

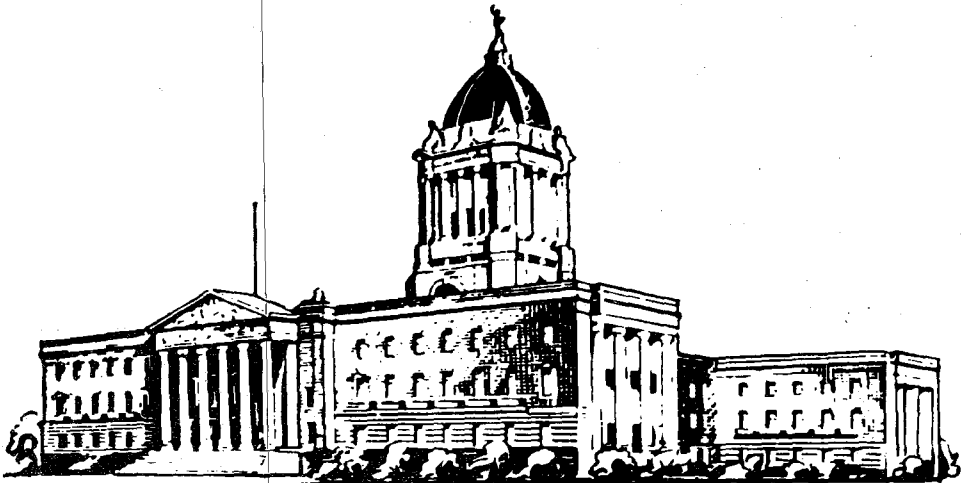


First Session — Thirty-Fourth Legislature
of the
Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS
(HANSARD)**

37 Elizabeth II

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Speaker*



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**MANITOBA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
Thirty-Fourth Legislature**

Members, Constituencies and Political Affiliation

NAME	CONSTITUENCY	PARTY
ALCOCK, Reg	Osborne	LIBERAL
ANGUS, John	St. Norbert	LIBERAL
ASHTON, Steve	Thompson	NDP
BURRELL, Parker	Swan River	PC
CARR, James	Fort Rouge	LIBERAL
CARSTAIRS, Sharon	River Heights	LIBERAL
CHARLES, Gwen	Selkirk	LIBERAL
CHEEMA, Gulzar	Kildonan	LIBERAL
CHORNOPYSKI, William	Burrows	LIBERAL
CONNERY, Edward Hon.	Portage la Prairie	PC
COWAN, Jay	Churchill	NDP
CUMMINGS, Glen, Hon.	Ste. Rose du Lac	PC
DERKACH, Leonard, Hon.	Roblin-Russell	PC
DOER, Gary	Concordia	NDP
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.	Virden	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
WASYLCIA-LEIS, Judy	St. Johns	NDP
YEO, Iva	Sturgeon Creek	LIBERAL

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Thursday, November 24, 1988.

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

* (1335)

PRAYERS

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS AND TABLING OF REPORTS

Hon. Edward Connery (Minister of Labour): I wish to table the Supplementary Information for Legislative Review for the Manitoba Civil Service Commission and the Manitoba Environment, Workplace Safety and Health.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

BILL NO. 42—AN ACT TO INCORPORATE THE ROYAL WINNIPEG RIFLES FOUNDATION

Mr. Harold Taylor (Wolseley) introduced, by leave, Bill No. 42, An Act to amend an Act to incorporate The Royal Winnipeg Rifles Foundation; Loi modifiant la Loi constituant en corporation "The Royal Winnipeg Rifles Foundation."

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mr. Speaker: Prior to oral questions, may I direct the attention of Honourable Members to the public gallery where we have from the Sisler High School, thirty Grade 11 students under the direction of Miss Thompson. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Inkster (Mr. Lamoureux).

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

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

Meech Lake Accord Government's Position

Mr. James Carr (Fort Rouge): This is indeed an historic day for Manitoba and indeed for all Canadians because we now have the commitment of both sides of Opposition in this House to look for improvements to the flawed Meech Lake Constitutional Accord.

It is now time that we have some assurances from the First Minister (Mr. Filmon) that while listening to the people at the public hearing process, that the First Minister go on record today to outline his own view so that when the people of Manitoba attend those public hearings they will have, in addition to the Liberal position and the New Democratic Party's position on this Accord, what the Government of Manitoba considers to be in the best interests of this province and of this nation. Is the First Minister now prepared to outline his constitutional vision of Canada?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): Mr. Speaker, indeed I do not know if it is an historic day but certainly it is an interesting wedding day, Mr. Speaker, for the Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs) and the Leader of the New Democratic Party (Mr. Doer). I saw them playing "kneesies" this morning on Canada AM and getting together in what is now a more formal relationship, I suppose then has existed in the past. The fact of the matter is that we now have two of the three Parties in this Legislature saying that they are not interested in listening to the people of Manitoba.

