoba Council for Rehabilitation Workshops?

Mrs. Oleson: Mr. Chairman, yes, I can certainly take that under advisement.

Ms. Gray: If for some reason this particular group is not represented on this committee, would the Minister agree to have this organization, MCRW, represented on the committee?

Mrs. Oleson: Yes, as I indicated before, I take it under advisement.

Ms. Gray: Mr. Chairperson, I am wondering in this particular line, Administration, have your senior staff in this area had an opportunity to receive the recommendations from Judge Newcombe following the inquest into the death of Russell Smith?

Mrs. Oleson: Yes, they have.

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Ms. Gray: Would the Minister tell us if there are any plans to implement some of the recommendations as indicated by Judge Newcombe, some of which are specific to the Government?

Mrs. Oleson: Mr. Chairman, yes, I would remind the Member that one of the things that is under way is a review by Mr. Wiens who will be making recommendations. The whole area is being reviewed and staff are looking at the recommendations of the judge.

Ms. Gray: Will the Minister and her staff be going ahead with any of these recommendations from Judge Newcombe before the other review is completed?

Mrs. Oleson: Mr. Chairman, a staff training plan is underway. That is something that is known that is a problem, so that review is under way so that we can assess what we need with training. Then we will look, of course, at the recommendations of Mr. Wiens as well in that regard. The residential rate review also focuses on wage levels. That review is also ongoing.

Ms. Gray: Would the Minister indicate to us—she has referred to staff training. There used to be dollars in this department for staff training and development. Are those dollars still available and is there currently any type of training program for staff?

Mrs. Oleson: There are funds available for the rest of the year. There is a program that is ongoing at the moment. We will get to that line later in the Estimates.

Mr. Chairman: Shall the item pass?

Ms. Gray: No. Would the Minister indicate to us—she mentioned that one of the objectives or concerns that would be discussed or being dealt with in this fiscal year by her department was the whole question of the age of majority clients. Would the Minister explain to us what the specific concerns are around age of majority clients?

Mrs. Oleson: I wonder, could the Member clarify the question.

Ms. Gray: I am quoting a phrase the Minister used earlier—age of majority. My understanding of that, I am referring to clients who are 17 and may be involved with the child welfare system and entering 18, and then would be with the adult system, and often times there are difficulties in the transition of services between individuals who are in a child welfare system and move into the adult system. I am wondering if the Minister could explain to us if her department have identified what some of these problems are.

Mrs. Oleson: Yes, we are aware of the problem, and one of the things is planning for the future of these individuals before they attain that birthday and so that there is some planning and there is a problem with differential rates as well.

Ms. Gray: Is there currently a process in place whereby child welfare agencies are required to refer these individuals to adult services?

Mrs. Oleson: Yes, when they are nearing the age of majority staff are supposed to be planning for their future and how they are going to be accommodated after they attain that birthday.

Ms. Gray: Would the Minister tell us, is that a requirement and is there a time frame that is considered for consultation and referral of these clients?

Mrs. Oleson: It is a requirement that every individual child done by Child and Family Services have a plan before they reach the age of majority of how they will survive, that is not quite the right word, but how they will be accommodated after they reach that age.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister tell us if there have been any discussions between her departmental staff who deal with adult services and the staff in the Child and Family Services agencies to improve this referral system. In the past, we have had many situations where—and certainly Child and Family Services are under extreme work pressures as well—often times referrals are made one or two months before the individual turns 18; so therefore, the lead time for appropriate referral and adequate planning is not there. I am wondering if the Minister could tell us if senior staff in both of those divisions or branches of her department have had discussions about how there could be a better job done of this referral system.

Mrs. Oleson: Children's Special Services has been working with Programs Branch with regard to standards. It is a responsibility of the Child and Family Services Agencies.

Mr. Chairman: Shall the item pass?

The hour being five—

Mrs. Oleson: Hold it, in case you think of something else.

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: If you bring back all the information by Thursday, then that is fine.

Mrs. Oleson: She is blackmailing me.

Mr. Chairman: The hour being 5 p.m., it is time for Private Members' Hour.

Committee rise.

SUPPLY—AGRICULTURE

Mr. Chairman, Mark Minenko: Order, please. I call this section of the Committee of Supply to order.

CHAIRMAN'S RULING

Mr. Chairman: Before continuing a review of the Estimates of the Department of Agriculture, I have a Chairman's Ruling.

On Tuesday, September 6, 1988, I took under advisement a point of order raised by the Honourable Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism (Mr. Ernst)

respecting statements made, in the section of the Committee of Supply meeting in the Chamber, by the Honourable Member for Interlake (Mr. Uruski).

I have perused Hansard with care and have concluded that while the Honourable Minister may have had reason to clarify, pursuant to Rule 46, remarks which may have been misunderstood, with respect, the Honourable Minister did not have a point of order.

As I believe Honourable Members know, a dispute over the facts is not a point of order.

Hon. Glen Findlay (Minister of Agriculture): Yesterday, we took it upon us that we would get back to the Member for Interlake (Mr. Uruski) with some information on a number of positions vacant in the various lines. We said there were 39, last night, total positions. I will just bring him up to date. In Executive Management, 1 position vacant; Communications Branch, 2; Administration Branch, 4. I will bring it up each line as we move along.

Mr. Bill Uruski (Interlake): Just as a follow-up to that, in a general sense, in terms of vacancies, how does that percentage or number compare with, say, that of a year ago or two years ago in terms of vacancies at any particular time? Is that higher or lower, and if the Minister would offer some commentary in that area?

Mr. Findlay: We will have to get the specifics on the numbers, but the general feeling is it is about the same. There is no specific movement to go higher or lower. It is about the same and we will get the specifics.

Mr. Laurie Evans (Fort Garry): Looking at the personnel under Personnel Services here, I note that the two people under Professional/Technical, that there has been a significant increase in the cost there. Is that another case where there has been a change in personnel or the two in '87-88, one or the other were not for full years?

Mr. Findlay: It is just a general salary increase for those two positions.

Mr. Laurie Evans: The increase is approaching something like \$14,000.00. That sounds as though it would be outside of the guidelines as far as the settlement is concerned. It looks a little high. In the next column, where there are four in each of the years, there again you are talking in terms of something like \$13,000.00. So it is something in the range of a 14 or 15 percent increase in those two salary categories, which seems a little high.

Mr. Findlay: There are also some dollars in here for merit increases. It just happens that we have hit a particularly meritorious position—I guess would be the best way to say it—for this particular category. So you have the general salary increase plus the merit increases.

Mr. Laurie Evans: I certainly have no concerns with that. I am pleased to see that there is room for merit consideration. I have no further questions under the personnel component there.

Mr. Uruski: Could I ask the Minister whether there is, in terms of professional building and team building within the department, any use of outside consultants at the present time and in what areas if there are? In what areas would we be using them?

Mr. Findlay: We have some professional update courses going on at the U of M, but in terms of specific consultants for specific jobs looking at departments, no.

* (1430)

Mr. Uruski: The one I refer to, and I will be very specific, we did have work being done for the department by the Manitoba Institute of Management with MACC. I am not sure whether they have completed their work there or whether we are using them or any other group; and if we are, can the Minister bring us up to date?

I recognize that individual courses of upgrading one's own ability are ongoing and staff apply to their department heads, and based on what monies are available, an allotment is made on an ongoing basis. What I am referring to is an area much broader in scope in terms of continuing to build and develop the department, I guess esprit de corps, if one could call it, and team building, that the department is not an Ag rep or a farm management specialist or a home ec. They are really a team that attempts to assist farm families in the farm community as a team and each has their own expertise and we continue to build on that relationship.

I believe historically that we have within the department gone our own way as professionals, and have not built the kind of relationship of providing a service as a team relationship. We were attempting to, and I was attempting to enhance on the team building. I am wondering whether there is a continued movement in that direction within the department since you have taken over.

Mr. Findlay: With regard to the Manitoba Institute of Management, I would like to tell the Member that in the past period of time there have been seven: two on stress management, two on time management, one on the basics of management, one on team building and one on the executive feedback session. This has been ongoing. Some of them are completed, some not.

In terms of building on a team approach, that process is still in place as he knows it was in the past, and with this period of time we are looking on, in the future, something on financial management and excellence in the public sector.

Mr. Uruski: I am pleased that the—and I have not heard the Minister's comments himself, and I believe that he is supportive of those directives and that move because I believe that, having been closely associated with this department for a number of years, that what continues to be the need to have an excellent esprit de corps within the department so that as we deliver services we are shown clearly that the professional abilities of our staff and capabilities are highlighted and

translated into the positive approach with farm families that it should be. I believe the Minister is supportive of that. I would like to hear his approach to this whole area, whether that is an area that he will be continuing on.

Mr. Findlay: Yes, there is no question that the effectiveness of the department is dependent on the ability of all the players to work together. It has been my desire that we build on that development of the past and continue it on all issues, that we are working as a team to deliver the best possible technological transfer back to the farm community, in terms of giving them what they need, to meet the challenges of today and tomorrow because we are in a changing world.

It is a changing world for the producer; it is a changing world for our staff who are delivering these services. We have to continue to be recognized as an effective delivery tool of the extension information to the farm family. The last thing we want to do is have any internal problems without sort of lack of team effort. I believe very strongly in it. I think the department has been good in that respect in the past, and certainly the department and I are committed to that in the future.

Mr. Laurie Evans: I note that the comment is made regarding affirmative action, and I would expect, because of the fact that until recently there were relatively few women going into agriculture, that there may be quite an inequity in terms of the numbers. Could the Minister outline the practice that they used within the Manitoba Department of Agriculture to try to move in the direction of improving the balance and also looking at the other Affirmative Action target groups as to just what the percentage is in some of the areas of the visible minorities and so on?

Mr. Findlay: I will give the Member some information on the targets and then where we are at in the last two years. The targets were 50 percent women, 10 percent Native, 7 percent physically disabled, and 6 percent visible minorities. In '86, we were at 45 percent women—fairly close to the target, 0.2 percent Native, 1.4 percent physically disabled, and 3.5 percent visible minorities.

At this point in time, we are 47 percent women, so we have moved up a bit; 1.4 percent Native, so we are still well below the target there; 4.7 percent physically disabled, so we are still below the 7 percent target; and 8.45 percent visible minorities, which puts us 2.45 percent above the target. So we are moving in the right direction in some categories but not in all.

Mr. Laurie Evans: I would say, Mr. Chairperson, that these are the overall figures. I am wondering whether that could be broken down as to the number of women who are in the professional as opposed to the more technical and clerical and secretarial areas. I would suspect that there probably is still quite a disparity in terms of the number of women who are in the professional category within the department.

Mr. Findlay: We will have to get that information specifically. You are looking for the management level of women. Certainly it will be less than the figure I gave you, but we will get that specific for you.

* (1440)

Mr. Laurie Evans: In realizing that many of the employees of the Manitoba Department of Agriculture do come from the local Faculty of Agriculture, I am sure the Minister is aware that we are moving now to a situation where we have a large number of our students who are urban students, and we also have a large number, I think, approaching a third to maybe even closer to 40 percent of them who are female. I am wondering whether the Minister has found any problem with recruiting, particularly when you are looking at students who have a predominantly urban background. I suspect the Minister may come back to me and say, well, that is the university's responsibility, but I think you are also faced with the problem of what might be called in-house work with some of those people in order to get them a little more familiar with their rural scene. I am wondering if this has developed as a problem and whether there is a preference for students with a rural background as opposed to those with an urban background for the Civil Service, in Agriculture.

Mr. Findlay: Certainly, what the Member raises is a bit of a problem when it comes to recruiting people who are going to work for the department and are going to be in contact with farmers. Farmers soon detect whether that person has sort of that mud on the boots or seat of the pants kind of understanding of what the farmer is facing. The minute the farmer detects that person is strictly urban, their credibility in the eyes of the farmer immediately falls.

I speak as a farmer and I just know how people think in that respect. It is an unfortunate thing. Technically that person may be just as competent as any girl who grew up in a rural environment, but it is impossible to give that training at the university. It is something that you learn as you grow up. You learn the touch in the field and how people react in the rural community. It is a bit of a challenge for an urban tot or urban-raised female to go into a rural environment and work for the department.

It is a problem, there is no question. How that will be handled in the future, only time will tell, but I think we have to have the good feeling of the farmers in terms of the employee that they are dealing with, first and foremost, when we are doing the hiring.

I will just tell the Member that in the ag rep service, out of approximately 40 ag reps, we have four women now hired in the service and all doing very well, but with a rural background.

Mr. Laurie Evans: Mr. Chairperson, I appreciate the Minister's comments, but I do have some concerns as to whether the department has adopted any policy to try and deal with these students. Whether they are female or male, I suppose, does not make a lot of difference, but if they have a predominantly urban background, has there been any attempt within the department to try—I am just throwing out ideas here, perhaps get well-known farmers to come in and work with these people for a short period of time or somehow

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or other have an indoctrination period that gives them some clues as to the type of problems that they could encounter when they go out into the farm and run into this credibility gap.

To me it is important that there be something that sort of buffers that period from when they walk out of the university to a position and then find themselves out in some farmer's field with a problem and the farmer takes the tough line and says, well, I realize that you are a city slicker and really do not understand any of the implications out here. I think that there needs to be a conscious effort to overcome that and I wonder if this has been given any consideration yet.

Mr. Findlay: Just to answer the Member's question, when staff are hired, we attempt to use the regional directors and senior agrologists to try to ease the individual into the circumstances he will face, and there are professional update courses available. Certainly, maybe the department could be slightly faulted for not involving farmers in helping the person orientate to the new environment.

But I would like to maybe throw a challenge back to the Member since he is from the university community that you have, over the last 10 to 12 years, had an increasing number of urban students. I think it is important, whether they come to work for the department or they go to work in agribusiness, that they have a bit of a grasp for what makes the rural situation and the farm tick. I wonder if it is not time the university looked at some on-the-job training, at least between the semesters in the summertime, sort of some job training, some kind of work-sharing relationships so that the young person has an opportunity to adapt to that level of the agricultural environment.

I think the onus falls somewhat on us here in terms of orientating the person, but I think it also falls on the educational institution to do something to help them so that it does not matter where they go, into Government service or into private sector. They have to have some feel for the farm community, and it can be done at the educational level too.

