



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

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS
(HANSARD)**

37 Elizabeth II

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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
DOWNEY, 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.	Virten	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

Thursday, October 27, 1988.

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

PRAYERS

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS AND TABLING OF REPORTS

Hon. Clayton Manness (Minister of Finance): I would like to table the Quarterly Report of the Manitoba Telephone System, for the nine months ended September 30, 1988.

Hon. Glen Cummings (Minister responsible for the Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation): It is with a great deal of pleasure that I table the report of the Autopac Review Commission, Volumes I and II.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

BILL NO. 37—THE CROWN CORPORATIONS

PUBLIC REVIEW AND ACCOUNTABILITY AND CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS ACT

Hon. Clayton Manness (Minister responsible for the administration of The Crown Corporation Accountability Act) introduced, by leave, Bill No. 37, The Crown Corporations Public Review and Accountability and Consequential Amendments Act.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mr. Speaker: Prior to oral questions, may I direct the attention of all Honourable Members to the Speaker's gallery where we have with us today Mr. Jerzy Palasz, who is a Consul-General of Poland.

On behalf of all Honourable Members, I welcome you here this afternoon.

Also seated in the public gallery, we have four interns from the Alberta Legislature, accompanied by their Parliamentary Counsel, Mr. Michael Ritter.

On behalf of all Honourable Members, I welcome you here this afternoon.

* (1335)

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

City of Winnipeg Urban Limit Line Extension

Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition): My question is to the Minister of Urban Affairs (Mr. Ducharme). City Council last night voted to extend the urban limit line for development to the City of Winnipeg.

The senior member of the Minister's staff has indicated that the Minister expressed, by letter, his concerns about the proposal—a letter which arrived too late to be considered. Will the Minister tell the House today, and the public of Winnipeg and Manitoba, what exactly his concerns are?

Hon. Gerald Ducharme (Minister of Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I am surprised that the Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs) is unaware of the procedures that usually occur at City Hall. I am surprised that she did not bother to maybe get the information from her particular critic of Urban Affairs.

However, in the letter—and there is no such truth that the letter arrived late. The Minister of Urban Affairs is under no obligation to submit information to the City Council after first reading. It is a rule of practice that the city sends the information to the Minister. I did send back, on October 20, information expressing our concern of this particular scope of expansion that is quite different and unprecedented of what has happened in the past.

Tabling Letter Request

Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, it is interesting that City Council say they did not have a copy of the letter. Can the Minister of Urban Affairs (Mr. Ducharme) table his letter in the House today?

Hon. Gerald Ducharme (Minister of Urban Affairs): I am certainly pleased to table my letter dated October 20. It was sent over there on that day expressing our concerns, which was long before the council meeting that happened in the last couple of days. I would be glad to table the letter and I will do so. I have it here in my book.

Urban Sprawl Control

Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, there are similar developments to what is taking place in the City of Winnipeg also taking place in the additional zones adjacent to the City of Winnipeg. Does the Minister have the same concerns about that kind of development, and will his Government develop a plan for organized growth not only in Winnipeg but throughout Manitoba?

Hon. Gerald Ducharme (Minister of Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, we receive these conditions from the City of Winnipeg. We receive the individual zonings as they come forward and as we have done in the past. There are presently four or five proposals that have come to the Minister from that meeting that went back at the same time as this letter.

I know the city has expressed a concern in regard to boundary changes throughout the city and we will

be meeting with the city to go over this request of the city. We know there is urban sprawl throughout the city, but we deal with each one on its own merit and will continue to do so.

Mrs. Carstairs: So, Mr. Speaker, we continue without a plan.

Planning Cost Study

Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition): With a new question to the Minister of Urban Affairs (Mr. Ducharme), the extension of the urban limit line must be done in a manner that recognizes and attempts to balance the needs of the residents, the farming community and the business community. The issue is not simply one concerning the future expansion of the city. It concerns the farming community. It concerns residential development not only in the city but also beyond city limits. It concerns economic growth and it concerns the environment.

Can the Minister of Urban Affairs tell the House today if he will order a major study to consider the full costs of this new city plan, including the costs of the highways and the schools, and the impact of such a development on farming and the environment in the Province of Manitoba?

Hon. Gerald Ducharme (Minister of Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I hate to repeat the same statement I made earlier. I wish the Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs) had probably talked to her Members who are originally of City Hall.

There is a plan. It is called the City of Winnipeg plan. It took seven years to develop and this is a variation of that particular plan. It is now up to this Minister to decide whether there be any variation allowed for that particular plan. I cannot understand why she did not talk to her critic.

* (1340)

Mrs. Carstairs: Mr. Speaker, with a supplementary question to the same Minister, that is exactly the point. If you are going to change the plan, we want to make sure there are impact studies done. Will the Minister assure this House and the citizens of this province that an impact study will be done?

Mr. Ducharme: First of all, the Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs) says there was not a plan; now she says you are going to change your plan. We have not made any requests to change the plan. We have not even got a request from the City of Winnipeg at this time to change that particular area that she is relating to. When that request comes forward to vary that, I have a very capable staff who will enter into the studies that she is talking about, and that is the usual procedure of our department.

Public Consultation

Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition): Will the Minister guarantee to this House today that there will be public input into that study, public input from the farming community, public input from the environmentalists, public input from those who live within the city?

To answer the little chatter going on from the First Minister (Mr. Filmon), there is no guarantee that such a study will take place. Will the Minister ensure that type of public participatory process?

Hon. Gerald Ducharme (Minister of Urban Affairs): There is a plan in place. Public hearings are held at the community committee level, etc., right down the line. EPC holds those hearings. The Environment Committee and the Planning Committee of the City of Winnipeg does their study. City Council does have a vote. They do come forward to ask the province whether they will vary that particular plan.

I repeat, there is a City of Winnipeg plan that took seven years to form. Now they are going through that procedure of asking for a change in that particular plan. I cannot understand why she would now, after all this time spent on the seven-year plan, ask that that plan be completely wiped out.

Minister Discretion

Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition): With a final supplementary to the Minister, is the Minister saying as long as the city presents it, he is going to okay it?

Hon. Gerald Ducharme (Minister of Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, in reply to that, when the city does send me my particular plan or what their request is, when I get it in writing, I will answer that question and I will either approve or disapprove of that particular subdivision. However, and I will assure the Member, unlike the Member, I will not duck the vote as several Members, that we know are of a certain leaning, at City Hall did last night. This person will give an answer.

City of Winnipeg Planning Restrictions

Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Second Opposition): Oh, the old past battles of the "Gang of Nineteen" are here again, Mr. Speaker. I remember the urban critic from the Liberal Party criticizing me for stopping the expansion of the urban limit line a couple of years ago.

The city's own planning document has indicated that there is enough space zoned for development to the 21st Century. The province's own planning documents, with the competent Urban Affairs staff, that both the Minister and I work with very well, knows in those documents saying that the city has enough land zoned for housing development for the next 15 years in the existing City of Winnipeg plan. We all know that the extra costs will not only be those of the city operating costs; it will also be the province with increased school

costs and increased health care costs with an unnecessary change in the urban limit line.

Given all those studies that the Minister has at his disposal, given the fact that he did write a letter on October 20 indicating his great concern—and I applaud him for writing that letter to City Council—will he now tell the people of Manitoba that he will stand up for the taxpayers of Winnipeg and say no to the developers that have approval from the Executive Policy Committee in City Council?

* (1345)

Hon. Gerald Ducharme (Minister of Urban Affairs): Unlike the Opposition, I will not go out and make statements out in the public saying I am against something before I have seen particular papers. I will stand up to the taxpayers, but I will not answer the particular question of whether I will deny or approve the particular subdivision until I receive all the up-to-date information from the city.

Mr. Doer: The Minister knows there has been no change in the proposal from the time he first commented on it and raised his concerns until the passage of that proposal by City Hall last night.

Increased Tax Rates

Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Second Opposition): Can he indicate whether he shares the same concern as all of us that it will indeed increase the taxpayers' rates in the City of Winnipeg unnecessarily and put undue burden on the education capital costs and potentially the health care capital costs that we are responsible for in this Legislature in terms of the taxpayers of this province?

Hon. Gerald Ducharme (Minister of Urban Affairs): I am disappointed in the other critic of Urban Affairs because there could be changes from the first time I received the information. Yes, there can be. There can be changes at EPC; there can be changes at council. I am unaware if there are any changes. When I receive that information, I will either approve or disapprove the particular subdivision. If I did otherwise, it would be completely irresponsible. I am to be the judge on this particular case and on any case that comes forward to the Urban Affairs Minister.

Mr. Doer: Mr. Speaker, I used to get in a lot of trouble for sending letters. I guess this Minister does not with the City Hall.

Kopstein Report Bodily Injury Legislation

Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Second Opposition): I have a new question, Mr. Speaker. I would like to applaud Judge Kopstein on his excellent report. We have had a few minutes to read it. My question on this excellent report dealing with the future of the Public Insurance Corporation is to the Minister responsible for the Public Insurance Corporation (Mr. Cummings).

The report indicates that \$39 million can be saved in terms of a no-fault bodily injury system in the Province of Manitoba—the Minister has had a draft copy of this report for some time—and that is a very major concern to the public and certainly to us in terms of the escalating costs. It does demonstrate in the report that the major increase in costs has been on the bodily side. Is the Minister going to amend the legislation to have no-fault on the bodily injury side?

Hon. Glen Cummings (Minister responsible for the Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation): First of all, the Member for Concordia (Mr. Doer) might well be reminded that also in the Kopstein Report the judge indicates that, in his opinion, steps to improve the rate-making ability should be the corporation's first priority, the financial management of the corporation. He knows that the judge also recommended that any decision regarding no-fault needs to wait until there is a constitutional understanding of the implications of going to a pure no-fault system.

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

Mr. Doer: Mr. Speaker, the reason why the former Government commissioned Judge Kopstein was—indeed, he was a legal expert—to look at the no-fault and he demonstrates there will be a saving of \$39 million. My question is, will the Minister be proceeding with legislation in this Session of the Legislature, pursuant to the Kopstein Report, to save Manitoba auto rate holders \$39 million, which is one of the major cost-saving recommendations in this report?

Mr. Cummings: Mr. Speaker, the Kopstein Report is very clear, first of all, on the constitutional question regarding no-fault insurance. Let us remember before there is an impression left on the record that there is a quid pro quo for this type of insurance. There is a body of thought that says that it is too costly to give up the right to access the courts in favour of the pure no-fault system. There is an extended period of discussion that would have to be undertaken for the public to understand the full ramifications of this type of a change.

To directly answer the question, we have committed ourselves to monitoring the Supreme Court to see what their conclusions may be regarding the constitutionality of a pure no-fault or of limiting access to the courts, and that will take a considerable length of time.

* (1350)

Kopstein Report PUB Rate Approval

Mr. James Carr (Fort Rouge): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister responsible for the Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation (Mr. Cummings). We have had a chance now over the last few minutes to have a quick look at this very long and comprehensive report. In the Minister's response, or at least in the press release that was given to us, the Government is now on record

to go to the Public Utilities Board for rate approval in the 1989 year. Just a week ago, the Minister told us in this House and at committee that was impossible. I wonder what has changed the Minister's mind and I wonder if he could detail for us the steps required to make this happen in 1989.

Hon. Glen Cummings (Minister responsible for the Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation): Mr. Speaker, the corporation and the PUB will shortly be getting together to have the corporation provide whatever information is required by the PUB. That information will then be used in the course of making approval for the rates for 1989. That process, the Member opposite should know full well, is related to the fact that the PUB is an institution that does not take lightly its responsibilities and the corporation has undertaken to provide whatever information the PUB will consider that it requires for that approval.

Mr. Carr: But what we now have clearly on the record is that something which was impossible only a week ago is possible today.

Recommendations List

Mr. James Carr (Fort Rouge): My supplementary, he says in his press release that the Government has already accepted and will begin to implement 27 recommendations within Judge Kopstein's Report. They are not listed in the press release. I wonder if the Minister would undertake to table those 27 recommendations tomorrow in the House.

Hon. Glen Cummings (Minister responsible for the Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation): Certainly.

Mr. Carr: I would like to thank the Minister.

Service Rates Payment

Mr. James Carr (Fort Rouge): With a final supplementary, throughout the report there is discussion of service and the importance of service from the Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation to the people of Manitoba. One recommendation is that there be four equal installments of payment; that there be an initial payment of 25 percent and then three equal payments, quarterly, for the rest of the year. I wonder if today the Minister could confirm that that is one of the 27 recommendations accepted by the Government.

Hon. Glen Cummings (Minister responsible for the Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation): Judge Kopstein, in his report, made some 54 recommendations that relate to Government. The 27 recommendations that we are indicating that we are accepting immediately are all related to the actions that would require action on the part of the Government and the Government's relationship with the corporation.

The merit program, all of the associated time-payment programs, will be the responsibility of the board in the corporation to bring forward recommendations on it. Those sections of the report that belong to operational

and corporate initiatives will be brought forward through the board.

Before we put the amendments to the Act in place, we are practising the clear principle, Mr. Speaker, that we will make the board accountable for the actions of the corporation.

Health Sciences Centre Bed Closures

Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health): I wish to offer a reply to my honourable friend, the Leader of the New Democratic Party (Mr. Doer), to the questions he posed regarding bed closures at the Health Sciences Centre.

This week, 19 beds in the Health Sciences Centre come into full service. These 19 beds were newly renovated beds to provide oncology service to cancer patients. In addition to that, some combination of six medical and respiratory beds are also being brought into service and maintained in service, for a total of 25 beds coming on stream at the Health Sciences Centre to provide additional services.

Mr. Speaker, in July of this year, the Health Sciences Centre requested permission of Government to close a respiratory wing in the hospital permanently following the summer closures. At that time, I was not certain of its impact upon the rest of the system and, having spent the last six to eight weeks of canvassing other hospitals in the Winnipeg area regarding their needs for respiratory beds and finding that given the change in program of health care delivery from in-patient services requiring beds to outpatient services and day surgery, it has been concluded, through review with the other hospitals, that the respiratory wing at the Health Sciences Centre is not needed for program requirements. As a result, given that there are 25 additional beds coming on to service the people of Manitoba, I will be concurring with the Health Sciences Centre's request to close 21 respiratory beds.

* (1355)

Freedom of Information Hospital Provisions

Mr. Paul Edwards (St. James): My question is for the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard). In view of the coming into effect of The Freedom of Information Act on September 30, 1988, almost a month ago now and this Government's assurances at that time that all of the necessary preparations had been made, the training had been completed of the departmental officials, my question for this Minister is, do the provisions of this Act apply to Manitoba's hospitals and, in particular, those set up by private Acts as most, if not all, are of the Manitoba Legislature?

Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health): It is my understanding of The Freedom of Information Act that my department must comply with freedom of information requests as must the Manitoba Health Services Commission which funds the hospitals.

The hospitals are autonomous from the department except for the funding information, and information requests regarding specific budgetary applications to each hospital would be subject to information requests with which we would comply in terms of the funding to the hospitals.

In terms of specific requests in terms of information, specific and internal, to the hospitals, it is my understanding that is not part of The Freedom of Information Act.

Mr. Edwards: Mr. Speaker, I would be interested to know what that assumption is based on, given the fact that The Freedom of Information Act in the definition section clearly provides that where an Act of the Legislature is responsible for the appointment of a board, as is the case with most private Acts dealing with hospitals in this province, that institution is defined as a Crown agency which is in turn defined as a Government department.

Mr. Speaker, as I am sure the Minister is also aware, there are exceptions for the exemption of health records.

Information Reassessment

Mr. Paul Edwards (St. James): My further supplementary to the Minister is, will the Minister move immediately to educate and train hospital officials on his reassessment of the question of whether or not the Act applies; and will he ensure that these hospitals that are receiving applications already are apprised of what the legal status is in his view; and will he reinvestigate with the Department of the Attorney-General as to what that decision in fact is?

Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health): Mr. Speaker, certainly, I will do as my honourable friend suggests, but I think my honourable friend answered his own question wherein he indicated that medical records are exempted under The Freedom of Information Act. I think that may well be the nature of the request that is made without knowledge that those medical records, as they always have been, are not for public consumption. Those are private and personal records in the custody of physicians on their patients.

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

Mr. Edwards: I would suggest the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) take a close look at that Act. There are specific exemptions with respect to the overall exemption of health records, only one of which is for statistical and research purposes. The heads of these hospitals would be qualified—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

* (1400)

Act Impact

Mr. Speaker: Does the Honourable Member have a question? Will the Honourable Member kindly put his question.

Mr. Paul Edwards (St. James): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My final question is, will the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) immediately take a look at that further assumption that he has stated that in fact health records are exempted under the Act and please come to grips with the impact of this Act on Manitoba's hospitals?

Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health): Mr. Speaker, my honourable friend has some specific concerns. Maybe he ought to be definitive in giving them to myself instead of standing up in Question Period, as has been his habit from time to time, and raising these phantom fears. If he has a specific concern where information has to be provided, give it to me. Do not try to raise the fears of those Manitobans who access our hospitals that their life is going to be laid out for the public, which is what he is trying to do today.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I believe the Honourable Minister of Health is imputing motive. I would ask the Honourable Minister of Health to kindly withdraw.

Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health): Which motive did I impute, Mr. Speaker? I am sorry.

Mr. Speaker: The fearmongering.

The Honourable Acting Government House Leader.

Hon. Clayton Manness (Acting Government House Leader): Mr. Speaker, before you ask the Honourable Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) to withdraw some remarks, I am wondering if you could give us some direction, indeed all Members of this House, as to presenting a case that is based not on fact but giving some point to their questions in this House, because on several occasions now, over the past number of days, we have had Members opposite who have tried to raise a spectre of some horrible going-on without getting to the point in their question. We only ask that Members opposite be brought to order and asked to make the point in their question.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Opposition House Leader, on the same point of order.

Mr. Reg Alcock (Opposition House Leader): Mr. Speaker, on the same point of order. The Member for St. James (Mr. Edwards) is raising a legitimate question about an anomaly in the Minister's understanding of The Freedom of Information Act. The Minister has stated clearly that the Act does not apply to hospitals as they are independent bodies. The Member is questioning that interpretation and asking the Minister to investigate and clarify it. To impugn other motives is unparliamentary and I think the Minister should withdraw.

Mr. Speaker: I would like to thank all Honourable Members. I believe that I was quite correct and I did hear where I believe the Honourable Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) was imputing motive where he says he was putting his fear into all the people going into the hospitals.

I would ask the Honourable Minister of Health to kindly withdraw those remarks.

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Speaker, it is with regret that I indicated the nature of my honourable friend's question may well put fear in those people using the hospitals. If that has contravened the rules of this House, I will gladly withdraw any allusion that the questions by the Honourable Member for St. James (Mr. Edwards) were to strike fear in the heart of patients in our health care system.

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: I would like to thank the Honourable Minister of Health.

Order, please; order, please. We are not at a tea party. I would ask all Honourable Members that we pick and choose our words very carefully.

Kopstein Report Collision Insurance

Mr. Leonard Evans (Brandon East): Mr. Speaker, we received the Kopstein Report just a short while ago and we do appreciate his efforts and his recommendations. Hopefully, from here we can go forward to make MPIC even more effective in the future to serve the people in Manitoba.

One of the principal recommendations in the report is that collision insurance must remain mandatory. Both the Liberal and Conservative Parties in the last election stated that making collision insurance optional would be a good idea. In light of Judge Kopstein's recommendation, is the Minister now willing to abandon his misguided position in this matter?

Hon. Glen Cummings (Minister responsible for the Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation): Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the question from the Member opposite because I would not want him to leave on the record the impression that Judge Kopstein would have ignored the broader aspects of his recommendations.

The judge has indicated that keeping the collision insurance mandatory may very well be balanced off by increasing the deductibles for those motorists who wish to have a higher deductible. Where there is a higher deductible that should for whatever reason exceed the value of the vehicle, he also says then we could safely assume that there would be no premium if there is no risk in that area. That is the kind of advice that we are getting through this commission.

I think that the Member is trying to do a disservice just as he did this morning. I agreed yesterday to provide copies, executive summaries, to the Opposition Members half an hour before Question Period and then

he still comes down and tries to disrupt and embargo a press conference.

Farm Rates Increase

Mr. Leonard Evans (Brandon East): Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question. In reality, we only had a few minutes to study this report—one copy, no summaries, not a copy of the press release, nothing. We have recommendations of a very major commission and really no time for the Opposition to study this and look at all the various details.

My supplementary question relates to a recommendation by Judge Kopstein on page 38, "Premiums for farm trucks and, to a lesser degree, farm cars, appear to be too low relative to the five year pattern of losses. The premiums should be increased in keeping with insurance principles."

My question to the Minister is, will it be the policy of his Government to implement this particular recommendation? Will they allow farm rates to go up in this province?

Hon. Glen Cummings (Minister responsible for the Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation): There has been a lot of debate the last week, a lot of it caused by some mental meanderings of mine, but I do not want to let that Member again try to leave the impression on the record that the corporation will have any type of meddling from the Government in terms of how it will deal with its rights. The board will be responsible for dealing with this very serious question that the judge has raised, and that is precisely why we will ask the PUB to pass approval on any rate changes that they make.

Mr. Leonard Evans: I appreciate the Minister's last remarks. I hope he understands where he stands on the PUB. We are not really sure.

Reserve Level Increase

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

Mr. Leonard Evans (Brandon East): Finally, Mr. Speaker, Judge Kopstein has recommended increasing the reserve levels of MPIC to between \$40 million to \$60 million to protect policyholders against rate shocks. Does the Minister concur with this recommendation and does he agree with Judge Kopstein that it should be phased in over five years so Manitobans can get this security without big rate increases?

Hon. Glen Cummings (Minister responsible for the Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation): One of the biggest concerns the people in Manitoba have expressed over the last eight to ten months is that to have a rate shock and have dramatic and traumatic changes in a public Crown that has to serve the public is unacceptable.

Again, the Member has identified why it is reasonable that an impartial third party express an approval for

any of the rate changes that may be involved because there is nothing that affects the rate changes more than the reserves. The corporation will have to define how it intends to build up reserves and what level is considered acceptable by the PUB.

Family Violence Program Strategies

Ms. Avis Gray (Ellice): In the House, yesterday, I asked the Minister of Community Services (Mrs. Oleson) what strategies her Government had developed in the area of prevention of family violence, and the Minister's response specifically dealt with rehabilitation programs, not prevention. I assumed certainly that the Minister does understand the difference between rehabilitation and prevention, and perhaps she did not hear my question yesterday. So I would ask the Minister of Community Services today: what specific strategies for programming has her Government developed, if any, in the area of prevention of family violence?

Hon. Charlotte Oleson (Minister of Community Services): Yes, I had indicated yesterday that counselling services were available at Osborne House. Counselling service is also available with the Immigrant Women's Group that we have just funded for services in that regard.

Public education, public awareness is necessary to stamp out this very serious problem. One way in which we are attempting to address this issue is through the women's initiative that was announced a few days ago, and that group will be addressing this issue when they talk to women in Manitoba.

Program Development Funding

Ms. Avis Gray (Ellice): With a supplementary to the same Minister. The \$100,000 budget that the Minister has set aside for this task force to travel around the province and identify women's needs, could the Minister tell us, a portion of that budget, will it be used or will it be set aside to actually be able to spend money on research so that strategies for prevention in family violence can be developed?

Hon. Charlotte Oleson (Minister of Community Services): I should indicate to the Member—I think I have remarked on this before—that the women's initiative group is not primarily going out to identify needs because we know the needs and the Member has indicated one of them today. They are going to talk to women to see if those needs are being met and what better ways they can be met, and that sort of information we will receive from that committee.

Ms. Gray: We certainly know that there are little, if any, programs in this province for prevention of family violence, so I can tell the Minister right now, before they spend \$100,000, that the needs are not being met.

* (1410)

Research Branch Involvement

Ms. Avis Gray (Ellice): I would then ask the Minister of Community Services (Mrs. Oleson), given that the \$100,000 may not be available for research, will she commission her own Research and Planning Branch—and I distinctly remember hearing that family violence was not a priority with Research and Planning as we went through Estimates—will she now reconsider and commission her Research and Planning Branch to specifically look at what strategies can be developed so that we do have some prevention programs in the area of family violence?

Hon. Charlotte Oleson (Minister of Community Services): In Estimates, I had indicated that was not a priority with that particular branch. I did not say it was not a priority. There is a research capability with the women's initiative that are going out to study these things and they will be giving us a report in due course.

Retail Sales Provincial Performance

Hon. Jim Ernst (Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism): Yesterday, my honourable friend from Brandon East (Mr. Leonard Evans) raised the question in the House with regard to retail sales and the performance of retail sales in the province. I took, Mr. Speaker, that question as notice yesterday and offer a response today. I would offer this response.

Related to Manitoba's poor retail performance this year, a recent estimate showing weakness in the province's growth of per capita disposable income, the Manitoba Bureau of Statistics estimated the personal disposable income in Manitoba declined by .3 percent during the first quarter of 1988.

I wonder if that would have anything to do with the imposition of a 24 percent increase in MPIC rates and a 2 percent tax on net income implemented on January 1, 1988.

Affirmative Action Position Elimination

Mr. Steve Ashton (Thompson): My question is in regard to the policies of this Government regarding affirmative action, policies that have created increasing concern in recent months about the lack of commitment this Government has to this very important area.

This Government has eliminated the position for the affirmative action coordinator. This morning, the Minister responsible for Hydro (Mr. Neufeld) said that this Government will not be taking a proactive position with affirmative action of Hydro and on Hydro development sites because of the fact that he said moving too quickly to hire women, Native people, visible minorities and the disabled would cause inefficiencies and cost to Manitoba Hydro. What is more, this Government recently cut eight positions dealing with Employment Services, involving Limestone positions that were key to the Affirmative Action Program at the Limestone Dam.

My question to the Minister responsible for Hydro is this: does the Minister support the cutback of those eight positions? Was he even consulted with those positions in regard to the cuts that recently took place?

Hon. Harold Neufeld (Minister of Energy and Mines): Mr. Speaker, let me first put on the record that I did not say that I opposed affirmative action. I said that we would, as a Government, not move in such a precipitous way to create inefficiencies. I said that education is more important than legislation. If we continue in the manner in which we are going now, I do believe that we will get to the target that we have set for ourselves.

Furthermore, I indicated as well, and I believe the Member for Thompson (Mr. Ashton) agreed, that quotas should not be set, quotas would be an inefficient way to proceed. As far as the elimination of positions at Limestone is concerned, I believe that would be the result of a phasing out of the jobs that will be available at the Limestone Generating Plant as the construction period is coming to an end.

Ministerial Support

Mr. Steve Ashton (Thompson): As a supplementary, Mr. Speaker, the eight positions I am referring to were included in the previous Budget of the New Democratic Party. They are important to Limestone employment. My question to the Minister is, particularly given the statements he made this morning in regard to affirmative action, which I think requires a great deal of concern to people of Manitoba, did he support the elimination of those eight positions, positions that had been budgeted for this year, this fiscal year, by the previous NDP Government, positions that have been cut by this present Conservative Government?

Hon. Harold Neufeld (Minister of Energy and Mines): Mr. Speaker, as a Member of Treasury Board, I guess I did support the elimination of any positions that have been eliminated.

Route 236 Blacktop Reconstruction

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member for Thompson will have time for one short question.

Mr. Steve Ashton (Thompson): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do have a further question. It follows from our great concern on this side about the Government's election promises and follows from the weather today.