I think that is regrettable because those of us on this side of the House put our blood on the line when we fought for the changes and the amendments to the rules of this Legislature that provided for mandatory public hearings, mandatory public hearings, Mr. Speaker. The Liberals and the New Democrats want to throw that aside and say that it does not matter what the public of Manitoba think, their minds are made up. They know better, and they are going to present their views forward, they are going to get together perhaps, or perhaps separately, because I heard them say that they do not necessarily agree on what the amendments may be and they are going to deal with it in their best interests on behalf of the people of Manitoba and I think that is regrettable.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Free Vote

Mr. James Carr (Fort Rouge): The First Minister speaks as if no Manitobans have expressed their interest or their opinion on the Meech Lake Accord. Is the First Minister not listening to the women of Manitoba, of aboriginal groups, of the Union of Manitoba Municipalities, of the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce? We have been listening and that is why we have a position and he does not.

Will the First Minister commit today, as the Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs) has, to a free vote on the question of the Meech Lake Constitutional Accord so all Members of this Chamber will have the right to express their own view and their own conscience?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): I might say that it is interesting that the Member for Fort Rouge lists all of those organizations who he says are opposed to the Meech Lake Accord and I acknowledged that I have seen indications that those groups indeed are, but the Liberal Party of Manitoba took their position before any of those groups had any opportunity to make any comment on the thing.

The Liberal Party said that this was their political position and that they could see some great political

gain by this situation of taking their position in opposition to Meech Lake and therefore they are very happy. They are very happy, of course, to have other people perhaps having joined with them in that regard.

The fact of the matter is we want the public hearings to be a meaningful exercise. We want the public to come forward to those public hearings knowing that at least one Party in this Legislature is prepared to await its final determination on Meech Lake until after the public hearings.

* (1340)

Public Hearings

Mr. James Carr (Fort Rouge): Mr. Speaker, and how will those public hearings have meaning? They will have meaning if the people of Manitoba had something to comment upon. They will have the position of this Party which is not firm, which is not set in stone. If the First Minister is putting forth the Meech Lake Constitutional Accord as his position, then that is fine. Will the First Minister, or will he not, free his caucus so they can exercise their own conscience and give them a free vote on Meech Lake?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): Mr. Speaker, we have the charade being put forward by the Liberal Party in Manitoba of suggesting that somehow they are going to have a free vote amongst their Members when on occasion after occasion after occasion the Leader of the Liberal Party (Mrs. Carstairs) is speaking for her caucus as she always does without even consulting. When she spoke I am surprised that the Member for Fort Rouge (Mr. Carr) did not take umbrage yesterday when the Autopac announcement was made and his Leader was out first and foremost talking about Autopac without even consulting him. He did not even know what had happened. He is the Autopac critic. That is the way they do it.

People of Manitoba would believe the Liberal Party, would give some credence and credibility to the Liberal Party if it were not for the fact that in April of this year, in May of this year, and again in August of this year, the Leader of the Liberal Party (Mrs. Carstairs) said every single Member of her Party was opposed to Meech Lake. What good is a free vote when she says firstly, tell me how you are going to vote and then I will let you vote?

Federal Consultations

Mr. James Carr (Fort Rouge): With a new question to the Premier who never speaks on behalf of his Government or who never speaks on behalf of his Ministers, the day after the election, the Prime Minister of this country had the nerve to insult Manitobans by telling them that they now had an obligation to pass the Meech Lake Accord with arrogance we have not seen in this country in decades. Will the First Minister—

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please; order.

Mr. Carr: It is obvious that the Prime Minister is not interested in what the people of Manitoba might say at these public hearings. Will he immediately contact his friend, the Prime Minister, and ask him when he is going to start showing concern for what the people of Manitoba think about this nation's constitution without making assumptions by insulting us the day after the election?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): When the Member for Fort Rouge (Mr. Carr) speaks of arrogance in public figures, he has a lot of people close to him from whom to draw experience. I may just remind him of some of the things that his former Leader and his public mentor, Mr. Trudeau, said about why should I sell your wheat or giving the finger to western Canadians, those signs of humility that he gave as a political leader publicly, or his provincial Leader who said early on in the campaign she had a great deal of sympathy for Mr. Broadbent because she knew what it was like to have to lead a Party when she was so much more popular than the Party she was leading. If we look for examples of humility, we will not find it in the Liberal Party.

The fact of the matter is that we will continue what we have said we are going to do. We are going to introduce the resolution.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please; order. I am having difficulty hearing the Honourable First Minister's answer.

Mr. Filmon: I will try and speak a little more loudly, Mr. Speaker. The fact of the matter is we are going to do what we have always done. We are not going to be pursuing anybody else's agenda. We will not be pursuing Ottawa's agenda, we will not be pursuing the Leader of the Opposition's agenda. When we complete the Estimates in this Session, we will then introduce the Meech Lake Constitutional Amendment so that it can be debated for five days in this House and sent out to public hearings. We have said this consistently since we began this whole discussion on taking office after the April election. We will carry through that plan. I invite the Member for Fort Rouge (Mr. Carr) to be a positive part of that process.