Mr. Laurie Evans: I realize, Mr. Chairperson, that I may have been walking into a trap, but I am pleased that the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) is also available at the moment. My question would be to the Minister. Realizing that there is this need, would the Minister then be supportive of a concept of a cooperative program? I suppose it goes automatically with that. If that were considered, would the Minister be positive in the sense of looking at some sort of shared financing for a cooperative program in the Faculty of Agriculture, because I think you can visualize that, when you are looking at a fairly large number of students, it is not easy to go out and find either business or farmers who are willing to take on a student for whatever period it happens to be, unless there is at least some level of support from other agencies to cover the cost of taking these students on. This has been one of the problems that I think many departments in the university have found when they have ventured into the idea of a cooperative concept with students getting out and getting some practical experience.

Mr. Findlay: Certainly, in terms of the ability of the department or agribusiness to help support this, we would be more than willing to enter into the discussion to see if something could be evolved that would serve that need. I cannot comment too much on how much discussion has gone on in the past in that respect, but we would be interested in getting involved in the discussion and we would want to get involved with the farm community and the agribusiness sector and maybe a four-sided involvement of some sort of work experience.

I just mention to the Member, there is one person who is on a relationship between the university and the department. He is on a year's leave of absence from his university studies to spend some time working for the department with the idea he will go back, complete his studies, and then hopefully come and work for the department after he has completed his studies.

* (1450)

Mr. Laurie Evans: I appreciate the Minister's comments on that and I can assure him that his affirmative response to this will be drawn to the attention of the Dean of Agriculture and the director of the school and so on.

The Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness), in one of his side comments, though, did make reference to the fact that we are losing a lot of young people from the farms, many of whom I think we would all agree we would like to see enter into the Faculty of Agriculture. I am sure the Minister is aware that the two-year diploma program enrollment is down significantly this year. I am not sure of the final figure with the degree program but I know earlier on there was a struggle getting the number of applicants they would like.

I guess it is a somewhat hypothetical question, but could the Minister give me any thoughts he might have had on what could be done jointly between the department, the university and perhaps the business sector in attempting to promote more students coming from the rural areas into agriculture? I think it not only is the undergraduate degree program that is going to have fewer graduates, but I think we are going to see very shortly a real deficiency in the number who are coming out of the postgraduate level to replace the various agricultural scientists who are retiring.

I think the Minister is aware that a lot of them came into the particularly Agriculture Canada service at more or less the same time, and there is a rapid increase in the number who are retiring in this current five-year period. I know they are having a great deal of difficulty going out and recruiting adequate replacements for them. It is one of those things that I think we have been warning of for a long time, but it is now coming home to roost. I certainly would be looking forward to any comment that he might have that could rectify this situation.

An Honourable Member: Keep them down on the farm.

Mr. Findlay: We would like to keep them back on the farm. Certainly, it is an area that has bothered me to

some extent, having been involved with the university, back farming and then into here. I have seen so many young people who finish high school—at least they are doing that now before they take on farming. Somehow or other, they get the attitude that, well, I just got to get right into it, I have not got time. I cannot go to university, I cannot afford to go to university. But it would be so valuable to them in their lifetime career if they could just go to at least a diploma course and get some degree—education is part of it, but association with other people with other ideas from other parts of the province and, in the university setting, other countries of the world. They would have that association.

I do not know who to blame, I guess, for why more young people who do go into farming do not get the education first because, boy, the profession of farming, I do not think there is any more challenging occupation in terms of the number of disciplines you have got to have a good knowledge in and the number of things you have got to be a professional in to be a good farmer. I do not think the the urban community—I was looking at these two Members across the way—really understand how professional farming is nowadays and what kind of decisions have to be made. If you do not make the decisions with good technical information, you end up losing out in the long run.

It is distressing that so many young people, either their families do not promote them to go to university or the school system somehow is not promoting them to go to university if they are going to end up back on the farm. I think I would just put a little onus of responsibility on the university, because I do not know if they are doing enough to attempt to recruit out in our rural high schools. I think, if I recall right, when I was at the university some 12 years ago, there was an attempt to do a bit of recruitment and I think, because of financial restraint, as far as I am aware, that bit of recruitment effort has backed off in recent years. Maybe that is partly to blame for why the numbers are down. I think the economy of the rural community is to blame and I would hope that it is not the attitude that university is wasted time. If that is a bit of a problem out there, I think the recruitment should get out there and sell the services you have to offer in terms of training and I think, because of financial restraint, as far as I am aware, that bit of recruitment effort has backed off in recent years. Maybe that is partly to blame for why the numbers are down. I think the economy of the rural community is to blame and I would hope that it is not the attitude that university is wasted time. If that is a bit of a problem out there, I think the recruitment should get out there and sell the services you have to offer in terms of training and education which must be done by the university.

The department also has a role to play here. Using the extension service or the regional directors in conjunction with our recruitment team from university would be very helpful in the high schools. I think you have got to hit the high schools before they hit Grade 12. You have got to hit them—(Interjection)—Yes, you just took the words out of my mouth, Grade 10 at the earliest, Grade 11 at the latest. Somewhere in there, you have got to hit that class, and sometimes I think

in this recruitment—I think of my own community—it would be best if this recruitment is done with the young people and their parents. Get both sides of the picture in there to convince them of the value of getting the additional training.

I would not say we go just to promote agricultural education. We go to promote continuing your education in any discipline, whether you are thinking of coming back to the farm or not. In the rural area, at least, I think we need a little more recruitment because I do not know the exact figures, but I have to assume that in the rural setting too low a percentage of our Grade 12 graduates really go on to university in comparison to the urban setting.

I think that in here there is a natural movement to higher education, I think a better job of recruitment because they are closer to the university. But in the rural, especially the more outlying areas, there is not enough emphasis on coming to university. I think we all share some responsibility in working in that direction. I would be very pleased if the university, the Faculty of Agriculture particularly, would pick up the initiative and maybe promote themselves a little more because they have got a good product to sell.

You can demonstrate to the young people and their parents, the people who have gone through there and what they have achieved, whether they are back in the community in whatever job they are in or if they are out in the province or out in the world. The track record is excellent for that faculty and they need to sell themselves. It is disappointing to see the numbers falling, very disappointing. When I am back in the farm community and I see the challenges in front of the farmers of today and in the future, the technology they have got to handle and adapt and develop, they need the education. There is no question about it.

Hon. Clayton Manness (Minister of Finance): I beg the indulgence of the Members opposite, but I would like to jump in just for a moment. It is a pretty interesting discussion that is ensuing right at this point in time and I do not know whether I will be disagreeing with my colleague or not, and I will not. I never disagree with my colleagues, but let me say that I guess I take a little different philosophical approach certainly in terms of the numbers of our rural young people who are availing themselves of the opportunities to go through either the degree or diploma course at the University of Manitoba in an agricultural sense.

I am not overly troubled, I guess, with the numbers that we see because I think these trends tend to cycle. I am of the view that we are at the low point right now and that given better agricultural times, given times when once again there is another generation realizing that there is some benefit not only to understanding better how it is that agriculture is to be performed, for the want of a better word, but also the understanding that higher education in every respect usually provides a better livelihood in all facets, once that understanding comes full bore again, numbers will increase.

We must remember the times we went through. We went through a period of time when farming was

relatively pretty good. Whether you were highly educated or not, you could do quite well. I think, particularly in the last half of the Seventies, a time when if you went to university and committed four or five years of your life, you almost were two or three years behind in a net equity sense. That may even up over time, but it certainly has not in the space of 10 years. That was known back home amongst our high school graduates.

The way I see it now though is that give us another two or three years, I am almost certain that the numbers will again increase. Education in this higher level will be deemed to be very important. People therefore will tend to direct those scarce resources to that activity.

I am wondering if we should not maybe point some fingers though at the university. I do not want to dwell on this, but I look at the tenure system we have at university and I wonder what role that has to play. I heard the Member for Fort Garry (Mr. Evans) talking about all of a sudden this massive change of personnel required particularly in the scientific area, but I would think in many of the departments in agriculture. It seems to me that is a symptom of another problem. When you do not have this natural turnover of people in teaching resources, the image goes back again out to the rural area that it is not quite the best and most interesting place to be. I wonder if there is an element of that is the problem too. I am trying to be very diplomatic here but, in truth, I believe it.

I am one who is not terribly forlorn. I know my oldest son is a first-year recruit this year. I do not know how long he will be in the course but, nevertheless, I honestly believe in the years to come we will see the numbers increase and there will a thriving program and the numbers will obviously indicate that. I am not completely down on any aspect of it. I think it is something that it rises and it wanes, as indeed most things do in life.

* (1500)

Mr. John Angus (St. Norbert): The first indication of serious cooperation and a rare time when you get four people in a row standing up and making non-political statements, because I do agree with both of my honourable friends who are coming to the problem from different ends.

The Honourable Member of Finance (Mr. Manness) is saying that evolution will take care of the problem and it will sort itself out. The Honourable Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Findlay) is suggesting that we perhaps more aggressively go on a recruitment program. I tend to agree that the Minister of Finance's position will be attained a lot more quickly if we undertake a little bit more of aggression of actually going out and sitting down with these people and explaining to them and recruiting them. There is no other word for it, other than explaining to them the values and the virtues of getting this type of an education and maintaining their technical development because it is ultimately very, very important.

They may not find out about it for almost a generation. When they get to their late thirties, middle forties, then

they start to wish that they had when they find that they are competitively falling behind because they have not been able to stay on top. They will run into more difficult situations.

I wholeheartedly support any program that puts people who want to participate in the agricultural education field on a par with those universities that are actively out soliciting ace athletes, as an example. There is an anomaly there that suggests that—not all of them are doing that and I am not saying that all of them are doing that but, where certain universities in the countries invest an awful lot of effort into recruiting particular athletes from high schools that have qualifications, it seems to me that we should be not just looking at the gifted and talented students for higher education and for bursaries, grants, scholarships and athletic endeavours, but we should be, more in a positive method, going to the rural folks, to the schools, and sitting down with them and explaining to them the reasons why they should be doing it and the opportunities that they will have and how they are hedging their bet, if you like, and maintaining the hammer and that it is going to be a benefit to them in the long run.

I also like the idea of putting "academics" back into the field to get some hands-on experience. We used to call it apprenticeship and it used to be a very, very important component of craftsmen learning their trade. It did not matter whether you were a salesman or a plumber or a cabinetmaker, you had to spend an awful lot of time in the field working with the wood or meeting the customers and going through the frustration of making those mistakes and learning the hard way, learning by experience.

I sometimes feel that the universities are very, very strong on the academic aspect and just the book learning aspect. You can tell a person all you want about how to ride a bicycle, but if he cannot get on the bicycle and try for himself once in awhile, he is just not going to learn as much as he could if he did have a bicycle to work with.

I applaud the initiative that has been suggested here and the direction that we are taking. I would like to know from the Minister, how do we make that happen? How can we find the money to direct it and channel it specifically into those things so that we see those things coming to fruition and it just does not become talk?

Mr. Findlay: I thank the Member for those comments. I guess just on his last comment, where do we find the money, I do not know that we need any money. We have the staff, in terms of the extension staff, regional directors. The university has the staff. They are all paid, their expenses are covered. I think it is just a matter of the will of the faculty, together with the executive of our department, to get involved in doing it in a blitz maybe twice a year or something like that and hit all the high schools on maybe a two-year rotation or a three-year rotation—it has to be at least a two year rotation; it cannot be any wider than that—to physically get the job done. I think the faculty will be rewarded handsomely, in terms of additional students in their

faculty over the years if they were to dedicate some staff time to that. I would commit that we would be more than willing to work with them.

I would just say that I commented on the involvement of the parents, because in my own personal experience I think that is very important. I will say with pride that I have four children; the fourth one started at the university this year. Two of the first three went through Agriculture and they all enjoyed it immensely and got a lot out of it.

I know in my own rural community the young people, or my children, had commented along the way over the years, they wondered what John was doing or Jane was doing because they were kind of floating. They did not seem to have the support from their parents, because their parents, by and large, have not been to university. In the general sense, out in the rural community, it is a bit forbidding as they look to sending their child that way. It is a lot more comfortable to just have them go out and get a job. Then they are out of the home and they do not have to pay the expenses.

There is a bit of, I guess, psyching out of the parents, psyching in of the parents to get them to support their children to follow through for advanced education. That is why I think the recruitment—it is not just good enough to go out and talk to the students. They may be awake that day or their mind may be drifting or they may be thinking about the volleyball game at four o'clock and not really understanding how important this recruitment session is on their future for the next 40 or 50 years, the rest of their life. The parents maybe understand it better if you have a joint recruitment effort. I think it will work. I think it will be imperative that it be done in order to get more of our young people educated. We are talking agriculture right now, but I think it goes to a broader sense of getting our rural young people educated.

* (1510)

Mr. Allan Patterson (Radisson): Mr. Chairman, I would like to—I had not planned when I came in here to be involved in this any more than the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness). It is a topic that I have some interest in, and I think it is very worthwhile that those of us that have some commonality of the goals and directions that we would like to see agriculture take in Manitoba, it is important to have a discussion such as this.

First I would like to just point out and gently correct the Minister when he talked across to the Member for St. Norbert (Mr. Angus) and myself, implying that we are a couple of city slickers. I must remind him that I happen to be an agricultural graduate. Now admittedly, one of the urban types, but the Ontario Agricultural College. Two members of my original class have been Deputy Ministers of the department in Ontario. In Ontario, many of the graduates from OAC, I do not know, probably as many from other provincial faculties, end up with the federal department in Ottawa in various places too, and again it is very important for agribusiness.

I see hosts of jobs out there and some of the people I know have been in them. Another classmate of mine

was a manager of Buckersfields for Richardson's, just retired a few years ago. Many go to the meat packing industry and so on and so on. So there is just a tremendous market for agricultural graduates, be they directly of the rural background or the urban background, but in many facets of industry out there.

Now I have not followed it closely. I have long been away from any work that would involve my scientific training in agriculture but I do know from my newsletters I get from Guelph that the same problem exists there. There has been some reduction over the last few years in the numbers of entrants into both the degree and the diploma program.

I would hope that if things in the near and in long-term future would improve in agriculture, because I recall that—first of all, let me say when I came west here almost 40 years ago, I was single. My wife is a rural girl from Saskatchewan where her three brothers took over the family farm just shortly before the war.

One of the sons—it was the only son—one of her brothers, who did graduate from Agriculture in Saskatchewan back in the late Fifties or very early Sixties, did not want to go back and take over the family farm, which he certainly could have done, but many of them—and I think he was typical probably of many around that time. They saw the tough times their parents had gone through, able to put three squares on the table and shoes on the feet but not much cash to spend. His parents and also the parents of his uncles with their families, made a great deal of sacrifice in order to get their children through university. They were one of the maybe relatively few that did not have a university education themselves, but did want and would sacrifice in order to have their offspring get that opportunity.