In the election, the Member for Lakeside (Mr. Enns) stated and I quote, "I will make no bones about it. If I am elected and we form the next Government, there will be blacktop on 236 from Stonewall to Balmoral before the snow flies." Today, Mr. Speaker, the snow is flying. I do know the Member for Lakeside was probably out personally inspecting Highway 236 this morning, which is not being blacktopped.

My question is to the Premier (Mr. Filmon), Mr. Speaker. Is this the way that this Government treats

election promises when, once again, we have another broken promise by this provincial Government?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): Mr. Speaker, I might say that, of course, under the previous administration, there was almost no highway construction being done, and certainly this particular project would not only not have been constructed before the snowfall but it would not have been constructed until hell froze over.

Mr. Speaker, I might say, for the edification of the Member for Thompson (Mr. Ashton), that that particular contract has been awarded and we expect that the blacktop will be on there as soon as is possible, given the vagaries of the weather conditions here in Manitoba.

Child Abuse Hearings Police Arbitration Delays

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): While I am on my feet, Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I might take a moment to respond to a question that was raised with me by the Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs) two days ago. She expressed the very valid concern about once more the issue having been raised in the course of the police arbitration hearings of the City of Winnipeg, the concern about the fact that allegations were being made that child abuse cases were not being looked after quickly enough and that there was a very large backlog in the police review and action of allegations of child abuse.

I did phone the Mayor and I apologize that I was not able to get hold of him until sometime late yesterday. He indicated to me that, first and foremost, prior to the arbitration hearings taking place, there had not been one single complaint of backlog or inappropriate or slow reaction to child abuse cases in the City of Winnipeg by the City of Winnipeg Police Force.

However, having said that, he too shared the concern. He recognized that it had been raised at the official delegation meeting and he had asked the Board of Commissioners to review the matter thoroughly and to bring back a report on it to see whether or not there was some problem with the allocation of police manpower resources to address this particular instance, and he will report back to me further after the Board of Commissioners has reviewed the matter.

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

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mr. Speaker: Prior to Orders of the Day, may I direct the attention of Honourable Members to the Speaker's gallery where we now have with us His Honour, Judge Robert Kopstein.

On behalf of all Honourable Members, I welcome you here this afternoon.

* (1420)

HOUSE BUSINESS

Mr. Reg Alcock (Opposition House Leader): Mr. Speaker, I would like to correct the record, given the dispute that arose yesterday over the quorum call in this House.

In both the newspapers, it is reported that the three Government House Leaders were in attendance at a meeting called by the Honourable House Leader for the New Democratic Party (Mr. Cowan). In fact, Mr. Speaker, that meeting was called by yourself to deal with concerns that had been raised by all of the House Leaders; and given that this matter involved the Speaker, I felt it was necessary that we correct the record and withdraw any suggestion.

Mr. Speaker: First of all, let me thank the Honourable Member for Osborne for correcting the record.

MATTER OF PRIVILEGE

Mr. Leonard Evans (Brandon East): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a matter of privilege and will be following my remarks with a substantive motion.

Yesterday, in this Chamber, the Minister responsible for MPIC (Mr. Cummings), in spite of protests by both Opposition Parties, has held back the release of the Kopstein Report until today and after an embargoed news conference was held supposedly only for the media.

As a Member of the Legislative Assembly, I attempted to attend that press conference but was refused admittance by staff from the Premier's Office who were surprisingly there in larger than expected numbers. Of course, the Minister himself was not happy with my being there.

I reject vehemently the policy of this Government to close the doors and to lock out MLAs when important issues are being announced and discussed publicly. It is a concern I do not share alone, Mr. Speaker. Members and friends to my right just yesterday decried this policy and expressed frustration with the closed-door mentality of this Conservative Government.

Just 10 months ago, in this very Chamber, the now Premier (Mr. Filmon), the then Leader of the Opposition, complained about one embargoed news conference the previous Government had on March 2, 1988. At that time, he was speaking about the practice of the Pawley Government with respect to embargoed news conferences and briefings. He said the practice was to have, and I quote, "Members or representatives of the Opposition have been invited to sit in to obtain information on those matters." At that time, they were criticizing one instance where that established practice was not followed. They called that exception an attempt by the Minister of, and I quote, "trying to hide things," and implied that the Government was not being, and I quote, "honest and open." That criticism was provoked because, as the Leader of the Conservative Opposition said that day, and I quote again, "Representatives of the Conservative caucus showed up this morning and were denied access to the information and denied

access to that briefing." That is exactly what they did to me earlier today.

It is passing strange, Mr. Speaker, how this perception of things has changed over the past few months. Was he right then or is he right now? That is a serious question. It is one that even the Premier (Mr. Filmon), by his contradictory stances over the past few months, has highlighted.

It must also be noted that we have an even stronger concern about this particular incident today, because while Opposition Members were not invited to this embargoed news conference, there were nine Members of the Legislature who are not part of the media who were there. When I asked to be allowed as an MLA to sit in on today's news conference, and incidentally, just in the anteroom to look in on the TV monitor, there was already in that room a representative of the Insurance Brokers' Association of Manitoba already seated in that room with a copy of the Kopstein Report in his possession. He was only asked to leave after I was in the process of being denied access to the press conference.

It is interesting to note, Mr. Speaker, that he was asked to leave by the Premier's Secretary who did so in a quite apologetic manner. So while MLAs are being denied access, representatives of the Insurance Brokers' Association of Manitoba are invited in their place. This is a complex matter but it is not one without some examples that can be used to guide the formation of policies respecting embargoed news conferences and briefings which would be acceptable to all Members of the Legislature. For example, there is the Budget process which could serve as a starting point for any discussion.

I believe that it is a task that is worthy of our consideration as Members of the Legislative Assembly. If we do not do so, we will continue to suffer the frustration and anger which we have experienced recently at this Government's closed press conference room door and retreats behind an uncertain process of embargoes. That situation should be rectified and it can be resolved, Mr. Speaker, if we work together in this House to make this Government and all future Governments more open and sensitive to needs of the MLAs.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the MLA for Logan (Ms. Hemphill), that the matter of embargoed news conferences and briefings be referred to the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections in order to establish an approved process for news conferences which respects the rights of all Members of the Legislative Assembly.

An Honourable Member: Hear, hear!

Hon. Clayton Manness (Acting Government House Leader): In my capacity as Acting House Leader, I rushed to the House Leader's copy of Beauchesne's and some of his files; and, Mr. Speaker, I could not help but find on page 25 of his book a ruling from the Speaker in 1985, under "Matters of Privilege."

I am led to believe, in reviewing the rules of a former Speaker, that the Speaker's role, when a matter of

privilege is raised, is to satisfy himself or herself whether or not (a) the matter is being raised at the earliest opportunity. I cannot help but refer to Beauchesne, Section 82, where it says and I quote, "A question of privilege must be brought to the attention of the House at the first possible opportunity." I believe that the Member opposite has failed to do so, his first opportunity being 1:30 p.m.

Secondly, Mr. Speaker, the ruling says, ". . . sufficient evidence of the alleged breach of the privileges of the House has been presented to warrant giving the matter precedent over all other business." Let me say, in my view, a prima facie case has not been presented by the Member opposite.

Firstly, it has come to my attention that this is convention that is practised. It has been convention in practice within this House for the last 10 years. Nowhere have I been able to see where there is a rule against this particular practice. Indeed, nowhere in Canada is another Rules Committee considering this practice.

I would go on to say that the key point is the Minister, in doing the rightful thing, made sure that copies were made available to both Opposition caucuses at one o'clock. Indeed, that there was a strict embargo in place that no members of the public at large had an opportunity to hear about this. The one individual that the Member indicates from the outside community who was in attendance, once found out, was asked to leave.

So, Mr. Speaker, I believe that the Member's so-called breach of privilege fails in two respects. I feel he has not brought it forward in a manner promptly as required to do so by the rules. Secondly, he has no prima facie case for referring this to the Rules Committee because, indeed, his privilege has not been breached.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. Jay Cowan (Second Opposition House Leader): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. It proves that a little knowledge is a dangerous thing, the most recent comment by the Acting Government House Leader. He has pulled excerpts from Beauchesne's and also excerpts from one particular instance, but had he taken the time to review the matter, he would have determined that it is a long - (Interjection) - He protests, perhaps a bit too much, that he just found out about it three minutes ago.

The fact is that it is an established practice in this House, and he has sat in this House long enough at least to should have known it, that the matters of privilege are usually presented at the end of Question Period. They have been found in order at the end of Question Period and it is a custom of this House and a practice and a precedent within this House.

Hon. Clayton Manness (Acting Government House Leader): Will you go by precedent now?

Mr. Cowan: It is interesting that the Acting Government House Leader (Mr. Manness), just like the Government House Leader (Mr. McCrae), wants to throw the

precedent of this House out the window when it does not happen to coincide with their closed-door mentality to governing this province.

The fact is it is a practice of this House. It has been ruled in order on numerous occasions that matters of privilege are delivered immediately commencing the Question Period. That is an established practice that I believe must be considered in any review of this particular matter. I would gladly share more than one file, which the Acting Government House Leader has available to him, that proves that to be the case on many different occasions.

With respect to the breach of privilege, Mr. Speaker, responding to the Acting Government House Leader's point of order, I believe that is a matter that is best left up to your determination rather than the determination of the Acting Government House Leader, who has shown very clearly that they do not want to discuss this matter, that they do not want to be an open-door Government and that they do not want to move forward with the consensual process in developing new rules that expedite the business of all MLAs.

Mr. Speaker: First of all, let me thank all Honourable Members.

The Honourable Member for Churchill (Mr. Cowan) managed to gain the floor on a point of order. The Honourable Member did not have to rise on a point of order. I was willing to accept advice from everybody. I would have accepted advice from any Member on this issue. It is a very important issue. I feel that I have no other choice but to take it under advisement, and then I will report back to the House.

* (1430)

NON-POLITICAL STATEMENT

Hon. Jim Ernst (Minister responsible for Sport): I wondered if I might have leave of the House to make a non-political statement.

Mr. Speaker: Does the Honourable Minister have leave? (Agreed)

Mr. Ernst: In my capacity as Minister responsible for Sport, I want to point out that in fact I did introduce to the House several weeks ago members of Manitoba's Paralympic Team who are participating in Seoul, Korea, this week and last.

Our Manitoba representatives excelled in the Paralympics at Seoul.

Tim McIsaac led the medal harvest with six gold, including world records in the 4x100 medley swim relay and 4x100 freestyle relay for the visually impaired.

Joanne Mucz set a world record in the 400-metre freestyle swim and also won a silver medal in the 100 freestyle swim for double amputees below the knee.

Halldor Bjarnson set a world record in the 1500-metre tricycle and won a silver in the 3000 metres for cerebral palsy athletes.

Thursday, October 27, 1988

Arnie Boldt won a gold in the high jump and a silver in the long jump for a single leg amputee above the knee.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, Michelle Arnold helped the women's relay team win a bronze in the 4x100 medley relay and a bronze in the 400 individual medley swim for the visually impaired.

I am sure that all of us in Manitoba and particularly in this Legislature are proud of the accomplishments of our Paralympians and we all congratulate them on the honour they brought to Manitoba.

Ms. Judy Wasylcia-Leis (St. Johns): Could I have leave, as well, to make a non-political statement?

Mr. Speaker: Does the Honourable Member for St. Johns have leave to make a non-political statement? (Agreed)

Ms. Wasylcia-Leis: As the NDP Sports critic, I would be pleased to associate myself and the feelings of my caucus colleagues with the sentiments expressed today by the Minister responsible for Sport (Mr. Ernst), for the Province of Manitoba, and to add to his words of congratulation to all participants in the Paralympics at Seoul, Korea, and to express the pride and gratitude that we all feel in this Chamber for the participants, for the trainers, for the volunteers, for the community's support behind all of our participants in the Paralympics at Seoul, Korea.

Mr. Richard Kozak (Transcona): I am delighted to associate—

Mr. Speaker: Does the Honourable Member for Transcona have leave to make a non-political statement? (Agreed)

Mr. Kozak: Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to associate myself with the remarks of the Minister responsible for Sport (Mr. Ernst) and my colleague with the Second Opposition Party. Amateur sport is a matter of great importance in this province. Persons with disabilities are certainly included in this process, and we take pride in their achievements in Seoul this year.

COMMITTEE CHANGES

Mr. Edward Helwer (Gimli): I move, seconded by the Member for Lac du Bonnet (Mr. Praznik), that the composition of the Standing Committee on Public Utilities and Natural Resources be amended as follows: Findlay for Orchard, and Penner for Praznik.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Hon. Clayton Manness (Acting Government House Leader): I move, seconded by the Minister of Northern Affairs (Mr. Downey), that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee to consider of the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

MOTION presented and carried and the House resolved itself into a Committee to consider of the

Supply to be granted to Her Majesty, with the Honourable Member for Minnedosa (Mr. Gilleshammer) in the Chair for the Department of Education; and the Honourable Member for Seven Oaks (Mr. Minenko) in the Chair for the Department of Health.

* (1450)

CONCURRENT COMMITTEES OF SUPPLY SUPPLY—EDUCATION

Mr. Chairman, Harold Gilleshammer: I would like to call this committee meeting to order. We are considering the Estimates of the Education Department. We are on item 1.(e) Financial Services: (1) Salaries \$1,469,000.00. Shall the item pass?

Mrs. Iva Yeo (Sturgeon Creek): No.

Mr. Chairman: I am sorry.

Mrs. Yeo: What are we looking at? We are looking at the Salaries?

Mr. Chairman: Yes.

Mrs. Yeo: I still have, I think under there, some questions. Yes, I have.

Mr. Chairman: Just prior to that, I believe the Minister has some information from our last meeting.

Hon. Leonard Derkach (Minister of Education): Last day, we were requested to get some information and to distribute it. I would like to distribute responses to questions raised by the Member for Selkirk (Mrs. Charles) regarding the frequency distribution of full- and part-time teachers by sex from '87-88, and frequency distribution of full- and part-time first-year education students by gender for September 1988.

In addition, I would like to also distribute, in response to the Member for Flin Flon's (Mr. Storie) request, the following reports: Graduate Follow-up Provincial Results, Parameters for Provincial Policy on International Education, Final Examination Practices for Senior High School Grads. Also, to a question on October the 24, the Grade 6 math text, this is just the material. This is a copy of the texts that are Canadian and non-Canadian.

Mr. Chairman: On item 1.(e) Financial Services (1) Salaries.

Mrs. Yeo: Looking through the Salaries, again there is a new item, Other Benefits. I assume that is similar to previously that is for overtime allotment?

Mr. Derkach: Is this the \$15,000.00?

Mrs. Yeo: Yes.

Mr. Derkach: That is the severance package for an anticipated retirement.

Mrs. Yeo: One of the objectives under the Financial Services is to provide a pupil transportation system. I am wondering what responsibility the Department of Education has with regard to pupil transportation for the independent schools?

Mr. Derkach: There is provision for independent schools to sign shared service agreements for such services as transportation.

Mrs. Yeo: Does your department set out minimum policies for boards to follow with regard to transportation, or are you mainly responsible for capital and simply the purchasing of buses, etc.?

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Chairman, I would like to say that with regard to transportation, school divisions have the authority either to opt into the provincial transportation for students or opt out of the provincial system and contract their needs to independent entrepreneurs. School boards set their policies with regard to their own parameters. However, we do provide the capital and the grants are provided on a per-student basis. However, there are no grants for students living within a city or a town except if they live more than 1.6 kilometres from the school in the rural areas.

Mrs. Yeo: Under the item area of Internal Audit, is this the appropriate time to make questions with regard to that? Okay. Under Activity Identification, there is a comment that it is done on a cyclical basis every three years. I am wondering when the last audit was accomplished.

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Chairman, audits of different branches are being done on an ongoing basis.

Mrs. Yeo: I thank the Minister for that clarification. Have you any idea of what comprehensive audits are scheduled for '88-89, and would it be possible—I am sorry I did not ask this in my list when I submitted the list that I did—to get a list of that, as well as what was scheduled for '87-88? I would be very interested.

Mr. Derkach: The list for '88-89 is included in your booklet on page 32.

Mrs. Yeo: Thank you very much. Could I obtain a list of the comprehensive audits that were done in '87-88 as well?

Mr. Derkach: Most definitely.

Mrs. Yeo: Are there any recommendations that have been made or are you planning to make to improve any of the accounting procedures in your particular department?

Mr. Derkach: As the audits are completed, there are certainly recommendations made with regard to tightening up, for example, internal controls, making sure accounts receivable are done better and on time. We have moved some of our accounting onto computer systems which make them more effective and efficient.

Mrs. Yeo: There is a term listed that I am not familiar with, and that is claim certifications. I am wondering

if the Minister could give me the definition, if you will, of that particular term.

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Chairman, when we have shared services with the federal Government, there has to be a billing prepared. Also, a claim certification has to be done in order to proceed with the claim.

Mrs. Yeo: Can the Minister tell me if there has ever been or is a statutory committee or advisory council on Ed. Finance that would include the MTS, MASBO, MASS, MAST people, etc?

Mr. Derkach: There was a committee of that nature. However, it has not been active over the last number of years, and I have already announced that we will be reactivating that committee.

Mrs. Yeo: Will that committee be sitting within the next few weeks or months then, I would assume?

Mr. Derkach: That committee will be structured as quickly as possible and, hopefully, we can have them initiate their first meeting in the next month.

Mrs. Yeo: Is that what was alluded to in your beginning speech where you talked about a review of Ed. Finance, or is that something totally different?

Mr. Derkach: That is something that is somewhat different. The Ed. Finance Review is being undertaken by the Ed. Finance Department, and officials of the department have been working on this for some time now. That is to coordinate the Ed. Finance aspects so that there is more equity in the way that we treat grants and finances to school divisions across the province.

Mrs. Yeo: For a long period of time now, I know that every so often one, usually it is a political group I guess, or another talks about changes in the method of collecting school taxes. I must applaud this department for in fact changing the way the taxes are submitted to the school divisions. I think perhaps some of the municipalities and some of the city councillors were a little upset with that, but I think it seems to me to be a fair way of submitting the funding for ongoing education purposes. I am wondering though if any thought or any movement will be taken towards removing the school tax burden from the property tax aspect and moving it into taking the money out of general revenue or the income tax method of taxation.

* (1500)

Mr. Derkach: As the Member for Sturgeon Creek (Mrs. Yeo) knows, we have moved somewhat in that area in that we have committed ourselves to removing the education tax on farm land. This year, we have adopted a different method of removing some of the education tax on farm land by a more general approach which would benefit not just the operators but also those people who hold land, namely, widows or single women who have land in their possession but do not necessarily farm that land. In addition, the Ed. Finance Review will certainly be considering all aspects of education tax remittance.

Mrs. Yeo: Again, the Minister alluded to the educational review of things such as special grants, etc., and I have had, and I am sure he has as well and the other Opposition critic as well, concerns from parents who have children with challenging needs, be they handicapped children mentally, or physically, or be they the gifted child or whatever. In your initial presentation, Mr. Minister, at the beginning of the Education Estimates process, you talked about there being approximately, I think you said—no, you said over 4,000 children, I do not know how many over, was it 4,001 or 4,400, I do not know—out of 200,000-plus children who are receiving some special grants. I am wondering if there is any thrust to have a very thorough review of the funding to the special needs children in the school.

Mr. Derkach: Oh yes, Mr. Chairman, this is certainly an important area of the Ed. Finance Review, and in doing the Ed. Finance Review, this will be one of the components that we will certainly be taking a very serious look at.

Mrs. Yeo: Thank you once again, Mr. Chairperson. The Low Incidence—I believe it was called “Low Incidence 1, 2, and 3”—is that still operating or is that something that is on the back burner, or will that be part of the consideration, the different levels of funding for the special needs?

Mr. Derkach: In the last Budget there was a change with regard to the funding. It has now been changed to the Level 1, 2 and 3 funding. This area certainly is one that we need to pay some attention to.

First of all, we will be examining how well this new system is working and whether or not it is meeting better the needs of many of the students who have special needs. If it is not and if there are changes required, we will certainly be embarking on improving the way that we deliver grants and the way we fund special needs students.

Mrs. Yeo: I wonder if I could impose upon the Minister to roughly briefly define the differences between the Level 1, the Level 2 and the Level 3?

Mr. Derkach: I think the grants under the old system were \$3,300 for the L1 and \$6,600 for the L2 and \$13,200 for the Level 3. Under the new system, the Level 1 funding is based on the enrollment of the school. It is on a per-student basis. I think the last formula was something like one teacher to 325 students. It is now one to 160.

Mrs. Yeo: Is that for all three levels of special funding—

Mr. Derkach: No.

Mrs. Yeo: —or just for Level 1?

Mr. Derkach: That is just for the Level 1 funding. The Level 2 and the Level 3 funding are still at the \$6,600 and the \$13,200.00.

Mrs. Yeo: It just seems to me that perhaps there is again some inequity here. I think if we are going to

have equitable educational services to our children—I can think of some schools where there might be relatively few special needs children. There might be other schools where there would be a good number. I hate to always zero in on the inner school or the northern schools or whatever, but it does seem to me that there is some disservice to some of the schools if it is on a one and 325 or a one and 160. As I say, there maybe some schools where there may only be one child out of 160, whereas another school may have 25 children or more. I certainly would hope that would part of the review. I assume it would be? Am I wrong in that assumption?

Mr. Derkach: I think one of the problems in the past has been that there has been a lot of energy and human resource expended on negotiating the level of funding for the special needs students and to remove that cumbersome process. There was a shift of this type of an approach. We understand that there will be problems with this kind of an approach. That is why it is being monitored. Certainly, in the Ed. Finance Review, this will all be taken into consideration. If we can better respond to those situations that the Member has outlined, we certainly will.

Mrs. Yeo: I thank you, Mr. Minister, for that comment.

I certainly am appreciative of the difficulty as I think it is. For one thing, I assume that there is a difficulty in definition. Who is Level 1 and who is Level 2? I think Level 3 is a little, perhaps, easier to define. I think there are a lot of problems there with interpretation. I do not know whether there is a way to counteract that completely.

I have a question re access to schools and the request that I know the Public Schools Finance Board has from time to time for such things as lifts, elevators, ramps and this sort of thing. I am wondering what criteria is utilized to okay the fairly hefty expenditures that might occur in putting a lift into a school, or an elevator into a school.

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Chairman, in order to be able to respond to this question in its entirety, I think it would be fair if we had the appropriate staff here for it. I am wondering if we can refer this particular question to the appropriate section which is under Capital, because then we will have the appropriate staff here. Although I could give you a general answer to it, I think maybe if we want a specific answer we should wait.

Mrs. Yeo: No, I hope I do not forget to ask it again because it is a concern that has been raised to me by a couple of people in my particular constituency. I was unable to give them the answer and I thought this was the appropriate spot to ask the question. So I think I will sit back and listen for a while.

Ms. Maureen Hemphill (Logan): Mr. Chairperson, just to make sure I am on the right line or in the right place, is it appropriate to raise some questions about the allocation of money in the Ed. Finance package?

Mr. Derkach: That should be raised under (XVI)3.(a).

Ms. Hemphill: Okay. Is it appropriate to ask some questions for the Public Schools Finance Board, not those specifically related to an individual capital project but related to policies and programs in the department?

Mr. Derkach: Yes.

Ms. Hemphill: First of all, I would like to know if there have been any changes to the Public Schools Finance Board?

Mr. Derkach: To the composition of the board, Mr. Chairman?

Ms. Hemphill: To the composition and the make-up of the board, the members of the board.

Mr. Derkach: Yes, there has.

Ms. Hemphill: Could you tell us what those changes are?

* (1510)

Mr. Derkach: I might indicate that Mr. Frechette has retired from the position of chairman of the Public Schools Finance Board. We have retained his services on a one day per-week basis until such time as his position is filled. I might say that we have a new board in place and I could give you the names if you so like.

Ms. Hemphill: Perhaps you could just prepare a list. You could give that to us as information.

Mr. Derkach: Or I could read it out here. It does not matter.

Ms. Hemphill: Okay.

Mr. Derkach: The vice-chairperson of the board is Mrs. Pat Mosiewicz. Members of the board are Wayne Hollier, Dorothy French and Ken Fraser.

Ms. Hemphill: About the same number of members who were on the board before?

Mr. Derkach: Yes.

Ms. Hemphill: Are you in the process of advertising? How do you -(Interjection)- the position, Mr. Frechette's position.

Mr. Derkach: The position will be filled. At the present time, there is no advertisement out for that position. We are taking a look at perhaps some ways of restructuring what we have there at the present time. Then a decision will be made as to whether or not the position will be advertised as the position that existed before.

Ms. Hemphill: Just so I understand, it seems to suggest that you may be thinking of not having a chairman of the Public Schools Finance Board, or amalgamating that with other existing positions, having it covered by existing staff for instance?

Mr. Derkach: That decision has not been made at this time; however, Mr. Frechette will act in the capacity as chairman of the board. However, he is only going to be available on a one day per-week basis unless there are special projects that he is going to undertake. But I can assure you, Mr. Chairman, our intention is to have somebody in place in that position so that we either have a chairman of the board as was Mr. Frechette, or somebody who can handle that task in that capacity.

Ms. Hemphill: I am wondering if I can have the Minister give me some information on not the particular capital projects but the priority that this Government is going to be giving to the building of schools in terms of money that is going to be made available.

I will tell you what it is that I am—I am not asking for individual projects that have been approved, but under the Public Schools Finance Board there is a budget and there are programs to do a number of things. There were a number of policies in place that affected the distribution of those funds. I guess one of the things I would like to do is talk about some of those policies or ask some questions and see if they are still in place, if the priorities are still there, or if there has been a shift or a change?

Mr. Derkach: I might just say that we have not changed any of the policies that were in place. Those policies still remain there and at the present time, I have not taken a look at changing any specific policy.

Ms. Hemphill: I am glad to hear that, but perhaps I can give you some idea of the areas I am particular interested in. Let me know if you are still following the previous practice. My colleague indicated some interesting concern about handicapped access, and the question of who would be making the decision about whether a lift or an elevator would go in. Previously, there was a priority given to making our schools accessible to handicapped people throughout the province and we were allocating something in the order of half a million dollars a year. I may be wrong on the figure. I think it was in that neighbourhood with a planned process to, over a period of time, have handicapped access of all of the schools in the province. My question is, are you continuing with that priority and that program?

Mr. Derkach: Yes, we are.

Ms. Hemphill: Do you have any idea how far we are along then, in terms of the job that is there to be done? Have we covered half of the schools in the province? Have we covered two-thirds of the schools in the province?

Mr. Derkach: Once again, that is the kind of question that I would probably be able to answer more in the section appropriate to that. However, we have received a detailed report on what has been undertaken and what needs to be done but I could be more specific when we get to that section.

Ms. Hemphill: Just in case I am not here, which is likely to be the case, you can perhaps just provide that

to my colleague. One of the other areas that has had a very high priority over a number of years was to try and upgrade and renovate the tremendous number of older schools that were in our province. We realized when we assessed them all and put them on the computer, had an assessment program, that we had a very large number of very badly deteriorating schools. The former Government had a plan of action to improve and renovate older schools throughout the province in the North, in the rural area and in the Inner City. I am wondering whether that renovation program, and the priority being given to that renovation program is existing, and particularly, is there an emphasis being put on as there was on Inner City schools?

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Chairman, we are proceeding with the same policy that was in place when we took office and certainly in the Inner City there was the one school per year, the formula that had been set down prior to Government changing. So there has not been any significant change with regard to the way we approach the construction of schools.