PC Caucus' Opinion

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

Mr. James Carr (Fort Rouge): We certainly intend to be a positive part of that process. We think we are doing a positive thing right now by trying to ferret out, inch by inch, the First Minister's view of the Meech Lake Accord but he will not give it to us. He will not even defend the Prime Minister of Canada. It was a lobbed ball and he did not swing at it.

I would like to ask the First Minister, given the fact that last Monday, the map, the political map of Canada, was changed dramatically, will he—he is laughing. He lost a couple of seats and he finds that funny. Will the First Minister now contact the Members of the Manitoba caucus of the Progressive Party to see if in their response to the move of public opinion in this province

their view of the Meech Constitutional Accord has changed?

* (1345)

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): Indeed there were some changes in the political map of this country, Mr. Speaker, but I find it interesting that having five Liberal seats in Winnipeg now represents a revolution, an absolute revolution in terms of Canadian politics. Perhaps the Liberals' expectations are so low that they could be fulfilled by five additional seats, that that is really what it takes to make a miracle in the mind of the Member for Fort Rouge (Mr. Carr). I might say that those five Liberals have made an auspicious debut with their meeting at the Carlton Club.

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Filmon: On election night the Member for Winnipeg-St. James said that before he went out to his victory celebration he would have his wife put her face on. He is going to come out with some of these wonderful, wonderful sayings that are going to make people know the substance and the quality of Liberal representation in this province and in this country.

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

Mr. Carr: Let the record show that we asked the Premier (Mr. Filmon) a question about the Constitution of Canada and his answer was the various kinds of cosmetics used by a politician's wife. That is responsible leadership in the constitutional—my final supplementary to the Premier who is obviously—

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I have recognized the Honourable Member for Fort Rouge. The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge has the floor.

Public Hearings

Mr. James Carr (Fort Rouge): One final question to the First Minister (Mr. Filmon) who is obviously befuddled and bemused by the events of the last 24 hours, he was quoted in the paper this morning as saying that there would be public hearings in this province in the month of December. Can he shed some light for the benefit of the Members of this House of the intents that we go to public hearings in the month of December or not?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): I think it is regrettable that I have to respond to the Member for Fort Rouge about issues that affect the priorities of the Liberal Party in this province and, when his colleagues, both federally and provincially, have to deal with issues that are denigrating to women, then I have to raise it forward as part of what the Liberal policy and platform and psyche is all about, Mr. Speaker.

The fact of the matter is that I said in the interview yesterday, as I have said consistently, that the decision ultimately on when the public hearings will be held and where the public hearings will be held will be made by the all-Party committee that is struck, and that it was my perception that should we be able to introduce the constitutional resolution within the next couple of weeks, that undoubtedly the committee would be in a position to begin its public hearings in December.

Whether or not they hold their public hearings in December, it is up to the committee. This is a very democratic process. I support it completely and fully, Mr. Speaker, and the committee will make that decision.

Committee Decisions

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

Mr. James Carr (Fort Rouge): We have been asking the First Minister (Mr. Filmon) for three months now about the nature of that committee, its mandate, where it will go, whether or not they will accept submissions from all across the country. When will the First Minister instruct his House Leader (Mr. McCrae) to begin negotiations so that we may deal with this in an orderly and timely manner?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): I realize that the Member for Fort Rouge has not been in the Legislature a long time but he is the Deputy Leader. He should know that those decisions, who is on the committee, when they will sit, where they will sit will be made by the committee. Until we are in a position where we have some idea of when that committee will be struck and where it will sit and so on, there are people here who may have other obligations who may not be able to be a part of that committee if the committee—had we struck the committee, for instance, in September, it may be that the Member for Springfield (Mr. Roch) might not be on the committee anymore, Mr. Speaker. The fact of the matter is changes take place. So we we will strike - (Interjection)- Not too likely, Laurie. They have seen the way he has been treated. He has not had a question here in months. I do not know whether he even exists.

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please; order, please.

* (1350)

Mr. Filmon: Just to summarize, the fact of the matter is that—

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Aluminum Smelter Power Rate

Mr. Jerry Storie (Flin Flon): My question is to the Minister of Energy and Mines (Mr. Neufeld). Several

weeks ago, Mr. Speaker, the Minister assured this House that Manitoba had an advantage over Quebec in the pursuit of an aluminum smelter in Manitoba, because Manitoba had a labour pool that spoke one language. Today, a Mr. Miller from Alumax indicated that comment was very, very superficial and also indicated that the real decision will be based on the rate of power that is available to Alumax.

My question is to the Minister responsible for Manitoba Hydro (Mr. Neufeld). Is the Minister prepared today to contact Alumax officials and indicate to them in a very clear and concise way that Manitoba is prepared to provide them a power rate which is advantageous to them and advantageous to Manitoba as well?