At any rate, I certainly would support any moves such as have been suggested—need a brainstorming session—what could be done? Could the urban agricultural graduates go out and work on the farms during their three summers they would have at agricultural college, so they would have some feel for the rural community when they graduate? Again, the rural graduates probably have some similar problems in adjusting to the urban environment when they graduate, maybe not so much here in a city like Winnipeg, but certainly in Toronto and Montreal or Vancouver.

But, at any rate, Mr. Chairman, I cannot come up with the solutions—the answers to these many problems, but I just wanted to express my interest in them and my support for the Minister. Anything he could do in the direction of the well-being of agriculture in Manitoba generally, of course, but to get more of our young people flowing through that agricultural stream in the post-secondary system because it is very vital and necessary. It is big business. I certainly know that from being in a management faculty, the average farmer is running a far bigger business maybe, with greater capitalization than many prosperous businesses right in the city. They do need, as well as just the upbringing, you need that scientific training and the training in management and so on, in order to be efficient managers of the farming enterprise. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Laurie Evans: I would just like to respond to comments that were made by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness). He commented firstly on the cyclical approach that we can expect to happen because of the downturns in the agricultural economy and that he anticipates, as the rural economy improves, that the enrolment within the Faculty of Agriculture should probably take an upturn as well.

I would like to impress upon the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness), the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Findlay), and their colleagues, and particularly request that they have some input and put some pressure on their colleague, the Minister of Education (Mr. Derkach), because one of the problems that we run into is as an enrolment in the faculty declines, that has immediate impact on the level of funding that goes to that faculty.

I think it is obvious that it does not really matter whether you are teaching a 100 students or whether you are teaching 125, you still need essentially the same number of professors, labs, and all the rest of it to do an adequate job, but the university does have a formula where enrolment is taken into consideration when the funding is allocated. Therefore, the Faculty of Agriculture has taken somewhat of a beating in recent years because of the enrolment drop.

I think it is fair to say, and my colleagues at the university may take some disagreement with this, but I think what we are seeing is some deterioration in the quality because of the fact that the funding has been cut back, and that we are not able to stay at the cutting edge of some of the technologies that are there. I think that there should be some consideration given to the fact that Agriculture may be one of the more cyclical ecologies, as far as enrolment is concerned.

I would just ask the Minister whether he sees this as something that should be taken into consideration in discussions between the Minister of Education (Mr. Derkach) and the powers to be at the university, when they are looking at perhaps some special consideration for some faculties.

Mr. Findlay: I guess I would remind the Member that is exactly what I was referring to when I said that getting out and recruiting would have rewards for the faculty. You keep your numbers up, you keep your grant up. I guess I like to see some incentive there for the faculty to get their numbers up—motivation.

I do appreciate what he is saying. No matter what the numbers of students are, certain services like labs and number of staff—those costs cannot be cut just because the number of students are down. So it is a combination of keeping the support there and we are very committed to wanting to see the Faculty of Agriculture grow from where it is at, in terms of staff and research support. But we also want to see the faculty, in my mind, get more aggressive in that approach of recruitment and I think it will be rewarded in increased numbers. As the rural economy picks up, which we all have to hope and believe does happen in '89 and '90, that there will be the resources of the farm level to send our young people to university. As the economy picks up at the rural level, that naturally

the attitude towards farming will swing around a little bit, and our young people will maybe be more likely to want to enter back into that industry after some university education.

But it is always—the Member for Radisson (Mr. Patterson) is gone now, when he was talking, it just reminded me that in my discussion with agribusiness over the years, they are always very conscious of the student's background, where he grew up. If he is an agricultural graduate with a rural background, jobs are very easy to come by because they know he knows how to work. He has that sort of grassroots, seat-of-the-pants understanding, and jobs come easy.

Why the urban student enrolls in agriculture, I guess I do not have a good handle on why they come in, other than I think they must believe that there are lots of jobs available, there are good jobs available. I think the agriculture industry, through agribusiness and the department, federal and provincial, does apply good jobs and good careers for young people that they hire. I think the urban students have not been turned off because they are still coming to university. We just have to get more of our rural young people in there and promote the industry.

Mr. Laurie Evans: I appreciate the Minister's comments and I think that there are some other areas that could be mentioned in terms of why urban students come into agriculture. I think one of the reasons, and I am sure the Minister is aware that there is a move afoot at the university now to look at even changing the name of the faculty, and get the fact into it that it is agriculture and food, may be a more logical title for the university. I think many urban students now realize the whole concept that agriculture just is not a rural occupation and that there are many opportunities for students with that type of background to get into a very diversified area. I suppose if one wanted to be a bit facetious, looking at this particular House, it looks as though perhaps agriculture is the best background in order to move into politics, because I do think we outnumber the group that have legal background as far as Members of the Legislature are concerned. I think it does indicate the diversification of opportunity that agriculture graduates have.

I think also that it may well be the background that has provided the greatest number of opportunities for those who are interested in international service, whether it be agriculture or something related to it, but many of our agriculture graduates have found employment through CEDA, IDRC and agencies of that type. Certainly there are many, many agricultural graduates who have had experience working in international agriculture in some of the developing countries.

One other comment I wanted to make in relation to the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness), though, and that was his question about tenure, and I think one can assume from his comment that tenure has frequently been identified as a means of maintaining dead wood in academic institutions. He did not say that, and he may take some exception to my putting those words in his mouth, so to speak, but this is certainly an

argument that has come up many times and I would certainly be prepared to go on record as being one who is not particularly supportive of tenure under the present Charter of Rights. I think that there is a safeguard within the charter that would restrict dismissal for unjust purposes and therefore I do not think the tenure as it now exists is a critical issue.

* (1520)

I think one of the things that has also led to a problem in terms of the lack of turnover is the lack of mandatory retirement. I do not want to get into that particular issue, because it could well be another one of those that has some controversial aspects to it, but I think it is somewhat alarming to note at the university how many academics are going well beyond what we would call the normal retirement age of 65, and this is in spite of the fact that the university and I am sure other public institutions have brought into effect some very good early retirement incentives.

But, unfortunately, here in Manitoba there does not seem to have been much emphasis on trying to build in some sort of an inflation or cost-of-living allowance into those retirement programs, and I think because of that, many staff members, and I am probably one of them, look with a little bit of concern at early retirement because it might be a very attractive thing if inflation is under control, but one starts to look at it and, say, you are 55 and you might think of retirement, but if you anticipate maybe living for another 35 years or something like that you can visualize that you might be on the soup line 35 years from now if there is an increase in inflation. I would think that is something that should be considered in some of these early retirement packages because that has virtually been ignored.

But I certainly would agree with the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) that there needs to be some attempt made at getting a little quicker turnover of personnel so that there are some new faces and new opportunities for recent graduates.

Here again I would just turn that back to the Minister and also indicate to him that I think it would be remiss on my part if I did not acknowledge the fact that many of the members within the Manitoba Department of Agriculture have certainly served as university ambassadors in the sense that many of them have gone to high schools and that type of thing and have promoted the profession of agriculture, sometimes at the request of the university, but I think more often on the basis of their professional institute and trying to maintain the interest in agriculture.

I certainly do agree with the Minister that getting to the family, rather than to the individual student, is critical because I think in many of the urban situations—and I can take my own family as an example because I was with the university, we live close to the university, and my three daughters just assumed from the time they were relatively young that, academics being acceptable, that they would probably go on to university. But I do not think that is automatically one of the considerations of many rural families, and I think it is important that

the university, and the MDA and the MIA cooperate very closely in promoting that.

I think from the comments the Minister has made that he fully supports that and I would assume would make it clear to personnel within the department that they should be prepared to cooperate and to assist in that sort of promotion because, while it is easy to say the university should get out and do some more recruiting, you cannot very well have a university staff member jaunt out to Swan River to speak to a group of students because it is more than just a short half-day trip. There is quite a bit of time involved in doing that, and when you have competent agricultural staff out there with the Manitoba department it seems logical to use those as the resource for this type of thing. I would just like some comment from the Minister as to whether he feels that makes sense.

Mr. Findlay: I would just comment first on the Member's suggestion of a change of name for the Faculty of Agriculture. I think if I remember right, when I first went there, it was Agriculture and Home Economics, and then Agriculture and Home Economics was separate, and now Home Economics is called Human Ecology. I guess I have some difficulty with that one, just to get off on a tangent for a moment, because my daughter is in that faculty right now and people ask, when I say she is in Human Ecology, they say, well what is that? I say, it is Home Economics. and they say, oh, okay.

So it is all in a name, and I will tell the Member that I fully support the faculty's initiative to change the name to Agriculture and Food because I think agriculture is the production of food, the marketing of food and the promotion of food. It is all the way from basic production processing right to the consumer, that is the agriculture industry. In my mind it is more than farming and I think, as we change the name, in the eyes of the urban community, sort of the prominence of agriculture will rise a bit over the years. I think the prominence has risen because of the kind of people that have been in agriculture, that worked in agriculture at the farm and in agribusiness. I think it can be further elevated by a change in name which really represents the kind of activities that agriculture is involved in today.

With regard to the Member's comments about "further out from the city," maybe department staff could work in the recruitment side. We would be more than willing to sit down and discuss that option to see what we can do. I think through the regional directors, we can find out who is the kind of staff out there that would be best suited to do that. I think when we get down to talking about our commitment to the university, our support of the Faculty of Agriculture, that could be part of the discussion. I think it would be a valuable part of our activities in the future in helping keep the number of young people from the rural community coming into the Faculty of Agriculture because that is a service to the farm family and it is part of our responsibility.

Mr. Chairman: Is it the will of the committee to pass item 1.f(1)?

Mr. Uruski: Mr. Chairman, I think we are into a very good discussion in this whole area and I have a number of additional items that I wish to raise.

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Mr. Angus: You are not going to downgrade the conversation now, are you?

Mr. Uruski: Oh, no. No, no, no!

Mr. Angus: That is good.

Mr. Uruski: The Member for St. Norbert (Mr. Angus) always seems to have sinister motives of any Member that gets up that one might downgrade someone else's discussion. I believe that every Member in this House has a point of view that is worth hearing and listening to.

I, for one, want to raise with the Minister this whole area of further education and enhanced education for rural students in the whole area of agriculture and technology. I think there is a role for a very close relationship between the department and the university to—for lack of a better word—brainstorm the whole question of—I think it will confound us all—and that is the question of intergenerational transfer. While it is a fairly focused or narrow point of view on the whole area of education, we know that our farm population, the producing farm population, the average age of that group is rapidly approaching 60 years of age. I think it is 55-plus that is basically the average age of our farming population.

We are in the midst of a very serious financial crunch in the farm community which has now been with us basically in Manitoba, I guess, since 1980. Since the last drought and with high interest rates, we are going through a fairly lengthy period of tough times in the farm community. If there is any one issue in terms of the future of the farm community, I think that as departments, as the university and as a society that we try and sit down and look at innovative—I have no immediate answers—but innovative means to be able to provide for the transition of the land base from one generation to the other, because if there is anything that is preventing the entry into basic food production, notwithstanding the lack of students going into education, is the whole notion of, okay, I may have that education but how do I get my foot into the industry?

* (1530)

The only way or one of the few ways available now is to have a farm family who is virtually debt free, and there are not very many of those around. Over the last number of years, we have seen, and I am sure the Minister has seen, instances where farm families have attempted to finance the young person's entry into agriculture by putting their operation or portions of their operation as collateral and ending up losing the whole thing.

So that, from one side of the one perspective of enhancement of education, could be even the thought of a conference or several regional conferences on the question of enhanced education basically asking young people, and I think their families, and may be a move that the department and the Minister may want to look at to discuss, rurally: how do we make that transition; what are our options in terms of education beyond producing on the farm and into agribusiness and other

areas; but as well tackling the basic problem of rural population, rural development and the question of transition of land from one generation to the other. That is an area, I think, either in the way I have suggested or an area that the Minister may want to put through, on an extensive basis, that discussion to the Institute of Rural Studies that has been promoted by the University of Brandon.

If ever there was a challenge to look at the dynamics and the demographics and all the related issues of rural Manitoba and how we try to stem the tide of rural depopulation, that is an issue that we would want to start grappling with on an ongoing basis and look at innovative ways of trying to deal with that issue because it has been with us, it continues to be with us, but at a much more accelerated rate in the last decade than I believe ever before.

If there is any way of attempting to deal with that issue, the whole question of off-farm employment, how do we provide for greater security of the farm population? We now know, I believe, and I think from recent studies, that just about half of the population over the last 20 or 30 years is involved and has been involved in some form of off-farm employment, and whether or not there may be ways in which we may utilize the farm community and use that method to enhance the intergenerational transfer of farm land, because I believe that while there will be opportunities for students in other areas of agribusiness, the one sort of dim light that keeps rural students from going into education is the close relationship of what is happening in the rural community and the farm community right at home, and the pressure under which their parents and their friends and neighbours are under does cloud the issue of saying, if I go into this area of study, what am I getting myself into? Do I want the kind of pressures that my friends or my family are under in terms of finance and return? So we have to basically show a broader picture to those students than that experience that they are getting right at home. The experience over the last decade has not been that great in terms of role playing and the like, in the same manner as the Minister talks about his difficulty of kind of focusing on the Department of Human Ecology.

I have to admit that I think most of us have gone through that difficulty, but when you get into looking at that department and the learning that comes from that department, it is far broader than the notion that most people have of, say, sewing and cooking, because that is essentially the notion and it translates back into the whole area of education in terms of school divisions and the stereotyping that administrators have.

I guess I am putting a plug in, having had a daughter as well who has just graduated from that same Faculty of Human Ecology, and sitting down with her and just discussing, on an ongoing basis, some of the studies of family studies, the whole question of nutrition, that when you take the general program, the whole question of family networking and relationships is almost a combination of psychology, technical sciences and a very broad range of experiences that can be put to use in practically any profession of a commercial and educational sense.

So I think that the Minister, in discussions with the university, I think we can put to good use in the promotion of the real—I guess I would call it the vocation of food production because it is a vocation. It is more than just a job. That promotion can be done in a number of ways and I think there have been a number of good suggestions made, but I think part of the decline has to do with rural students not wanting to go as a result of the focus they have on their immediate situation in their own community, which over the last number of years has been fairly negative.

I do not know whether the Minister wants to make any comment. I wanted to raise one other—

Mr. Findlay: I would not mind making just a few comments relative to what the Member just talked about. Certainly, there is no question; there has been difficulty in the intergenerational transfer of farms, and I think we all know that many a farm couple, parents, for the last few years have been reluctant to stimulate their young people to get into farming, whether it is a son or daughter. There are daughters getting into the industry, and we need more of them as sometimes they are just as hard a worker and better managers than the male side, or determined often because they feel they are from a behind position so they work a little harder.