Ms. Hemphill: Could I ask for clarification on the one school per year, for the Inner City? I do not—

Mr. Derkach: The one school per year is in Winnipeg School Division No. 1, and that policy existed prior to Government changing.

Ms. Hemphill: Just for clarification, Mr. Chairman, to the Minister, if that was the case, that was the budget allocation the previous year, I would not consider that to be a policy, but I will not get into that any further.

One of the things that we were exploring was the building of modular units and we all know how inappropriate the previous portables were; that they were not of very good quality, they were difficult to move, the people did not like to have them unless they absolutely had to for increased enrollment. What was being tried, and I think we had pilot projects in a couple of school divisions, were new modular units that are designed so that they can be attached to any school and moved more easily and they are of a very much higher quality.

The idea was that in a time of declining enrollments and increasing enrollments where there may be a major shift within a school division, or within the province, instead of building a bunch of new schools that then would be empty 10 years later, as we are seeing right now, you would use these increased enrollment periods or changes by using modular units.

Have they proven themselves? How successful are they? How many are there and are we continuing in the development of modular units in the place of portables?

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Chairman, I think the Member for Logan (Ms. Hemphill) is referring to the high quality relocatable units that are used in the areas where there is an expanding population, and certainly those are used quite extensively throughout the province. There are, I guess, tens of them around the province. I do

not know exactly how many. Certainly they have proven out very successfully in most areas. It is a new way of perhaps supplying the need at short notice where we have large expanding school divisions, especially where we have big population explosions, relatively speaking.

Mrs. Yeo: Is this the appropriate spot to ask a few questions about the workplace safety and health in the schools, things such as ventilation, equipment, etc.?

Mr. Derkach: Again, probably the better section to ask this in (XIV)8., when we have appropriate staff here for those questions because it is all related to Capital.

Mrs. Yeo: Well, I do not think all of it is related to Capital, Mr. Chairperson. One of the questions that I was interested in asking was if the department had given any directives to school divisions to identify the use of toxins, the bottles that may be stored in an art class. What might be in them, the bottles that may be found in the cleaning areas of the schools?

There is a very real concern on the part of the teachers and certainly, after having visited the Occupational Health Centre the other day, my awareness was developed about the particular cans and sprays and whatever that might be located and I can see where there is some relation to Capital. But I am interested and have been asked by the teachers, by a lot of the teachers in the province, about their very real concern for the workplace safety and health of their buildings.

* (1520)

Mr. Derkach: I can respond to that question because perhaps the Member for Sturgeon Creek (Mrs. Yeo) knows that there are committees under workplace health and safety which are made up of teachers and of board members. I think there are even cases where students are on those boards who do inspections of these areas, to ensure that in fact those workplaces are healthy and the environment is safe for both teachers and students. Those inspections go on on a year-round basis and, therefore, the recommendations with respect to needs to upgrade facilities certainly are made by those committees.

Mrs. Yeo: I will reserve the right then to ask subsequent questions under the area when you have your appropriate staff available.

Transportation costs—we touched on them a moment ago. Is there a discrepancy? Is there a different funding, urban versus rural?

Mr. Derkach: The difference is that urban students are not included in the grants for transportation as rural students are. There are grants for the special situations though, for special needs students.

Mrs. Yeo: What I am assuming then is that the 1.6 kilometres, or whatever it is in the city—obviously this type of grant specification would not occur in the rural area, because I assume that some of those children are on the bus for an hour in the morning and an hour in the afternoon, and that may in fact be a conservative

estimate. So the costs for transportation are allotted differently—this is what I am saying—for the rural student than they are for the city student?

Mr. Derkach: Yes, that is right.

Mrs. Yeo: Is there a per pupil cost for the numbers of pupils that are transported in a certain school division? I use the Roblin-Russell School Division, if there are 500 students transported or whatever it might be, is it 500 times a certain amount, then? If so, what is the amount?

Mr. Derkach: It is a per-pupil grant for the eligible student for transportation in the rural areas. The amount for transportation grants is \$410 per student.

Mrs. Yeo: Thank you. Could I ask a couple of questions about the small school grants that, I think, have been in power since the Member for Logan (Ms. Hemphill) was the Minister of Education, or is this the appropriate spot?

Mr. Derkach: Once again, that is (XVI)3.(a). This is Administration and Finance. It is just within the department itself.

Mrs. Yeo: If I may be so bold as to say that when you look through this Estimates Book it sometimes is very difficult, even reading under Objectives and Activities, etc., to identify what belongs where.

Mr. Derkach: I understand that frustration completely because I went through it for two years before I sort of got on track. So certainly I am going to try and be as accommodating as I can. But just so that the Member understands, in order to be able to give a complete and thorough answer, the only reason I say that this belongs in this section is because at that time we will have appropriate staff who can probably provide me with the up-to-date information and more thorough information than I could probably give the Member at this time. So I am not trying to be difficult to get along with.

Mrs. Yeo: I appreciate that, and I am not trying to show my frustration too greatly either.

What about school boundaries? Is this the appropriate place to—no, that is under some other area. Is this the appropriate place to ask you about, in your beginning presentation, you indicated, or maybe it was in the sheet that you sent to me, it was one of the committees that you had struck or one of the groups that had looked at the possibility of restructuring the boundaries or even the need to look at the restructuring of the boundaries. I am wondering, Mr. Chairperson, if the Minister could tell us who was on that particular committee or how many people were involved in doing that particular task.

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Chairman, I guess I should indicate that it was the board of reference that has made suggestions with regard to the need to review school boundaries. We do receive a report from the department

with respect to school division boundaries. However, at this point in time, I have to say honestly that there has been no decision made to plunge ahead with a full-scale boundaries review. Rather, it is something that has been brought to my attention and something that requires some in-depth study, I do believe, and then following that I would think a more learned decision can be made as to if and how to proceed.

Mrs. Yeo: Yes, I can certainly appreciate that. I think it is a very, very sensitive issue and one does not hope that any department would leap ahead without examining the situation very carefully and establishing some very definite guidelines before doing a school division boundary review. It seems to me that there is a review of all kinds of other boundaries, and it is a very timely sort of thing to look at, however. Could you tell me how many members sit on the board of reference and who is the chairman or chairperson?

Mr. Derkach: I can take that question as notice. I know who the chairperson is of that board, but I am not sure whether there are five or six members on the board right now. I do not think it is that many, but I can tell you who the chairperson of that board is. Is that what you wanted to know?

Mrs. Yeo: Really, what I am after is, because of the—well I will not call it difficulty—strong urban representation on the Provincial Election Boundaries Commission, I am rather curious and would like to know what kind of representation is on the board of reference. So more than knowing who they are, I would like to know whom they represent and what part of the province these people are from, and I am in no hurry for that response.

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Chairman, that information is forthcoming and, as soon as I have it, we will come back to that and I will elaborate on it.

Mr. Chairman: Shall the item pass?

Ms. Hemphill: Mr. Chairperson, a few questions just to follow up on the board of reference, is it my understanding then that the board of reference wrote you a letter and that the recommendation for having a boundary review came from them?

Mr. Derkach: That was an internal report, I guess, that had come to the former administration. Certainly, I would think that as the board of reference, it indicated there was some—because of the experiences they had, they felt that there was a need to look at it. That is still a report that I would consider relevant.

* (1530)

Ms. Hemphill: Mr. Chairman, do you recall, and what do you consider would be the important reasons for having a boundaries review from the problems that they related? Was it finance? Did they think there were unnecessary financial costs? Do they think it was quality of education? Which would be the basis that you would consider to be most important to justify having a boundaries review?

Thursday, October 27, 1988

Mr. Derkach: I think the Member for Logan (Ms. Hemphill) certainly points to two very important elements that would point to a need for a boundaries review.

First of all, declining enrollments in rural areas has certainly had an impact on the transportation costs, the size of the schools, the effectiveness and efficiency of delivering an education system to those areas. As we know, the population shifts right across the province have certainly caused some havoc in terms of trying to administer school divisions. The last school boundary change—well there was no school boundary change. It was the implementation way back in 1959. I think, at that time, the Boundaries Commission had recommended that from time to time it would be prudent to take a look at boundaries. Certainly, it has been a long time, some 30 years almost, since that has happened.

I believe that within the next few years or the next short while—I should not say few years—we seriously have to address this because there are concerns coming forth not just from Members within the department but there are concerns coming from school divisions and the way that we distribute our school funding. There are concerns coming from parents about the quality of education and also because of distance and also the transportation. The amount of time students spend on buses, for example, seems to be increasing. In a couple of instances that I know of, there are students getting on the bus between 7:30 a.m. and 8 a.m. and not getting to school until five to 9 a.m. So certainly there are some real problems out there that have to be addressed.

Whether or not they can all be solved through a Boundaries Commission Review is certainly something that has to be examined. Maybe, there are certainly other ways that we can address that. Small schools grants have certainly sort of put a band-aid on some of the problems that are out there, but we can see that there are more serious problems on the horizon.

Ms. Hemphill: I think we are going to have to start teaching them on the buses. They are spending so much time there, we might as well have courses.

I just have a couple of questions on school bus safety. Does it come under this category?

Mr. Derkach: Yes.

Ms. Hemphill: Yes. I understand that one of the recommendations that came from school bus drivers, I think, when they had a conference dealing with their job and the safety of children on school buses was two-way radios. Has there been a move to equip all of our school buses with two-way radios? Is it under consideration?

Mr. Derkach: In some areas, some school buses are equipped with two-way radios. Some of the private contractors have moved in that direction as well.

Those communication machines are certainly important for the winter-type driving conditions out in

rural Manitoba. As the Member knows, if we wanted to do this for every school bus we have, it would be an extremely expensive kind of investment. However, there has been some move toward that. I am sure that as time goes on we will see more radio-equipped buses.

Ms. Hemphill: We have been pleased at the record that Manitoba has had in terms of school bus safety in the past, where we have one of the best records or best accident rates, which means the lowest number of accidents, in the country and indeed in North America. Are we maintaining that? How is the accident rate? Have there been any serious bus accidents in the last while?

Mr. Derkach: Sorry, I was concentrating so heavily on something here that I missed the question.

Ms. Hemphill: I was commenting on the fact that we have enjoyed one of the best safety records in terms of school bus accident rates in not just our country but in North America, and that means the fewest number of accidents per mile, I think, of any jurisdiction. I am wondering if we are maintaining that and if there have been any serious accidents or any accidents in the last while.

Mr. Derkach: No, there have been no serious accidents in the last while, and I might add that we have been very fortunate in this province to have very careful drivers. Certainly the credit goes to them, not to us as a department.

Ms. Hemphill: Mr. Chairperson, just one last question in the school bus safety area, one of the other areas it was very clear that impacts tremendously on school bus safety is the training of bus drivers, and there was a move to improve the training for bus drivers. When they had these conferences, they often feel that the training program is not quite adequate, since they not only have to know how to drive, they have to know how to control and manage 30 or 40 or 50 kids on a school bus. Have we been increasing the requirements for the training of bus drivers in the province?

Mr. Derkach: The training policy that was in effect in the former administration is still in effect. We have not moved to increase the number of hours that bus drivers have to spend in training.

Mr. Chairman: Item 1.(e)(1)—pass.

Mr. Derkach: I have the information on the Board of Reference. Perhaps I could read it into the record at this time. The chairperson of the board of reference is Miss Shirley Kalyniuk, the vice chairperson is Mr. Albert Loewen. The members of the board are Mr. Alfred Labossiere, Mrs. Valerie Rutherford and Mr. Randy Kushnier. Perhaps I could tell you where they are from. Mrs. Kalyniuk is from Rossburn, Mr. Loewen is from Steinbach, Mr. Labossiere is from Minto, Mrs. Rutherford is from St. Norbert, and Mr. Kushnier is from Winnipeg North here somewhere.

Mr. Chairman: Proceeding then to Item 1.(e)(2) Other Expenditures \$78,800.00.

Thursday, October 27, 1988

Mrs. Yeo: I would certainly like to take this opportunity to congratulate the department for their wise expenditures, which have obviously led to a decrease in Other Expenditures, and I would urge them to be very diligent in showing others how to share as effectively. I gather from the comment, the footnote that this is because of installation of an in-house computer. The one area where there is a fairly hefty increase is under Capital, and I assume that is the purchase of the said computer.

Mr. Derkach: That is correct. The cost is associated to the purchase of the computer. Maybe to clarify it, this is for the purchase of a microcomputer.

* (1540)

Mr. Chairman: 1.(e)(2)—pass.

Proceeding to 1.(f) Communications: (1) Salaries, \$179,200—shall the item pass? This is Communications within Administration and Finance, the Communications Branch.

Ms. Hemphill: Just a couple of general questions, have there been any major changes in the Communications Department, numbers of people or programs?

Mr. Derkach: I regret to say that there has been one change, and that is that we do not have a director of Communications at this time. Mr. Church has resigned and is now working with the Manitoba Association of School Trustees.

Ms. Hemphill: Are you planning to replace him?

Mr. Derkach: Yes, we are.

Ms. Hemphill: This is the branch under which the television education program comes under. Now where does it come? It comes under Library?

Mr. Derkach: That comes under (XVI)4.(g). I think it is Distance Education.

Mrs. Yeo: A couple of simple questions I think under Activity Identification, there is a word there saying "advertising," and I am wondering what sort of advertising would be included here.

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Chairman, the advertising relates to the advertising of boards and commissions or the High School Review, for example, where it is being held, what is happening.

Mrs. Yeo: So if a particular meeting that was open to the public was held and you put an ad in the local newspapers or something, that is under advertising?

Mr. Derkach: Yes, Mr. Chairman, that is correct.

Mrs. Yeo: The publication, Education Manitoba Magazine, is listed there. What other sort of things might be included under Communications? There is a fairly good expenditure in there. It seems to be a fairly

concise department. Is the entire department basically revolved around the Education Manitoba publication? That is what it sort of appears to be.

Mr. Derkach: No, Mr. Chairman. There are additional activities that are undertaken by this particular branch. Of course, there is the Education Manitoba Magazine, as the Honourable Member pointed out. There is departmental translation, research and preparation of ministerial speeches and speaking notes and that sort of thing, and assistance for that. There is the annual report and the responding to public inquiries for information.

Mrs. Yeo: Would this then be the department that is responsible for the translation of the High School Review Committee results?

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Chairman, they coordinate that activity but it is not specifically where that translation is done. The translation itself is undertaken by the Department of Culture, Heritage and Recreation.

Mrs. Yeo: Under the area of Salaries under Administrative Support, there were two staff years and this year there is just one. Is that Mr. Church's position that is—no. What happened there?

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Chairman, we have a situation where the administrative support person has been reclassified and has been moved up into the Professional/Technical area, and is in the Translations section. I might add that this was a transfer of the—it is an affirmative action move, if I might add.

Mr. Chairman: Shall the item pass?

Ms. Hemphill: Mr. Chairperson, we know that this branch does more than put out the Education Manitoba and grind out press releases for the Minister.

What are the areas that you are concentrating on in terms of communication that would be major communication to either the public or the field? I guess the two areas I am thinking of are AIDS and child abuse. I believe that the pamphlets and the material that is being prepared on AIDS would be done under this appropriation.

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Chairman, yes, the Member is right. There has been a fairly major contribution by this branch to such program—well, as a matter of fact, Mr. Church was seconded to the development of that program. Certainly, the distribution of information has certainly been an important part of this particular branch, of the Communications Branch.

I would have to say, Mr. Chairman, it is kind of a lean branch in terms of the size of the department. As you can see, there are some some five positions, one being the translation position, in a department which does expend a tremendous amount of provincial funds.

Ms. Hemphill: Mr. Chairperson, because I am not sure what appropriation, if any, it is any more appropriate to talk about this issue than it is in the Communications

Thursday, October 27, 1988

Branch, could you tell me what the Government's policy is on AIDS, on children with AIDS in the school system?

Mr. Derkach: As the Member knows, Mr. Chairman, the school policy with regard to AIDS has been adopted and distributed to school divisions. It has been called an interim policy for the purpose that, as new information comes out with respect to AIDS, we want to be able to ensure that we can add that information to the policy that has been distributed. I can get a copy of that policy and have it distributed to the Members of the committee, if the Member so wishes.

Ms. Hemphill: I would appreciate a copy, but I am wondering if you can just tell us in general terms what the Government's policy is on AIDS. What have you distributed to the school divisions? What basically are you saying about children who may have been identified as having AIDS?

Mr. Derkach: I think the gist of the policy, if that is what is the Member is looking for, is—

Ms. Hemphill: The gist will do.

Mr. Derkach: —that the confidentiality of that individual who has AIDS is to be respected and that individual is to participate in the system along with all other students. There is to be no divulging of the information to anyone. I can get the policy, and then you would know the more specific details of what is written. I have not memorized it.

* (1550)

Ms. Hemphill: You had it memorized? -(Interjection)- You have not got it memorized, okay. Can the Minister just tell us how many children we have with AIDS in the school system?

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Chairman, in keeping with the policy, that information is not public and, therefore, I cannot indicate to the Member the numbers.

Ms. Hemphill: That surprises me a little. I have no quarrel or no problem understanding not divulging the name of an individual child or the name of the school or a school division, but I have a little trouble having that carried to the point that you are not prepared or able to indicate whether or not there are any and how many children there are with AIDS in the school system.

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Chairman, that is information I do not have. I see no reason for my having it at this time since the policy is quite specific with regard to how we treat individuals with AIDS. However, that information is probably available to Dr. Margaret Fast, for example. Certainly to me, as Minister of Education, I do not have access and I see no benefit in having access to that kind of information at this point in time.

Ms. Hemphill: That surprises me a great deal because I think in terms of ministerial responsibilities that the question of confidentiality would not apply. I have a hard time seeing that apply to the Minister.

I think you should know whether there are any cases in Manitoba. I think you should know how many there are. And I think you should know whether or not they are increasing and over what phase and period of time they are increasing. I find it hard to understand how you can develop an appropriate policy and a policy that is going to change with changing times and changing situations if you do not know whether or not there are any AIDS cases in schools and how many and what the incidence is.

Mr. Derkach: I guess I could get that information if I thought it was relevant to me at this particular time. That information is available by the Department of Health.

The policy development is done in conjunction with the Department of Health. Certainly the professionals who are responsible for developing that policy would have that kind of information. When there are suggestions made by the committees that we should be changing our policy because of the situation as it exists out in the field or because there has been a greater incidence of AIDS in the school system which would be known by individuals like Dr. Margaret Fast or because there is new information available with regard to AIDS, then that information would probably be of importance for me to know.

However, in keeping tabs on the number of cases there are in the school system and having that at my fingertips, I do not have that. I do not apologize for it. What we want to do is ensure that regardless of the numbers of students with AIDS, that our committees who have those responsibilities keep tabs on them and that individuals like I indicated, like Dr. Margaret Fast, would certainly be informing us if there were some significant increases or changes with regard to the incidence of that particular terrible disease. It is not that we are not interested. I must indicate to the Member for Logan that it is not because we are not interested in that. Certainly I could be making some very rash decisions on my own if that information came to me as a person who does not work in that field on a day-to-day basis.

Ms. Hemphill: I just want to make sure that I am not suggesting that the Department of Education, who are not health officials, who are not medical professionals, go off on their own and develop in isolation policies related to AIDS. I think the initiation and the development of it in the education field and in schools comes from the education system and that there is a tremendous respect for Dr. Margaret Fast and the work they are doing.

I think that probably it is necessary for not just the professionals, and I am going to say this, I think our professionals need to know all of this information but when you are dealing with an issue of such tremendous public interest and public concern, I think they probably expect their elected representatives to really have this kind of delicate sensitive critical information at their fingertips too. And also, not that you would be making changes, but that you would want to know how the incidence is, whether this is a growing problem, whether the education system has to become more involved. Just one last question on this issue—

Mr. Derkach: Could I just respond to that? Perhaps I gave the wrong impression in my first response, but certainly as we go along the year we will be making inquiries into whether there are increases in the numbers of incidents in the school system, and that will be done on a regular kind of basis. If we see significant shifts in the incidence, then one has to address it. In addition, we have people in the department who do monitor the new information that comes across, and certainly when that is available we will be making those changes to not only the way that we handle incidents but also with regard to the actual courses that are being offered on AIDS, because it is a very fast changing scenario, from my understanding of it at this point.

Ms. Hemphill: Who is taking responsibility for helping teachers deal with this? Is this something that is being left to school divisions or is the department taking a role? We know that one of the major problems with AIDS is the lack of knowledge and information, and that creates and breeds a lot of fear. Teachers are on the front line. Many of them may be worried unnecessarily if they do not have adequate information. Are there programs and courses being put on as a part of professional development programs? Are you working with MAST, with the superintendents, the Trustees' Association in this area?

Mr. Derkach: Yes, that is being done at the present time. There are in-services that have been scheduled between the months of November and February, I do believe, or thereabouts, to provide information to staff who will be dealing with the program and also provide any current or new information that has come about.

Ms. Hemphill: Just one last question that occurred to me when you were giving the answer. Would a teacher in a classroom know that she had a child in their classroom with AIDS?

Mr. Derkach: That is difficult to answer because if the parent wanted that information to be known, I guess the teacher might know it. On the other hand, if the parent wanted to keep that strictly confidential, that teacher may not know if there were a child in the classroom who had AIDS.

Ms. Hemphill: Just to make sure I understand, the only people who would really know who the child or children are would be the health professionals, the medical people.

Mr. Derkach: That is correct.

Mr. Chairman: Under Communications, 1.(f)(2) Other Expenditures \$103,300—shall the item pass? The Member for Sturgeon Creek.

Mrs. Yeo: I wonder if the Minister could detail for me the rationale behind, and the need for the increase of \$20,000 under Supplies and Services.

Mr. Derkach: I believe there is \$20,000 that branch is receiving, which is recoverable, from the federal Government for the delivery of bilingual services.

Mrs. Yeo: And what about the decrease in Other Operating. Is that just financial efficiency or was there some rationale for that?

Mr. Derkach: That is efficiencies that are achieved because of computer installations and services.

* (1600)

Mr. Chairman: Shall the item pass? (Agreed)

Moving to Section 1.(g) Administration and Professional Certification: (1) Salaries \$893,900—shall the item pass? The Member for Sturgeon Creek.

Mrs. Yeo: Again, I think my favourite question is what are the Other Benefits, and I am wondering what is included under \$38,800 Other Benefits.

Mr. Derkach: That is attributed to the overtime that is anticipated in that branch.

Mrs. Yeo: Can you tell me—and again I am not sure if this is the area to ask or not—what sort of a time frame is expected when approving Capital expenditures?

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Chairman, once again, that is under (XVI)8. Capital Expenditures.

Mrs. Yeo: Thank you, Mr. Minister for helping me out there. How is the effective operation of five statutory boards and commissions defined? What is meant by "effective operation"?

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Chairman, that is kind of a broad statement with respect to how boards carry out their functions, but certainly we try to ensure that there is no unnecessary expenditures when boards and commissions do carry out their responsibilities and that they have effective and appropriate staff to assist them, to ensure that these duties are carried out without encumbering inefficiencies.

Mrs. Yeo: I am wondering what sort of measures you have for evaluating the effectiveness of these boards. I mean, how do you know whether they are being effective or not? What standards do you want?

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Chairman, I guess the only checks and balances that we might have in place are whether or not the commission or the board acts in accordance with The School Act, or the Act that is set out with respect to that and whether they follow that; and also that they meet when it is necessary and when there is an agenda to be carried out. Other than that I do not know what else I could say about that at this time.

Mrs. Yeo: Under the Activity Identification, "Calculates and disperses all grant to all public and private schools."—when you are dispersing funds, do you pay for non-resident students if they choose to attend band-run schools on reserves, would the department pay for those non-residents?

Mr. Derkach: Would you repeat it again, please, just the latter part?

Mrs. Yeo: If there are students, non-resident students, who choose to attend, or asked to attend, a band-run school on a reserve, they would then be classified I guess as non-resident students, would they not? If they are, who would then pay for the grants for these students?

Mr. Derkach: If they are provincial students who are attending a band-operated school then it is our responsibility to pay the grants in accordance with The School Act.

Mrs. Yeo: So let me try and sort this out. If there is a student who lives in a town and they choose to attend a school on a reserve—they are not living on the reserve, but they choose to attend the band-run school—would there have to be a non-resident fee paid for these students?

Mr. Derkach: If it is just their choice to attend that school, then we do not pay the non-resident fee. It is up to that individual to pay that fee.

Mrs. Yeo: May I ask if this is the area where we would talk about teacher certification?

Mr. Derkach: Yes.

Mrs. Yeo: Are there many teachers and, if so, how many—do you have that figure?—in the province who have a Class 3 or less certification?

Mr. Derkach: Perhaps I could just give the numbers in each class in the province right now. Class 3, we have 356; in Class 2, we have 333; Class 1, 190. There is a total of 11,959 teachers in total.

Mrs. Yeo: 11,959?

Mr. Derkach: 59.

Mrs. Yeo: Thank you. Can I ask what the Department of Education is doing to encourage the upgrading of teachers so that they will increase their classifications? Is there any concentrated effort or any attempt made to allow these teachers to upgrade?

Mr. Derkach: Those who are in the Class 3 or lower have been grandparented, I guess you would call it, I hate to say grandfather. But nevertheless we—

Mrs. Yeo: What about grandmother?

Mr. Derkach: Or grandmother, or grandperson. Anyway there are, of course, the Manitoba Teachers' Society, through its programs would encourage professional development. Certainly we encourage that kind of process as well. But we do not have specifically designed programs to force these people to take programs, to bring them up into a higher classification.

Mrs. Yeo: It seems to me in this day and age when I think there is a surplus of teachers, there are a good number of graduates from the Faculty of Education, whom I know are having a difficult time finding teaching

positions, albeit granted that some of them may wish to be teaching in the urban area, and there might be some places for them in the northern or rural settings, and they choose not to go. However, I am wondering if there is a thrust by the department to encourage the divisions to hire only those teachers who are in the upper classification areas.

Mr. Derkach: No, Mr. Chairman, I have to say that in that particular area that has to be left to the local school divisions because it is under their jurisdiction. We respect the local autonomy of school divisions.

* (1610)

Mrs. Yeo: Is there any move or is there any thought towards certification for being more specific to say, teacher certification for just elementary school or teacher certification for just secondary school?

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Chairman, universities do offer the two specialty areas. Of course they only do junior high and then the high school. I am not quite sure whether that is the correct breakdown or the terminology. However, we offer a General Certificate to teachers and then it is up to the school board to hire the person in accordance with the specialty area that they require, and the training that person has. Further than that we do not get involved in how we offer certificates.

Mrs. Yeo: So there would be no intervention on the part of the department should a division take an individual who has been teaching Grade 11 and 12 physics, for instance, and that individual would be moved into teaching Grade 1 or 2 language arts, arithmetic or whatever?

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Chairman, that is a decision that is made at the local level. Certainly the superintendent and principal would be involved in that kind of a decision. When we issue a certificate, that entitles the teacher to teach in all areas of primary, secondary education. The selection of where that teacher would best fit would be left up to the superintendent, the principal and the school board.

Mrs. Yeo: However if a parent was concerned, someone who had his or her experience in a high school and was now teaching in the lower elementary grades, would they have any recourse to, if they had stated their concern with the individual division school board, the school administration, would you intervene in any way should a letter come to your door or a phone call come to your office?