Hon. Harold Neufeld (Minister of Energy and Mines):

Mr. Speaker, the Member for Flin Flon knows very well the rates that have been requested by Alumax. That has been mentioned by me in the House. It has been mentioned in the newspapers many a time. The rates that have been requested by Alumax, as you know, are 15 mills Canadian funds, which creates the 12 mills U.S. funds. That is substantially less than our cost to generate that power. If we are going to offer a rate that low, it will be through a subsidy by the people of Manitoba, and that subsidy will have to be agreed to by the Cabinet as a whole. We have as yet, Mr. Speaker, not received from the Manitoba Energy Authority the cost benefits and the cost of such a low rate to Manitoba Hydro. When we do, we will be in a position to make a decision as to whether or not we can offer those rates or tell them the lowest rates possible that we can offer.

Rate Report

Mr. Jerry Storie (Flin Flon): Every time I raise this matter it seems that the Minister thinks that we have endless time within which to make it clear to Alumax that we want them in Manitoba, and that we are prepared to accommodate them.

Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister responsible for Manitoba Hydro (Mr. Neufeld). Will the Minister please table a report that he received from Manitoba Hydro in May, which indicated that we can provide a lower rate to Alumax by some 30 percent and still have that sale of power profitable for Manitoba? Will he table that report so Manitobans can know that Manitoba has the capacity to offer competitive electricity rates to Alumax?

Hon. Harold Neufeld (Minister of Energy and Mines):

There was a report that came forward in May, and undoubtedly the former Minister of Energy and Mines received that report. I came into office on May 9. I have not received the report indicating that we can offer 30 percent below the rates that have been requested.

Mr. Storie: I am not convinced this Minister really has the interests of Manitoba at heart in this. It is unfortunate—

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Does the Honourable have a question? Would you kindly put your question now.

Mr. Storie: Mr. Speaker, the Government first bungled a \$4 billion sale to Upper Mississippi. Now we are talking about a 300-person direct employment possibility—

* (1355)

Mr. Speaker: Order, please; order, please. I have asked the Honourable Member to kindly put his question, now.

Manitoba Location

Mr. Jerry Storie (Flin Flon): Mr. Speaker, can the Minister indicate what action he intends to take before the end of this year to ensure that Manitoba's best position is put before Alumax, because the decision is inevitably moving towards a Quebec location rather than a Manitoba, and there is no necessity for that decision being made.

Hon. Harold Neufeld (Minister of Energy and Mines):

The Member for Flin Flon has repeatedly mentioned in this House the bungling that this Government has done on the power sale to the Upper Mississippi Group. Now I want to put on the record that, in February of 1986, the Premier then of Manitoba issued a news release to the effect that 550 megawatts of firm power was going to be sold and that 300 megawatts of interruptible—no I should say diversity—exchange would be sold, at the same time the Manitoba Hydro was negotiating for a 200-megawatt diversity exchange with the Northern States Power Group.

The committee for Hydro has been told on numerous occasions that a 500 diversity exchange and a 500 firm sale would have no effect on the demand of the Manitoba Hydro system because we would be getting the diversity exchanged from Northern States Power at the time in the wintertime, and we could ship that out at that time.

Now, if that is the case for Manitoba, probably Northern States Power could also do as well with a diversity exchange as they could with a firm power purchase.

In the summer of 1987, the then Government entered into a 200-megawatt diversity exchange with Manitoba Hydro, with Northern States Power at the same time Northern States Power bowed out of the negotiations of the Upper Mississippi Group. That was the reason for the loss of that—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please; order, please. May I remind the Honourable Minister that answers to questions should be as brief as possible.

Government Proposal

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

Mr. Jerry Storie (Flin Flon): I would like to thank the Minister for confirming that two out of the three

objectives were met and the fact that the previous Government did a good job managing to get export sales for Manitoba Hydro. I appreciate that. But, Mr. Speaker, the fact of the matter is that Mr. Miller, a representative of Alumax, is now telling us that Quebec has the inside—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please; order, please. I have recognized the Honourable Member for a supplementary question. Would the Honourable Member kindly put his question now?

Mr. Storie: Mr. Speaker, can the Minister give this House some assurance that the issues which Alumax considers important, including the provision of a low stable energy rate, will be a matter of discussion immediately with Alumax so that this decision, this opportunity, does not slip away from Manitobans?

Will the Minister give this House the assurance that today, tomorrow, the Minister, a team of officials from MEA will be approaching Alumax to put on the table the fact that we can offer them a low, attractive energy rate without subsidies, and that the same kind of support is going to be available from the federal Government to Manitoba—

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please; order, please.

Hon. Harold Neufeld (Minister of Energy and Mines): I should say first of all, Mr. Speaker, that it was the Diversity Exchange Agreement with the Northern States Power that lost us the 500-megawatt firm power sale with the Upper Mississippi Group. That is what lost it for us.

As far as Alumax is concerned, if we can show that the economic benefits for Manitoba exceed the cost, we will inform Alumax that we can meet the rates that they have been offered by other jurisdictions.

Special Needs Children Prince Charles School

Mrs. Iva Yeo (Sturgeon Creek): The impetus to move towards mainstreaming appears to be obvious, Mr. Speaker. In light of the recent decision to eliminate many of the services provided for special needs children at Prince Charles School, there have been concerns raised by many of their parents as well as from the parents of children now attending schools such as Lord Roberts, Kirkfield Park and H.L. Softley.