I think that could be said about a rural student when he comes to the urban environment. He says I am a little bit behind and I will work harder, and that is why we tend to see many rural people excel when they come into university.

In terms of off-farm employment, the Member mentions 50 percent. I did a little survey in my own area a couple of years ago and I came up with 80 percent of the families within a 10 mile radius of me who have some degree of major off-farm income. Either the husband or wife was working full or part time at something they had gotten into over the last number of years because of the downturn in the rural economy, the necessity of having that extra income to pay the groceries and keep the home going and supply a better life for their children.

* (1540)

I would like to think that is a reflection of the immediate times and it will change in the future in that less farm husbands and wives feel they have to work off the farm, because you know what happens. As soon as they go to get a job in the local town or the town down the road, they put somebody else out of work. So it is one less person living in that local community because there is one less job available because somebody is doing two jobs.

As I look at the urban environment and I see more and more desire of two-income families, and you attain a higher standard of living because of the two income families, I think our rural people will also want the same standard of living. So it will be an impetus for the two-income family, even when times get better, that the wife will want to work off the farm or vice versa; maybe the husband works off the farm and the wife runs the farm.

So that is a detriment to maintaining population in the rural area because it creates, as I said, two jobs being handled by one person.

In terms of intergenerational transfer, I think the Member mentioned the transfer of land. In a lot of cases, it is the transfer of an intensive livestock unit, which is a pretty valuable asset, too, which is really the asset that is used to make a living. I do not know that Government can take on the whole financial responsibility for that intergenerational transfer. I think that the the parents have a large role to play in facilitating that intergenerational transfer.

Many of us—and I can say I am—are getting to that age category where you look at the farm as your retirement policy, but we cannot cash it in at the expense of our children. We cannot farm without that pride of ownership. It is the initiative that drives the past number of generations. It drives me—it will drive my son—and I think it is imperative that I, as a parent, facilitate his entrance into the industry by my funding him through the resource or the asset that I have. I know the Government can facilitate that, but I think a tremendous onus will always be on the parent to help that young person get into the agriculture industry. I do not think there is any way around that.

I think most parents who are promoting their children to get in the farm understand that and do that because of that pride element, that pride of carrying it on one generation to the next. It is what motivates us out on the farm as much as anything else, that sense of pride in what we have built up, what we can pass on.

Naturally, the economics rule what we do, but I will tell you, a lot of people make decisions basis the pride they have in what they are doing. When I am saying that, I think of the desire of the department in the conservation area. We are talking about why we should leave stubbles, snow management and all these sort of good technical theories, but back there a lot of people say, boy, if that land is black, I am a good farmer, but I am not a good conservationist. So that pride of having a nice looking field, nice looking barns or nice looking livestock is what motivates us and makes us work hard. I think it will motivate us as the years go by and motivate farm families to help in that intergenerational transfer.

The Member mentioned putting on seminars and the approach like that. Certainly, that is one of the issues that the Rural Development Institute should be challenged with looking at as to how they can facilitate helping the rural community and the educational side, help them in dealing with the problems at hand today, the economic problems dealing with the intergenerational transfer and all that. I think that is a valuable role that the Rural Development Institute can play.

I have had a couple of discussions with Dr. Mallea and I support what they want to do there. I think we need to see some action, some things happen as soon as it gets off the ground. We need to have it done with the agriculture industry first and foremost in the rural community.

When the Member was talking, he had some feeling for maybe—it is difficult to get a foot into the industry

and a foot into farming, and he might have been referring to non-potentially young people that do not have parents on the farm and for them to get in. That is a very difficult job nowadays. If somebody is going to come from outside of agriculture without a lot of financial resources, he is going to have to ease himself in very slowly, step by step in some fashion. You just cannot go out and borrow the money and jump into farming and expect to pay the bills. A few have tried it. We have had some big crashes because of it.

I think that the lesson of the last few years since 1980—and I will tell the Member my drought was in 1979 so I have had one more year of seat-of-the pants management forced decisions. I think we have learned how to be better managers at the farm level. We still see the glossy ads about the fancy equipment and the big holidays. That has got a lot of people into trouble. I could almost guarantee them that if the economy swings around and we have \$5 wheat and 40 bushels to the acre average yields, we will see farmers jump out and buy more fancy equipment and everything. The cycle will go round and round. A lot of us will be somewhat more astute managers than we were, say, 10 years ago when things were really rolling.

Mr. Uruski: Mr. Chairman, just for the information of the Minister, I thank him for his comments.

One other area that I think in terms of this whole process of education that we have to be involved in is the question of—and he touched on the point that I was alluding to—is people who do not have parents who are debt free and who are trying to ease their way into agriculture and the whole question of leasing and protection of lessees. The Member well knows that I believe, and correct if I am wrong, about 40 percent of the farm population today, some portion of their operation is in a leased form of land base. I think it is 40 percent or more of the farm population who does have a portion their land base or operational base in the form of leasing, whether it be from another farmer, whether it be from someone who is retired, whether it be from someone who has bought land who is not farming and the like, and exploring those questions and that process.

Those people do have, and it is not only the question of ownership of pride which I know that to be the case as one aspect, but those people who are intent on getting into farming because they believe the lifestyle that they wish to have for themselves and for their children is one that they wish to pursue. That lifestyle has to deal with conservation and stewardship and good management even though they may not be the actual owners of that resource. They do put in the kind of management and the kind pride that is necessary for good stewardship and that there is a role for us. When I say us, as Members here to try and foster both education and promotion and assistance to those people, that they do not get caught in making, say, bad deals. We will not be able to prevent everyone from doing that but providing a basis. For example, the whole question of—and the department was working on standard lease forms and the like, so that some basic information is made available to those people who are trying to enter their way into agriculture that we do provide some basis.

I would want the Minister to indicate, or correct me if my impression is wrong, that a large percentage, 40 percent or more, of the farm population is now leasing a portion of their land or livestock operations and that has to be a consideration in this whole question of intergenerational transfers and easing into agriculture.

* (1550)

Mr. Findlay: The Member mentions the figure of 40 percent involved in leasing. It could even be higher, because I think that a general farm operation consists of owning in many cases a major portion, maybe a half or two-thirds or three-quarters of the land base they operate and then they lease the rest because they feel that they risk themselves sufficiently in terms of a mortgage on paying for the land that they have or maybe they have not paid for it and they think it is financially advisable to lease rather than to own. That always gives them the option that if the son comes into the operation in a few years, they can get into a purchase option on some of that land; or the son does not come in and they want to scale down, it is quite easy to do on a lease basis, because right now it is not that easy to sell land. It is an option that producers use. I think it is a good option. It allows people to expand and contract, depending on their desires for their particular operation.

So I think there is a lot of information out to producers through the department. I see various farm publications containing information on how leases are drawn up. I know years ago we used to consider the one-third crop share was the standard lease arrangement. I do not think the farmer was the winner in those kinds of operations, but nowadays we have a whole variety, probably a dozen or so different basic lease or types of arrangements. Sometimes they sort of protect the owner from risk, sometimes it protects the operator from risk. But it is an important ingredient in terms of getting the intergenerational transfer in place.

I think the average farm operation would be a set of parents and an offspring, and parents may farm for 20 or 25 years and then the son comes in, or the offspring comes into the operation, and maybe for 10 or 15 years they operate together. Then the parents get to an age where they scale down and out of the operation, so there is always reason to be adding or subtracting the land base.

The other thing is that over time the average size of a farm has just continued to grow, continued to grow because it is driven economically, a more efficient operation, larger equipment, spread the risk and the cost over more acres and so on. I would like to see more and more farms using some degree of diversification in their operation, in terms of grain and some livestock component. I think on the eastern side, the very eastern side of the province here and up in the Member's area, there is a goodly portion of that; and in my area we are mixed in terms of cattle. Predominantly, that is the livestock out there, but we have a very large area in the south and southwest that over the last number of years, the last 20, 25 years, become far too dependent on lack of diversification—in other words, single enterprise production and

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basically crops. That has hurt those operations' ability to survive this last eight years of tough times in the agricultural industry.

I would just say, as I reflect back onto how some of that happened, I do not want to throw arrows, but the university—somehow the Member may remember years ago—started to promote the concept that diversification was not good, that cows were not paying their way, get rid of the cows and just get down and just grow some grain because you make big bucks in it. There was a period of time when that was right, and it was an unfortunate thing.

I know in my own community, the Hamiota community particularly, that is really what happened. A farm management group was set up and an individual from the Department of Ag Economics came out there and they looked at the books, year after year, and they would say, well, the cattle are not making as much money as the grain. The cattle are losing their money; the grain is making money. Get rid of the cows, and some people took that advice, unfortunately, and that is the way we go over time and some decisions are reflected back on and are not the right decisions. That community, when the grain prices were good, was doing exceedingly well and now things are a little tighter out there because they do not have the livestock to fall back on, but those are the things that happen over time. I think we learn as we go and we are always wiser as the time goes by. I often reflect back to when I was young and I did not think my father knew anything. By the time I was 25 or 30, I thought, boy, he is pretty smart because I was starting to learn some of the basic facts too.

Mr. Uruski: Mr. Chairman, there is no doubt that in terms of not wanting to point fingers, I know the university has had its difficulties in trying to cope with the times as well in changing. If I recall correctly, and maybe my colleague to my right here may correct me, but up until just a few years ago the whole question of farm financial management in an intensive way, in terms of the courses taught through agriculture, was a minor portion of the whole process of education. Not until the crunch of the early Eighties did farm financial management become a more focused and greater emphasis on course material was, until that time was that emphasis provided, until we were into the financial crunch. I guess not only does the farm population go through change, the universities themselves have had to do that.

I believe the Minister has had a letter from a student. I refer, because of personnel services, there is a whole question of summer employment in this whole area and student employment—from the horticultural hotline of the Brandon University. The Minister would have received copies and I am sure Members of all parties have received copies of this letter. I would just like to read it into the record because I think it is a fairly general letter. I do not know whether the Minister was aware of these circumstances. I certainly was not made aware of it during my term in office, and it is not intended to be any reflection on the Minister's department. The department may have some knowledge and commentary that they may wish to add to it, and I think

there is no better way to do it than to put it on the record.

It is a letter sent by Gregory E. Bertram who is a student of the Brandon University, and I quote:

"The following is a letter constructed to make you aware of a rather serious violation of the Government's stated objective of pay equity. Equal pay for equal work in our community involves a Government-sponsored horticultural answering service. It is the intent of this letter to notify you of the problems with obtaining sufficient funds for the operation of a rural horticultural answering service in Brandon.

"The horticultural hotline is a provincially funded cost-free service that is operated jointly through the Agricultural Extension Centre in Brandon and Brandon University. Operated by university students, the answering service is designed to provide the public with information regarding problems encountered by amateur home gardeners, although many of the calls we receive deal with such things as pesticide application, plant disease and weed identification for ag reps, etc.

"Over the service's 13-year period of operation, it has been allocated funds that are sufficient only to allow operation for a 14-week period each summer. This results in a virtual flooding of both the ag rep office and Botany Department's secretaries with calls in mid-August when the service ceases to operate. The work itself is quite extensive, ranging from microscopic analysis of the diseased plant material to extensive reviews of our resource material, in the search for an appropriate response to a client's enquiry.

"Applicants for this position are required to have a working understanding of laboratory techniques and skills, plant pathology, fungal and insect and plant taxonomy, in addition to a cheerful disposition and an ability to work effectively with the public. All of this is done at a summer salary that covers less than one-half of the funds required to return to one's studies the following semester, and this excludes the cost of living during the summer months. As one can imagine then, only those individuals who have had both an avid interest in the particular application of theoretical materials and a rent-free room to live in while going to school, could find this position financially acceptable.

"I, myself, live in an apartment over the summer. The position itself is recognized by the association, i.e. STEPPA, that provides the funds for it as being one of minimal responsibility. It is here that the first of the answering services problems begin. One could see that if all an individual did was take messages from the public and pass them on to one of the experts that work in the same laboratory, as is what it appears to be the case at the Horticultural Answering Service located at the Ag Services Complex in Winnipeg, the phrase "minimal responsibility" would provide an accurate description of the position. However, the hort line in Brandon is run out of a lab where no governmental, agricultural, horticultural, or plant pathological experts are stationed—the opposite of what occurs in Winnipeg. There are several professors, which have in the past, volunteered their time to help with various plant problems. However, for all intents

and purposes, the hort line operator is left on his or her own.

"The Brandon and rural area operator is expected to analyze all samples, research and identify the problems left with him. Moreover, he is expected to justify his findings to any professor as well as to the client. It is the Brandon hort line's prerequisite training that enables operators to solve the majority of plant problems that come to his or her attention.

"It is interesting to note that many provincial agencies utilize our service for various needs. For example, the provincial Weeds Office located at the Ag Extension Centre in Brandon has used our facility many times for plant I.D., rather than do it themselves or having another lab handle it.

"Moreover, during the past few weeks the student in charge of the horticultural answering service in Winnipeg has telephoned requesting solutions to problems that he had encountered—he made use of our toll-free service. It is here that a discrepancy has developed in the equal pay for equal work notion. We, at Brandon, are operating a better service for less money than our urban counterparts. Also the average response time for obtaining an answer is better than it is with other services.

"Discrimination could also be found to be at work here when our service provides similar services to those given by urban, provincially-run labs at a wage that is markedly inferior. A second problem makes itself apparent when one compares the periods of operation of the Brandon and Winnipeg services. For the past 13 years the organizers and students associated with the hort line in Brandon have tried, albeit unsuccessfully, to have the period of operation extended to 18 weeks.

"We were informed by the organization responsible for our grant, STEPPA could only provide funds sufficient to operate an answering service like ours for a period of 14 weeks. With this in mind, it was interesting to note that the Winnipeg service, which according to the STEPPA committee is identical to our service, is funded by STEPPA for a period of 18 weeks, according to the student operating the Winnipeg service located at 201-545 University Crescent.

"I realize that the Winnipeg service is designed to deal with gardening inquiries from over 600,000 people. However, the garden problems of the citizens of Brandon and other such rural communities such as Dauphin, Swan River, Virden, Lac du Bonnet, Portage La Prairie, Minnedosa, Neepawa, Snow Lake, Hamiota and many other rural areas, including Winnipeg, do not simply cease to exist at the end of the second week of August, when the Brandon hort line closes down, nor does the Winnipeg service provide a toll-free number to service people from the rural communities.

"The question that must be addressed here is not how long has this discrepancy gone on, nor which of the previous Governments are responsible; but rather, is this type of practice fair to the rural people of Manitoba? And why should students who have opted to remain in the rural areas for their education and employment be discriminated against by the Government?