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Chairman, according to the Act it is spelled out very clearly. The jurisdiction lies with that school board, so therefore there is no way that a Minister should or could intervene in matters of that nature. Certainly when you deal with those things, I guess it is up to the parent to make representation to the principal, the superintendent or the school board, or all three to raise their concern about matters of that nature.

Mrs. Yeo: There has also been some controversy recently about the concern by some members of the

Psychological Association of Manitoba for registration within the province of the school psychologists. I know that there is a little discrepancy with the Manitoba Association of School Psychologists and PAM. I am wondering if the Minister sees there is again inequality in the registration of other professional support staff. I am thinking along the lines of the physiotherapists or the speech pathologists who are registered with their Manitoba associations. Is the Minister comfortable with the regulation as it stands now?

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Chairman, certainly, that has been an issue that has been brought to my attention. Provided that those professionals meet the requirements of the certification under The School Act, then we would accept them as being professionals within the system. However, there are associations who want to be able to certify their membership, as is the case that has been highlighted over the last little while. It is not a matter that I have intervened in. Certainly representation has been made to me. At this point in time, we will follow. We are proceeding in accordance with The School Act and the certification of these individuals.

Mrs. Yeo: If the rural areas were not able to get the assistance of someone who is registered with PAM or who is a member of the Manitoba Association of School Psychologists, is there an individual within the department who can provide those services or provide supervisory services to the rural area?

Mr. Derkach: Yes, Mr. Chairman, we have an individual.

Mrs. Yeo: Under Activity Identification, it talks about maintaining Manitoba students' high school credits and officials statements. I am wondering how long the records are maintained. How long—is it permanent?

Mr. Derkach: The records are maintained on a permanent basis.

Mrs. Yeo: No, do not look at my high school record.

I assume the records are kept on some sort of microfilm after five years or two years?

Mr. Derkach: There are two systems. One is the microfiche and the other one is the original records that are kept at the archives.

Mrs. Yeo: So I can say to an individual who graduated from high school in 1950 and who is now hoping to go back to school and they need their high school certification or whatever, their high school statement, that they can be located through the Department of Education?

Mr. Derkach: Yes, that is correct. Those records can be obtained.

Ms. Hemphill: Mr. Chairperson, a few questions, dealing with the Early Retirement Program that was brought in a little while ago, can you tell us how many

teachers have taken early retirement in the last perhaps two or three years? Is it increasing or decreasing?

Mr. Derkach: We do not have that information available right now, but I can get that information for the Member and hand it out another day.

Ms. Hemphill: In general, do we have any idea if the numbers of teachers who are retiring are reducing from the first year where the window was open and the opportunity was open?

Mr. Derkach: In general terms, it appears the numbers are increasing.

Ms. Hemphill: Are increasing.

Do you have figures that tell us how many unemployed teachers we have in Manitoba?

Mr. Derkach: We do not keep those statistics. I cannot tell the Member how many teachers we have who are unemployed. I am not sure what you mean. I mean, I am a teacher—

Ms. Hemphill: I can recall having information—

Mr. Derkach: —and I am unemployed.

* (1620)

Ms. Hemphill: Mr. Chairperson, I would not count him in the unemployment rolls. I can recall having information that suggested that there were a couple, and perhaps it is the Teachers' Society that keeps that. I am not sure where it came from, but they told us how many teachers were unemployed. I do have a point here that I want to make though and perhaps I will get to it.

When the Early Retirement Program was brought in, it was brought in for a number of reasons. One of them was that we had a particularly large teaching force, or we had an older teaching force in Manitoba than most other jurisdictions, we had a number of young people coming out of our universities unable to get jobs, and a growing number, and that was a very serious concern. It was really brought in to allow those teachers, many of whom were suffering burn-out, who did not have either the energy or the will to continue teaching but were forced to stay in the classroom in order to qualify for an adequate, reasonable pension, which of course is the last reason that any of us want to have teachers teaching in a classroom.

I think that the program was very successful, and what it would have done was allowed those teachers to go with very little penalty and allowed openings to be created for the new, young teachers coming out of the universities.

My question to the Minister, in the light of—I am just getting to the question so I wanted you to hear it, Mr. Minister—in light of the success that we have had, I believe with the Early Retirement Program for teachers, meeting the purposes and the problems, at least some

of them to some degree that had been identified, is this Government or will this Government, please take a position with the federal Government in terms of their present plans for changing pensions, particularly changing early retirement pensions desirability by bringing in such a serious penalty that nobody will be opting for early retirement? The teaching profession is only one but is a good example of how their policy will have a serious effect on what is perhaps a desire by our Government and our education system to have a policy that is different, and who do not want the federal Government interfering with our ability to continue to encourage early retirement and to not have a penalty for them if they take it.

Have you had any discussions with Ottawa? Will you and are you sympathetic and in support of continuing the early retirement package for teachers?

Mr. Derkach: There were many questions in that series.

Ms. Hemphill: I will give them to you one at a time as you need them.

Mr. Derkach: First of all, from the students who graduated from teaching last year, 1987, the best statistics that we have indicate that were eight who were unemployed.

With regard to the early retirement aspect, I would have to say that through the Department of Finance and the Minister responsible for Seniors (Mr. Neufeld), there has been some consultation with regard to the effects that this will have on early retiring individuals and those who are going to be retiring over the next while. Certainly, as the Member knows, that whole package or legislation has been put on hold now and certainly as we move through this next year, we will be addressing this issue. We will be looking at the implications that it will have on our teachers. Certainly there are many varied opinions right now as to the exact impact that this is going to have.

Before I make a kind of hurried decision on the department's position on all of this, we want to ensure that we have all the information and accurate information in.

I have met with the Teachers' Society on two occasions now to talk about this very subject and certainly I know what their feelings are. They are gathering information and will be presenting me with further information as we go down the road. They have a strong lobby to ensure that there are no penalties for people who retire early. I can understand that. As I say, we have not taken a firm stand on how we are going to approach this. We want to make sure that we have accurate information before we start making statements that may later fly in our face.

Ms. Hemphill: Mr. Chairperson, I think it is on hold right now and of course that is a major concern for everybody, because the Government's intentions are not clear. This is a very important area. I think the people of our country are entitled to know what the Conservative Government intends to do should they get back in office, and it is not at all clear that they

are going to these days. I think that they are entitled to know and I think that people in our province are entitled to know what the provincial Government's attitude is towards such a drastic change.

What I would suggest the Minister look at is the previous experience. We can demonstrate I think by the fact that very few teachers retire early, prior to our early retirement program, there are just very few taking the early retirement option, and a very significant increase in teachers taking it after the early retirement program which removed the penalty. I think the penalty, whether it was psychological or whether it was real in terms of the loss of money that they were getting, the penalty clause that reduced the amount of the pension is a real deterrent to early retirement.

I would ask this Minister to not wait too long to gather that information and to take a clear position. If they believe that it is benefitting the education system, our kids, the quality of education, our schools, that they would take a strong position with whatever Government is in office federally and oppose those early retirement pension changes.

I have one other question related to French Immersion teachers. Previously and over a period of a number of years, we have been having to go out of province, I believe, to meet our required number of adequately trained teachers who can teach French Immersion. Although we had increased our programs, that was still the case. Are we able to meet our own needs yet? Are we still having to go out of province to hire teachers who can teach French Immersion, and do you have any plans or programs to improve or increase the training options for teachers in the field so that we can meet our own needs?

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Chairman, first of all, I will take these one at a time. With regard to the pensions aspect, I have to indicate to the Member for Logan (Ms. Hemphill) that we had promised when we formed Government that we would consult with all groups and organizations when it came to making decisions that would be affecting the livelihoods and the lives of Manitobans. Before we make any rash statements as to our support or lack of support for specific policy changes, we want to ensure that we have heard the views of parties who are going to be affected. That process has not been completed and is ongoing. Before we make any statements, we will make sure that we have all the information at hand.

With regard to the teachers for French Immersion, I have to tell you that there was a strange move made by the former administration with regard to cancelling a bursary program for French Immersion teachers. I have to tell you that program was totally recoverable from the federal Government and it was cancelled. When we formed Government, we were too far into the fiscal year to try to recoup the benefits of the bursary program. However, we were able to do a few things, but we are certainly looking positively at perhaps doing something to encourage more teachers to become proficient in French and to become qualified so that we would have our own teachers from Manitoba capable of doing the French Immersion Program.

With regard to percentage of teachers who are hired in the province, I could say that about 80 percent of the teachers who are hired in the province come from St. Boniface College, about 15 percent come from outside the province, and—I am sorry, teachers coming from Quebec and New Brunswick totals about 20 percent, so we are 80-20.

* (1630)

Mrs. Yeo: With the French Immersion, as a matter of fact, that was one of the questions that I had thought of asking at one point in time in Question Period, the fact that the bursaries were removed. I have grave concerns with the increase in enrollment in French Immersion and the increase in the action on the part of many school divisions to develop their basic French or core French, which I think is an outstanding alternative.

The difficulty, No. 1, with acquiring the numbers of teachers who are bilingual from within our own province, because of the fact that we do seem to have a number of graduates from the University of Manitoba Faculty of Education and U of W Faculty of Education who are having a hard time finding employment, it seems to me that the bursary program was an outstanding one, being that—I am not sure if it was 100 percent recoverable, and I would ask the Minister what the percentage was—but it seemed like an excellent idea to encourage our own home-grown educators to upgrade and become bilingual.

I know the University of Moncton, for instance, is an outstanding university to assist the students in, I believe, a four-week summer program to enhance their bilingual ability. Is there any intent on the part of this Government to reinstitute this bursary program? The Minister did allude to the fact that they were looking at other things. I am wondering if there is, and what sorts of activity would it be, a year sabbatical more likely or would it be a summer enhancement program, or what do they have in mind?

Mr. Derkach: I might add that the bursary program was designed for specifically those kinds of programs that are found in Moncton and so forth. I might tell you that I have indicated to the federal Government that we want to have this program reinstated to help our teachers, and it will be included in our next year's Estimates.

Mrs. Yeo: I would certainly support that, because I feel it is essential that we encourage our own Manitoba graduates to stay at home if they so choose. However, I would also encourage the department to do what they can to have the faculties of Education at both U of M and U of W and Brandon to implement better advanced French courses for those students who are coming out of the French Immersion Programs and who are coming out of even the basic core French, where they have a better understanding of the French language, where in fact there are some students in high school who go to Quebec, who go to France, who go to Switzerland and learn the French language. Then they come back to our universities and they have no opportunity to take

advanced French courses at the English-speaking universities. Sure, they can go to St. Boniface College but there are very, very few and I could almost say, if any, advanced French courses that are offered to our English-speaking students who have become bilingual. I am wondering if there is any attempt on the part of the department to encourage the universities to look into this?

Mr. Derkach: The universities are kind of arm's length organizations. Really, they make the decisions as to the programs and the courses that they are going to offer.

Certainly, I have to say that their boards of governors and their administrations must be keeping an eye on the numbers of students who attend universities and the demands that they get for the types of programs that the Honourable Member is talking about. I agree with the Member for Sturgeon Creek (Mrs. Yeo) that the encouragement is certainly something that we should be doing. When I am speaking with the universities, this is a topic I will raise with them to see whether or not they have any intentions in moving in that direction. I have to reiterate that universities are at arm's length from the department. They are autonomous bodies and, therefore, we cannot direct them to offer certain courses or programs.

Mrs. Yeo: I am certainly aware that there is a fair degree of autonomy with the University of Manitoba and the University of Winnipeg and Brandon and St. Boniface College.

However, I am also very aware that very, very soon after I found an office in the Legislative Building, it was not me who approached the university but the university who approached me. There has been a great deal of liaison with the university. I would certainly think, from the Minister's position, he is much more effective than I would be at saying to the university, have you looked at this. I would certainly encourage him to get some statistics to see what courses are offered in advanced French for the students who are in the Faculty of Education, for the graduates who would like to take advanced French courses, and who are finding it very, very difficult to access these courses in our English universities.

The other area of concern I have is with the Teachers for Heritage Languages, for teachers who teach German, Ukrainian, etc. I am wondering if there is a special certification for these teachers to be sure that in fact they are fluent in the language that they are to be teaching, as well as well-qualified teachers in that particular profession?

Mr. Derkach: I think the Member for Sturgeon Creek (Mrs. Yeo) raises an important aspect with regard to French language and heritage languages. Certainly, I believe that we can do more than what we have done over the past with respect to these areas. As I indicated, when I do meet with the universities, we will address this. The other area that I might indicate where we can do something perhaps innovative is to talk to our boards of certification to see whether or not we can address

it through them, in terms of giving some recognition to those kinds of programs that students graduate with.

Mrs. Yeo: I guess my concern with the heritage language aspect is that there are and there have been complaints that I had been in receipt of, parents who have said the individual is a good teacher or an excellent teacher or an okay teacher or whatever, but he or she is trying to teach my child—we always say he when it is bad and she when it is good—he or she is trying to teach my child Ukrainian. I have spoken to that individual teacher in Ukrainian, and the teacher cannot speak to me in the language that they are supposed to be teaching my child.

The converse has also been true where I have had somebody say to me, the teacher can certainly speak excellent German or Ukrainian, but I wonder about their actual teaching credentials. I am wondering if there is a screening process from the department's level, because I know for a fact that in some school divisions they may not have somebody who would interview a potential teacher for teaching German or Ukrainian, or whatever, who was able to interview the potential teacher in the language that they were supposed to be teaching in. I realize that is a long-winded convoluted way, but I hope you understand what I am trying to get at.

Mr. Derkach: I understand completely what the Member is saying and she is correct. But it is up to the individual school boards across the province to hire teachers who are competent in those specific areas that they require. I might add that for specific situations, whether it is French or whether it is a heritage language, the department will assist in the screening of the interviewees, if in the French area—especially if the school board does not have someone who is fluent in French and requires that kind of assistance. So certainly we will assist in that regard.

But the hiring of an individual teacher and assessing the competency of that teacher within any field is really up to the administration and the school board who do the hiring.

* (1640)

Mrs. Yeo: I appreciate that and I applaud that because I believe very strongly in the need for autonomy of the individual school divisions. The Minister used the example of a departmental individual assisting with an interview for somebody who was to be hired to teach in French. My greater concern would be an individual who was required to teach in one of the other heritage languages. Are there departmental people who could be called upon by the individual school divisions should they need to have somebody come and be a part of an interviewing team, for the hiring of a teacher in German, let us say as an example?

Mr. Derkach: There are several options that a school board can follow. If there is nobody who is fluent within the department or in that particular language or in that school board, the school board can go to the community at large and hire the services, if that is appropriate

terminology, to come in on the interview process, and that person would be fluent in that particular language.

I personally had that experience where I was asked to sit in on an interview process for an organization, because there was no one on that particular board who was fluent in the language.

Mrs. Yeo: Many of our children come to school with a variety of problems that have not been identified as the Minister well knows. Certainly it is important that parents would make an attempt to have, whatever the problem might be, diagnosed but unfortunately sometimes the parents, for whatever reason or other, do not have the ability to find whatever the diagnosis might be. Often these children are labelled then "learning disabled children" where in fact they may have some other definable problem such as a hearing impairment.

If the child is a school-aged child and is now in Grade 1 or 2 before this disability is diagnosed, it becomes more costly, more time consuming, more frustrating, more aggravating. The costs are certainly high. The speech pathologists in the schools, I think, are often quite upset because they have a very large caseload, and I believe they have asked the Department of Education to increase the numbers. I am wondering if in fact there has been an increase in numbers of speech pathologists in the school divisions in Manitoba, or if there is a move towards addressing the concerns that they might have.

Mr. Derkach: No, there has been no increase in the numbers of speech pathologists that have been allocated in the province or the money for speech pathologists in the province. However, that whole matter is also under review in accordance with the Ed. Finance Review. So when we finally conclude the review, there will be some attempt to address that situation. At the present time, I have staff who are out getting me the numbers, the waiting lists and so forth. When that is available, I intend to respond to the Member in the House, because I think that is a question that I took under advisement in the House as well.

Mrs. Yeo: Back just for a moment to the concern that I have with the registration of psychologists in the schools, who is legally responsible should some unfortunate situation occur between a child and a school psychologist? Is it the school division or would it be a departmental thing?

Mr. Derkach: The school board who hires the individual takes the ultimate responsibility for situations. I do not know what situation the Member is referring to but, in cases like that, the school board is ultimately responsible.

Mrs. Yeo: I am referring to a situation that occurred in a rural school division not too long ago, and I am wondering if a parent or a guardian were to take legal action, it would be then, you are saying, against the local school division.

Mr. Derkach: Yes, that is correct. The legal action would have to be taken against the school board.

Thursday, October 27, 1988

Mrs. Yeo: Are you satisfied, Mr. Minister, that the registration practices then are as strict as they might be to prevent sort of the legal repercussions that might occur.

Mr. Derkach: I think that at one time perhaps they were not, but currently we have reviewed this and I think that they are as stringent as they possibly can be. I do not know how else we can tighten them up at the present time.

Mrs. Yeo: Are school psychologists required to be registered with the Canadian Psych. Association?

Mr. Derkach: No, school psychologists have their own school psychologists' association that they are registered under.

Mrs. Yeo: The school psychologists' association that you are talking about is the Manitoba Association for School Psychologists. Are they automatically members of the Canadian association or is there a Canadian Association of School Psychologists?

Mr. Derkach: We can check that information out. I do not know whether there is a Canadian Association of School Psychologists.

Mrs. Yeo: Mr. Chairperson, when someone from out of province applies to become a certified educational professional in Manitoba, what procedures have you established to ensure that another unsuitable person does not endanger Manitoba children?

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Chairman, we do a criminal record check on that individual before we provide a certificate to that individual.

Mrs. Yeo: I am wondering if there has ever been a refusal to certify someone who has graduated from a Faculty of Education in Manitoba.

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Chairman, I am not aware of any cases where a certificate has been refused to someone who has graduated from the University of Manitoba.

Mrs. Yeo: Can you tell me if there are separate criteria from the faculties for Manitoba teachers, as well as for the out-of-province teachers? Is there a distinctive criteria that is used in providing certification for these teachers?

Mr. Derkach: There is a difference, Mr. Chairman, in that teachers who are graduating from the University of Manitoba would be recommended by the university to receive their certificates. Teachers from out of province applying for certification in Manitoba would have to undergo a criminal check before a certificate would be issued to them.

Mrs. Yeo: Having sat on a couple of boards where we have evaluated nurses from other jurisdictions who have come into Manitoba and have presented us with a wide variety of credentials, I can only assume that it would be similar in the teaching field, that a teacher from,

let us say, Nova Scotia, who comes and moves to Manitoba for whatever reason and wishes to become certified, may present with very different credentials. Even looking at the piece of paper that comes with that professional from another training centre, another centre of education, it is sometimes hard to determine numbers of hours of instruction. Even the grading from province to province is very difficult. This is even, certainly in the nursing field enhanced when it is out of country, because different educational settings present different types of educational papers. Is this a problem in evaluating the credentials of teachers from other jurisdictions?

Mr. Derkach: There is no problem within the country. There are minimum requirements that have to be met before a certificate can be issued.

* (1650)

Mrs. Yeo: Do you require fairly significant background checks on professional teachers before certifying them? Do you require references, etc., this sort of thing?

Mr. Derkach: We require a transcript of marks, standing within that jurisdiction in terms of experience. We may also require a description of courses that were offered by a specific university where that student may have taken the programs.

Mrs. Yeo: I am just a little confused when the Minister says require transcripts of marks according to the experience.

Mr. Derkach: No, not according to the experience.

Mrs. Yeo: That is what you said.

Mr. Derkach: The transcript of marks and experience.

Mrs. Yeo: Is there a time lapse? Again, you will excuse my nursing background, but in our particular profession, I, for instance, will not be able to practise my profession because I have not been registered with the registration body in Manitoba for a three-year period. Is there any criteria, any length of time at which a teacher may sit as an MLA, say, for nine years, and then wish to go back to teach. Is there a period of time that lapses before a teacher would have to take some form of upgrading as a requirement?

Mr. Derkach: At the present time there is not any criteria in that regard.

Mrs. Yeo: Are there any steps taken or is there a felt need on the part of the department to look into this perhaps?

Mr. Derkach: The Board of Teacher Certification, I am told, reviewed this aspect about three years ago. At that time, they recommended that there was no need for any change. So whether we should be looking at it this time or not is a matter that I have not considered at this point. It certainly is an interesting concept and can be referred to the Board of Teacher Certification.

Mrs. Yeo: Well, I certainly say perhaps, as my colleague from Selkirk just said, once a teacher always a teacher. I think certainly it is true that there are people who may have been trained or educated in 1950-55 or '60, that is still a number of years ago, who may wish to return to the teaching field who would be grossly out of practice for today's standard of education. Even to my thinking a teacher who was educated in 1970 and now some 18 years later, if they choose to go back into the classroom, the teaching techniques are tremendously different. I think that a teacher would be overwhelmed if they were to reposition themselves in front of a classroom, thinking of the teenagers of today and how they have changed over the past little while.

I would certainly encourage the Minister's department to give some consideration to a time period. Perhaps as in the case of nursing, three years is a little short, but I think that there might well be some thought given to some sort of refresher course for teachers of x-period of time that might not be beneficial or perhaps some sort of a probationary period when the teacher is back into the classroom and would hope that there might be some consideration given there.

Have the names of teachers who come from other jurisdictions to apply for a teaching certificate in Manitoba ever been checked with their local Child Abuse Registry from their particular jurisdiction?

Mr. Derkach: With regard to the latter part of the question, the criminal records of those individuals are checked and the registry is checked.

With regard to the refresher area, can I just say that is a concept that is interesting, to say the least, but certainly before one would move unilaterally to instill that kind of refresher program, I would think that we would want some extensive discussions with the people that would be most affected by it and that would be the Manitoba Teachers' Society, and also with the Manitoba Association of School Trustees and other affected parties.

But just as a matter of curiosity, because the Member for Sturgeon Creek is a nurse, could you give us some indication of the kind of refresher course that you are looking at or the one perhaps that most relates to your area of nursing?

Mrs. Yeo: Before I respond to the question of the Minister—I think this is turning the table but whatever—I would suggest that perhaps the people who are most closely involved with the need for teacher refresher training would be the parents and the children.

Mr. Derkach: I said all affected parties.

Mrs. Yeo: Certainly the teachers are involved. Having taught a refresher course twice, it was taught to nurses who had not been in the field for three-plus years. They are required—and I have not got it on the tip of my tongue—to give so many hours in a three-year period. It can be 60 hours in one year and nothing for two, but then they would have to go back and give so many hours again.

My thinking would be that if a teacher had not been in the classroom, in the education setting, for a period

of, let us say, five years and having done minimal research on it but just having been concerned from what I have seen as a parent and as a school trustee, that if a teacher had been out of the classroom or the education setting for, let us say, a period of five years, that there could be offered by some education site, such as one of the universities, a six week refresher course in which new methodologies could be presented in new audio visual aids because, my heavens, in the past few years there has been a tremendous increase in the types of audio visual aids.

I can well recall seeing a teacher in front of a classroom who had never seen an overhead projector, and that teacher had no idea and was in fact intimidated by that particular instrument. Granted, it is not going to take that teacher long if the teacher is any type of teacher to learn how to use the overhead projector. But to me it seemed not right that the time that the teacher had to take to learn how to use these sorts of things had to be taken from his or her teaching time with the children. I would think that there might be a place for constructing a refresher course that would be given to teachers who fail to meet a certain criteria?

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Chairman, I might say with regard to that whole area that I have known a lot of teachers who have been out of the teaching field for some time, who have taken it upon themselves to go back and take refresher courses and that is certainly commendable of them. There is no doubt I think that any professional who has been out of the field for some time, in most cases will feel that he or she requires some type of contact with programs to update them on the new techniques or methodologies. We can do nothing but applaud that kind of situation.

However, to make it mandatory that in fact that happens is something I think that has to be discussed very seriously with the affected groups. I do not exclude anyone. I think we have to certainly talk to the professional group at Manitoba Teachers' Society in that respect. Certainly parents have a view on that, but I guess no matter who you talk to, everybody has got an opinion on education. Certainly we want to leave that kind of discussion to those people who have some knowledge about the methodologies and techniques of teaching, and who are going to be affected most drastically by a move of that nature. I am not suggesting that it is a negative suggestion. It is certainly a positive suggestion but I think the way we approach it has to be carefully thought out so that we are not alienating a lot of our teachers who are out there working very hard in the field.

* (1700)

Mr. Chairman: Shall the item pass? The hour being five o'clock, it is time for Private Members' Hour.

Committee rise.

* (1440)

SUPPLY—HEALTH

The Acting Chairman, Mr. Jim Maloway: Order, please. I call this section of the Committee of Supply to order, please. This section is continuing to consider the Estimates of the Department of Health. We are presently considering item 1.(c) Health Advisory Network.

Mr. Gulzar Cheema (Kildonan): Could the Minister indicate what is the criteria for the selection of the chairman of this advisory network?

Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health): The ideal individual would be a person who has some considerable experience in community affairs, public affairs, an understanding of health care and its complexities would be of course appropriate. Given that what we are wanting to try to achieve is a bringing together of some rather diverse groups and opinions in health care. An individual who has conciliatory abilities and people skills would be an essential asset as Chairman of the Health Advisory Network.

Mr. Cheema: Could the Minister tell us if that position will be a permanent one and what will be the salary of the chairman?

Mr. Orchard: No and no. This is where you get into the delicate area of health care boards in general. We have got probably as many boards in health care as any other department of Government, maybe with the exception of Agriculture. Although we have some boards who offer a modest per diem, the majority of the boards only cover out-of-pocket expenses and travelling expenses. People serving on them are doing so for the community good.

We anticipate that we are going to have an honorarium system in the Health Advisory Network. I will be quite blunt with you. The difficulty I have got in giving an answer as to how much it would be is whether, for instance, with professionals, let us say members from your profession, if we are going to ask them to take a half day off of their careers, maybe we have to consider the per diems or the sessional rates that we have involved.

Doing that gets us into the second quandary then, treating M.D.s in a special way that we are not prepared to treat other individuals? We are going to try to address in as inexpensive a way as possible the compensation question. There is no predefined salary that is going to be involved with membership on this committee. We are going to try to maintain that altruistic motive, if you will, that has been prevalent within the health care system.

Mr. Cheema: Could the Minister indicate to us who will select the members who live outside of Winnipeg and to be more specific, how many from northern communities and professional groups, Native groups and also from ethnocultural groups because there are a lot of factors which affect our health and one of them is social and also cultural matters.

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Acting Chairman, hopefully, as people are asked to serve on subcommittees, etc., we attempt

as much as possible to achieve the rural-urban, northern-southern, ethnic, male-female blend in the membership of our network. I guess the ultimate decision, of course, is mine. As Minister of Health, I will make the recommendations on that.

There is no preconceived idea as to who ought to serve what, because the committee, for instance in terms of the rural health issues, may be asked to specifically deal with northern health issues. It would not be terribly productive—I am anticipating to have someone from Emerson or Snowflake dealing with northern medical difficulties. We would tend to weight a committee dealing—if we narrowed in on that specific problem, we would weight that with people who are directly, or more directly involved and that would be a preponderance of northern representation. I would hope that we would not be faulted for doing that to the exclusion of southerners. So, it is going to be very much a committee structure which is quite reflective of the mosaic of Manitoba.

Mr. Cheema: Could the Minister tell us of the \$500,000 how much money will be spent on salaries, stipends to all these members?