Can the Minister of Community Services tell the House what long range plans her department has in place for the students and their families now attending Prince Charles School?

Hon. Charlotte Oleson (Minister of Community Services): Mr. Speaker, I will have to take that question as notice.

Mainstreaming

Mrs. Iva Yeo (Sturgeon Creek): Mr. Speaker, has the Department of Community Services and the Department of Education established a committee to develop guidelines that will assist with the movement of the handicapped into the mainstream?

Hon. Charlotte Oleson (Minister of Community Services): My department is working on all these matters and, as I said, I would come back to the House with an answer for the first part of the question.

Mainstreaming Costs

Mrs. Iva Yeo (Sturgeon Creek): Mr. Speaker, can the Minister of Community Services tell us what supplementary funding has been allocated by her department to provide for additional personnel and services to deal with this new thrust?

Mrs. Oleson: I will take that question as notice as well.

* (1400)

Greenhouse Project Funding

Ms. Avis Gray (Ellice): My question is for the Minister of Community Services (Mrs. Oleson). Just last week, WASO Incorporated, a non-profit organization which provides services to the mentally handicapped, had their grand opening of the Greenhouse Project, a project which was funded by the Community Places Program, the City of Winnipeg, and with approval from the Department of Community Services. We have a facility, we have people to fill it, but we have no money for per diems so that these mentally handicapped can participate in this work opportunity.

My question to the Minister is, is it the policy of her Government to approve in principle these new projects and not follow through with the necessary funding, and will the Minister immediately move to correct this situation?

Hon. Charlotte Oleson (Minister of Community Services): Yes, the department is looking at all the matters to deal with per diems for handicapped and trying to work as many people as possible into all these programs.

WASO Budget for Day Programs

Ms. Avis Gray (Ellice): With a supplementary to the Minister, the Minister herself indicated there are only 15 new day program spaces in the Estimates. Ten have already been allocated, that leaves five. Can the Minister tell this House today how is she going to meet the needs of WASO and other similar workshops when there are no dollars in the existing budget for these day programs? How is she going to meet those needs?

Hon. Charlotte Oleson (Minister of Community Services): Yes, Mr. Speaker, in the Estimates we

indicated that there were 15 placements, that was what the budget allowed this year. We are working on additional spaces for per diems for future years. This is not a mandated service, we have to work it in as best we can within the limits of the budget.

Greenhouse Project Funding

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

Ms. Avis Gray (Ellice): The Minister indicated this is not a mandated service. Could the Minister tell this House what she is going to tell the parents of the mentally handicapped who are waiting to get into the Greenhouse Project in WASO when she herself has indicated today that there are no dollars so that that facility will sit empty for one year because there are no dollars? Will she tell us today what she is going to tell those parents and WASO?

Hon. Charlotte Oleson (Minister of Community Services): I had indicated to the Member before that we are working on this and we would try to fit in as many people as possible into the program.

Chiropractors MHSC Reduced Access

Mr. Jay Cowan (Churchill): My question is to the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard). It is my understanding that the Manitoba Chiropractic Association recently completed negotiations with the Manitoba Health Services Commission on a new fee schedule. Can the Minister confirm that those negotiations resulted in a cutback in the number of visits that would be covered by MHSC from a limit of 16 to a somewhat confusing but nonetheless lower limit of 14.8 visits for individuals, and can he further confirm that this reduced access to chiropractors under the Medicare Program has already become effective as of November 1 of this year?

Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health): I can confirm that after some meaningful negotiations with the Chiropractic Association of Manitoba, meaningful negotiations which had not existed for some four years under the previous administration that we managed to reach an agreement based on two basic principles.

Those basic principles were; (a) an attempt to, within reasons of financial capacity, to make up for several years of no-fee increase to the Chiropractic Association and attempting to satisfy a perceived pent-up demand for additional fee for service; and secondly, to provide the same level of coverage in terms of dollars to the clients of the chiropractic profession. That has resulted, as my honourable friend has indicated, in the reduction of insured visits by one.

User Fees

Mr. Jay Cowan (Churchill): I have recently been informed that as a direct result of those negotiations and changes in the Manitoba Chiropractors Association

fee schedule that a large number of chiropractic clinics will be implementing an evaluation fee or a user fee on a per visit basis to all patients who were previously covered under the Manitoba Health Services Commission and Medicare.

Has the Minister undertaken any review as to the potential negative impact of that new user fee when combined with the reduced services on those clients of chiropractors who have to undergo long-term extensive treatment?

Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health): I appreciate my honourable friend's new found concern for those chiropractic patients.

I simply want to indicate to my honourable friend that in the period of time that he was Government and negotiations with the Chiropractic Association broke down and there were no increases in the chiropractic fee schedule, that those patients of the chiropractic profession that he is now so concerned about were paying additional fees while he was Government and did absolutely nothing to resolve the inequities in the fee negotiation schedule of the chiropractic profession—those same clients that he is now attempting to speak on behalf of.