"In conclusion, I wish to thank you, in advance, for both your undivided attention and what I am sure will be a prompt response on your part to correct these past irregularities. Signed: Gregory E. Bertram, Horticultural Hotline."

* (1600)

(The Acting Chairman, James Carr, in the Chair.)

Mr. Chairman, clearly the points alluded to by Mr. Bertram are raised very succinctly. I will go no further but to place them on the record and indicate to the Minister that this was the first that I have had knowledge of this, and likely the first that he has had knowledge of it, and to see whether there is some way of addressing this whole question that has been raised by Mr. Bertram. I will await the Minister's comments.

Mr. Findlay: Certainly, it is a long and lengthy letter and identifies a number of concerns. I guess there is no question that we will look into it and try to get a handle on the problems he is identifying there and see if we can do something in the coming years in terms of longer period and the pay equity question.

I wonder what he is getting at when he says that the job is not adequately paid, the salary is not adequate because he cannot go back to university with that income. I mean, everybody who goes out and gets a summer job really has that potential problem that maybe the income is not high enough.

But in terms of the service that is made available to the citizens of Winnipeg or the citizens of rural Manitoba or citizens of Brandon, it is a very valuable service. There is no question about that, and I think maybe that service over the last few years has become more expert-oriented, requires a greater level of expertise, and maybe obviously a higher level of salary if that level of expertise has risen, in order to do the job in that position.

There is no question that it has been well used. It is a valuable service. I know I heard comments on the radio, after it closed in the middle of August, wondering why it closed because the insect problems and the weed problems and whatnot had not disappeared by the middle of August. So there is a need for the department to look at it and respond in a positive way to the suggestions and the complaints of that letter.

Mr. Uruski: Mr. Chairman, just for clarification purposes, by the Minister's comments, I am getting the impression that he did not receive a copy of this letter. Is that correct? If he did not, I want to know that so that I can provide him with a copy of this letter.

Mr. Findlay: No, we have a copy of it in the department.

Mr. Uruski: Mr. Chairman, then I ask the Minister, just for clarification, can the Minister tell me whether the hotline in Winnipeg has a toll-free line, or is it primarily geared to the urban populace in Winnipeg and the Brandon one handles the entire province, the rest of the province basically?

Mr. Findlay: We are not sure if the Winnipeg one is toll-free, but certainly anybody who wanted to call from

outside the city could go through Citizens Inquiry Line anyway and get it toll free that way.

Mr. Uruski: Mr. Chairman, I thank the Minister and I am expecting that, as he has indicated, he and the department will certainly review some of the areas in terms at least of STEPPA, that students are paid in those functions, albeit some of the questions may go beyond their capability and capacity, are paid in accordance with the provincial job rate. There may be a need for an evaluation, but clearly I guess the basic question that the Minister needs to consider is the question of continuing that service for the same length of time as the Winnipeg service. I think that is the fundamental question the Minister should continue to look at and determine what policy that they will have.

Mr. Findlay: I will just reaffirm that we will be aggressively looking at it to be sure that we are giving the kind of service that the public wants out in the Brandon area.

Mr. Laurie Evans: I just wanted to indicate to the Minister that I also received the same letter, and I think it brings up one of the concerns that we frequently run into with pay equity. If I interpreted the letter correctly, the individuals in question doing essentially the same job are not hired by the same employer. In other words, the money has come in but it is then money that is available to the employer to use as that agency sees fit. I think this is something we are going to run into many times in pay equity.

In pay equity, you are looking at equity within one unit but, when you start talking about pay equity across different units, you run into some real problems there in terms of essentially saying to someone, you have a person working on a particular job and another agency has someone doing the same job, when you start to try and impress on them the need for pay equity across those units, it is probably an impossible situation. We have answered this gentleman somewhat in that vein and, hopefully, correctly so.

We have gone on quite a route this afternoon in terms of digressing somewhat from the question that I think stimulated the discussion. Certainly, I have no objection to the wide-ranging discussion, but I would like to bring it back to the question of affirmative action and ask the Minister if he can give us a sort of a chain of responsibility within the department as to how there is guarantee that affirmative action is carefully looked at every time that positions are being recruited, and that he is satisfied that the department is moving in that direction.

Mr. Findlay: To the Member, I would say that all job applications that I have signed have been targeted for affirmative action. Some are targeted more aggressively than others, naturally. We have a long series here of the plan for affirmative action. I can give the Member a copy of that rather than reading it out because it identifies the activities that the department is involved in in trying to achieve those affirmative action targets. As in the figures I read out earlier, you can see that in at least two out of the four categories, we have risen

from '86 to '87, and the intention is that they will continue to rise to get up closer to those targets.

Mr. Laurie Evans: I would certainly be interested in seeing the procedure that the Minister refers to. I may be wrong in my assessment of this but I got the impression in listening to some of the Estimates discussion within the Community Services area that the responsibility for affirmative action did not necessarily lie within the individual departments. It seemed to be that it was transferred over more to the Civil Service Commission in some respects. I would just ask the Minister if in fact the responsibility for affirmative action rests within the Department of Agriculture or whether this is a responsibility that is sort of split between the department and the Civil Service Commission, in which case I am just interested in knowing how much input the Department of Agriculture has in assuring that affirmative action is seriously considered every time an appointment is made within the department.

* (1610)

Mr. Findlay: I would just like to advise the Member that we handle our own affirmative action initiatives in terms of trying to hire those identified categories. Job advertisements specify that. We are handling our own and, I think, moving towards meeting those targets.

Mr. Laurie Evans: I commend the department. It would appear from what was indicated earlier, and I will be anxious to receive the figures, but it looks as though there certainly have been steps in the right direction. I am pleased to see that.

In looking at the area under Personnel Services here, the comment is made relative to a classification and wage and salary system review. My question is to the Minister: is this in fact related to pay equity or is it a classification review that is separate from the pay equity situation?

Mr. Findlay: The information is that it is an ongoing job of looking at classification. There is nothing new or a change at all. It is an ongoing process that is there all the time.

Mr. Laurie Evans: I guess the supplementary question then in the same vein is, is there a problem as far as pay equity is concerned within the department? I am referring specifically to pay equity between male and females doing the same work, or is this something that has been either not a problem at any time or something that has been rectified in recent years?

Mr. Findlay: Basically within the department, there does not appear to be problems with pay equity. We are not aware of somebody registering a complaint that they are not receiving what they believe is fair pay in terms of the pay equity question. Really, pay equity is handled by the Civil Service and not necessarily by the department. We believe within the department there is relative satisfaction.

Mr. Uruski: Mr. Chairman, just in following on that whole area, were there some, I guess it would be,

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positions identified by the Civil Service Commission in the department, although it is handled by the Pay Equity Bureau through the department, that there had to be adjustments made system-wide because there was a cost? I think 1 percent, I believe, of payroll was to be used to deal with pay equity inequality throughout the Civil Service. I guess, just to assist my friend here from Fort Garry—I am sure he does not need any assistance, but to try and focus the question—were there any positions that called for readjustment of salaries through the department dealing with pay equity?

Mr. Findlay: Yes, the Member is right. There have been some targeted positions that need to have adjustments and the resources are coming from the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) to do those adjustments. We do not know exactly the number of the positions. If the Member wants to know, we can find out, but there are some adjustments going on.

Mr. Uruski: On the question of affirmative action, has the department filed a plan with the Human Rights Commission that ultimately has been approved dealing with affirmative action, setting out targets and/or goals of the department? Is that plan being followed at the present time or are there changes being made to that plan?

Mr. Findlay: Yes, a plan was filed and that plan is being followed.

Mr. Uruski: Has the Minister made himself aware of that plan?

Mr. Findlay: No, and I will have to.

Mr. Chairman: Item 1.(f)(1)—pass; 1.(f)(2)—pass. 1.(g)(1)—the Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

* (1620)

Mr. Laurie Evans: Moving into the Program Analysis section here, my question to the Minister is, how is the decision made as to the review process? In other words, is there a regular pattern that particular programs come up for review on a specified period, or is it a case of being able to identify potential problems that seem to crop up that tend to dictate that maybe a review should be taken? In other words, is it an orderly or more of an ad hoc arrangement as to the review of specific programs?

Mr. Findlay: I would like to tell the Member that basically, each year when the budget process gets going, you do some program evaluation and certainly some would maybe be looked at more aggressively than others, but it is on an annual basis. There is some level of analysis, and I would say on some there is more than on others, depending on the year and the problems that come up over the course of time.

Mr. Laurie Evans: This may sound like a silly question in some respects, but can the Minister give us some idea of how many discreet programs there are that could be reviewed or do the programs intermesh to

such an extent that it is difficult to really say well, this is a program, this is another program, and so on? I have a little difficulty in the conceptual program, looking at the Department of Agriculture and saying well, it has some specific number of programs that would be subject to review. There is a little difficulty with that concept.

(Mr. Chairman in the Chair.)

Mr. Findlay: Mr. Chairman, I guess there are approximately 100 programs within the department. There are a lot. Some of the ones which have received some degree of scrutiny most recently is Feed Analysis, as to whether what is charged out adequately reflects the services given; Soil Testing, what is going on there; MACC, in terms of the turnaround time for applications for mortgages. Those are the sort of things that go on. Like I said before, some more actively than others given the year and given the problems.

With MACC, certainly the turnaround time has been a problem because of the time. In some cases, it took 8, 10, 12 months from the time the farmer initiated discussion before he knew whether his loan would be approved or not and that has been improved. These are just some of the ways in which we try to deliver the service in a more adequate fashion as time goes by.

Mr. Laurie Evans: Are there many programs within the department that are service programs? The Minister has mentioned a couple in terms of the Feed Testing laboratory and the Soil Testing facility. I would ask the Minister what is his departmental policy when it comes to cost recovery? Are programs such as the two mentioned expected to be self-sufficient or is there actually a cost to the department for providing that service, which is above and beyond the cost to the producer?

Mr. Findlay: He got everybody shook up.

By and large, the objective is cost recovery on the analysis, as the former Minister mentioned. I am thinking of the feed analysis, soil testing, the drug centre, the semen centre. I think we are a little short on the feed analysis right now, but by and large it is cost recovery for the analysis cost.

Mr. Laurie Evans: These areas are of some interest to me and that is of course the soil testing facility where there has been quite a bit of what we might call competition in the area, in that there are private labs that are also providing the service, and I am sure the Minister knows there has been controversy over that. I guess the question to the Minister is would he visualize a time if he was satisfied that the private labs were giving the type of service that the producer requires, whether or not the long-term continuity of this type of facility is required or not?

Mr. Findlay: Certainly, the Member has raised something that has bothered me for some time and that we have had some discussion on and promoted some initiative by the department in the last couple of

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months. In fact, they were really in the last three or four weeks.

There have been a number of complaints out there from the fertilizer dealers that while the Manitoba information is not as good as that from basically the U.S. labs that are coming here, and they are actively promoting the farmers to have their analysis done in the United States. I am not convinced that the information is any better from the American labs. In fact, I think our Manitoba labs should be much more responsive knowing the soil types here through the Department of Soil Science, and how our soils react to different levels of moisture in terms of releasing nutrients and so on.

I think the department soil testing lab has a responsibility to sell its service to compete with those private labs. We have had this discussion and we have out right now on the road an individual who is out there going around to the various dealers, fertilizer dealers, and trying to promote the service that we have here. I was talking with Crawford Jenkins just at noon hour today, and he was saying that he is getting phone calls every morning with more and more questions, and I cannot remember the individual who is out on the road doing this, and it is something that I wanted to see done. If we have a service to sell, let us get out and promote it, and promote its advantages. I think a farm community may be being sold a bit of a bill of goods by the fertilizer dealers that we are not good enough, although nobody has told me in what way we are not good enough.

* (1630)

I think another thing is maybe there has been a perception out there, and I am going back four or five years, that maybe the Soil Analysis Program here has not been responding to new initiatives that they might be doing. There might have been some reluctance to change there. I think there has been some change, and more recently, some response to what is being requested out in the farm community. I think we have a service to sell and I understand that our road man is doing a reasonably good job of re-identifying to the dealers that we have a service. We are probably as capable of predicting what our soils will need in terms of nitrogen, phosphate and other minor elements for the next crop. I hope we see a pickup in the number of samples being analyzed this year, particularly because of the kind of year we had.

Crawford was telling me that someone else is coming in 125 pounds of N in stubble fields. In other words, that is a summer fallow level. If I analyzed my summer fallow as 110, 120, 130 pounds of N, I consider that normal but for a stubble field that means virtually no use. Maybe the heat has had some effect on the microbial activity for the release of nitrogen, I do not know. We are actively trying to promote the lab in a competitive sense with the U.S. labs and I think we have a service that is competitive. I hope we see an increase in our utilization.

Mr. Laurie Evans: This opens up quite a range of additional questions that could be asked. I guess the

Minister has made the comment earlier that certainly the objective would be cost recovery to the extent that it is possible.

I think another concern that comes in, the Minister will certainly correct me if I am wrong here, but I think we still have a relatively low percentage of our producers who are making full use of the soil analysis facility. I am wondering whether the Minister sees a responsibility to promote the facility or the service at perhaps a below-cost feature in order to get more participants in it. I think there is still a segment of our farm population that are not convinced that soil analysis is to their benefit. I can see the same producers coming back on a regular basis which we would expect. I have concern as to whether we are pulling the new ones in to the extent that we should and whether there is still a backlog or sort of a background group out there that have not been convinced that there is a saving and a benefit to them by using the facility. I am wondering whether any thought has been given as to how you actually pull those people into the program.

Mr. Findlay: I guess I am not aware that farmers are not doing it because of the cost. I just find it hard to believe that they would not realize the value that could be obtained for \$20 for analyzing the nutrient level of a field. They are going to spend how many thousands of dollars on fertilizer next year? An investment of \$100 and five samples would give them quite a bit of information to guide them.

I guess one other area that I think we need to do to promote the utilization of the lab is more sort of a follow-up in the field. We have, as I say, a field man out there now trying to drum up business. We get the business, we send the information back. I think we need a little more follow-up back with the producers to analyze the information and how it can be utilized in their particular farm setting. Some of that can be done with the ag rep. Some of it may be needed to be done with a specialist, or maybe it can be done in coming time through farm meetings and this sort of thing. The Member up here may comment more on whether there is enough follow-up from the American labs or whether it is just all propaganda that they are sending us. I think we can, through the department, have some follow-up with the soil analysis work that we are doing and that we have certain areas of the province where there are nutrient problems, where there is micronutrient or whatever. I think we need to have that follow-up action back in the community.