Mr. Orchard: It is not anticipated that any dollars would be spent on salaries. The stipend or the per diem issue has yet to be resolved and will be, I would suspect, reasonably flexible enough in that regard depending on the professional considerations, the time-off work considerations, if you will.

(The Acting Chairman, Mr. Allan Patterson, in the Chair.)

In terms of staff support there will be, as I mentioned earlier on, some substantive support from Research and Planning and from other areas of the department and the commission that will from time to time be used as part of the resource base. Naturally, that will be provided to the Health Advisory Network as part of the ongoing duties within the department and there would be no assignment of cost.

Mr. Cheema: Could the Minister tell us who will have the authority to expend the budget dollars for the network?

Mr. Orchard: My Deputy Minister is going to be on the Steering Committee and will be responsible for assuring the expenditures of the fund meet the guidelines of the network.

Mr. Jay Cowan (Churchill): Mr. Acting Chairperson, the Minister has indicated that there would be a number of committees that would be aligned with this Health Advisory Network. I wonder if he can be more specific as to exactly how many committees and what would be the specific areas of review of each of those committees.

Mr. Orchard: At the present time, we anticipate about a half dozen, because those take into consideration some of the major policy and decision-making areas that are facing the Department of Health in the decisions

that have to be made. One will be a more in-depth study of the teaching hospitals, because as my honourable friend will recall, the Manitoba Medicare Report indicated that we had gone from below national average costs per day in 1972-73 to above the national average in costs per-patient day, and the level of hours per-patient day, etc., etc. So that is one area that is specific and very narrow in its focus.

The second area dealing again with the hospitals is the Winnipeg Hospital Program Review, wherein we will look at the interrelated roles of our community hospitals and municipal hospitals, Deer Lodge and the teaching hospitals, so that in effect the teaching hospitals will be involved in actually two role studies: one specifically to their teaching function; the second one a more general function in terms of each hospital's role in the provision of medicine, not only in the City of Winnipeg but indeed to the province. A very major area that we will be focusing in on is the health promotion area. I say without criticism of the previous administration or the one before that even, that I really think we have to dedicate a great deal more effort on promotion of wellness. That is going to require no doubt some resource of funds and funds are not easy to come by nowadays.

* (1450)

Just to give you an example, we met this morning with the Manitoba Society of Seniors and as a group who represent the senior population to a probably larger degree than any other single group, they got some really specific suggestions as to how activity programs and health promotion programs targeted at seniors can pay substantial dividends over the long haul. It would be fully my expectation that on that subcommittee of Health Promotion we have representation from a group such as the Manitoba Society of Seniors.

Another area that has plagued all Governments for a number of years and is becoming a growing problem is rural health issues wherein we have difficulty in communities in rural Manitoba in attracting and retaining physicians as one major component of medical delivery in rural Manitoba. We focused resources in terms of resolving northern medical manpower problems. We are going to have to refocus and make a concerted effort to program direction to assure that we offer an increasing level of medical service to rural Manitoba. So that is a fourth area.

A fifth area generally has plagued a number of Governments for up to three decades and of course that is the delivery of Mental Health Services. That will become a very specific and narrowly focused program of implementation that we will ask a subcommittee to deal with.

In another general area, akin to health promotion, only more focused on the medical delivery model will be a committee which will be struck to study alternative health care strategies. In other words, a committee that may well get involved, for instance, in the efficiency and the ability of, for instance, with the lithotripter as an example of new technology and where its place can be in delivering lower-cost outpatient services.

Let me tell you, those are not easy decisions for a non-professional Minister of Health to make because as my honourable friend, the Member for Kildonan (Mr. Cheema), as a medical practitioner will know, the latest in technology is awful, awful appealing. I certainly am not criticizing him but as an individual it is difficult to make those decisions as to where the cost effective investment in such very new high technology is.

As a specific area, alternate health care strategies have to be also investigated to see whether there are productive new technologies that can really move more and more services away from the institution and do more medical services on an outpatient basis. Because as we have done that, we have not saved the system money but we have delivered more cost-effective services. Our costs continue to go up even though we have been doing these things, but there is no question that anybody who has had kidney stones removed by surgery, compared to the individual over the last year that has had lithotripsy will aver that there is no comparison. I mean you are only out of work over the lunch hour, an extended lunch hour, with the second process rather than the surgical intervention.

Mr. Cowan: I want to come back to the committees a bit later on because I have some specific questions and some conceptual questions about how they will be structured and what specific task they will be doing. But before doing that why not move back to the more global process? The Minister has indicated that there will be a chairperson appointed soon and if I missed something earlier on this afternoon, I was distracted for a moment, I apologize. Has the Minister been able to give to us a specific date? I am not asking for a time and an hour and a day but within a general framework, within a week, within two months, as to when the chairperson of the committee will be appointed; and secondly, when we believes the rest of the committee will be appointed?

(Mr. Chairman in the Chair.)

Mr. Orchard: I have put I guess a fair degree of thought and consultation in the choice of an individual to chair the committee. I am hopeful that by mid-November we have the chairman in place and shortly thereafter the steering committee in place. The chairman, to me, is such a key role to bringing the community together, if you will, on the network. I am hopeful that is a target that we can achieve.

Mr. Cowan: Has the Minister had consultations with specific individuals that might be candidates for a chairperson of the committee?

Mr. Orchard: Yes.

Mr. Cowan: I respect the need to maintain some confidences and would not be critical of the Minister if he said that he could not provide us with any detail on those specific discussions at this particular time. Maybe at a later date, one would be more pressing with respect to an answer.

It would be, I think, somewhat difficult for me if I did not at least ask the question now. Can he provide us

with any further information as to who those individuals are and when he anticipates finalizing the discussions with them? I know he said that he would like to appoint by mid-November but that does not mean necessarily that the discussions will be finalized at that time. There is a Cabinet process which the Minister of Environment (Mr. Connery) referenced just the other day that takes five to six weeks in some instances to appoint Members to commissions. So if that is the case, we have a problem already. But I would ask the Minister, given the fact that the Minister of Environment has said that, it seems to be the time line for his Government to appoint people to commissions. Is he very close now to making a decision and can he be more specific as to with whom he has discussed the potential role of chairperson?

Mr. Orchard: I will answer in reverse order. Yes, no, and yes. I may have to change my forecast to six weeks given the information from my honourable colleague.

Mr. Cowan: Not to be misinterpreted as sarcastic, because I do not intend to be, but I would not be surprised if the Minister had to change his forecast. I base that statement on experience.

I have been in a similar position and have hoped to have certain things accomplished by specific times. I have had to move them back because of events that were beyond my control or beyond the control of the Government.— (Interjection)— The Acting Government House Leader (Mr. Manness) who is in his seat today, in his place today, wants to continually come back to the matter of the quorum yesterday. I think he protesteth too much. It is in fact unfortunate that he was not here, not able to keep his Members in the House to the extent where there were more than three Government Members and we could proceed on with the business of the House.

Hon. Clayton Manness (Minister of Finance): It is hard when you are pulling yours out.

Mr. Cowan: And he says it is hard when we are pulling ours out.

Well, Mr. Chairperson, as you are aware, whether it is in Estimates or in the House itself, it is the Government that comes into the Legislature wanting proceed with its agenda. It wants to complete its legislative agenda. It has always been the responsibility of the Government to maintain sufficient numbers in the Legislature so as to ensure that there is not a quorum call. Successive Governments from 1890 to the present time had done that without exception. The only time that there was a quorum called during the day, when the House was sitting and not after ten o'clock when the House was normally adjourned, was in March of '66 when there was a snowstorm that deposited 16 inches of snow within a 24-hour period in the province. That is the only time that has happened. The reason that is the only time that has happened is because other Governments had been able to maintain their Members in the House through the work and the competence of their House Leaders and their Whips. I can tell you that when I was a Government House Leader—and

the Government Whip at the time is not here, but he can reinforce what I am saying—that the Opposition quite often tried to call a quorum because they thought that we were not in the House enough to listen to what they had to say, because they thought there were not enough Members in the House.

* (1500)

Mr. Orchard: Not us, Jay.

Mr. Cowan: The Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) says, "not us," jokingly from his seat, because I know he would not want . . .

Mr. Manness: Serious, not joking.

Mr. Cowan: Well, the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) says he was serious and not joking. I want to address those two comments because, if they stand in their place and put on the record that they never attempted to call a quorum when they were in Opposition, they would be in fact lying to the House, because they know they did. As a matter of fact, I would not be surprised if it was not from time to time those two individuals who participated in the strategy—

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Chairman, he is imputing motives here.

Mr. Cowan: No, I am imputing incompetence as Members of the Opposition, because you were unable to do it. I know you will agree that you thought that it would be something if you could call a quorum on the Government and you were not able to do so, and in fact we were able to do so because your House Leader, Acting House Leader and Acting Acting House Leader were not here, and because the man who usually counts because —(Interjection)— well you, oh, okay, thank you.

The Minister of Northern Affairs (Mr. Downey) was here. I do not think he was asleep at the switch but I think he was resting comfortably. I think that is what happened because I have watched him day after day stand here and count.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please.

Mr. Cowan: This applies to committee as well, the matter of quorum. I think, without wanting to belabour the point, I would just point out, Mr. Chairperson, that what happened yesterday was quite unique and we would not want to see it happen in this committee. We would hope that the Members of the Government would, given their experience of yesterday, finally learn how to live up to their responsibility to control the Government agenda and be in the House when they are required.

Going back to the matter of the Health Advisory Network, the Minister says that the chairperson might be appointed in November. The committee could possibly then be in place in December, and he just said a moment ago that one may have to back off that time line a bit because there are circumstances that may

be beyond their control. I would ask him, if that is the case, how much money does he actually anticipate spending out of this \$500,000 this year?

A quick review of what he stated would suggest, given that this is a full-year amount and given that it would be prorated over 12 months, that they are probably only going to spend about \$100,000 in this area this year if this committee is not appointed until December.

Mr. Orchard: I think that would be a speculation that I simply cannot comment on in terms of the \$100,000 versus \$500,000.00. Five hundred thousand dollars is a yearly cost, and I cannot speculate as to how much of it we would expend this year.

Mr. Cowan: It just is logical, unless there is some bit of logic which is escaping me, that if one prorates \$500,000 for an entire year over the remaining part of the fiscal year which runs until March 31, which will be available after the committee has been appointed, one would assume that they are not going to spend very much money at all in the Health Advisory Network this year, and we are not going to get very much out of the Health Advisory Network this year.

Having said that, I do differ with my Liberal friend a bit, and I hope I did not misinterpret him. I believe that this Health Advisory Network is necessary and can be, if used properly, a positive development in developing the reform of the health care system which is required. I will go that far with my endorsement, for whatever it is worth, of the Health Advisory Network.

I do not think it will accomplish much this year, so I do not think we should expect much of it this year. I do not think that it will necessarily accomplish a lot in the short term. I think it is probably a longer-term process, although there are certain things that have been mentioned that might be attainable in the shorter rather than the longer term.

But that endorsement is based on a number of premises. The first premise is that this will be an independent body. That is not to say the body should not report to the Minister, and that is not to say that the Minister should not have staff on the body, but that it should be an independent body.

Secondly, the body should be able to take unto itself its own tasks and its own mandate because no one of us, including the Minister or his staff or those who have a great deal of experience in the profession, have a monopoly on wisdom or even have any knowledge of all the questions, much less a knowledge of all the answers. The committee has to be able to evolve and has to be able to grow, and has to take on its own mandate onto itself. I make that point because that is not a usual procedure with respect to committees. This one has an unusual task and therefore should be given some unusual opportunities and powers.

The Minister has indicated that the membership of the committee should be appointed shortly after the chairperson. I would ask him if he has separated how the different categories of groups and individuals which he would like to sit on that committee, and can

enunciate them to us today. I do not want to be confused, to be suggesting that they have a doctor that represents doctors, a nurse that represents nurses, and a dentist that represents dentists if that is the case, or a psychiatrist who represents psychiatrists.

I agree with the Minister that to the extent possible the professionals should leave their professional bias at the door and go into the advisory network meetings with the intention of trying to solve the problems from a global perspective. I tell him that it is going to be very hard and I think he recognizes the difficulty of that. When he talked about the system as it was today, he said that there are definite lines between the professionals and those professionals protect their turf. He says that over a period of time he attributes it to the previous administration. I do not think it is attributable only to the previous administration because I think if the Minister looked in the other jurisdictions he would see exactly the same thing happen. I will tell him in a moment why I think it is attributable to certain other causes.

Over time that cross discipline has been lost and that is a problem with the system. I believe that is because we are working within a closed system. The historical and traditional approach, for example to doctors—and I look to my friend who has far more experience in this area than I do, the Liberal critic—has been a closed society in a lot of ways like lawyers have been a closed society, like other professionals have been a closed society.

They do tend and have been encouraged to define their own area of expertise or their own turf. It really goes now right down to the point where we have such heavy specialization, into some very detailed areas where specialists have their own turf and they lose sight of what is happening around them. They protect that turf because they chose to become doctors or specialists because they think it is very important and the work that they do is very important.

They have their own preconceptions as we do as Members of the Legislative Assembly, as we do in our other roles, about the value that we play for society in general. That is what causes us to protect our turf. The Minister knows that a lot of that happens far too often. I would think that while I respect and encourage his goal he is going to have a difficult time, and would caution him to make certain that particular mandate of the committee is monitored carefully.

I would go back to my other question with respect to the individuals in the groups which he sees sitting on the committee. What different groups is he going to bring to the network so that they can work together?

* (1510)

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Chairman, before we get into the groups, I want to indicate to my honourable friend—and I appreciate his qualified support and concept—because I think the concept that has evolved here, and this has evolved and I make no bones about it. As I talk to more people conceptually the network does change somewhat. It was never designed to be another

study of the health care system because as I indicated earlier that I think has been accomplished to sufficient degree.

In terms of what the advisory network can accomplish over the balance of this fiscal year and what its contribution might well be, I just want to caution my honourable friend and I hope my caution of March 31 ends up to be a correct one. This is not an advisory network that is struck like the Health Services Review Committee was struck by the Minister of Health who was my honourable friend's colleague. The Health Services Review Committee was a group of subcommittees and they had a specific study role to do. The latest happened today with the Kopstein Report and this happened with Price Waterhouse review on Home Care. They come up with a specific printed report with a series of analysis and backgrounders and some recommendations.

We are not asking for a formal report to be tabled in a given period of time. What we want to do with the Health Advisory Network—and I accept my honourable friend's caution. What we want to do is have a group to which we can refer specific problems that we see in the health care field and have the group, in consultation with myself and with the department and MHSC and with the affected organizations, bring together a group who leave, as I have indicated earlier and as the Member for Churchill (Mr. Cowan) has indicated, their professional hats outside the door and come in and objectively analyze the problem and explore a series of potential solutions, hopefully, narrow those down and present Government with some solutions to the problem. Depending on the nature of the area being asked to be investigated, one might have a six-month time frame before any kind of potential solutions come up.

I would dare say, and this is where I hope I do not have to stand up and correct myself March 31, 1989, at the end of the fiscal year, I fully expect that given a short time into the mandate that some decisions can come down very quickly, because we are not mandating the network to come up with a formal written report a year and a half from now. We want them to be in the position to do as broad a consultation as possible within the community of health care disciplines involved, whether it be physicians or specialties of the physician world, nursing staff, support staff, union, non-union, professional. Bring the people together who have some input into the solution of the problem and, hopefully, in some areas we will have problems brought to myself for consideration and for implementation.

Again, I caution my honourable friends, even if the Health Advisory Network does suggest a given solution, that solution, as often happens, may not be monetarily acceptable or politically acceptable or within the mandate of the various Acts of the Legislature governing the delivery of health care services.

What I am saying is that we may not be able to implement some of the recommendations. I think what it will do for us, because I had these discussions with my honourable friend, the former MLA for St. Boniface, Mr. Desjardins, when he was Minister of Health. My honourable friend, the Member for St. Boniface, is a

good man. I think there is as good a man from St. Boniface right now actually. Given a few years of experience in the House, I think the present MLA for St. Boniface (Mr. Gaudry), should he survive, will make a good contribution to this House as well. You notice I said, should you survive.

Mr. Chairman, one of the things that was always - (Interjection)- we got into our partisan debates, and I make no apologies for it, between Mr. Desjardins and myself when we were on opposite sides of the House. The one thing that we lamented was that there was no legitimate forum in this House for us to bring really good ideas for debate. If it happened to be a rather risqué suggestion made by either side, then immediately that becomes the other side's election commitment that they were going to defeat those dastardly characters for even thinking of such a thing. In reality, that defeated the kind of open exchange of ideas.

The Health Advisory Network is not so inhibited because they are not operating in a political forum. They are going to be searching out ideas from a diverse group of individuals. They can lay those ideas up as potential solutions and, although I will openly admit that there will always be the risk of the Minister, and having my honourable friend, the Liberal Health critic, or my honourable friend, the NDP Health critic, say, well the Minister is going to do that because his Health Advisory Network suggested it, but I think it gives an impartial suggestion of problem-solving that we can then take and debate in this House and debate in a public forum, because it is not going to be a partisan group that brings these ideas forward. It is going to be an objective group of individuals who have consulted quite widely, so that I simply say to my friend the short and the long-term solutions are being asked for as the advisory network deals with problems. We are not waiting a year for a complete bound and tabled report. If after a month they have some solutions to a problem they wish to offer, that will be expected of them. It will be from as wide a group of participants as we can get to focus solution, thought and experience on the problem.

Mr. Cowan: The Minister has done it again and I do not think it was intentional. I just think he lost track of the original question.

The original question was, can he identify the specific groups which are going to be a part of the Health Advisory Network? We have seen this time and time again where we get a long answer, a long involved answer. It is not that we begrudge the Minister the opportunity to put on the record some important philosophical comments. But the specific question was put forward for a purpose, and I wonder if he could answer it at this time.

Mr. Orchard: I think my honourable friend misses the point of the Health Advisory Network. This is not a forum for physicians to come in and monopolize their opinion. This is not a forum for the nursing profession to come in and monopolize the forum or the advisory network. This is not a forum wherein the unions, for instance, can come in and monopolize, or bureaucrats or consumers.

We hope to have involvement of a wide range of disciplines, of providers of service and of consumers of service. That is going to mean certainly representatives from the nursing field, from the physician's field, from paraprofessionals, consumers, public at large, businesspeople. It is going to be as wide a group of consultations as we can effectively bring together to focus on the problems. I have no preconceived idea that there is going to be a—what is that nursery rhyme?—a baker and a doctor and a candlestick maker. I do not have any—

An Honourable Member: A butcher, a baker, a candlestick maker.

Mr. Orchard: A butcher, a baker, a candlestick maker. I do not have that preconceived notion of membership. I simply will attempt to bring as wide a representation to focus on the problems as is possible. It is not exclusive or exclusionary or all-inclusive. I have not got a preconceived list that my honourable friend might want me to have of people who are going to be involved.

Mr. Cowan: I have a feeling that the Minister does not have a preconceived idea of what this Health Advisory Network is really going to be. If he does, he is not sharing it with us.

Can he tell us what the terms of reference of this health advisory committee will be specifically, what the specific terms of reference will be, how many members he anticipates will be on the Health Advisory Network, and when he expects that all those members will be able to hold their first meeting?

Those are important questions because, as I said earlier, I do support the concept generally if it is put to good use and if it is not thrown off track. I want to be helpful in ensuring that it is, but the information that has been given to us right now is so vague and so general, like all the information we have received, it is very difficult to be an effective Opposition.

If the Minister says that he hopes to have this committee up and running in approximately five to six weeks, five weeks now, six weeks maybe, then he knows full well that he has to have in place a whole series of initiatives that lay the groundwork for the effective functioning of the committee or it is going to be a useless exercise. That is what we want to avoid most of all is a useless exercise. So can he table the terms of reference, and can he indicate how many people will be on the committee?

Mr. Orchard: I truly accept my honourable friend's caution about not wanting to engage in a useless exercise, because he has considerable experience in Government in carrying out useless exercises.

* (1520)

I do not want to be any more direct than that with my honourable friend, but the Health Advisory Network is membership small on the Steering Committee, to keep it focused, and the subcommittees may well have up to a dozen members. But again the objective is to keep the groups relatively small. That does not prevent

them from consulting widely with other groups, but in terms of official membership—not large.

You see, and I know that that is going to run into some criticism in some quarters because if you do not have, as my honourable friend, the Member for Churchill (Mr. Cowan), wants every conceivable professional discipline involved, you are going to be criticized that you were left out. I recognize that is a potential criticism, but my honourable friend surely knows that a small and effective group can make decisions, can expedite work. That is why we are not going into a super larger group of people. They will be fairly small. They will be as diverse in terms of their professional representation as possible.

There are ideas in terms of who those people should be but, as my honourable friend knows, I am not going to indicate, as he wants me to indicate, who is going to be approached, because some of those people from time commitment in their business, time commitment in their profession, simply cannot serve as much as they would like to and we will have an effective committee. I hope we will have it within the time frame that I have specified. I do not have any illusions as to how well it will operate. I believe, from the people I have talked to, that they think the concept is good because it finally broadens the consultation process to be more inclusive, set some specific goals of problem resolution and asks for resolutions to be brought forward as quickly as possible, something that has not happened before.

If my honourable friend is not satisfied with that, I am afraid I probably will not be able to satisfy him today, tomorrow, Monday, or next Tuesday or next Thursday on the issue.

Mr. Cowan: We did find out one new bit of information. There will be a steering committee, a small one in nature, you know sort of like gold mining where you have these veins and you have to take away a lot of ore in order to get a few nuggets of information, a few ounces of gold, and that is just like the Estimates process with this particular administration. You have to wade your way through a lot of hyperbole, a lot of rhetoric, a lot of generalities and vagueness to get some specifics, and that is troublesome, starting as early as it is in the Estimates process.

It tells me that he either does not want to tell us exactly what is happening or he does not know exactly what is happening and that concerns me. I do want to correct the record for him. I am not at all suggesting, and I quote him directly, that "every conceivable professional discipline involved" should be in the Health Advisory Network. As a matter of fact, my approach, the approach of my caucus, will be entirely different, because we do not want to see this particular process professional-driven. We want to see this process as broad as it can be and we want to see, for that reason, a lot of non-professionals involved in the process, from the steering committee on down, or from the steering committee on out, not to lay a value judgment on the role of the steering committee versus the role of the subcommittees.

So we do not want to see every conceivable professional in this, but we want to see a wide array

of thought from consumers, from employers, from employees, from their organizations, from the disciplines themselves brought together to develop that consensus and I do not just see it happening from what I have heard to date.

I also have a concern that a lot of what was mentioned is that the work of the subcommittee is work that is already going on. I think what has happened is the Minister has taken a number of initiatives that had been ongoing for quite some time and not provided very much new but rolled them into another package and said, now with the new name, the Health Advisory Network. We now have a new initiative. But if that new process is comprised almost exclusively of projects that were already ongoing, then is it in reality very new? I would suggest that it is not. He said that one of the subcommittees would be an in-depth study of the teaching hospitals.

Well, he must know because he was briefed on the fact that there is a Teaching Hospitals External Review and that external review has been conducted in three phases. Phase one had already been approved by the time he assumed the ministry; that there were proposals that were to be sent out in a couple that, as he indicated, there was a problem identified in the review entitled "Manitoba and Medicare, 1971 to Present," that showed that there was a higher per-patient day cost in the teaching hospitals, and that this was a concern of the previous administration, and Cabinet directed the Health Department to proceed with a study of the cost and structure of the two teaching hospitals, and this was to be an evaluation that was to come out of the budget of the Manitoba Health Services Commission.

I want to tell you that the estimated maximum amount for that particular study alone was \$300,000.00. We now see that study rolled into one of six subcommittees whose estimated annual budget is \$500,000 and who is only going to expend probably \$100,000 to \$150,000 this year. What we have seen with this process, if I am understanding the situation correctly, is a slowing down of the reform, a slowing down of the evaluation.

Another one of the project areas was health promotion and the Minister knows that there is a Health Promotion Directorate within the department, and he knows that work was being done on that particular directorate, so he knows that was an area that was already under study.

The Minister says that they are going to have a committee that deals with rural health issues, and I think they should have a committee that deals with rural health issues. He only mentioned one. I think there are many more than one, but the one that he mentioned was the attracting and retaining of physicians, which is a major problem as the Minister knows.

A couple of things bothered me in his comments. One is I do believe that the area of rural health is much broader than that and the needs and the studies that have to be done are much broader than that, and the action that has to be taken, because that is what the study should lead us to, is some sort of action, are much broader than that, and so I think that committee should be looking at much more.

Secondly, and this concerns me as a northern M.L.A., and we have seen this happen in other areas as well, although we have managed to correct some of the recent actions of the Government with respect to a focus on the rural over the North. He said that there is already a committee that is focused on northern physician manpower needs and there are many more needs than that as well, but there is that committee in place. He said that he is going to—and I use his words now—refocus from the North to the rural. Well, where does that leave the North?

The North has some very extensive needs in this area as well. If the focus is now on the North and they are going to refocus and we have seen that they are already spending less in some of these areas than was being spent by the previous administration, then I think that the North is going to get the short end of the stick with respect to the work of that particular committee. You cannot lump the North and the rural communities into the same category. They are distinctly different. Their needs are distinctly different. I am concerned about that because I note that when the Minister indicated that they were going to do a pilot project to contain costs in the Home Care area, they said they were going to do that pilot project in the northern region.

We have seen Conservative Governments in the past, and this Government already attack the North in the way that is undeserving and a way that is detrimental and a way that is devastating to northern communities, and we all remember what happened from 1977 to 1981. The Minister is very quick to throw back examples of what the Pawley Government did. Well, he also has a record, because he was a Member of the Cabinet in the Lyon Government. We saw what happened in those years and we do not want to see that happen again. That concerns me specifically.

I have one other question for him, and I hope he will clarify the questions I have listed, and that in respect with the Mental Health Services subcommittee. He said, and I quote again, "The Mental Health Services Committee will have a specific and narrow focus of implementation." My question basically to him is what will they be implementing?

* (1530)

Mr. Orchard: Better, in terms of mental health, a better system of delivery of mental health, a system which I have discussed with the previous Government with very little action.

My honourable friend, when he cannot make a point, then he wants to pursue into other areas and leave accusations on the record which are basically what he would like to be able to go back to his constituency and say to his constituents, this is what the Minister of Health said in Estimates. He said that he is going to take northern medical services and transfer them south. That is what my honourable friend would like to be able to go up to Churchill and Wabowden and throughout the North and say. He said that we are cutting back on northern medical services. We are spending more money on service, medical services, in northern Manitoba than they in the past year.

You see, I know that that is not the message that my honourable friend can take politically up North and say the Conservatives are spending less money on you up here, because he knows it is not correct. What I want to tell my honourable friend in terms of the experience in the northern medical unit is to not transfer the northern medical unit south and deny services to his constituency, which he would love to have us do so he could have an issue to take to Churchill. What was very, very specific, and if he reads Hansard he will know it, is that part of the experience gained in the northern medical unit under Dr. Postl may well be applicable to rural Manitoba's service delivery.

Oh, well, he says quickly now, that is not what you said. But, you see, that is what he wanted to interpret that I said so he could go up North and make his political points. All this Member cares about is the politics. He wants to take things out of context for his own narrow purposes.