Long-term Treatment

Mr. Jay Cowan (Churchill): The concern is increasing because this Government has just recently negotiated an agreement that has resulted in cutback services in respect to the number of visits and also, in extra charges or extra billing for chiropractic patients. I would ask the Minister if he has undertaken any review as to the potential negative impact of that ill-sided and wrong-headed approach to provision of chiropractic service to Manitobans to determine its impact on those patients who require long-term and extensive service from their chiropractors?

Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health): Let me help my honourable friend understand the system by which we have attempted to negotiate with the professional groups in Manitoba. We undertook, over a several month period of time, negotiations with the Chiropractic Association, the result of those negotiations. I believe that the vote to accept the package which included the possibility of one less insured visit was voted on unanimously or—pardon me, one person voted against in the Chiropractic Association of Manitoba. That agreement was negotiated with the Chiropractic Association. We recognize, Mr. Speaker, that under the system, long-term chronic users of the service will have one less visit paid for. My honourable friend is asking for a study. We assumed the Chiropractic Association would negotiate on behalf of their patients and for the good of their patients, contrary to the unilateral cutback made five years ago by the NDP without consultation with the Chiropractic Association or any concern on the impact of the patients where they reduced visits down to 15.

Handi-Transit Expansion Progress Report

Mr. Bob Rose (St. Vital): My question is for the Minister of Urban Affairs (Mr. Ducharme). Yesterday, in reply to a question, we were unable to uncover any concrete evidence from this Minister that he is truly committed to the long-term survival of Senior's Transport. Yesterday, the Minister alluded to a 40 percent increase in senior ridership in September on Handi-Transit in the City of Winnipeg. As a previous city councillor, he knows that Handi-Transit did not have a mandate in 1987 to carry seniors without disability, nor does it now.

I would like it if the Minister could clarify what he means by this statement. At the same time, will he supply us with a copy of the expanded Handi-Transit progress report?

Hon. Gerald Ducharme (Minister of Urban Affairs): First of all, the extended Handi-Transit is an offshoot of the Handi-Transit that was the previous year. It is now called an extended Handi-Transit for the Member who was there at City Hall at the time.

I must say that I will give him some other updates. As of August, the ridership went in the same month from 3,255 to 4,898 with an increase in August to 51 percent. I would be glad to provide the Member with this particular chart. I will go further than that. I have been in touch with Mr. Borland over at the City Transit. He will provide me with the October figures now that they are available. To clarify that this province has extended not only again the \$75,000 that no other level of Government has provided, over to that we also provided another \$100,000 to the city for the extended Handi-Transit so that all seniors throughout the city will now benefit with that Handi-Transit now available. We show by our figures that the seniors throughout Winnipeg, all seniors, are using it.

* (1410)

Mr. Rose: Mr. Speaker, we thank the Minister for the report. Maybe then, because we still do not now understand it, when we see it first-hand, we will be able to get to the bottom of the facts.

Seniors' Organizations

Mr. Bob Rose (St. Vital): My supplementary is for the Minister in charge of Seniors (Mr. Neufeld). Yesterday the Minister of Urban Affairs (Mr. Ducharme) alluded to the fact that he and the Minister for Seniors, "did meet with seniors' associations." Mr. Speaker, could the Minister outline for us who they met with and what commitments were made by the Government on those occasions?

Hon. Harold Neufeld (Minister responsible for Seniors): Mr. Speaker, I have met with numerous seniors' organizations as has the Minister for Urban Affairs (Mr. Ducharme). I have not met specifically with seniors' organizations with respect to their Handi-Transit service. That is a department that another Minister looks

after. The Minister and I have met on numerous occasions to discuss the needs of the senior citizens of Winnipeg for Handi-Transit service.

Mr. Rose: Mr. Speaker, the statement yesterday alluded to the fact that their meetings with seniors were specifically concerned with the Senior's Transport. Apparently that was not true as quoted yesterday. To the same Minister (Mr. Neufeld). Will this Minister now—

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Minister of Urban Affairs (Mr. Ducharme), on a point of order.

Hon. Gerald Ducharme (Minister of Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, approximately eight Ministers met with the Winnipeg Seniors' Society. That was just a short time ago, and I clarify everything that I gave.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Ducharme: We did meet them so there was a statement.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Honourable Minister does not have a point of order.

Mr. Rose: Again to the Minister who advocates for seniors, will this Minister now sit down with the Minister of Urban Affairs (Mr. Ducharme) to map out a plan for presentation to your Cabinet at last so that we may allay the anxiety of not only valued employees of Senior's Transport who do not know from day to day whether they have a job, or indeed the thousands of seniors who use that service and they see it going down the drain due to the inactivity of your Cabinet and your Government?

Mr. Neufeld: We continue to have a concern for the seniors who use the Handi-Transit service, Mr. Speaker. The service the Member for St. Vital refers to is a service for southern Winnipeg, a very small section of the Greater Winnipeg area. What the Minister for Urban Affairs and what I am more concerned with is a service for all citizens of Winnipeg and of all Manitoba. We are working together to make certain that when we do come up with a program it will benefit all citizens and not only the citizens of southern Winnipeg.