I do not know if we reduce the cost of the analysis \$2, \$5 or \$10, is it really going to change the participation of producers? They have to be motivated to want the information to go out there and do the sampling and then to send the samples in. I think the cost is a minor element. It is just a motivation of wanting to generate the information.

Mr. Laurie Evans: I do not necessarily disagree with the Minister on that.

I also would ask the Minister, in terms of the feed testing laboratory, can he give us some sort of a figure as to how effective is that or how many participants

are there? How many are using that facility as compared with perhaps what the potential out there is for the utilization of that analysis? Is it a major component of the producers that are using it now or is it still a relatively small percentage?

Mr. Findlay: When we get up into the Animal Industry section, we can talk more in-depth about that when we get there. I think by and large the utilization of the lab is more by the intensive livestock operators who look more closely at the ingredients going into their rations, rather than say the large animal operations, like the beef operation who do an analysis here or there, but the intensive livestock operators use it much more.

Mr. Laurie Evans: Probably shifting into an area where they require a little more specialization in terms of the—

Looking at the personnel that are identified under the Program Analysis, I see that the numbers are the same which would lead me to the question: Does the Minister anticipate that there will be a need for more personnel with the implementation of The Freedom of Information Act, or is this going to be a responsibility that will be turned over to one of the existing staff members?

Mr. Findlay: Yes, for the time being the responsibility is shared between two people and we have no idea at this time what level will be called upon to supply what information. Only over time will we know what deep dark secrets people will want from the previous administration.

* (1640)

Mr. Uruski: Mr. Chairman, I expect that whatever deep dark secrets there are, they can have them all. I can assure you in terms of operating the department, the philosophy that I used was that whatever I did I had to expect to be able to read it on the front pages of the Free Press. If one operates in that fashion, then it is home free in terms of access of information.

I expect that there will be information such as the whole area of MACC and the whole question that I think Government will have to grapple with is releasing the names of applicants for loans, for example, to be made public. There is a discrepancy within Government as to how one agency treats its clients versus another. You have for example in Northern Affairs CEDF, Communities Economic Development Fund, which annually releases a list of applicants and the loans that they administer, and everything is made public in its annual report. However, we have historically, through MACC in this whole area, not released the names of applicants and the amounts of loans with the Government.

So there will need to be some decision along the line as to whether Government wishes to reveal the nature of the information that it does keep confidential. That will have to be a policy decision of the Minister and I would like to find out whether that kind of information should be made—what his views are,

whether that kind of information should be made public in terms of information or, additionally, the whole question of payouts under crop insurance, whether the claims figures—I know they are recorded—whether they should be made public on an annual basis, whether that whole information should be there. I would like to hear what the Minister has to say.

Mr. Findlay: Certainly, the department's intent is to follow the spirit of The Freedom of Information Act, but I think we have to respect the confidentiality clients expect with regard to what the Member mentioned, in terms of MACC loans, crop insurance payouts. We are doing business. We are in business with those clients and I think their personal information, what payouts they got, what loans they got, what arrears they are in, I tend to think is confidential information. We will lose some credibility if we start opening up a person's confidential information.

Mr. Uruski: That was not the point that I was making. I think I want the Minister to attempt to deal with this question. I was not suggesting at all that we make known or available publicly the financial position of anyone.

While knowing that, for example, MACC will have detailed financial information based on the application, I am not suggesting that. I believe that that is kept, but I just wanted to again reiterate, CEDF is a provincial lending agency and in its annual report does lay out who made an application and who was granted a loan. It is there, not revealing anything more than that, only who has done business with Government on an ongoing basis.

We have resisted, and I know we—and here is the dilemma that we have been in. I believe we had this discussion and it will keep coming up. For example, under interest rate relief, Industry, Trade and Technology did publish the names of all the businesses that received interest rate relief under the Interest Rate Relief Program, whereas I was, I have to say, put in the difficult position of saying, MACC, we have not revealed information, so we continued not to put on, or reveal the information as to who—not their financial position, and recognizing that basically the two entities were not far different, whether it is small business or farming.

That is going to be a dilemma that the Minister is going to be faced with in terms of attempting to deal with that contradiction. I have to admit it was a contradiction on our part and we were just attempting to start grappling with the situation because we really could not face ourselves. On the one hand, one colleague was getting up in the House and giving the information out and the other colleague was saying, oh, no, hold it here; we have not done it for years and we are not revealing it.

I am not suggesting that the confidential information of applications and financial criteria be released. It is only basically the information of who does business with Government. We would do it in Public Accounts, for example, publish all the contracts. Every penny that you get as an MLA or as a civil servant, an addendum, the salaries are posted. Albeit they may be a year out

of date or behind, but they are there. Every penny that I have put in for on an expense account is there and is made public.

Mr. Harry Enns (Lakeside): My name is Smith.

Mr. Uruski: The Member for Lakeside says he uses the name Smith. I am sure he does not get away with it either. That is one, in terms of this legislation, that the department and the Minister will have to have a position on very shortly because that question will continue to arise.

Mr. Findlay: Just to go back to my previous comments when I said I think I feel for your respect in the confidentiality of a person's personal information. In terms of if we are requested for a list of people who made application for MACC loans and a list of those who received, but not giving the amounts, I could probably go that far. I would not want to give the amounts. I would not want to give the conditions or the collateral that was used for those loans or any of that. I think that is confidential. The previous Minister has indicated the contradictions of Government, and I guess we are going to have to deal with it and we might be forced to give out a little more information just in order to have some consistency. If the questions come forward, we would always hope that those questions will not request that kind of confidential information which, I believe, is the kind of confidence we have to keep with our clients particularly in MACC and crop insurance.

Mr. Uruski: Mr. Chairman, the Member hopes that it will not come. It was a Member of his Party, a former Member for Sturgeon Creek, who in debates in this Chamber, to put it bluntly, went after me hammer and tongs because I had the whole interest rate relief. I was responsible for the entire Interest Rate Relief Program, although the various components were handled by the Minister of Housing and the Minister of Industry and Trade. I was put in the position of having two of my colleagues be prepared to reveal the information, and here I was saying I have to defend the confidentiality. Yet when looking on the small business in farming I could not, in all conscience, give any logical explanation why we would release one and not the other.

I guess I am now putting the shoe on the other foot. Where are you going to land, in terms of this issue, and will we be expecting to reveal basic data publicly? Should that be a decision made by this Chamber? I believe there are enough arguments to say that it should be revealed, at least the basic data of saying who and how much. No other data should be released and it should be there as a public record.

I know financial institutions do not reveal it and we have not. I do not believe that there is anything in terms of the legislation—I am talking about The MACC Act that prevents from making public basic data of who and what is actually loaned—but I concur that I certainly have no hesitation in defending the confidentiality of one's own financial information that is in the application and the like. I have no difficulty because I do not believe that is anyone else's business, but that decision of the

board of directors and management of MACC, whether it be MACC, FCC or a private bank, that is there.

Although I have to admit that in this House from time to time there have been individual cases, and here is the difficulty of individual cases being debated across the floor. I remember, I think the Member for Lakeside (Mr. Enns) will recall cases, why did you give this loan or why did you not give this loan to X individual. So the individuals' names have come up and have been put on the floor but with the dilemma that, oh, we cannot really discuss the issue and maybe it is better just to lay the loan and the individual's name on the record, and it is there and then there are no further questions asked.

* (1650)

Mr. Enns: They were known NDP supporters.

Mr. Uruski: There is the commentary of—and I guess that is how the debate went on. The Member for Lakeside (Mr. Enns) says we only did it when we knew that there were known NDP supporters who applied for loans. You could take that argument, Mr. Chairman, to Members of this Chamber. I do not know who has or has not had a loan. I expect that the farmers on either side of the House, from time to time, that some of them have had loans. Whether they be Members of my Party—there were not many Liberal Members, would not be many there, but they probably have been former Members. I know the Member for La Broquerie, a former Liberal Member who was a hog producer—I cannot recall his name.

An Honourable Member: Albert Viellefuere.

Mr. Uruski: Yes, Albert Viellefuere, who may have, I do not know, but certainly a past Member of this House, or even the former Member for Emerson—he has passed on now, John Tanchak, who was a turkey producer and a Member of this House, of the Liberal Party. I am sure Conservative Members, many of whom have represented rural areas, in fact, the Minister himself for all I know, may have dealings with MACC individually, or Members of his family.

So that is the dilemma we are faced with. I am asking the Minister, is it now time that we make a decision, and if we are going to make a decision, how are going to deal with it? Do we continue the economy that we are into or do we start saying, looking at this question, because it will be raised, and the ones that will be after freedom of information will not be the general public. I think the Minister recognizes it. It will be the nosey reporters that will be wanting to dig. I am not pointing any fingers at any individual. I just point to the gallery, in general, Bill, you are up there. But that essentially has been the move in terms of freedom of information.

Mr. Findlay: It is not a particularly easy question to answer. I think in the broad context, as each individual situation comes forward, it will be my desire to protect the confidentiality. There is no question in my mind about that. When a third party requests information, I think there has got to be no confidential information

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given out. We may get into some difficulty down the road maybe with challenges that will come to that, but I guess we even need a clearer signal from the A-G's Department as to what we can say no to and what we cannot say no to. I believe in the confidentiality of our clients and I will, as Minister, attempt to defend that principle as long as I can.

I see the previous Minister, probably we are on the same wavelength likely in that respect. The Member for Fort Garry (Mr. Evans), I do not know where he is at, whether he believes that we should protect the confidentiality of our clients in terms of denying certain information that might be requested. I think, when you give out confidential information, you are losing your integrity as a lender or as a Crown corporation of any respect.

Mr. Uruski: Mr. Chairman, I am not sure that will wash for any length of time. I believe that the Minister and his department have in their possession comments made from the Attorney-General in general that are at best what I would call wishy-washy. This question has been raised, and I do not know whether it is a question of legal opinion. It is a matter of the Government determining whether they will, in fact, ultimately make the decision that certain information will be released and certain information will be kept confidential.

I certainly took that position, as the Minister now says, of keeping it confidential, but I have to indicate that over a period of time that position cannot be sustained, given the fact that there is the demand for greater openness. The demand was there, and we were contradicting one colleague over another. So I think it is best that policy decision be made and be made very quickly, rather than be caught in the whole dilemma of that contradiction in the media and having to defend the indefensible, because it is not defensible.

I have to say that it is not defensible vis-a-vis one lending agency within the province saying yes and the other one saying no. I cannot defend it and, quite frankly, I think it is time that provisions be made to begin to say, let at least part of the annual report deal with the clients and the kind of situations, set up a format, look at that question and put it on the record. I do not think it is sustainable to keep it confidential. We will not be able to do that. I guess what I am saying to the Minister, I am putting you in the position of saying, yes, I think you are going to have to do it and I would do it sooner rather than later.

Mr. Findlay: I would just like to, in the closing moments, mention to the Member that I have already said it repeatedly that I will always retain the right as long as I can to protect the confidentiality of our clients. I know that I as a producer would want anybody who I do business with to deal with me in that fashion, whether it is a fertilizer company or an elevator or Government. What business I have, what transactions I have, whether I am in arrears or to what extent or what kind of a loan I have, what the conditions are, I think is confidential information. If we throw that principle out the window as a Government operating within the confines of being a lending institution particularly, I can see problems.

I thank the Member for his comments on that. I believe in the confidentiality and I will, as long as I can, defend that principle for all the clients of MACC, particularly, and Crop Insurance, too.

* (1700)

Mr. Chairman: The hour being 5 p.m., it is time for Private Members' Hour.

Committee rise. Call in the Speaker.

IN SESSION COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Mark Minenko (Chairman of the Committee of Supply): The Committee of Supply has considered certain resolutions, directs me to report progress and asks leave to sit again.

I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for La Verendrye (Mr. Pankratz), that the report of the committee be received.

MOTION presented and carried.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS DEBATE ON SECOND READINGS PRIVATE BILLS

BILL NO. 18—AN ACT TO INCORPORATE THE MANITOBA MOTOR LEAGUE

Mr. Speaker: On the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Gimli (Mr. Helwer), Bill No. 18, An Act to amend An Act to Incorporate the Manitoba Motor League; Loi modifiant la Loi intitulée "An Act to Incorporate the Manitoba Motor League," standing in the name of the Honourable Member for Dauphin.

Mr. John Plohman (Dauphin): It is a pleasure for me to join in this debate on the amendments to The Manitoba Motor League Act. There has been a combination of circumstances over the last number of weeks that have led to delay on speaking to this Bill. In some instances, we went into other business, and I also was attempting to get some additional information about the Bill which I was unable to obtain, one of the reasons being of course that, in 1918 and 1956, there was no Hansard, therefore no word-by-word record of the proceedings in the House. Therefore, I was not able to get the information that I was hoping to get.

That dealt with the rationale for the initial limit of \$50,000 that was placed in the Bill when the Motor League was incorporated, and later the rationale for the \$250,000 limit which was put in place in 1956. The fact is that it is easy to understand that a growing organization such as this with now some 105,000 members would indeed reach the limit of \$250,000 very quickly. However, it still does not deal with the issue that we are in this case removing the upper limit completely as opposed to maintaining some kind of a limit, which there must have been a rationale for doing in 1918 and 1956 when the League was incorporated and then later when the Bill was amended.

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I would like to ask the Member for Gimli (Mr. Helwer), when he closes debate, to address that issue, in his mind and perhaps the advice that he has been given as to why there should not be a limit there in the future, whether it be some \$500,000 or \$1 million or whatever it might be. I am not saying what it should be, I just say what is the reason why we are taking the limit out completely.

I want to indicate to the House that I support this amendment. I support the Manitoba Motor League, as a matter of fact. Having been a former member and not a present member of the Manitoba Motor League, I have certainly been able to take advantage of the many services that the Motor League offers to motorists and, as an affiliate of the Canadian Automobile Association and the American Automobile Association, enables travellers to certainly maintain these advantages over a very wide area of travel.

I recall that when I was not a Member I had to have my car boosted, and I thought that was amazing to have that done for free. As well, I recall that our whole honeymoon 17 years ago was planned with the help of the Motor League, in ensuring that everything was organized and set up in an orderly way, and we really appreciated that at that time. We never had to worry that when we stopped after travelling for the day that we were going to have problems getting booked into a hotel or motel. It made that memory very pleasant as well.

So I speak of the Manitoba Motor League with a great deal of admiration for, I think, a well-managed organization that has contributed a great deal to safe motoring in this province and across the country and so, therefore, want to support the organization.