The experiences learned in the northern medical unit can have applicable policy development in rural Manitoba. That would mean a refocusing of that experience to rural Manitoba and, if that is wrong and that is incorrect to do, I want my honourable friend to stand up, because then I could go to my constituency in rural Manitoba and say the Member for Churchill (Mr. Cowan) wants to deny you medical services.

I am not naive enough to know that is what he wants to do because, as he said from his seat, that is not what he wants to do, and I wish my honourable friend from Churchill (Mr. Cowan) would do the courteous and honourable thing and indicate that that is not what we want to do either, as he accused earlier on today.

Mr. Chairman: The Honourable Member for Churchill (Mr. Cowan), on a point of order.

Mr. Cowan: Yes, on a point of order, I do not think that is what the Minister wants to do, but I think that will be the unintended result of his actions, because he just does not understand the problems well enough.

Mr. Chairman: The Honourable Member does not have a point of order. The Honourable Minister of Health.

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Chairman, if I can be so blunt, he does not have a great deal of knowledge about what goes in the health care field either.

I simply want to indicate to my honourable friend, where he says gee whiz, we are not doing anything new in the Health Advisory Network, that we are simply studying old problems. I want to tell my honourable friend that to a large degree he is correct. We are looking at old problems, problems that have been around for a number of years, the last six and a half of which he was a member of Treasury Board and Cabinet, and those problems were not resolved.

Nineteen eighty-five, the report, Manitoba and Medicare come down. In 1985, that was subject to a lot of debate in this House. It specifically identified significant cost differences in our teaching hospitals versus other teaching hospitals. Nineteen eighty-five,

in approximately May or June was when that report was the subject of debate in this House. It is now October of 1988, three years and five months later, the entire three years of which were under my honourable friend's direction in Government, where they had the report in front of them and nothing was done to find out what the differences were. They did not commission a teaching hospital review in 1985 in the fall after they had the report. No, and that is why it is an old problem that we are focusing in on to attempt to find the answers to.

The problem in rural medical delivery has worsened over the last number of years. That is an old problem that we are having to find new solutions to. The mental health system deteriorated consistently over the last 30 years, and particularly the last seven of those 30 under my honourable friends in Government, and that is an old problem that we are seeking out new solutions.

Mr. Chairman, I want my honourable friend to know, because he was part of a Cabinet that was developing a reorganization of the Department of Health wherein mental health would not be even under an Assistant Deputy Minister, it was moved to the level of a director. That was the kind of focus they wanted to put on a problem that had been growing over the last 30 years. We do not share that philosophy of the previous administration.

That is why there is a significant and substantial reorganization of the Mental Health Department and a division as a part of the Department of Health to focus in on a lot of things that I have talked about over the last three-and-a-half years, and not in isolation because many people have thoughts on community base. I have heard my honourable friend, the Member for Kildonan (Mr. Cheema), talk about certain aspects of community services and he is correct in some of his directions.

We are moving in that direction for the first time in a number of years and we are taking the initiative, starting with a complete reorganization of the Department of Health, something that my honourable friends were not going to do. They were going to denigrate mental health. That did not resolve the problem. I admit to him openly the Health Advisory Network will be asked to focus in on an old problem, an old problem that had existed for years and had grown worse. I make no apology for that because that is what the people of Manitoba elected us to do, to find creative new solutions. We intend to ask the participants in the Manitoba health care community and the Manitoba public at large to assist us with their wisdom, their expertise and their abilities to do that. I make no apologies for that kind of public involvement.

Mr. Cowan: Mr. Chairperson, again the Minister uses a lot of words to try to confuse and to complicate what was a relatively simple statement and question, and then comes up not answering the question at all. I would want to make a couple of points because my friend, my Liberal colleague, the critic for Health, has been waiting patiently and I do not want to make him wait any longer, although I will come back to this later.

The Minister in his comments indicated very clearly again that he just does not know what he is talking

about. He said that the report, "Manitoba Medicare 1971, the Present," was completed in '85 and nothing was done until now, in '88. He had briefing notes available to him, as did the previous Minister when he assumed that portfolio that shows very clearly, and I will quote directly, "In February 1987, Cabinet directed Manitoba Health to proceed with a study of the cost and structure of Manitoba's two teaching hospitals, St. Boniface General Hospital and the Health Sciences Centre. This evaluation is to be funded out of the budget of the Manitoba Health Services Commission. It is estimated the external review of the two teaching hospitals will cost \$1,000 for each of the three phases if all required, thus the estimated maximum cost will be approximately \$3,000.00."

He also knows it was suggested that when referencing this that one could say that the purpose of this review was to ensure that Manitoba's teaching hospitals are being funded at levels which compare with similar hospitals in the rest of Canada. He just was not being entirely accurate when he said we did not do anything until 1988. He should have known better if he had read his briefing materials which were available to him.

Secondly, with respect to medical manpower, it is a problem that has plagued a lot of administrations. He should know that when he was in Government in 1979, they established a standing committee on medical manpower. The committee was established for the purpose of review, analysis, evaluation and recommendations with respect to all matters bearing on the supply, category practice and geographic distribution of physicians in Manitoba, reported to the Minister of Health and the Minister of Education. That committee was in place to do exactly, I believe from what I have heard him say today, what his Health Advisory Network subcommittee on the rural health issues will be doing at least in part.

* (1540)

When I say that because of their initiatives, and I would ask him if the review of the teaching hospitals is still ongoing, because of their initiatives some of these may be set back. I appreciate the fact that he wants to deflect attention from himself as much as possible by blaming the previous administration. It is a matter of the three envelopes. I said I would tell that story. I am going to do it very briefly because I think it enlightens -(Interjection)- well, I am not certain everybody has heard it.

I think it does by a very good demonstration show exactly what this Government is attempting to do. I think others have put it in better words than I possibly could, so I am going to borrow their words. It is about a new Minister, just like the Minister of Health, coming into Government and being handed by his predecessor three envelopes, three separate envelopes. Those envelopes are sealed and numbered one, two and three. He is told by his colleague, who was a Minister under the previous administration, that he is only to open those envelopes if he finds himself in trouble, if he finds himself unable to answer a particular question in a definitive way or to provide insights as to what his Government intends to do about very serious problems.

So he puts the envelopes in the side drawer in his desk and he sits there and he goes along and along for a while and then probably around this particular time in that particular Minister's administration, about four, five or six months in, when you actually have to start taking responsibility for what you have done and what you have not done, he starts to get questions such as this, and he cannot answer them because he has not done anything.

He gets worried and panicked in a few days and he suffers through questions in Estimates and the Question Period, and it finally dawns on him that he has these three envelopes. So he rushes back to his office, he pulls open the drawer, he rips open the first envelope and very neatly typed, centred on the page were the words, "Blame the previous Government." That is what this Minister does, blame the previous Government. That works for a period of time but, after a while, it gets sort of redundant and everybody gets tired of hearing it, just as I am sure everybody is getting tired of hearing this story. But the story does have a moral to it and it is an important point. It is a lesson to be learned.

So, after about three or four months of blaming the previous administration and that excuse is wearing thin and people are beginning to get cynical, as they are about this Minister, about the real desire of the Minister to do anything, he starts to get into trouble on other questions. The excuse is not working anymore, and he remembers the second envelope. He runs back to his desk, he opens up that secret drawer, he pulls out the second envelope, rips it open and typed neatly in the middle is a phrase, it says, "blame the federal Government." Boy, are we going to see that happen in spades when the Conservative Government is no longer the federal Government. Blame the federal Government.

That works for a while. It works for a couple of years, because you can sort of throw everything off on the federal Government. Even when you are a Tory Government and there is a Tory Government in power federally, you can still blame the federal Government. You will see how they will do that in a very short period of time.

Now that works for a couple of years, and finally it is nearing the end of the term and another issue comes up. Again, the Minister is in trouble, hot water and in a panic and he still has not done anything, a lot of good words, a lot of nice, meaningless good-sounding intentions but no action, nothing concrete. He gets in trouble and he runs back to his desk and he opens up the third envelope. What does it say? It says, "make out three envelopes," because that is what happened in 1977 and 1981, and that is what is going to happen again with this particular Minister because he does not give forthright answers, he does not give complete answers. He does not do so because I do not think he has the plan in place that they suggested they had in place when they ran for election during the last campaign. I think his comments here today show that they are either duplicating what has already been done or cannot be very specific about what they say are their answers to these sorts of problems.

Thursday, October 27, 1988

We are going to see that throughout these entire Estimates because they do not have that plan. I think they have good intentions. I think they want to solve the problems, but it is just like the Standing Committee on Medical Manpower which has been around since 1979 and has done some good work, although it has not found the solution because it is a solution that evades one's grasp because it is a very complex and difficult area, as can my friend, the Liberal critic, confirm. But the fact is that the previous administration was not all bad. I will agree with him that we did not go far enough in some areas, and I will agree with mental health. It was an area where we probably should have done a lot more a lot sooner.

Ms. Avis Gray (Ellice): You did not do anything.

Mr. Cowan: The Member for Ellice (Ms. Gray) says that we did not do anything. I would be interested to see what was done in certain areas in Home Care as we get into that particular area because we did do a lot in a number of different areas. But in mental health, we definitely did not do all that should have been done.

I hope the Minister can accomplish more than we were able to accomplish. I think that if he actually puts his mind to it and works hard—and he is a hard-working Minister, there is no doubt about that—he may be able to accomplish more. We will support him in efforts where we believe they are moving in the right direction. We will fight vehemently when we believe they are moving in the wrong direction, such as we believe they are with the Welcome Home Program. The inference is that they are not going to have the same targets for reintegration that the previous administration had. That was a good program, and yet they are cutting back in that area. So we think that while he says they have new ideas and they are going to move towards the community based, what we actually see happen is exactly the opposite. That is frightening and that is concerning, and we will fight vehemently to try to convince them that they are going in the wrong direction, even if it is no direction in that particular instance.

So I accept his criticisms to the extent that some of them are valid. I think he does overstate the case from time to time. But I also think he has to take some responsibility for his lack of action to date, and I think he also has to rely less on blaming the previous administration and more on spending some time accurately defining what he intends to do with these serious problems.

Mr. Orchard: You have just heard the story of the three envelopes.

An Honourable Member: Do not tell it again.

Mr. Orchard: I will not tell it again.

An Honourable Member: I will not let him.

Mr. Orchard: But in relating that story to Honourable Members of the House today, the Member for Churchill (Mr. Cowan) reminds me of the accused young man

who was before court after murdering his mother and father, and he was in court pleading for mercy and leniency of the court from the judge because he was an orphan. That is what we just heard from the Member for Churchill.

He said I have got to be careful in what I say in terms of what the previous administration had accomplished and what they have done. That is correct, but he also has to know his facts before he puts them on the record.

I will openly admit to my honourable friend that in February of 1987 the Cabinet, of which he was a Member, agreed to do a teaching hospital study. They gave approval in principle to that plus a number of other initiatives. That is the problem. That is all that happened, approval in principle. The study was not initiated. Nothing happened since then. That is why it has become again an issue that we have to deal with. I realize that my honourable friend was not the Minister of Health so he probably did not know that, after giving Cabinet approval in principle, nothing happened. That is exactly where my honourable friend's argument falls down.

I do not want to get into a bicker with my honourable friend on this point or the other point etc., etc., but the study did not happen. The study of teaching hospitals did not happen. But if you listen to my honourable friend, the Member for Churchill (Mr. Cowan), it was done.

Mr. Cowan: No.

* (1550)

Mr. Orchard: Oh, now he is changing his story. He says no, no, that is not what I said. That was the impression he left. And he says now from his seat, well it was started. Yes, it got Cabinet approval in principle and it was not initiated. There is no study ongoing, there is no study of the teaching hospitals. That task is yet to be done and will be done. That is a problem identified in 1985 about May or June, whenever the Manitoba Medicare Report became part of this debate in this Assembly. It is now three-and-a-half years later, and I believe the figures are still reasonably accurate. We need to have an answer to those very, very key questions because they involve many millions of dollars.

So when my honourable friend says that they did some things, yes, they did. They understood the problem. They approved in principle a solution but there was no solution pursued. It is easy to recognize the problem, and I will openly admit that. I used to recognize all sorts of problems when I was in Opposition. It is the best place to be. You can have every problem in the world identified. It is a little more difficult to entertain some solutions. Mr. Chairman, I simply indicate to you that there are a number of solutions on the way and will become part of this Government's proactive approach to health delivery in Manitoba to the benefit of the citizens of this province.

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Chairperson, first of all, I wanted to correct the record that at no time have I indicated that we are opposed to this network. We are asking some

specific questions and, until we are satisfied with those questions—I think the Member for Churchill (Mr. Cowan) has misquoted me. I never said that we opposed the concept.

The second thing, probably I think we should go by positive criticism. If we are raising questions, we are not finished, I have lots of questions, the Member for Ellice (Ms. Gray) has questions, and we will be putting our proposals forward so that at least we could get something out of this advisory network. I am sure if the people of Manitoba read the Hansard, and the points of conversation, I do not know how much they are going to be happy with all of us.

First of all, I would like to point out that from this advisory network, will the Minister tell us, is he considering this program of centralizing services in Winnipeg, and what are those services? Could he just table those services? Is he considering having, like, cataract surgery at one hospital and considering the orthopedic surgery in one hospital, so that we could still provide these services and cut the cost, and is he considering the obstetrical services in a similar fashion?

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Chairman, that is exactly two areas that are open to discussion and, hopefully, the Teaching Hospital Review will deal with the first one in terms of cardiac surgery and probably give us some recommendations. I think my honourable friend appreciates you are not going to unilaterally make a decision like that as Government, because the two institutions are equally proud of their program, etc., etc. That is why I think it takes both hospitals at the table discussing the problem with other than Government who might want to impose their will on them and, hopefully, a reasoned resolution of that area will come out of it.

And indeed, in the second area of obstetrics, certainly not only the Teaching Hospital Review but the Community Hospital Review ought to deal with that because, ideally, if we could end up with the Health Advisory Network involving the community hospitals in Winnipeg, involve hospitals in developing centres of excellence, where each of them have a specific expertise that they can develop without exclusion.

I am not trying to focus the debate to a given hospital for a given thing but, for instance, Concordia and Victoria have very excellent outpatient surgery, day surgery programs. Maybe those need to be built upon, but only an overview of all hospitals together can give you that kind of a handle and a feel for it. There is no question that Grace Hospital has one of the finest inpatient acute care psychiatric units attached to a community hospital. I think it is a model, probably still the envy of the most modern of hospitals because it is a very, very well set-up unit. That may be a centre of excellence that would evolve with Grace.

But if there is one thing I have found is that every hospital I have toured has a real esprit de corps. They are very proud of what they do and they are very protective of their roles, and that makes for each hospital naturally attempting to build upon their service patterns.

But that does not necessarily mean there is not a more focused role that each of them could be taking and, hopefully—and I admit I might be naive in my hope here—the hospital review, involving the teaching hospitals, the community hospitals in Winnipeg, will point us towards roles of excellence for each of the hospitals, answer some of the obstetrical questions, the cardiac questions that my honourable friend has raised.

Mr. Cheema: I would like to make some comment about the obstetrical services. When the two hospital services were closed, Seven Oaks and Concordia, and regrettably without making a space available either at St. Boniface Hospital or Health Sciences Centre, and the population of the North End has grown up by at least 10 to 15 percent. There is a population of 60,000 people in that area and we do not have obstetrical services at Seven Oaks Hospital. What has happened is that, when you remove obstetrical services from a community hospital, you do not just remove one service. You also take away some of the family practice concept, you also take away some of the emergency work and, most specifically, Seven Oaks Hospital should have never closed their obstetrical ward, because it is a teaching hospital, a family practice teaching unit. Now what is happening, the family practice residents will have to come to the Health Sciences to practise their obstetrics. Also this hospital was in operation for only three years. Without taking into consideration the time of the life of this hospital, this unit was closed and now that space is being utilized for cataract surgery. I am not saying that hospital should not have cataract surgery; in fact, we should. That is what we are getting there. We should have a few hospitals where we could have cataract surgery, in Seven Oaks Hospital, or orthopedic surgery at Victoria Hospital, or hip surgery . . . or cardiac surgery at the Health Sciences Centre.

What I am trying to say is that we definitely oppose any change in the community hospital concept with regard to obstetrics. Obstetrics is a major component of any hospital and, more specifically, in the communities. We have to see what area of Winnipeg is growing more than the other. Victoria Hospital, their deliveries have gone up because of the change in the demographic variation. The same with the North End, we are going to have a dividing there and we are adding and receive there, but we have cut the total obstetrical floor.

Definitely I am speaking as the critic, plus I am speaking on behalf of the residents of the North End. I am sure that the Member for Seven Oaks (Mr. Minenko), the Member for Burrows (Mr. Chornopyski), the Member for Inkster (Mr. Lamoureux), and the Member for Ellice (Ms. Gray), would agree with me it is extremely difficult for people to adjust to that kind of adjustment and, most specifically, because we have not taken into consideration the workload in the emergency rooms.

Also, when you are cutting down the obstetrics in one hospital, you are denying that particular obstetrician the right of operating room for gynecology, so you have to provide him space somewhere else. That is taking us to—we are wasting more money, we are wasting

Thursday, October 27, 1988

time, we are creating more spaces definitely, but there are other areas we should be considering but from our Party's point of view definitely we will oppose any changes in the community hospital concept with regard to obstetrics.

My question to the Minister is has he received any communication from St. Boniface and Health Sciences obstetrical units with regard to expanding their services? We are not opposing that bed space should not be expanded. These two hospitals should have both high-risk and low-risk deliveries. I think the most important thing is to provide services at the high-risk delivery areas at these two hospitals but the services at the community hospitals must not be cut.

* (1600)

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Chairman, I very much enjoy this debate but we might be better to spend the time when we get to the Manitoba Health Services Commission on the specifics of each hospital.

Yes, St. Boniface has had communication with us. I am not certain about Health Sciences Centre, I would have to check.

My honourable friend has mentioned the topic that has troubled me for some time, that being the closure of obstetrical units at both Concordia and Seven Oaks. I guess at the time I had to, without knowledge, wonder what has behind the trend. You are running into some of the most strongly held opinions in the obstetrical community, supporting that decision of the centralized birthing because of more high-risk deliveries, which in part is a function of women staying in their careers longer and having their families at a later time in life which can potentially lead to more high-risk deliveries.

But just from common-sense standpoint, I could not see the rationale of closing obstetrical units in the northeast and the northwest corner of the city where there are indeed some of the fastest growing residential areas with some of the youngest families who are probably having most of the children in Winnipeg. In the example my honourable friend uses, and Grace is also somewhat in that category, but Victoria Hospital certainly, highly utilized, because that south end of the city is growing at a very rapid rate and has for the last number of years. You get into the decision because now we are at the situation that my honourable friend has brought up in the House a couple of times about the capacity situation at St. Boniface. The logical request—cannot fault the hospital, the administration, the obstetricians there—is that we need an expanded unit. But in terms of the overall decision of the system, when you have got untold demands on the dollars you have got to spend, is it wise to expand there when we are underutilized in a couple of other hospitals in Winnipeg? How do you resolve that problem of utilizing unused capacity that already exists? I cannot answer that as Minister of Health. I want an answer to that, but it has to be an answer that comes from some professional involvement.

That is one of the very important outcomes of the Health Advisory Network and the two hospital reviews,

to try to give us that kind of professional opinion because, when we make these decisions on expansion, they commit major amounts of capital, No. 1, and they commit major future operating costs. The decisions we make have to be good and sound decisions. That is why, to me, the network is so important.

Let me just finally say to my honourable friend that the purpose of the review of the community hospitals is not to denigrate the roles of the community hospitals. I think that they do a very excellent job of program delivery in their respective quadrants of the city but indeed they serve, for certain surgeries, constituents of mine and throughout the rest of rural Manitoba as well.

Mr. Cheema: Could the Minister tell us, will he include these specific proposals I have put forward like cataract surgery, making it in one hospital, or orthopedic surgery like hip surgery, making it in one hospital, and then concentrating cardiac surgery in both of the teaching hospitals? Will he include this in that review?

Mr. Orchard: Those are global issues that have been with Government since '78, I suppose, in terms of cardiac surgery between the two teaching hospitals, and '79. Yes, those will be part of the Teaching Hospital Review, and the other areas will be part of the community hospital overviews.

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Chairperson, considering the shortage of acute care beds in psychiatry—and I not talking about the McEwen Building. I think it is reopened already, but still the physicians on call find it a very difficult time to find a bed in the hospital. Some of those patients, if we study them, would just need to stay overnight in the observation room. Will the Minister include a study in this network that will focus on the position of creating a half-way house between the emergency room and the acute care bed situation?

Mr. Orchard: In general terms, as I have indicated in the House, the use of emergencies in our hospitals throughout the system has been growing at a rather rapid rate. That is putting not only cost pressures but physical pressures on the hospitals, and let us be fair.

There is a lot of use of emergencies that is most appropriate. It is the only place they can go, accident victims in very serious medical circumstances, heart attacks, strokes. I mean, that is where you are going to go in the middle of the night. But there is the appearance that there are a lot of lesser medical problems that are being brought to the emergency departments of our various hospitals in the city because of a number of factors. That has to be in some way resolved because it is putting pressure on the system, costly pressure on the system. We are hoping that we have some positive suggestions in that regard to help us plan the future numbers of acute care beds, personal care home beds, because it is all tied together.

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Chairperson, could the Minister tell us under this advisory network, as he is aware, the number of walk-in clinics in Winnipeg is growing every day, will he consider a special study and what will be

the time frame of that study, because I think the patients are concerned as well as professionals are concerned? Above all, I think the cost of walk-in clinics is quite high and at times there are duplications of services. Will the Minister set up a system where we could find out if there is any duplication of services, like setting up a central computer where if the patient goes to one walk-in clinic, and then next is going to another walk-in clinic and he is getting two tests done in the same week. If we had a system where it is centrally computerized, I think it would save a lot of money and it would also improve the quality of health care.

* (1610)

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Chairman, within the Planning and Research Directorate, they have, about 6 months ago, completed a study on the impact of walk-in clinics, attempting to determine whether there was the double doctoring and they have developed some preliminary statistics as of the experience to a point in time. Just off the top, I cannot remember when the end of that study period was. It was last fiscal year, so that would be ending '87. That was for fiscal year '86-87, but there has been since that time a growth in the walk-in clinics and the numbers of them, and we are in the process of renewing those statistical analyses of the impact of walk-in clinics for the fiscal year '87-88. We do not have that number as of yet.

I will tell you, the first set of figures for the fiscal year '86-87 were not as dramatic in indicating double doctoring and the kind of potential problems that my honourable friend identified. There was certainly an identification of some of that because you can pick out where an individual has gone to a walk-in clinic one day and then possibly another physician the next day, etc., etc. Those are the statistics that are currently being picked out. They were not as dramatic.

At the same time, there did appear to be, but it was possibly not statistically valid, so I almost hesitate to say it, but it did appear as if there were some small decrease in the use of emergencies of hospitals which one would hope to expect if you have walk-in clinics that are open till midnight, that hopefully they would take some of the pressure off of the emergencies. There was some slight evidence that is the case. Hopefully, the analysis for fiscal year ending March 31, 1988, will be a little more definitive in giving us some answers to the questions that all of us pose on the value and utility of the walk-in clinic.

Mr. Cheema: Could the Minister indicate to us, will he consider having a meeting with professional associations so that they could have some kind of mechanism to have control of these walk-in clinics? We definitely say a walk-in clinic does provide a good service, but the numbers and the duplication of services must be avoided.

Mr. Orchard: By the professional association, I presume my honourable friend means the MMA? Well, no question, they are involved in discussions on it. We have had that discussion in the first meeting that we had.

Also the College of Physicians and Surgeons is looking at that as a growing issue, an emerging issue. You get into some pretty serious problems in terms of if you think (a) they are a problem, then what do you do to resolve the problem? You know, we have got freedom to practice and there is no restriction on billing numbers, and that was tried in British Columbia and of course was thrown out of court. I do not want to call it a problem yet because I do not have the statistical evidence to say it is a problem. I could not make that definitive statement based on the first set of information. We may well come to that conclusion when we get our 1988 analysis done.

The resolution of any direction we take with walk-in clinics is going to have to have the full and complete cooperation of the professional association, the MMA, as well as the College of Physicians and Surgeons, because you are not going to unilaterally resolve that problem without their cooperation.

Ms. Gray: Mr. Chairperson, I do have a few questions on the Health Advisory Network, although I cannot help but make at least one comment about the Member for Churchill (Mr. Cowan) in his story that he told, and I find it very interesting that someone who was a former Minister in the previous administration would be very selective in how he told that story. The way that the civil servants always knew that story was that the second envelope said "reorganize." It caused quite a bit of humour in the civil service if it were not so tragic, and certainly the previous administration, instead of dealing with problems, they would rather decide to reorganize, so I find it quite interesting that that story had a different slant on it, coming from a Member from the former Government.

The discussions about the Health Advisory Network, and I listened with interest yesterday as the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) spoke a number of paragraphs and quite a few words about the Health Advisory Network and I took notes and I thought well—and the final comment that the Minister made yesterday was, "and that is the goal and objective of the Health Advisory Network." I thought I had better wait till I received Hansard and read over these pages of words from the Minister to think, now, have I missed what the goal and the objective were? Certainly as I read through the remarks again yesterday, nowhere could I find a goal or objective that was stated, a lot of discussion and a lot of rhetoric, but no goal or objective that was stated in his remarks yesterday.

However, I do see today that the Minister has somewhat enlightened us in regard to indicating some of the specific areas that he would see this Health Advisory Network dealing with. I am wondering, first of all, the Member for Churchill (Mr. Cowan) had asked the Minister to table a terms of reference and I am wondering if the Minister would—first of all, is there a terms of reference that has been established for this Health Advisory Network? Is there a specific goal which is written with the specific objectives outlined, and would the Minister be willing to table that information in the House today?

Mr. Orchard: I know my honourable friend wants to be kind in her criticism, but -(Interjection)- because you

Thursday, October 27, 1988

are basically a nice person. I read the article in the Free Press that said you were a very decent person and I believe it. I believe that. Inherently, I want to believe that.

If I refer my honourable friend to page 2448 of Hansard, Tuesday, October 25, 1988, I probably cannot with more eloquence describe the Manitoba Health Advisory Network than I did in the middle of the first column down. Today we discussed more about time frames and problem resolution. We discussed—I am not, and to his credit, even my honourable friend from Churchill (Mr. Cowan) does not want to have every discipline represented in it, and that is impossible. If you are going to keep it small so it can make decisions, you are going to be criticized, and I recognize that, of not having every potential discipline involved in the Steering Committee or on a subcommittee.

Let me give you the objectives of the Health Advisory Network. They are in Hansard, but I will give them to you again: to provide the Minister of Health with a mechanism to involve members of the health services community and the identification and implementation of measures to enhance management and quality throughout the health services system of the province; secondly, to restore confidence and cooperation among all elements in the health services community; thirdly, to lessen controversy, competition and special interest behaviour among all elements in the health services system; and last, to focus on improvements and reform of the health services system of Manitoba.

Now, we have talked about all of those things in the last two days that we have dealt with the Health Advisory Network, talked about leaving their professional objectives outside the door. In my opening remarks, I was very—well, in as gentlemanly and as parliamentary a way as I could be—critical of the previous administration because they operated on confrontation in the health care field, and if it was not confrontation with the professional disciplines, it was confrontation within the delivery system of the services. I need only use as an example the reorganization of Winnipeg Region as one of the outcomes of their policy direction. That does not work.