Social Allowance Rate of Increase

Mr. Leonard Evans (Brandon East): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Economic Security (Mrs. Oleson). Each year effective January 1, the Government adjusts the social allowance rates for over 23,000 individuals and families who have very little or virtually no source of other income. This includes over 10,000 disabled people and about 9,000 sole-support parents. Can the Minister advise the House what the rate of increase in social allowances will be effective January 1, 1989?

Hon. Charlotte Oleson (Minister of Employment Services and Economic Security): Mr. Speaker, yes, that is under active consideration at the moment.

Cost-of-Living Increase

Mr. Leonard Evans (Brandon East): Mr. Speaker, our Government provided assistance or increases each year that reflected the cost-of-living increase. The current rate of inflation in Winnipeg is running at 5.7 percent which is the highest in Canada along with the City of Toronto. Can the Minister assure us that the recipients can expect to receive from this Government an increase accurately reflecting the increased cost of food, the increase in the cost of clothing, as well as the increase in the cost of personal needs?

Hon. Charlotte Oleson (Minister of Employment Services and Economic Security): Mr. Speaker, as I indicated before, that is under active consideration.

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

NON-POLITICAL STATEMENTS

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): Mr. Speaker, this weekend a very important cultural exchange is taking place in Ottawa. The contest between the Winnipeg Blue Bombers and the British Columbia Lions for the champion—actually I thought of putting up the Deputy Leader of the Opposition as a prize, but who would want another used car, right?

This important event involves the football championship of Canada commonly known as the Grey Cup. I am sure that all Manitobans join me and indeed all Members of this Legislature join me in extending very best wishes to the Winnipeg Blue Bombers. We are very proud of their having won the championship of the Eastern Conference of the Canadian Football League and we look forward to seeing their victory in the Grey Cup in Ottawa. I am very proud to be representing Manitoba at that very important event and look forward to the contest to cheering on the Big Blue.

Mr. John Angus (St. Norbert): Mr. Speaker, may I have leave of the House to make a non-political statement?

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

Mr. Angus: Mr. Speaker, I rise in a rare moment of unanimity to lend my colleagues in the Opposition's support to the best wishes of the Premier (Mr. Filmon) in his sojourn to Ottawa. We likewise are sure that he will take not only our sincere best wishes for a healthy victory for the Winnipeg football team in Ottawa, but will bring to the attention of his colleagues and the people in Ottawa who are there to enjoy the festivities of Grey Cup week that it is ironic that two western teams are playing for a national trophy in eastern Canada. It is a symbol of unity in the country. I think it is about time that we see the Grey Cup returned to Winnipeg where it rightfully belongs and that we would lend our most sincere best wishes to the team to do well. We know that they will be honourable representatives of the City of Winnipeg and that they will be victorious in their venture.

Mr. Steve Ashton (Thompson): I would also ask leave.

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

Mr. Ashton: Mr. Speaker, I would echo the sentiments of the previous speakers. I do indicate some difficulty in cheering for the Bombers as an eastern team. I realize they are in the Eastern Conference but we all know their hearts are in the West. We will be cheering for them anyway and I think we can give them our fullest support. I guess one advantage of the current structure in the CFL is we know this time a western team is going to win without help because no matter what conference the Blue Bombers are in they represent western Canada. I am sure all western Canada will be behind them.

SPEAKER'S RULING

Mr. Speaker: I have a ruling for the House.

On November 4, the Honourable Opposition House Leader rose on a point of order respecting the words, "My honourable friend wishes to create a rift between the members of his profession and this Government," spoken by the Honourable Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) which he alleged imputed motive to the Honourable Member for Kildonan (Mr. Cheema).

I have read Hansard with care and have examined relevant rulings, precedents and extracts from the authorities.

* (1420)

Language which imputes or attributes bad or unworthy motives to a Member or which impugns or attacks as false the motives of a Member is unparliamentary.

The Speaker of the House, when determining whether or not certain words or phrases are unparliamentary, must consider such matters as the manner, the tone, intention of the person speaking and, in some cases, the degree of provocation.

As I have said before, this is a political forum in which all Honourable Members hold strong and often opposing views. In the heat of the moment, provocative and perhaps discourteous, but not necessarily unparliamentary, words may be used. I believe that this is unavoidable; it is part of our political environment.

Once again, may I suggest to all Honourable Members that the use of care in the choice of our words will make it easier for all of us to get on with the task before us.

In conclusion, I am of the opinion that the words spoken by the Honourable Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) did not impute unworthy motives and, therefore, were not unparliamentary.

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please; order, please.

ORDERS OF THE DAY HOUSE BUSINESS

Hon. James McCrae (Government House Leader): I believe, if you were to canvass Honourable Members, you would find that there would be leave to allow the Estimates of the Department of Labour to be brought before the Committee of the Whole today in Room 255.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, I think if you were to canvass the House, you would find that there would be leave to move to the Department of Attorney-General on the completion of the Estimates of the Department of Culture, Heritage and Recreation today.