Now I do not necessarily, I have to add, support necessarily, as I indicated, every policy position that they have taken. They do have a policy group that has made representation, whether it be on Autopac or on speed limits in this province or increased weights and dimensions for trucks. As Minister of Highways and Transportation, we did have occasion to meet with the Motor League on those issues. They had, in many instances, a position that was consistent with what I thought was reasonable and, in some instances, not necessarily so.

However, that is quite independent, that issue, from support for the organization itself. I do indicate today, Mr. Speaker, that we support this Bill. I believe none of my colleagues have a desire, at this point in time, to speak further on this Bill, and we would like to see the Bill move forward. Perhaps the Member for Gimli would like to consider closing debate on this issue.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member for Gimli. The Honourable Member will be closing debate.

Mr. Edward Helwer (Gimli): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can I answer the question?

An Honourable Member: You can answer his questions when you are closing debate.

Mr. Helwer: Mr. Speaker, I would like to close debate on this and, in answer to the question from the Member

for Dauphin (Mr. Plohman) as to why the limit should be removed completely, at the present time the limit is something like \$250,000.00. At the present time, they are doing something in the neighbourhood of \$1 million worth of business, mainly because they have a branch at Brandon and they have potential to open a branch also at Portage and possibly other areas.

If we put a limit on it today, it may be out of date again next year. I do not think there is any particular reason for a limit on this and, if they wanted a limit and it had to come back, it would just be going through this process again. So I think, without a limit, it would give them a freer choice to move ahead and open more branches if it is necessary.

I want to thank the Member for Dauphin for his comments, and I refer this to the committee.

QUESTION put, MOTION carried.

* (1710)

SECOND READINGS—PRIVATE BILLS

BILL NO. 24—THE DAUPHIN GENERAL HOSPITAL FOUNDATION

Mr. John Plohman (Dauphin) presented Bill No. 24, An Act to Incorporate The Dauphin General Hospital Foundation; Loi constituant la Fondation de l'Hôpital général de Dauphin, for second reading.

MOTION presented.

Mr. Plohman: Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to introduce this motion to incorporate the Dauphin General Hospital Foundation at this time and to ask for the support of all of my colleagues in the Legislature for this piece of legislation which is very important to the Town of Dauphin and surrounding area, and particularly for those involved in health care and improving health care in our area of the province.

What we are proposing here is a foundation to receive, solicit and administer funds for the purpose of enhancing health care at the Dauphin Hospital. Many other institutions already have such a mechanism as this, a foundation which can handle charitable donations and can solicit funds for health care projects in their communities. For example, this particular Bill is based very closely on The Brandon Hospital Foundation Act that already is in place. Therefore, because of its similarity, should pose no unforeseen difficulties or require any particular answers to questions insofar as its functioning. It has been established in previous cases.

In the past in the Dauphin area when donations have been made by individuals, either through their will or by people who are still living, it has been difficult to ensure that these funds are indeed used specifically for the purposes that they were dedicated for by the individual. The funds were simply accounted for in the general operating revenue of the hospital and there was no legal way to separate it. In many cases it actually complicated the ability of the hospital to receive funds from the province because they were told that they

already had funds there. But then they had to deal with an explanation as to why those funds could not be used for a particular operating purpose for the hospital because they were dedicated by individuals in their wills or, as I indicated earlier, by living people who have indicated they would like to see certain dollars spent for a particular cause or a piece of equipment or whatever it may be in the area at the hospital to improve health care.

Those funds could not be used for other purposes. It was just a difficult and clumsy way to deal with the issue. I guess the latest major fund-raising project was the chapel. When the new hospital was built in Dauphin in the last number of years the community undertook as a community project a chapel at the hospital. This was one that was supported by all denominations, by all of the churches, by many groups in the area and substantial amounts of funds had to be raised for the construction of the chapel. It was difficult at that time because it was not a separate entity that was raising the funds. It was Dauphin General Hospital, and there was always the issue being raised by people who were being asked to donate as to why these funds could not come from or should not come from the provincial Government, particularly the bricks and mortar, the construction of the chapel.

Of course, that is not a facility that is eligible under the Manitoba Health Services Commission and there again created some awkwardness in assembling the funds. With the foundation, clearly everyone who was approached or anyone who has any inclination to donate will know clearly what these funds are for.

I guess I should mention one major project that the hospital and people involved in the health care system in Dauphin are anxious to pursue at this time is a new chemotherapy addition, some 1,500 square feet. This new unit, which will replace a very small room for chemotherapy treatment in the Dauphin Hospital, will allow for family support when this treatment is taking place. At the present time, there are no facilities for the family to be there and this is a very essential part of the healing process, particularly when dealing with such a severe and traumatic disease such as cancer.

In many cases, families want to be there while their loved one of their family is being treated. The project will enable that to take place once it has been developed and comes to reality. Of course, there may be some funds coming from the Manitoba Health Services Commission for that project. Hopefully, there will be. The Minister of Health will see fit to support that project; however, if there are additional funds that have to be raised, obviously this is the mechanism that they will use.

So I just want to, in closing, emphasize the importance of this particular Bill, indicate the great deal of satisfaction and pride that I have in being a part of the development of this foundation as the MLA for the Dauphin constituency and hopefully, of course—

Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health): Now, now, now.

Mr. Plohman: The Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) indicates "now, now, now," I hope he means "in the

future, in the future, in the future," as well. I want to indicate to all Members in this House that I would ask for your support as quickly as possible, so that the people in the health care field in Dauphin can get on with the raising of funds as a result of this Bill. Thank you very much.

Mr. Orchard: This Private Member's Bill is one which brings to the Dauphin Hospital, as a hospital serving a fairly major region of the Parklands, an ability to raise funds to receive specific endowments through wills, and even have those—as I understand the reading of the Act—who so wish to make endowments, to dedicate it to specific purposes. I understand the Member, although I missed his earlier comments, he indicated that one of the projects is the establishment of a chapel in the hospital. Those types of additions to our hospitals are not normally funded through the regular Capital Program and are raised by foundations in private donations such as the Member is proposing.

On balance, this Act will enable Dauphin and district to adequately resource areas of enhanced health care, not unsimilar to what our major Winnipeg hospitals have at their disposal in terms of their fund-raising foundations. They have proved to be most successful vehicles. I know I have attended the Concordia Hospital fund-raising dinner in which they have substantial community support for their fund-raising efforts. Of course, St. Boniface, Children's Hospital, Health Sciences Centre itself, Victoria Hospital, all have fairly aggressive and successful fund-raising campaigns.

Dauphin Hospital has seen fit to make this proposal at this time to the Legislature. I can indicate to my honourable friend that on perusal of the Bill we do not see anything unusual in the request, that it has similar provisions that have been enacted in other foundations in other hospitals, and we would offer concurrence of the House for the Bill to proceed to committee.

* (1720)

Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, the Liberal Party in Manitoba wants to join with the Member for Dauphin (Mr. Plohman) and the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) to indicate our strong support for this piece of legislation.

We have watched foundations evolve in this province in all of our major hospitals. We can only assume, because of the willingness and the support of the people of Dauphin, that the foundation for their hospital will be the successful venture that the foundations and hospitals like St. Boniface and Health Sciences Centre have been in the past. We commend this legislation and indeed we wish those who will benefit from such a foundation and those who will participate in such a foundation every success in their raising of funds and their expenditure of funds, so that the residents of Dauphin can receive—and surrounding areas, because Dauphin indeed serves much more than just the town of Dauphin itself—that they can be benefited in a multi-mannered way from the work of this foundation. We too wish it speedy work through committee, so that we can have this legislation become a law of this province as soon as possible.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member for Dauphin will be closing debate.

Mr. Plohma: I want to thank the Members of both of the Conservative and Liberal Parties for their support of this Bill. On behalf of the people of Dauphin and as well the people of the district and all of the region that will be served and will benefit from this foundation, I am sure that they would all want to extend their appreciation as well.

QUESTION put, MOTION carried.

DEBATE ON SECOND READINGS PUBLIC BILLS

BILL NO. 2—THE BUSINESS NAMES REGISTRATION AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Speaker: Debate on second reading of Public Bills, on the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Elmwood (Mr. Maloway), Bill No. 2, The Business Names Registration Amendment Act; Loi modifiant la Loi sur l'enregistrement des noms commerciaux, standing in the name of the Honourable Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae).

Hon. Clayton Manness (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, stand, leaving the Bill in the name of the Honourable Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae). (Agreed)

BILL NO. 3—THE CORPORATIONS AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Speaker: On the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Elmwood (Mr. Maloway), Bill No. 3, The Corporations Amendment Act; Loi modifiant la Loi sur les corporations, standing in the name of the Honourable Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae). (Stand)

BILL NO. 13—THE MANITOBA HYDRO AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Speaker: On the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie), Bill No. 13, The Manitoba Hydro Amendment Act; Loi modifiant la Loi sur l'Hydro-Manitoba, standing in the name of the Honourable Member for Lakeside, the Honourable Member for Lakeside.

Mr. Harry Enns (Lakeside): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have the opportunity to speak to this Bill. It gives me an opportunity to say a few things that have long, long been on my mind and in my memory with respect to one of our most important Crown corporations, namely, that of Manitoba Hydro, to which I have had the privilege of recently being named director.

It also gives me the privilege, and I try to do this not in any patronizing manner, but nonetheless in an educational manner to point out to a House that is filled with so many new Members that in speaking to a Bill at second reading, our rules call for a discussion of the principle of the Bill. In fact it specifically prohibits dealing with the specific clauses of the Bill. So, Mr.

Speaker, I will attempt to address and to follow the rules that we have laid out to speak to the principle of the Bill.

The principle of this Bill allows us to examine with some sadness—it is what has happened to the whole institution of Crown corporations and why in the latter 1980s they have fallen into such disrepute not just with us on all sides of the House, virtually, but more importantly with the general public that they were initially set up to serve, for which they have a statutory mandate to serve.

Mr. Speaker, no other Crown corporation, other than that of Manitoba Hydro has suffered under the kind of intervention and diversion of its original well-thought out, and I must say well-carried out mandate for many, many years in this province, that we now find ourselves with a Bill like the one introduced by the Member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie), but it cannot be taken in exclusion from what has happened to Manitoba Hydro.

When I say the kind of disrepute that Crown corporations have fallen under, it comes because well-meaning, noble as they might be, but interference on the part of politicians' politics of the day to interfere with our original mandate, and indeed, to fly against the face of all economics.

On the subject of Manitoba Hydro and how this Legislature has treated it since 1969, commencing from the year 1969, there will be theses, political science doctorates earned. It will be a vast history written about Manitoba Hydro and its relationship with the Governments of the Day, and it will be used as a textbook in future years to come, for how not to tinker with what otherwise was, and still is, an extremely worthwhile organization doing its best to serve the people that it is mandated to serve.

Mr. Speaker, Manitoba Hydro was set up for all the good reasons that a Crown corporation ought to have been set up. Politicians of the Day correctly said that it was not fair to all Manitobans that only those fortunate Manitobans who lived in large urban centres, such as Winnipeg, or perhaps Brandon, or other smaller urban centres should have the convenience, the economic edge of having hydro and electricity at their fingertips.

We had in the mid-Fifties, not that long ago, many different private hydro systems operating in the Province of Manitoba, the principal one of course being Winnipeg Hydro, servicing the big urban centre of Winnipeg. But we had small centres operating even out of communities as small Minnedosa and in Virden, operating little hydro dams off their little rivers.

It was then decided by the politicians of the day, and correctly so, and I will give credit where credit is due. It was the Liberal Government under the Premiership of D. L. Campbell that brought that into being. Pian C they called it, and I was old enough to actually remember when that was put to the people.

If I am not correct, a plebiscite or a referendum was held on that to amalgamate into what was then known as the Manitoba Hydro Commission, an overall Crown corporation that had as its mandate—and this is very important—(a) to first of all provide for all Manitobans

the use of this tremendous energy source, more importantly—and it is spelled right in The Hydro Act, it is still there, I urge Members to look at it—that it is to provide hydro to Manitobans at cost, in the best economical manner and nothing else.

It is not meant to be a job-creating tool in the hands of busy, socialist tinkers under the hands of the NDP. It was not meant to win elections, when it was time to build a dam in the North and create unemployment. It was meant to provide hydro, that most important energy source, to all Manitobans at cost. That is what it was meant to do and that is what it is still mandated to do. I have not the clause and the section in mind, but I can look it up for you if somebody wishes to challenge me. That is the specific mandate that Manitoba Hydro has.

* (1730)

What has happened? What has happened in the last 20-odd years since 1969? In 1969, Manitoba Hydro told the Government of that day that the most economical way to meet its mandate to provide power for the coming years of the Seventies for Manitobans was to divert waters from the Churchill River into the Nelson and, rather than building a number of smaller dams on both the Churchill and the Nelson, to concentrate on building the larger dams with the enhanced flows of the Churchill coming into the Nelson and through the Nelson River system.

It is no different than asking a modern dairy farmer or a poultry farmer who is maybe operating a flock of 10,000 birds not to build 10 barns with 1,000 capacity each, but to build two barns with 5,000 capacity each or perhaps one barn with 10,000 capacity each.

Essentially, that was the economic thinking behind the senior planners of Manitoba Hydro when they recommended to their Government diversions of water from the Churchill River into the Nelson, so that structures could be built on the Nelson of scale and utilize the economy of scale.

What happened? At that time, the New Democrats took that on as a great social issue and fought vitriolically against it. I have to say this to my Liberal friends and I try to say this kindly. What did they do? I have to remind them. There were 14 of them in the House at that time, 14 of them. Do you know what they did, Mr. Speaker, on that issue when the call was called on that important vote? They all switched seats and none of them voted. So on that important economic decision of Manitoba, the Liberal Party chose to renege on their legislative responsibilities. They were all in the House. They were on both sides of the issue but, when the vote was called—if indeed some of the Members are not aware of it, that is how you can be in the House and still not have to vote, if you are not sitting in your seat. That is a technique that is used from time to time. If you wish to be present in the House and not vote, then you switch seats. In this case, the entire Liberal Party, 14 Members, switched seats and chose not to vote.

My friend from the Interlake does not recall that because he had an excuse. That was in the spring

Session of '69. He came in in the subsequent election in June of '69. But that in truth is what happened, Mr. Speaker.

But do not allow me to be digressed from what I am saying. That was a benchmark of when gross political interference—(Interjection)—Mr. Speaker, I ask for your help.

Mr. Speaker: I am sure all Honourable Members would like to grant the Honourable Member for Lakeside (Mr. Enns) the courtesy of listening to his debate. Order, please.

Mr. Enns: He has a well-recorded history also because I have painful memories of having been the Minister responsible for Natural Resources at that time, having to issue the licence for the diversion. I can say to you, I literally came very close to drowning in some place called South Indian Lake on that occasion.