I simply say to my honourable friend, it is nebulous. I cannot take a quantity of production and put it in your hand and show it to you. But I simply say that, for instance, within the field of mental health, the kind of openness that I have tried to demonstrate as Minister and the kind of openness that Members of my staff have tried to demonstrate with the psychiatric community has brought them around the table to resolve the summer problem of closed McEwen Building and shortage of beds. I believe the key to having that summer problem not resolved—well, because there were difficulties for everybody involved, but by golly they did an excellent job of providing services under very strained conditions.

I do not think it would have worked as well if they did not know that there was a new attitude in the Minister's office of cooperation with professionals, of not treating professionals as the target group, the enemies, the bad guys, the bandits or whatever and asking them to come in and participate in resolving

the problems. Now as I say, that is not an attitude that I can pick up a substantial thing on and hand it to you as positive results because it is nebulous. How do you know you are achieving results when you are working with people in delivery of service?

* (1620)

I think that this summer's record with the psychiatrists and with the acute care psychiatric beds is proof positive that an open and cooperative attitude works. If there is one theme that I want the Health Advisory Network to do it is to restore confidence, as I have indicated earlier, and cooperation among all elements of the health services community and to lessen controversy. You know, I may be a naive country boy, but I think that if we can achieve that through this Department of Health and through this ministry, we will go a long way to improving delivery of health care in the Province of Manitoba. That is not something that I am going to do on my own as Minister of Health. That takes cooperation from my colleagues on this side of the House in cabinet and Government. I also want to say to my honourable friends, it takes your cooperation too, because we are all part of the solution of problems in health care.

I am not going to reject out of hand common-sense solutions that the Member for Kildonan (Mr. Cheema) will come up with and problem identification that he is going to come up with, or the Member for Ellice (Ms. Gray) or any other Member over there. I might have a little trouble from time to time with the Member for Churchill (Mr. Cowan) but nevertheless, where it is logistically presented problems, I want to attempt to resolve them. We do not have all of the magic answers. That is why the Health Advisory Network to me is so important because it can bring in people with a different perspective, new ideas, expertise and experience to focus on the problems.

I reiterate before I sit down, because I know my honourable friend is losing patience and I am taking too much time with words, words, words. But I want to tell you there is no more key a word in the health care field where we are spending one-third of the provincial Budget than to lessen controversy, to restore confidence and cooperation. If we do not do that, I am doomed to fail as a Minister of Health. If I fail as the Minister of Health, the person inheriting the job is not going to have any easy row to hoe. So I intend to succeed at this task with cooperation from as many individuals as I can bring around the table to cooperate. That is what I consider the key role that I have to offer in this Government and at this time in the development of health services in Manitoba.

Ms. Gray: I do appreciate the Minister putting on the record very specifically what he sees as the objectives of the Health Advisory Network. We appreciate that.

In his first response to the Member for Kildonan's question on what the goals and objectives were, we were not able to get that response from the Minister. On the second try we have been able to do it. I do appreciate the answer from the Minister of Health.

The Minister has indicated that one of the areas the Health Advisory Network would be looking at, in regard

to possible strategies for service, problems, etc., is in the area of Mental Health Services. In the Speech from the Throne, this particular Government has indicated that mental health is a priority of this Government, and they seem to indicate that there are a lot of dollars that have been injected into the system. One would assume if dollars have been injected into the system that certainly some planning, hopefully comprehensive planning, would accompany that so that—again I am jumping ahead and making an assumption that with dollars injected comprehensive planning has taken place.

I also recall a comment the other day from the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) in regard to some reorganization of the mental health system. I am not quite sure what he was referring to, but it sounded like some plans were under way.

My question to the Minister of Health is, if with dollars injected and comprehensive planning has already taken place within his department, and if actual reorganization is going to occur in the area of Mental Health Services, why would this Health Advisory Network be studying Mental Health Services, and what exactly would the relationship be between those Mental Health Services they may be looking at and the already planning that seems to have occurred within the department?

Mr. Orchard: Good question. My honourable friend says she does not know the answer and that is why she is asking, and I appreciate that. I am sorry I am going to take maybe a couple of minutes to explain the independence of the two processes.

The Health Advisory Network, in terms of mental health as a specific problem that it is going to take a look at, my honourable friend knows because she has worked in Regional Services, that there are quite a number of suggested community-based programs in mental health that various proponents believe will be successful in providing better community-based care. That is where the role of the Health Advisory Network to me is most important in bringing together various disciplines in delivery of Mental Health Services to determine the most appropriate devolution of services to the community, if I can be that blunt in where I want them to be heading. Because there is no question that in Manitoba we have tended to focus on the institutional base and model of delivery at the expense of getting into the community. But the transition is not easy or else it would have been done. I do not demonstrate any new-found wisdom when I want to move towards community-based support. I think the previous administration wanted to etc., etc. I do not think that demonstrates any wisdom.

But where it requires the wisdom is in determining how you get there and what you do when you get there, because there is where you run into a number of different proposals. The Health Advisory Network is where, I believe, we can bring together the various people with a variety of ideas on how to resolve problems, to come up with the most effective and most expedient program to deliver better and higher quality Mental Health Services. That is independent though, completely independent, to what has gone on in the

department. I would give my eyeteeth to be able to lay it out for my honourable friend right now because I am very proud of what we have done, but we are simply not in a position to do that. Hopefully, within a very short period of time we will have that reorganization done.

I just want to reiterate, to give you the background. We have four distinct flows of dollars in mental health in the department. We have, under the Assistant Deputy Minister of Mental Health, funding for the two institutions, Brandon and Selkirk. We have got funding for our forensic unit. We have got children and adolescent services, and general support services in the Directorate of Mental Health. Then we have over at the commission, the Manitoba Health Services Commission, funding of acute care psychiatry. Then in another arm of the commission, we have got the funding of the psychiatrists, psychologists as professionals. Then back in the Department of Health in Regional Services we have funding of regional program delivery, and somewhere in between is Eden Mental Health Centre, neither in the department, it is over in the commission. The organization is bizarre and, as a result, the four streams are operating independently. There is little of the cooperation within the department.

Now, if I expect and challenge the community to get together and work toward resolution of problems, how in the world can I ask the community to do that if within the department we are not doing that? Beneath my responsibility, as Minister of Health, we are not doing that.

* (1630)

So the reorganization is focused entirely at bringing those spending streams together under one ADM's administration so that there is a central focus and coordination of the program development, the funding allocation, and a great and closer ability to tie in with the Health Advisory Network as they filter out what are appropriate solutions to the problem of, for instance, community service delivery. With a reorganized department, there is no question as to where you go to present that funding request if that is what it is, transfer of service, if that is what is. You go to one individual, the ADM, who has control over all of the streams of funding.

Now that is the objective. I think it is a very, very laudable one and I think it is going to work and be quite effective. But, as my honourable friend knows—and I almost hesitate to say this—because she said the second envelope in the bureaucracy was reorganization, because that is what we are going to be doing is reorganizing how we deliver mental health. But in this case I am serious in the belief that it is going to provide a lot better quality of care, dramatically better, because I think it has been a long time missing from the organization of the Department of Health, a long time missing. I have to congratulate a number of members of my staff—and they know who they are—who have worked extremely diligently to put this reorganization plan together over the last several months.

Ms. Gray: In response to the Minister's answer, and just let me comment on this proposed reorganization.

Thursday, October 27, 1988

I am sure we will have an opportunity to ask further questions and will be privy to the information when it is completed. I certainly agree that in fact—and I like the Minister of Health's term "bizarre"—that the organization was bizarre, which created many problems in service delivery. I certainly hope that in examining the structure reorganization, obviously my comments come from a bias point of view in the sense of my belief in regional services and the multidisciplinary team approach that, as you look at the Mental Health Services delivery in the community, you consider the multidisciplinary team approach and do not consider an approach which is what I would call typically programmatic. Bureaucrats use that word all the time and in fact the word does not exist. The approach is not on a program line where services are vertical and that we forget about horizontal services so much in need in the community.

Now, if I understand the Minister correctly, he has indicated that then the Health Advisory Committee would be dealing with some of the community-based issues in mental health—and I have a nod of the affirmative from the Minister on that.

I am wondering if the Minister could indicate, as this Health Advisory Network is under way, is there a policy framework or a role and mission statement—to use another cliché—or policy framework within this Government, some framework with which this Health Advisory Committee would have access to so that they would then do their work within a certain framework or within a certain direction? I ask this question again, is this health advisory committee basically at liberty to look at, for instance, deinstitutionalization, community-based care versus institutional care? Although a lot of Governments may feel that yes, community care is the best and we want to move toward that, is there really some sort of direction already established by this present Government with which this Health Advisory Network would have access to, so that again they have some sense of where the Government is coming from so that would give them a clearer idea of where and how they should proceed in the work that they do?

Mr. Orchard: I think the direction that will be focused on by the Health Advisory Network in the mental health subcommittee will come from, basically, the philosophical underpinning of the reorganization of the department. That is going to provide probably as close a direction for the Health Advisory Network, the mental health working group as anything we can do.

I want to remind my honourable friend that what we will be doing with the Advisory Network is challenging them with specific problems, that we wish them to bring together expertise to seek solutions. They are not going to necessarily be a group that is going to be set up to reinvent the wheel. I think we know where we want to go, generally, in mental health. The question is this: if a unit like the Salvation Army has a crisis centre, is that the most appropriate way to go? Has that applicability in rural Manitoba?

Just as a wild concept, I want to know and I have broached this with my staff. We have got underutilized beds in rural Manitoba. We have got people in Brandon

and Selkirk who are not violent. They are long-term patients there; they are from all parts of the province. Is it possible, for instance, to have those individuals in hospital beds closer to the community at home? I do not know what the logistics are in that, but there are people who could give me solid advice on that. That is one of the questions we are going to put to them.

The objective is to try to bring services out of the City of Winnipeg, because I guess if there is one frustration that all Ministers of Health have faced—and this is not only in mental health, this is in hi-tech health care as well, if you want to put it that way—that Winnipeg is very much overserved and the balance of rural and northern Manitoba, with the exception of Brandon and some of the major centres, is very much underserved.

In mental health, that is a real problem. Let me tell you that getting to the communities is not going to be an easy job. But I want to tell my honourable friend that one of the vehicles to get there is the multidisciplinary team approach, and that is key to the reorganization of the department. It is not a concept that is new, but it is a concept that does appear to work from experience in other communities. That is probably going to be the underpinning foundation to get us away from the institution to the community, is that multidisciplinary team.

Ms. Gray: Mr. Chairperson, as an aside comment in response to the Minister, I am pleased to hear his affirmation of the multidisciplinary team approach, because I was quite distressed when I heard in Community Services Estimates that in fact that approach does not currently exist in regional operations, so I will be very pleased to hear that it may be restored.

A further question to the Minister of Health, and again, one of the objectives or activities which the Minister alluded to that the Health Advisory Network would pursue was programs for a promotion of wellness. I am wondering if the Minister could indicate to us again, how does this Health Advisory Network—if they are going to be looking at promotion of wellness, what specifically would they be addressing that the Health Promotion Directorate would not be addressing?

Mr. Orchard: Well, I wish I could tell my honourable friend, but when you get a group of non-bureaucrats together focusing on health promotion, you are going to have a diversity of ideas come forward. Now, that discipline is probably going to be the most self-motivating in terms of ideas than any of the others, because it is pretty hard to say, well we are going to promote health and by promoting health we want you to be physically fit. Therefore, give us some program. You can have 150,000 programs come out of that. That is going to be the most diverse idea think tank of all of the areas of the subcommittees in the Health Advisory Network. They are going to have some pretty wide-ranging thoughts and discussions there and some pretty innovative ideas resourced by—in this case in addition to the Research and Planning group—the Health Promotion group as well.

Ms. Gray: Is the Minister indicating then, that there will be representatives from the Health Promotion

Directorate on this particular subcommittee and that the Health Advisory Network, if I can use these words, would be an extension of the Health Promotion Directorate in terms of defining programs and strategies for health promotion?

Mr. Orchard: No.

* (1640)

Ms. Gray: Then I ask my question again to the Minister of Health. Could he tell us what the differences are in terms of what the Health Advisory Network would be dealing with regarding promotion of wellness, and if there is duplication with what they will be looking at, and what the Health Promotion Directorate currently has the mandate to do?

Mr. Orchard: My honourable friend probably knows that in Health Promotion there is a very active Cardiac Health Promotion Program. They focus in on "Break Free," a non-smoking campaign. Those programs are mature, are established. They presumably are effective.

The advisory network, because all other provinces for instance are doing different things in terms of health promotion—maybe we can, with the Health Advisory Network, pick some good ideas from a Saskatchewan program, a Newfoundland program; take a look at their applicability with health promotion being the—if we decide we are going to go with the program, have Health Promotion do it because that is where the staff and the resource base for program delivery is.

But the promotion end of it is the widest-ranging study group there is, because health promotion can touch everything from dietary right through to exercise, through to getting enough sleep at night, to not drinking too much, to not smoking, to staying away from drugs. It touches almost every area of the Department of Health. It is going to be the broadest spectrum of the Health Advisory Network. Idea generation, more so than other areas, in specific response to, will this program work based on the composition of that committee and their expertise that they can bring to focus?

Ms. Gray: Given the Minister's explanation about the Advisory Committee and the wide range of areas in health promotion and disease prevention that this committee will be looking at, can we then assume that for the Health Promotion Directorate who already has a number of programs that they have initiated, and worked with regional operations in other community groups to initiate; that this Health Promotion Directorate, with the exception of the programs they are currently delivering or providing evaluation and content for, that they are really in a maintenance mode while the Health Advisory Committee comes up with some of these other ideas?

Mr. Orchard: They are going to continue to deliver programs. That is what we are paying them to do.

Ms. Gray: Yes, I know they will continue to deliver programs or make sure that the delivery of programs does occur. But what I am asking for clarification on

is, is this Health Promotion Directorate then to not necessarily go ahead and initiate new programs in the area of Health Promotion, because in fact some of that responsibility will now be placed with the Health Advisory Network?

Mr. Orchard: Some of the goals? Pardon me, I did not hear the last of the question. I am sorry.

Ms. Gray: What I was asking was, given that the Health Promotion Directorate will continue to deliver programs or ensure that the programs under their jurisdiction are delivered, are we to assume that they will not be delivering or working on any new program initiatives because this Health Advisory Network subcommittee will actually be doing some of that work?

Mr. Orchard: No.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister then indicate, will the Health Promotion Directorate continue to initiate their programs or new programs in the areas of health promotion and disease prevention?

Mr. Orchard: Yes.

Ms. Gray: If the Health Promotion Directorate continues to, let us say, initiate new programs or new directions in health promotion, meanwhile the Health Advisory Committee over somewhere else is working on other program directions within the same areas, is the Minister not concerned that there may be some diversity of opinions, some fragmentation or in fact some duplication?

Mr. Orchard: No.

Ms. Gray: I fail to see why the Minister would not be concerned about that because what the Minister—and he can correct me if I misinterpreted his remarks. He has indicated that the Health Promotion Directorate will continue to not only deliver the programs that they currently now have within their mandate, but they will also continue to initiate new programs within the area of health promotion and disease prevention. Is that correct? The Minister has indicated that is correct.

The Minister has also indicated that there is a subcommittee within the Health Advisory Network who will be studying the area of promotion of wellness, disease prevention, health promotion. I would assume, in studying this, they would be looking at what are some ways that we as a Government should be delivering health promotion and disease prevention within the Province of Manitoba. Is that correct? The Minister has indicated that is correct.

My concern is, because I believe the Minister said earlier that there was not necessarily a relationship between the health advisory subcommittee and the Health Promotion Directorate, I am concerned that there may be some duplication of activity based on what the Minister has just said.

Mr. Orchard: I do not know how to allay my honourable friend's fears, but I am not really concerned about a

duplication. First of all, there are programs actively going on within health promotion which will continue to go on. They will continue to present to the directors, to the ADMs, to the D.M.s, to Treasury Board, to Ministers, new initiatives. The world does not end because the Health Advisory Network is taking health promotion in the widest possible analysis and bringing in opinion from a diversity of groups to focus in on initiatives in health promotion.

The Health Promotion people are going to be probably the first ones that new ideas are bounced off of to make sure that they will work. If the Research and Planning people cannot do the analysis on cost, then Health Promotion people will be expected to do that. There will be a marriage of the two. They are not going to be competing head to head. They are going to be complementing their activities and enhancing policy program and direction of this Government to assist in the promotion of wellness rather than the treatment of illness.

That is, again, not an original goal, but I think my honourable friend is possibly trying to leave the impression that the only ideas on health promotion can come out of a Government bureaucracy. I do not share that. That is why we are setting up a subcommittee to create ideas, analyze ideas, to bring forward new ideas on health promotion involving the citizens of this province.

Ms. Gray: Mr. Chairperson, first of all, in no way did I indicate that the only good ideas are ideas that come out of a Government bureaucracy. I am not quite sure how or where the Minister got that idea from.

I suppose the Minister and I do disagree on one thing. He said he is not concerned about duplication. I am concerned about duplication and that is why I was asking the questions. Not only am I concerned about duplication but I am also concerned about possible fragmentation, because I had asked before what was the relationship with the Health Promotion Directorate and the Health Advisory subcommittee. The Minister has gone on to elaborate that those two groups will complement and enhance each other, or that maybe ideas and programs will.

My further question then to the Minister is, what is the relationship or is there a liaison relationship, a structural relationship, is there a member from Health Promotion who will be sitting on that subcommittee? What is the process by which the communication will flow back and forth between those two groups so that duplication and fragmentation do not occur?

Mr. Orchard: Meetings, telephones, memos, faxes, the usual information exchanged between groups of people wherein the Health Promotion group can act as a resource, when called upon, to the Health Advisory Network, as Research and Planning will act as a resource when needed for the Health Advisory Network. People can work together if they want to and if they are mandated to.

* (1650)

Ms. Gray: The Minister in his response has indicated rather flippantly telephones, memos, etc. What my

question is—and we are only talking about one example here, Health Promotion Directorate and one of the subcommittees. Now, there are a lot of Government branches and divisions who would be dealing with issues similar to some of the other objectives that have been mentioned in the Health Advisory committee, so I would certainly see, I would assume there would be again relationships developed with some of these Government branches and with the Health Advisory Network.

Can the Minister indicate, has it been laid out clearly for the Health Advisory Network exactly what the role of these Government branches is in relation to these subcommittees? I think that would be very important, that any Health Advisory Network coming in would have a clear understanding of what their relationship is to the Minister of Health, to the various senior officials and to the various branches because, as the Minister has indicated himself, there has to be a relationship between, and the example he used was, the Health Promotion Directorate and the Health Advisory Network subcommittee that will be dealing with promotion of wellness. I am asking the Minister, has it been clearly defined what the relationship will be? Are these branches to be seen as strictly consulting to the Advisory Network subcommittees? Are they to be a direct liaison? Do they have some influence? Do they play a key role in these committees? That is my question.

Mr. Orchard: The Health Advisory Network reports to the Minister. My Deputy Minister is a member of the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee will work with the subcommittees. The subcommittees, where they need resource material, can access Research and Planning for statistical information, for research documents, for previous studies that are sitting on shelves, gathering dust. Wherein a specific subcommittee has a function within the Department of Health such as health promotion, that area of the department or the commission will be a resource in addition to Research and Planning to assist the Advisory Network in provision of information if that is needed, provision of policy if that is needed, provision of problems if that is need, and even as an idea group to bounce new solutions off, to see whether there are impediments in legislation that would prevent those solutions from going any further.

I think I indicated that today and I indicated it yesterday or Tuesday, but I hope that clears up the flow and the relationship between the Advisory Network and the department and MHSC.

Ms. Gray: The Minister had not indicated that before, but I do appreciate his last comments because he has somewhat made it clear as to the relationship of his department and the various branches with the Health Advisory Network. The Minister had earlier indicated that, of course, good ideas do come not just from Government officials. He has mentioned to us that there will be a number of subcommittees and a Steering Committee for this Health Advisory Network.

I am wondering if the Minister could tell us, actually I already have had questions from various consumer groups or associations who deal with health care and

I am sure the Minister has had the same questions as to with this Health Advisory Network, if one is interested in being a part of that network or if a group would like to specifically have someone on that network, what is the process? How would I or how would any of us here in the House respond to individuals or consumer groups who say, I would like to put my name forth to be a part of this subcommittee or the main Steering Committee, given of course that it would be a decision that would be made by the Minister and the Minister's department? My question would be, what would be the process that these individuals or groups would follow?

Mr. Orchard: I would welcome, if my honourable friend has associations and organizations that want to contribute, to have those organizations communicate with my office by letter. I say this to my honourable friend so that she is under no illusions that it does not offer any incorrect direction, if you will, to those individuals and groups. I want to keep the numbers of the committees rather small for obvious reasons of decision making. So that may mean that individuals representing organizations may not be asked to be an actual member of either, particularly, the subcommittees, but their interest will be asked for input because that is the real function. You may not have every interest group represented on a subcommittee but certainly they have access to the subcommittee to present their ideas for further study and for further action. Communication with my office by mail would be much appreciated.

Ms. Gray: I thank the Minister for that answer; I will be indicating that to a few groups and individuals who have approached me. The Minister has indicated in his answer to some of the activities or areas that this advisory network would be studying, he had mentioned rural health issues specifically. I am not sure, I may have missed this. Is the Health Advisory Committee also going to be dealing specifically with northern health issues?

Mr. Orchard: It may well have specific questions referred to it for resolution but, as I indicated earlier on, we have a fairly sophisticated system with the northern medical unit, etc., etc. Primarily, our focus is to attempt to resolve some of the very up front depressing problems in rural Manitoba and that will be the first focus. That does not limit over the longer-run reference of additional questions and problems to that group, and the change in membership of that group, if we have to change focus.

Ms. Gray: The Minister has indicated that there is a sophisticated northern medical services, but I would think that the Minister would be certainly aware that in fact there are very specific needs of Northerners and their specific issues relating to health care in the North that are very different from the issues in some instances of health care in rural Manitoba versus health care in the urban centres. I am actually quite surprised that an advisory network such as this would not certainly include, as one of the main areas for developing strategies, the whole area of northern health care.

Could the Minister indicate if there was any discussion or thought that this should be a major area? Could the Minister indicate—again I am surprised that the Minister of Northern and Native Affairs (Mr. Downey) would not have pursued actively that in fact this should be one main area that this Health Advisory Network would be dealing with.

Mr. Orchard: My honourable friend is into the exact difficulty that I tried to point out earlier on, that because we called it rural health issues, she has automatically made the conclusion that excludes the North. The North is part of rural Manitoba. So we are into the "you know, well, I am left out, therefore I am not important" mentality and that is exactly the problem we have had throughout the health care system.

* (1700)

We recognize there are problems in northern Manitoba with health delivery. Goodness gracious, my honourable friend just did not wake up this morning and discover the problem. It has been there for years and years.—(Interjection)— My friend and colleague behind me said maybe she did just wake up this morning and discover the problem. I do not think so, but that is exactly the kind of narrow little bickering, "well, I did not have my name in here, therefore I am not important and I am not included." That is not where we are coming from in the advisory network. Problems will be referred to it that are in need of resolution. It is not exclusive of northern Manitoba because it says rural Manitoba; it is rather inclusive. If that is where we are heading in terms of discussion in this House that, because it was not specifically mentioned, therefore, it is excluded, then the cooperation that has to be around to make it work certainly is not there. There is no intention to exclude northern Manitoba because you call it rural health issues, not in my mind anyway.

Ms. Gray: I take exception to the remark that I just woke up this morning and discovered this. In fact, for the Minister's information, they are very different issues. I grew up in rural Manitoba, I worked in northern Manitoba and I have worked in urban Winnipeg, so I am very well aware—and perhaps the Minister should take the time to consult with health professionals who work in all three areas that in fact the issues facing rural Manitoba in health care, the issues facing urban Manitobans and the issues facing Northerners are all very, very different and all deserve equal attention.

My question was directed to the Minister and the fact that I cannot see how he can stand here and say that we are being picky, because he has talked about rural issues and he is saying that also includes northern issues. I think the Minister should take time to learn the difference and perhaps discuss it with his Minister of Northern Affairs (Mr. Downey) who, I am sure, would not agree that rural issues in health care equal northern issues in health care.

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

Call in the Speaker.

IN SESSION

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Mr. Speaker: The hour being 5 p.m., time for Private Members' Business.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Mark Minenko (Chairman of the Committee of Supply): Mr. Speaker, 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 Burrows (Mr. Chornopyski), that the report of the committee be received.

MOTION presented and carried.

**DEBATE ON SECOND READINGS
PUBLIC BILLS**

**BILL NO. 2—THE BUSINESS NAMES
REGISTRATION AMENDMENT ACT**

Mr. Speaker: 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). (Stand)

**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. (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 Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism (Mr. Ernst).

Hon. James Downey (Minister of Northern and Native Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to speak if we can leave it standing in the Minister's name.

Mr. Speaker: Is there leave to leave it stand in the name of the Honourable Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism? (Agreed)

Mr. Downey: I rise to speak on Bill No. 13 with, I guess I should put it this way, somewhat surprised that the Member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie), having been in Government for some six years, now coming forward with an amendment to The Hydro Act which, Mr.

Speaker, as I understand it, the current Hydro Act is sufficiently written to cover off the areas which the Minister brings to the attention of this Assembly.

The bigger question is, Mr. Speaker, after six years of being the Minister, why now does he see fit to bring it forward? One can only suspect what his motives are. I know that it is unparliamentary to say that a Member has certain or specific motives, but one would have to question really the whole reasoning for what he is doing in this Bill.

Mr. Speaker, I guess it would have to be that he does not trust or he is not clear as to what actually has taken place when he was the Minister responsible for energy and/or any other department. When one looks, Mr. Speaker, at the affairs of the province and when one looks at the hydro bills that the consumers of Manitoba are currently paying, it is absolutely clear that he did not have an understanding as to what was going on with any of the portfolios or with the Treasury of the province or with Manitoba Hydro. Mr. Speaker, everyone's hydro bill can attest to the fact that under the New Democratic Party it was an absolute fiasco.—(Interjection)—That is what you could call it. The Leader of the New Democratic Party says they were the Fumble Party. Well, I guess one could hardly disagree with that. He knows very well, he is now leading it.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure the Member would not want it left on the record that he is the leader of the fumble party but, if he wants it left there, then I will not argue with him. I will get on with debating Bill 13.

Mr. Speaker, the Member makes reference in the Bill that he wants restrictions on supplies to be sold outside of Manitoba. Mr. Speaker, why is he now concerned, because it was under the New Democrats and their handling of Hydro sales that caused a lot of problems for the people of Manitoba. The Northern States Power sale, Mr. Speaker, basing the sale of Manitoba Hydro on 80 percent of what it cost to generate electricity from coal in the United States, that was the agreement that he and his Government entered into, not the Conservative Government but he and his Government.—(Interjection)—And the Leader of the New Democratic Party (Mr. Doer) says he is proud of it. Well, Mr. Speaker, let me tell you, he is probably one of the few Manitobans who are proud of it.

Mr. Speaker, why would they not price the sale of Manitoba Hydro to anyone outside of this country and base it on the cost of production of that hydro power, plus a return to the taxpayers of the people of Manitoba. That is sensible. Yes, that is right, that is sensible.

One would never expect that to come from a New Democrat, and of course they have some strange ideas, but they actually scrapped some of the best ideas as far as the people of Manitoba were concerned and the use of Hydro to sell to our neighbours to the west, to Alberta and Saskatchewan, through a Grid system. Yes, it was not tremendously highly profitable on the immediate terms, but it would pay for the development of some of the Hydro stations. It would assist our neighbouring sister provinces, so that they would not have to develop some of the generating stations like the one at Shand on the Souris River —(Interjection)—the Member says Rafferty-Alameda.

* (1710)

That is right, Mr. Speaker, but it was not the Conservatives who caused the problem. It was the inability of the New Democrats to act responsibly and to negotiate and deal responsibly with Saskatchewan and Alberta. It was they who scrapped the deal for the people of Manitoba that it would have given us the development in Manitoba and would have given the energy or sold the energy to the people of Saskatchewan and Alberta.

Now, we have them making a big issue about Saskatchewan Rafferty-Alameda Dam. How much, Mr. Speaker, do you expect the people of Manitoba to swallow, that again the NDP are trying to say that it is they who are the great saviours? There will be another time for the debate on the Alameda-Rafferty.

The point I want to make here is that they have the record of screwing up every reasonable Hydro deal that was ever developed in this province which was started by our good friend, Senator Roblin, of which my colleague from Lakeside sat as a Minister with, sat as a Member with. It was the foresight of the Roblin Government, of the whole development of the Nelson River Project that we have to say thank you for, and it was Ed Schreyer and Howard Pawley who we have to condemn for the ruination of our Hydro in giving our people of Manitoba an unacceptable price that they have to pay for that mishandling.

Mr. Speaker, who in the world would listen to the Member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie) when it comes to amending our Hydro Bill after his record and his Government's record of dealing with it. The credibility of that individual is absolutely on the bottom of the list at this particular time, as is the New Democratic Party.

One cannot go by debating Hydro without touching on the Heritage Fund that was going to be developed out of the profits of Manitoba Hydro. I am not sure which one of my colleagues is responsible for the Heritage Fund. I guess it is the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness), who was supposed to take all the profits from this great Hydro project, it was going to take all these profits from this Hydro project and, with that wealth, we were going to build hospitals, we were going to develop medical programs. We were going to do all those great things. Well, Mr. Speaker, I must check with my colleague, the Minister of Finance, to see how overflowing the Heritage Fund currently is. We have not checked the balance on it recently, but I think it is time that we should just to see how much interest has really been built up.

That brings forth the whole question of the lack of credibility of the Member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie) who sat as a Treasury member and the currently Leader of the New Democratic Party (Mr. Doer) who sat as a Treasury member, how badly they mishandled it. Mr. Speaker, I know that we are not supposed to debate the actual portions of the Bill, but to debate on the intent.

One does not have to look very far today to see just how we are going as far as our current Hydro is

concerned. What is happening with Hydro? The Leader of the New Democratic Party says, "Tory mothball policy." No, I would call it responsible, progressive Government action and Hydro action using the project, using the whole Hydro development, one which will give long-term development for the people of Manitoba, not short-term gain for the political expediency of the political Party who is in power. That again was identified in spades today in the Kopstein Report as to how the former administration dealt with a public Crown corporation, not for the interests of the people of Manitoba but for the interests of they themselves and their political Party.

Again it was in spades in the Kopstein Report, and one cannot say that they dealt that much differently with Manitoba Hydro.

Mr. Speaker, one has to bring to the attention of the public of Manitoba, and this is something that really is part of Hydro because it was brought forward today in Hydro committee by the Member for Thompson (Mr. Ashton), the affirmative action question. The affirmative action question was being brought forward under Hydro today by the Member for Thompson.

Well, I cannot let this opportunity go by without putting clearly on the record how they failed with their affirmative action in northern Manitoba dealing with the Native people and dealing with Northerners when it comes to the Limestone development of Hydro.

I have recently met with the Limestone Board, trading board, and that was the No. 1 issue that they brought to our attention, the lack of the former administration's care and concern about people in the North getting employment on Limestone. It was a smoke-and-mirrors proposal and program, for which for some time it sold, but that game is over. That game is over, as is the game that the Member for Flin Flon is over when it comes to dealing with trying to amend The Hydro Act with Bill No. 13. The people will not swallow it; the Liberal Party I am sure will not swallow because many people over there ran under the Liberal ticket because they were fully upset with the New Democrats and wanted to be involved in the political process and were successful.

Let me complete my story about the affirmative action and the New Democratic Party. Do you know where their most affirmative action was? -(Interjection)- Well, the Member talks about her candidate in Thompson. We had a fine candidate in Thompson and I am sure he would have carried forward the concerns of the Thompson constituency far better than the current Member—Honourable Member, Mr. Speaker. But let me get back to the point I want to make on affirmative action. The most effective affirmative action of the New Democratic Party was to implement or implant New Democratic supporters throughout the Civil Service and throughout Hydro. That was their most affirmative action of any program they had in this province, to implement supporters, New Democrats, highly visible, not only throughout Manitoba Government jobs, but throughout Hydro, throughout everything that they put their hands to. That was their main objective.

I have to say they were somewhat successful, and it is unfortunate that they took that tack because I can

tell you that when you get high level of political involvement in the Civil Service, then you do not get the kind of trust that should be developed between an incoming Government and an outgoing Government. There is a relationship there which is difficult.-(Interjection)- The Member for St. Vital (Mr. Rose) wants to know if I have a job for his sister. I am sure if she were to put her name forward under the normal process of hiring in the Civil Service that she would be given fair and equitable opportunity, as any other Manitoban would be given, under a Progressive Conservative Government. It would not be rigged like the former New Democratic Party, rigged the system in many cases, to implant the social -(Interjection)- I thought I could get something going here.

POINT OF ORDER

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

Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Second Opposition): I believe that the Minister is accusing Members of this Chamber, in the administration of Government, of breaking a law, which is The Civil Service Act, Mr. Speaker. I believe that is inappropriate in this Chamber, and I am sure you will rule that way.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Government House Leader, on the same point of order.

Hon. James McCrae (Government House Leader): Mr. Speaker, you would have to be Alice in Wonderland to put that construction on the Honourable Member's comments.

Mr. Doer: On the same point of order, Mr. Speaker, perhaps the Government House Leader would need the rabbit with the clock, in terms of Alice in Wonderland, to get this House moving on time, as he did not have yesterday.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That is not a point of order. Order, please.

Unfortunately I did not hear the remarks from the Honourable Minister of Northern and Native Affairs (Mr. Downey), so I will have no other option but to take it under advisement and report back to the House. The Honourable Minister of Northern and Native Affairs.

Hon. James Downey (Minister of Northern and Native Affairs): I can appreciate, Mr. Speaker, how sensitive the Leader of the New Democratic Party (Mr. Doer) is in this regard.

One always knows when you are hitting the truth, he gets very excited and, of course, his record as a former MGEA president when he was so upset, so upset when we decentralized Water Services Board and he was going to cause great problems when we moved the people from the City of Winnipeg to Brandon, he could not tolerate that kind of policy. I wonder if you could tell me how much time I have left—20 minutes.-(Interjection)- I would not question that. Is that right?

In concluding my remarks on Bill No. 13, again the Member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie) in introducing it just

shows how much he was unable, or did not trust himself and his colleagues in the handling of Hydro. I have full confidence in the Manitoba Hydro Board of Directors, in the Minister responsible for Hydro (Mr. Neufeld). Is that some additional speaking notes? I know very well that one cannot make reference to absenteeism in the Chamber, but sometimes it is nice to have the attention of all Members when one is speaking on such an important Bill.

* (1720)

Let me conclude by saying that I cannot support this. I am confident in the current Manitoba Hydro Act, I am confident in the Board of Directors, I am confident in the Minister responsible. I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, that the people of Manitoba can be fully confident in the policies of this Government to administer Manitoba Hydro in their best interest, that anything that takes place, it will be they the consumers that are first of all considered, not the political interests of any political Party. Thank you.

Mr. Mark Minenko (Seven Oaks): I would also wish to participate in the debate on this Bill. Again I am encouraged by the attentiveness of all the Members on all sides of the House who listen to my comments.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill proposed by the Honourable Member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie) deals with one of our most valuable resources in Manitoba, deals with one of the many treasures of Manitoba. This treasure is water. In fact, over history, and I am sure many Members of the Chamber could additionally confirm this, many battles, wars and lives lost have been fought throughout history to gain the control of water, to ensure that this precious resource was sufficient for the purposes of that nation.

Over the last several years, we have noticed the attention drawn around the world to problems when there is a lack of water, as has happened in Africa, which is indeed a tragic event in the history of man and womankind. Certainly, we do not even need to look too far afield to see the impact of the importance of water. This last year the conditions, the lack of water throughout Canada has had a tremendous impact on not only the lives directly affected by that lack of water but on the economy of our province, of our country.

In addition, the lack of water has had a tremendous impact on Manitoba Hydro export sales, where there has been, over the last year or so, a tremendous loss of millions of dollars because there was insufficient water to produce the hydro-electric power which fuels our economy today. Government must look to protect this resource as we must look to protect all of our natural resources and our natural heritage. When Government chooses to use these natural resources, Government must review the effect of these uses on that resource, as well as the natural surroundings of those resources. That resource may be water, may be forest or minerals and yet Government must remember that our surroundings are in fact like a jigsaw puzzle, that before we use these resources Government needs to consider the effect of that use, the effect of changing the position of that jigsaw puzzle piece on the entire jigsaw.

As a critic for Culture, Heritage and Recreation, I am indeed aware, as I am sure many other Members of the Chamber are aware, of the situation when sometimes Government does not pay as much attention to our heritage. It is indeed a tragic event when we see archeological digs being conducted beside a bulldozer.

I may just add a further comment with respect to water for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism (Mr. Ernst). Perhaps some of his colleagues could perhaps direct their Research Planning Departments to consider the Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism's statement about the tilt in one of his speeches in the House not too long ago when he suggested about the tilting of Manitoba and the water flow into the United States. As I am sure, if he was to direct research staff to look at it closer, he would in fact agree that because of glacial rebound we can indeed look forward to, over the next 100 million years, to see Manitoba tilt slowly higher and perhaps the water flowing further to the South.

We in the Liberal Party do not disagree with the development of our resources. This development must be for the advantage of all Manitobans. It is indeed a pleasure to see that all Honourable Members in the Chamber are considering my remarks. The Honourable Minister of Northern and Native Affairs (Mr. Downey) advises certain comments, but perhaps we can leave them to another day.

We believe that the development of our natural resources should act as a springboard for the creation of an economic climate in which industries both large and small can flourish so that this economic climate can create jobs in areas, not only in the harvesting of our natural resources, but also in the areas of high technology. The Liberal Party is in fact on record believing that Canadians, indeed Manitobans, should be in control of our own resources, should control the building operating provision and marketing of our hydro-electric power.

The Liberal Party is on record as having many grave concerns about the Mulroney-Reagan Trade Deal. These concerns have been expressed by various Members of our caucus and in debates before today. I need not repeat them. These concerns have been directed to the fact that this trade deal will cause Manitobans a great deal of aggravation and concern. Well, Mr. Speaker, we also believe that this Bill in this form will also cause aggravation and concern to Manitobans.

If one looks to the hydro mandate, it sets out that the intent, purpose and objective of the Act, and presumably of hydro, is to provide for the continuance of a supply of power adequate for the needs of Manitobans and to promote economy and efficiency in the generation distribution, supply and use of power. Indeed, I would certainly ask the Honourable Member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie), who is listening attentively to my comments, to consider this mandate as expressed in the Bill, for I believe that this mandate will in fact be restricted. As I mentioned, Mr. Speaker, part of the mandate is to assist Manitobans in ensuring a constant and consistent supply of hydro-electric power to Manitobans at the lowest possible price.

* (1730)

There are many factors that go into ensuring the maintenance of the lowest possible price. Part of these factors that go into that is that we indeed look to the excess power that the system in place and the system of the future will generate. We must look to that excess power and be prepared to first and foremost provide that power to the citizens of Manitoba, to all Manitobans, be they living in an urban centre, be they living in a rural community or in a northern community.

We have discovered and many Governments have discovered that Manitoba Hydro sells, as the New Democratic Party Government did before, some of the excess power we have at firm price. They are well aware of the implications of a contract which they have signed in the past and undoubtedly Governments in the future will sign with respect to provision of firm power to purchasers wherever they may be in North America.

It is important that before these sales of firm price power be made, be contracted for, that any Government ensure that it is indeed dealing with excess power so that the power from our hydro-electric generating stations is first directed for the benefit of Manitobans, for it is, indeed, that that water resource belongs to all Manitobans first and foremost.

We also realize that Government sells additional excess power that may be generated on an interruptible basis, and these prices that the Honourable Member for Concordia (Mr. Doer) undoubtedly knows and many other Members know, sells at various negotiated prices, depending on the market. These rates may change, but is it not better to sell excess hydro power or to let the water flow without utilizing it to the benefit of all Manitobans?

We believe that the Bill in its present form will tie the hands of Hydro from finding the best possible deal for the excess power that we hope to generate from the many hydro-electric generating stations in Manitoba. We believe that Manitoba Hydro should be in a position to act in the best interest of all Manitobans. As we said earlier, Government must ensure that Hydro power is provided to all Manitobans at the lowest possible cost and we feel part of many of the factors that go into that particular objective and goal. We have heard many things about the objectives and goals of Government is to ensure that Manitoba Hydro has that freedom to find the best price they can for the excess power that we will produce here in the province.

Part of the factors that go into providing that source and ensuring that Manitobans utilize Manitoba hydro-electric power in the best possible way is for all Manitobans to participate in the programs presently set up in Manitoba Hydro.

I would just like to highlight two of these programs. The Check-Up Program, and I am sure many Members of this Chamber have taken advantage of this program to have Hydro personnel inspect and assess the energy efficiencies of their homes, and to perhaps suggest improvements that will save those customers money, but also to ensure that we indeed have plenty of hydro-electric power for other requirements. I would also

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Thursday, October 27, 1988

prompt all Manitobans to participate in the Check Loan Program as they may qualify, where customers may obtain low interest loans to assist them in ensuring that their homes are insulated to a degree where the power that is being used in that particular home is used in the best possible fashion.

In conclusion, I believe that this Bill will unfortunately provide restrictions to ensuring that Manitobans receive hydro-electric power in their homes wherever they may live in the Province of Manitoba at the lowest possible price.

Mr. Jack Penner (Minister of Natural Resources): It gives me great pleasure to rise on Bill No. 13, The Manitoba Hydro Amendment Act and it is for the same reason I rise on this Bill that I rose on The Water Rights Amendment Act, because it is the same Party that is proposing similar actions on hydro that they were proposing for water. I would propose to you, that if our—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Honourable Member for St. Norbert (Mr. Angus), on a point of order.

Mr. John Angus (St. Norbert): The Honourable Member has mistakenly attributed the water Bill to the wrong Party, that the two Parties have separated. One is bringing in an electricity Bill, one is bringing in a water Bill, and he is suggesting that we are both bringing in the same—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please; order, please. The Honourable Member does not have a point of order.

Mr. Penner: I appreciate that. From here, from what I see every day, the difference is not that great and it is hard to distinguish the two. For that reason I say to you that it is the same Party that is bringing in the two Acts. At least that is the way it appears.

I would also say to you that if the two Parties opposite had read the Free Trade Agreement they would not be quite as paranoid about the agreement as what they appear to be.

Hydro is, to us in Manitoba, one of the most important sources of energy. It can be also a great source of revenue. It can, however, also be a great source of employment opportunities for the people who live and reside in Manitoba. The construction of hydro facilities such as the dams that we have created in northern Manitoba has provided great opportunities for employment, not only for those of us who reside in southern Manitoba or within the confines of this great empire that we speak in from time to time, but also for those people who reside in northern Manitoba, and the employment opportunities that are being created are partially due to the fact that we are able to export some of our surplus power at times.

If we would do what this Act says, we would restrict the exportation of energies across our boundaries and restrict also the developmental process that we are dependent on for employment opportunities. There are many other areas of the Free Trade Agreement that the Opposition, whether they are NDP or Liberal, are

in objection to, and one of them is agriculture. You wonder why our Manitoba Government should be opposed to the Free Trade Agreement, or why the Opposition Parties are opposed to it. Take, for instance, the reaction to the Free Trade Agreement by the American Wheat Growers' Association when it was announced that we in Manitoba would be able to export, as soon as the agreement came into effect, our high-quality bread-making wheats to our American friends. But our people in this province, the farmers in this province, are so dependent on exporting their products outside of this country, and the Wheat Board that some referred to in this Chamber as being in jeopardy has done a marvelous job in creating these markets, not only in Europe or in Japan or China, but also to the south of us in the United States.

* (1740)

These markets are expanding and the Canadian Wheat Board is very gradually inching, moving into these markets, and our Opposition friends tell us to stay out of it. Do not enter into a Free Trade Agreement; close the border. That is what they say. They say our Wheat Board will be in jeopardy because the Americans will stop the Wheat Board from trading. The Americans will stop the very existence of the Wheat Board. Well, let me say to you, Mr. Speaker, had they stopped to read the agreement, they would find that there is absolutely nothing in this agreement that will put our sacred Canadian Wheat Board in jeopardy.

The other portion of the agreement, of course, talks about energy. The fearmongering that—I am sorry. It is not fearmongering, but the fear that the Opposition Members are trying to instill in the hearts of Manitobans is simply not evident in this trade deal because energy, it becomes very, very clear, is at the complete control of Canadians and will remain so, including hydro.

There are many other aspects of the trade deal that have been mentioned here on numerous occasions that surprise me because we talk about the grape growers in B.C. and we talk about the fruit growers of Ontario and how they will be impacted. We, however, forget to talk about the employment opportunities that are going to be enhanced by entering into a trade deal.

I believe that Manitoba Hydro will be in a position whereby we will be able to expand the operations of the corporations and that the Government of Manitoba should be encouraging Manitoba Hydro to search out markets which will allow us to expand, search out markets that will allow us to generate revenues, that will add to the Treasury whereby we will be able to enhance our social services, enhance hospitalization, enhance medicare and all those kinds of things that we have become so used to and so dependent on for our very existence. We are going to need the dollars that we can generate outside of this country due to the trade deal to maintain and enhance again further those kinds of social programs.

It is, however, not surprising that the Opposition Members simply cannot see the forest for the trees, because they will also recognize that the exports of our fisheries and the 80 percent of the fish that we

export to the United States are dependent again on the markets that we create. Would we build the huge kinds of walls that our friends would have us build around this country, the same as China did, by the way, some many years ago, these huge kinds of walls, these economic barriers, creating them would prevent us from exporting these goods and prevent our goods from entering the American market? We would see the economic chaos that we would create, and the deterioration of our social programs that our friends talk about.

So, Mr. Speaker, it would be dependent on me to impress upon this Chamber that we should encourage our honourable friends opposite to support the trade deal and to maybe go to the Speaker and say, we would like to withdraw this Bill. I would encourage the Mover and the Seconder to withdraw the resolution, because it would enhance our abilities to survive as a province in the long term. With that, I would ask the Speaker to take into consideration my opposition to the resolution that we have discussed here today.

Mr. Speaker: By agreement, this matter will remain standing in the name of the Honourable Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism (Mr. Ernst). It has already been agreed.

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. Praznik), the Honourable Member for Lac du Bonnet.

Mr. Darren Praznik (Lac du Bonnet): Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise this afternoon in the dying moments of today's sitting to speak on this particular piece of legislation that my good friend, the Honourable Member for Elmwood (Mr. Maloway), has introduced before us.

In the time allowed to me to address this particular piece of legislation, I do not intend to replicate the speech of our colleague, the Member for St. James (Mr. Edwards), and launch into a massive defence of the legal profession. The voters of Lac du Bonnet constituency did not elect me to this House to defend the 1,200 or 1,300 lawyers of Manitoba but rather to pursue their interests on their behalf in this Chamber.

I would like to begin by congratulating the Member for Elmwood on the intent of this Bill. I think it is very admirable that the Member has seen to attempt to help the people of Manitoba to better utilize the Land Titles facility. Regrettably, I think that his attempt has failed somewhat in that he has presented a piece of legislation that has a number of, I think, very serious flaws in it that ultimately will result in just the opposite happening for the average Manitoban.

A couple of the smaller problems that I notice right off the top when I look at this legislation. It says:

"Proposal to have the Attorney-General assign a lawyer from the department to each Land Titles Office." We have a number of Land Titles Offices throughout the Province of Manitoba, the largest of course being the Winnipeg Land Titles Office that handles well over half of the registrations each year in the province. Yet according to this piece of legislation, we are to assign only one lawyer to that particular facility, while to the other facilities throughout the province there would be one lawyer as well, although the volume would nowhere equal that at the Winnipeg Land Titles Office.

So the way this legislation is drafted at this particular time, what the Member for Elmwood (Mr. Maloway) is doing is establishing a tremendous view out there to the public that the service will be available, yet right within the way in which it is drafted, creating a situation where that expectation will never be fulfilled. So, Mr. Speaker, a very serious problem right there, in the drafting of this particular piece of legislation.

As well, I think more seriously, the greatest flaw in this legislation comes in establishing that expectation. Presently now, in any Land Titles Office, if a member of the public comes forward wanting to file or register a document or a caveat, the staff there will go out of their way to provide the information that is needed to assist them, in telling them, in explaining to them, how the documents are to be filled out, what documents are required, in what order they are to be filed. If they are rejected, staff will sit down with that individual and go through and explain what needs to be corrected and what has to happen.

* (1750)

Indeed, Mr. Speaker, in my constituency a number of individuals who have done subdivisions on property have endeavoured to do their own land titles transfers and have obtained the documents, gained the information from the staff at the Land Titles Office, and gone forward to register their new titles and do the work on their own and been assisted by the existing staff at the Land Titles Office, Mr. Speaker.

But what the Member for Elmwood (Mr. Maloway) is doing in this piece of legislation is creating the expectation that now, with this lawyer present to assist them, that individual Manitobans will be able to go into a Land Titles Office and have legal advice, free legal advice, and it is the "free" that does not bother me in the sense that it perhaps bothers the Member for St. James (Mr. Edwards), but it concerns me in the sense that the free part will entice average Manitobans, ordinary Manitobans, as the Members of the New Democratic Party so often describe the citizenry of our province, to come into the office because they will save some money. They will expect that lawyer not to give them advice as to how they should fill out the documents or problems that they should encounter, but to really provide them with a complete legal service. That is the expectation, Mr. Speaker, that the Member for Elmwood (Mr. Maloway) is creating.

Yet within his own document he does not instruct the Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae) to appoint lawyers or provide a legal service but to appoint a lawyer to

Thursday, October 27, 1988

that particular Land Titles Office. There is no way that the expectation that is out there will ever be met by one lawyer or probably even half-a-dozen lawyers. As the Member for Elmwood may well be aware, having been in the real estate business, real estate transactions in the course of his business, he is aware of the complexity of the average transaction. In 90 percent of them I would guess there are no difficulties, there are no caveats. But still there are a number of safeguards that must be met, a number of procedures that must be gone through, if the purchaser or the vendor are to ensure that title is transferred as it was intended to be, that there are not caveats, there are not debts, there are not liens that will interfere in that transfer.

So here we have a lawyer, if this Bill was to become law, one lawyer in the Winnipeg Land Titles Office, who with the expectation that they will be able to provide all of the assistance necessary for "Mr. and Mrs. Manitoban" to come in and either to transfer a land title, buying or selling. I do not think, Mr. Speaker, that individual or this service can ever live up to that expectation. That is a very, very fatal flaw, I think, in this particular Bill.

The other part of it that gives me even greater concern for the average Manitoban who purchases or sells real estate is the second part here regarding liability. Here the Member for Elmwood (Mr. Maloway) has put a lawyer in the Land Titles Office, established the expectation that you or I or anyone else could walk in and transfer our title with their assistance, and yet the lawyer who will provide that assistance has no liability. There is no liability. - (Interjections)- I hear comments across the way. I am glad some are coming, it makes it much easier to give a speech. I hear comments about the lawyer protecting his job.

As I preface my remarks, I am not here to defend the legal profession, I am here to deal with this piece of legislation I think in a realistic way. - (Interjection)- I hear one of the Members across the way, I am not sure if it was the Member for St. Norbert (Mr. Angus) or the Member for Concordia (Mr. Doer). I have said in this House before, I am a lawyer by trade but I would trade the income of a young lawyer or even most lawyers with that of the president of the Manitoba Government Employees' Association any day. When one talks about protection of income, that is probably the best example of it. I reject those criticisms very, very thoroughly.

Mr. Speaker, back to the issue of liability, I know the Member for Elmwood (Mr. Maloway) is most interested in this part of my argument. This particular clause, which he intends to insert in the legislation, indicates very clearly that the lawyer, the Province of Manitoba, the Land Titles Office who employs this lawyer, is in no way liable for any rejected or otherwise defective documents that are filed, or I would take it, on reading this, for any of the advice that is offered. Here the average Manitoban, the ordinary Manitoban, as that Party so often describes the citizenry of Manitoba, comes in, gets advice, perhaps misses something, perhaps is given bad advice and, as a consequence, has lost their property or thousands of dollars. Who will be liable? Under this legislation, there is no liability.

The people have gotten exactly what they paid for, free advice. There is no liability and yet the expectation is there.

Presently, if these individuals use a solicitor, they have at least the assurance that if an error is made they have a claim against the Reimbursement Fund of The Law Society. Every solicitor in Manitoba has to carry, at least up to some years ago, \$200,000 if not now more of liability insurance. There is a guarantee, insured guarantee in using the services of a regular solicitor. In this particular case, we have created the expectation of getting good solid legal advice just as if you went to see a solicitor in his office and retained him. Yet, there is no liability, no guarantee whatsoever that the advice you are getting will be backed up with a claim against the Reimbursement Fund or the normal insurance that solicitors carry through the Law Society.

What we are really doing is putting those people at risk. If this particular legislation or we had a resolution before this House to encourage the Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae) to make more services available from the staff at the Land Titles Office to advise people who came for the filing of documents, that I think would be more acceptable. What we are doing here, as I have said, is creating an expectation that the advice that will be given is going to be legal advice at par with retaining a solicitor, and yet at the same time there is no liability, no assurance that advice is backed with insurance as the advice one would get from a solicitor one would retain at a law firm.

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, I think the Member for Elmwood (Mr. Maloway), his purposes have been noble, very much so and I do not doubt that. But he has given, I think, a simplistic answer to a little bit more difficult problem and one that certainly will not serve the interests of the Manitobans he wishes to protect. I would hope that the message from this legislation is that the Land Titles Office will provide staff or a greater number of staff to answer queries for those individuals who do wish to prepare and transfer their own documents, and I certainly support that effort.

Mr. Speaker: Is the House ready for the question?

Is it the will of the House to call it six o'clock?

Hon. Glen Cummings (Minister of Municipal Affairs): I move, seconded by the Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae), that debate be adjourned.

MOTION presented and carried.

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)

Thursday, October 27, 1988

**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 Member for Niakwa (Mr. Herold Driedger).

QUESTION put, MOTION carried.

* (1800)

Hon. James McCrae (Government House Leader):

I realize there is significant time remaining in the hour, Mr. Speaker, but it is somewhat of a tradition in some Legislatures that when something gets passed in Private Members' Hour it is customary to call it six o'clock.

Mr. Speaker: Therefore, is it the will of the House to call it six o'clock? The hour being 6 p.m., this House is now adjourned and stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow morning (Friday).