I say in all sincerity that is when the heavy hand of politics very seriously began to interfere with the affairs of Manitoba Hydro. Surprisingly, and gratefully I suppose, the New Democrats, they formed Government two or three months later in June of that year. They ran on a committed platform of opposing the Churchill River diversion. They restudied the whole plan. They threw away \$4 million worth of engineering studies and said, no, we will not divert the Churchill River. When they had sober second thought, they said but we will have to divert it after all a little bit. Instead of the called-for diversion of some 55,000 cubic feet per second, down through the Burntwood into the Nelson. They reduced that to what they called the low-level diversion of some 18,000 to 20,000 cubic feet per second.

I used to have great fun and I won subsequent elections with no difficulty when I would tell my constituents and particularly those who have suffered some flooding, as many of my constituents along the Assiniboine and the Elie, St. Eustache, Headingley area used to suffer from time to time before a great Conservative Government built the Portage Diversion and the Red River Floodway to stop all that inconvenience, I used to tell them what difference does it really make either to the damage of your home or the ecology if you have eight inches of muddy, dirty water in your basement, covering your hardwood floors and all that, or if you have 12 inches.

But the difference to Manitoba Hydro in this drought year is millions and millions of dollars that we are today losing because of that decision. I asked Manitoba Hydro at one of my first Hydro meetings, how would they have liked to have had those 55,000 cubic feet of water today when our Winnipeg river system is underflowing, when our Saskatchewan River is not flowing, when our whole system is as undernourished from water sources, except of course the northern rivers where we have had good moisture and above average river flows.

Then we started hiring experts from Saskatchewan. This NDP Government was famous for hiring experts from Saskatchewan. I can remember once even, Mr. Speaker, they went to this extreme. There was a tree pruning expert job available in Manitoba's Civil Service.

Where did he come from? From the treeless plains of Saskatchewan because he carried the right card. So then came along Mr. David Cass-Beggs who has since long gone. Hydro since that day has been grossly interfered with politically.

I do not suggest for a moment that is something that you can attach to one political party only. Certainly the Lyon administration, in an attempt to alleviate the 140 percent increase that had been imposed by a reckless dam-building spree that the NDP had gone into on the rate structure, but we imposed a political will on Manitoba Hydro when we froze hydro rates for four years. We are now talking about introducing yet another measure with Bill No. 14 that will further intrude, further muzzle the appropriate decisions that people who are hired for their appropriate expertise have to make.

I can only suggest in conclusion that we do our Hydro no service by attempting to do their job for them. In fact, our sordid history in this matter should indicate to us that, yes, we can make broad policy decisions. Yes, those broad policy decisions will always be made in this Chamber but, in terms of telling Manitoba Hydro experienced people in the sale and production of hydro power how to write contracts and how not to write contracts, is beyond me, and surely can be held responsible for some of the difficulties that this Crown corporation and indeed so many others have fallen into.

Governments enter and tinker with Crown corporations for what they believe at the moment to be good reasons. The federal Government closes an air base in Gimli and the NDP decides now we do not want those job losses. We are going to start building airplanes there. Regrettably, \$50 million later, without a single permanent job in Gimli, what benefit has that provided to the people of Manitoba?

Mr. Speaker, I recognize my time is up, but you will have taken from my comments that I will not be supporting the Bill.

Mr. Speaker: Does the Honourable Member have leave? The Honourable Member does not have leave. Is the House ready for the question?

Hon. Clayton Manness (Minister of Finance): I move, seconded by the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard), that debate be adjourned.

MOTION presented and carried.

* (1740)

BILL NO. 16—THE REAL PROPERTY AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Speaker: On the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Elmwood (Mr. Maloway), Bill No. 16, The Real Property Amendment Act; Loi modifiant la Loi sur les biens réels, standing in the name of the Honourable Member for Lac du Bonnet.

Mr. Darren Praznik (Lac du Bonnet): To accommodate the Member for Elmwood, (Mr. Maloway) I would like

the Bill to stand in my name, although I understand there is another Member who would like to speak on it today.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member for Seven Oaks. It will stand in the name of the Honourable Member for Lac du Bonnet. Agreed? (Agreed)

Mr. Mark Minenko (Seven Oaks): In beginning my remarks on the debate on this particular Bill sponsored by the Honourable Member for Elmwood (Mr. Maloway), I would like to perhaps look to the Honourable Member's own comments where he advised that the objective of his Bill arose from the concerns expressed by Manitobans, as to the increasing costs caused by delays in the Winnipeg Land Titles Office.

Mr. Speaker, I just wish to also advise that I also had the opportunity to speak to the lady that the Honourable Member for Elmwood (Mr. Maloway) referred to in his initial comments on August 5, and that was Janet Switzer, who should be congratulated in her actions over the summer when she was motivated enough, felt motivated enough, to focus the attentions of Manitobans upon the delays and the resulting costs from those delays that were being incurred by herself, as well as many thousands of homeowners and real property owners throughout Manitoba, and more specifically, in and about the city of Winnipeg.

I would just like to also add that what has happened, and certainly myself as a solicitor, having been involved in various transactions over the last several years, we have noticed that the delay for a registration at the Winnipeg Land Titles Office has increased over the last two years, say from approximately a three-week delay from the date of filing some documents to the date when they are finally available to the solicitor, to a period of time which has now extended, had extended, to approximately six weeks.

What was most startling in this development is not only the quick expansion of time from three to six weeks, but also when you consider the time delays for registration, time delays for registration in other provinces and other jurisdictions across this great country of ours, which are much shorter, and certainly over the last period of time as a practising solicitor I have had the fortune of considering or have retained solicitors in other provinces to act on behalf of clients. For example, I was indeed surprised and pleasantly surprised for my clients that in the Province of British Columbia the delay is a matter of hours on the date of possession. In fact, the documents are registered and are available to the solicitor for their consideration.

With respect to the referral of costs suggested by the Honourable Member for Elmwood (Mr. Maloway), he seems to dwell at some length with respect to the costs of legal services in the Province of Manitoba. I believe that if one were to consider the tariff, as provided by the Manitoba Bar Association, and compare that to the actual legal fees one would see quite a difference. Certainly the legal community has reacted to the consumer market in this province and fees certainly reflect that change and sensitivity.

The cost that I would wish to direct the attention of the Honourable Members of the Manitoba Legislature

to are not necessarily the legal costs, but perhaps more importantly, and which directly relate to delays in the Land Titles Office, are those costs associated with matters like interim financing. Certainly that is an area, especially if one is selling and purchasing real property in Manitoba or around the City of Winnipeg today, that is where your greatest costs arise, because you have to have that interim financing to provide certain funds to the other parties.

If, for example, the mortgage that you are paying on the house that you are selling is higher than the rate that the purchaser will provide you, because their rate of interest is lower, then again there is another example of the cost directly related to the delays in the Land Titles Office. Certainly the answer to these concerns and these increased costs are greater efficiency in the Land Titles Office.

I would like to direct the Honourable Members' attention to some years in the past and perhaps more specifically the fall of 1971. I am sure some of the Honourable Members who have participated in debates in this Chamber do recall that period of time for many events, but more specifically, I would point out that certainly a former colleague, the former Member for St. James, the former colleague of the Honourable Member for Elmwood (Mr. Maloway), in the fall of 1971 said that the Government plans to computerize property registrations at the Land Title Offices, to help speed up processing procedures and information retrieval. Even at that date we find that the Government of the Day was considering that computerization, and yet here we have the same computerization some 10 years later. I think the Honourable Member for Elmwood (Mr. Maloway) should consider those remarks of the former Honourable Member for St. James who was considering that and did not action it, because if it was actioned by that NDP Government, the people certainly would not be in the difficulties today.

Another thing I would just like to add is that the Honourable Member for Elmwood (Mr. Maloway) would like us to believe that a real estate transaction is simply the transfer of documents between parties. As I pointed out in a debate earlier this year, land transfers involve quite a bit more. I need not go into the details but simply refer Honourable Members to my comments dealing with amendments to The Condominium Act.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to also point out to the Honourable Members in the Chamber the remarks of the Honourable Member for Thompson (Mr. Ashton) where a short time ago he mentioned that perhaps a lawyer was not needed in all house transactions, simply ones that were not complicated. The Honourable Member at that time advised that there are many situations where you have complications.

He cited those examples as property that does not have a clear title, that has caveats and liens and mortgages against it. I wish to advise the Honourable Members that in fact the vast majority of real estate transactions in the Province of Manitoba in fact do have caveats, in fact do have mortgages against them and certainly, to use the Honourable Member for Thompson's definition, are thus complicated and require the assistance of a solicitor. I would suggest that is in fact the normal course of events and not a complication.

I would hope that the Honourable Member for Elmwood (Mr. Maloway) would consider my remarks, as well as my earlier remarks dealing with the general transfer of land in the Province of Manitoba and varied other considerations, including zoning, taxes. On those few words, Mr. Speaker, I would conclude my remarks in debate on this particular Bill.

* (1750)

Hon. Jim Ernst (Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism): Mr. Speaker, using my extrasensory perception, I sense a mood amongst all Members present that it now be called six o'clock.

Mr. Speaker: Is it the will of the House to call it six o'clock?

Bill No. 16 will continue to stand in the name of the Honourable Member for Lac du Bonnet (Mr. Praznik).

BILL NO. 20—THE WATER RIGHTS AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Speaker: On the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for St. Norbert (Mr. Angus), Bill No. 20, The Water Rights Amendment Act; Loi modifiant la Loi sur les droits d'utilisation de l'eau, standing in the name of the Honourable Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae). (Stand)

BILL NO. 22—THE LIQUOR CONTROL AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Speaker: On the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Concordia (Mr. Doer), Bill No. 22, The Liquor Control Amendment Act; Loi modifiant la Loi sur la réglementation des alcools, standing in the name of the Honourable Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae). (Stand)

BILL NO. 26—THE CONSUMER PROTECTION AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Speaker: On the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Elmwood (Mr. Maloway), Bill No. 26, The Consumer Protection Amendment Act; Loi modifiant la Loi sur la protection du consommateur, standing in the name of the Honourable Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae). (Stand)

SECOND READINGS—PUBLIC BILLS

BILL NO. 25—THE UNFAIR BUSINESS PRACTICES ACT

Mr. Jim Maloway (Elmwood) presented Bill No 25, The Unfair Business Practices Act; Loi sur les pratiques commerciales déloyales, for second reading.

MOTION presented.

Mr. Maloway: I wanted to begin by thanking the Member for Lac du Bonnet (Mr. Praznik) and especially the Member for Seven Oaks (Mr. Minenko) for taking

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such a short time on the previous Bill. I know, being a lawyer, this Bill is dear to his heart. He did want to take his normal 15 minutes. Of course, I listened to him the other day when he spent 40 minutes on The Condominium Act, an excellent speech. So I know that it is quite a sacrifice for him to give up those five minutes and I appreciate it.

With the remaining seven minutes that I have, I will try to explain what is intended by this very important and revolutionary Bill. The Unfair Business Practices Act is just another tool in the tool box for the director over at the Consumers Bureau. The existing Consumer Protection Act—and I have mentioned this before—was passed by the Schreyer Government a way back in 1969. It deals with warranties; it deals with credit terms, direct selling, licensing and bonding. The Act has a number of areas where it needs improvement and one of them was in the area of the “Unfair business practices” and the enforcement provisions against such practices. Under the current Act there were about 2,584 complaints last year that were handled with about 1,330 resolved by mediation. Mediation, I believe, will still prevail to a large extent under this Act.

Currently, six provinces in Canada have such legislation. They are B.C., Alberta, Ontario, Quebec, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland. In fact, in the last couple of months, the Government of Saskatchewan announced that it felt such legislation was important enough that it in fact was going to bring in similar legislation at its upcoming Session. Mr. Speaker, you can see that Manitoba is certainly in the minority of provinces at this point. In fact, this legislation was planned to be brought in by Mr. Mackling in the previous Government and was not brought in because the Government of course did not survive.

The legislation will, I believe, provide a calming and settling effect to bad businesses in the province. I believe that once the director makes a few examples of bad operators that the rest will leave town or reform or certainly go out of business altogether. Perhaps that would be for the best in those very few cases. We are talking about a very few number of people here I am told, perhaps a couple dozen people, whose names keep reappearing year after year under different business names. The director under the Act would make an order and the person would have 21 days to appeal to the court.

Another important aspect of the Bill would allow for class actions on the part of consumers groups, such as the Consumers' Association of Canada, which by the way is also very supportive of this legislation, has been actively lobbying this Government and the previous Government for the introduction of this legislation. The initial response from small business has been very good because I think that it is in the interests of the small business to get rid of these bad operators. I think that is the reason they have been rather supportive so far.

Now, I have about 10 case studies. I am certainly not going to be able to deal with anywhere near all of them at this time. I did want to deal with one which involves an elderly pensioner in his mid-70s living in a house of about 600 square feet which had an appraised value of approximately \$13,000.00. This man entered into five home improvement contracts in less than one year, with one supplier totalling \$32,000.00. Judging by the record compiled on the case at the Consumers Bureau, it appeared that the salesperson representing the supplier took unfair advantage of the consumer's inability to protect his own interests due to his ill health, age, and lack of knowledge on contracts. In this particular case, Mr. Speaker, I believe eight of the nine categories of this proposed Act were violated in this particular case. Of the 10 cases that I have, this was certainly the worst case where this particular man was sold \$32,000 in home repairs and it was determined later that the value of these repairs could be no more than about \$10,000.00.

So there are numerous cases and time does not permit me to get into all of them here, but many of you are aware of them because you have read them in the papers. This legislation will go a long way in permitting the director of the Consumers Bureau to stop activity of this type and activities that take advantage of people by exerting undue influence or taking advantage of consumers due to their age, ignorance, illiteracy, mental incompetence, will be prohibited under this legislation.

The legislation will allow the court to order restitution. It will allow for cease and desist orders and punitive damages. The administrative procedures will allow for investigations, for mediation, voluntary compliance, and cease and desist orders or the freezing of assets. Mr. Speaker, the effectiveness of the Bill will still rely on public awareness because it is only through early notification and involvement of the Consumers Bureau that they could get involved at an early stage to prevent the situation from deteriorating to the point that some of these situations have had.

Once again, I call upon the House to consider the Bill and urge speedy passage. Thank you.

Hon. Clayton Manness (Minister of Finance): I move, seconded by the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Findlay), that debate be adjourned.

MOTION presented and carried.

* (1800)

Mr. Speaker: The hour being 6 p.m., this House is now adjourned and stands adjourned until 1:30 p.m. tomorrow (Wednesday).