Mr. Speaker: Is there leave to have the Department of Labour—

Mr. John Plohman (Dauphin): Mr. Speaker, just for clarification, the next on the list was Municipal Affairs. I just want to ask the House Leaders whether they have agreed with that, before we agree to it here.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Government House Leader on House Business.

Mr. McCrae: I apologize to the House. I should have mentioned that the proposals I make are the result of discussions with the House Leaders. These matters have been discussed among House Leaders.

Mr. Plohman: When are we doing it, next?

Mr. Speaker: Is there leave then? (Agreed)

Mr. McCrae: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable 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 Labour; and the Honourable Member for Seven Oaks (Mr. Minenko) in the Chair for the Department of Culture, Heritage and Recreation, and the Department of the Attorney-General.

* (1430)

CONCURRENT COMMITTEES OF SUPPLY SUPPLY—LABOUR

Mr. Chairman, Harold Gilleshammer: The committee will come to order. This section of the Committee of Supply will be dealing with the Estimates of the Department of Labour. We will begin with a statement from the Honourable Minister responsible.

Hon. Edward Connery (Minister of Labour): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and fellow Members of the Legislature.

I am pleased to present for review the spending Estimates of the Department of Labour for the 1988-89 fiscal year. It is a relatively small department but Manitoba Labour provides a wide range of programs and services. It administers a large number of statutes on behalf of the province. Through its various programs, the department is dedicated to enhancing labour relations, ensuring fairness in the workplace, protecting public safety and promoting trades training for Manitobans.

This department recovers a proportion of its annual expenditures through various revenue sources. This year, the department expects to recover about 35 percent of its total budget; \$1.6 million of this revenue is generated through fees, permits and licences while another \$1.8 million is recovered from the Fires Prevention Fund.

For 1988-89, the total budget request for the Department of Labour is \$9.97 million. This represents an increase of only 0.2 percent over the previous year. If you review the figures you will see that most of that increase is directly related to salary adjustments. This includes the increases that were negotiated for employees under the collective agreement. It also includes pay equity adjustments and merit increments for employees.

Otherwise, there have been few changes in the department's budget for the previous year. At this point, at this time, reducing the provincial deficit is a critical priority for the Government. It is essential if we are to ensure continued economic stability for our province. The task of reducing expenditures while maintaining quality services is a challenging one.

Each department is doing its part, including the Department of Labour. For 1988-89 the department has reduced staff by 10.26 positions. This represents a 4.5 percent reduction in the staff over the previous year. The details of these reductions are outlined in the Supplementary Information recently distributed to all Members of the Legislature.

In the effort to reduce expenditures, we had to take a look at grants provided to agencies outside Government. We recognize the work done by the Manitoba Labour Education Centre but as I announced in July, we are unable to continue with the grant for that organization. There are a number of items that will receive our attention over this fiscal year.

My staff will be reviewing a number of pieces of legislation to determine whether they meet current needs. An amendment to The Fire Prevention Act has been presented to the Legislature that will enable the Manitoba Fire College to collect tuition fees for training provided to individuals from outside Manitoba.

Legislation has been presented which would see the final offer selection process repealed. Many of the current statutes are out of date and could benefit from revision. For example, right now we have a myriad of Acts and regulations related to employment standards.

This includes The Employment Standards Act, The Payment of Wages Act, The Vacation with Pay Act, and The Construction Industry Wages Act, as well as four

separate sets of regulations dealing with general minimum wages and minimum wages in the construction industry.

It is a cumbersome system that poses difficulties for both the employers and employees. We will be working to consolidate these into one Act that will be easier for people to understand and easier to administer. We will consult with interested parties and solicit their opinions on proposals for change.

* (1440)

I am proud of the services offered by the staff of the Department of Labour. Over this next year, we will be looking at ways to strengthen administration within the department to ensure that programs are as effective and efficient as they can be. We want to ensure that resources are used only in a way that creates maximum benefit for Manitobans. In closing, let me say that I am pleased that Manitoba continues to enjoy a good labour relations climate with few work stoppages. Manitoba also enjoys low unemployment, well below—well, not well below now, about even with the national rate at this point. Our Government will be working to enhance the Labour Relations climate and to create unemployment opportunities for Manitobans. Thank you.

Mr. Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Minister. We will now have the customary reply by the critic of the Official Opposition (Mr. Patterson).

Mr. Allan Patterson (Radisson): Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. I do not have any lengthy reply. I think in the interest of moving things along there has been a great deal of time taken already on the early Estimates.

I would just like to say it is a pleasure for me to be here. I know several of the people in the Department. For many years the Chairman of the Labour Board, Mr. Korpesho, and the retired director of the Conciliation Services, Mr. Pound, and Mr. Irving, the Assistant Deputy Minister of the Civil Service Commission, came up to the University to address my classes in Labour Relations, and I have a great deal of respect for the department, the work it does and the individuals in it; and I would hope that—well, in view of what the Minister has just stated, I think it is a productive thing to consolidate many of the Acts that now exist, and we look forward to seeing that come along in due course.

So I think with that I will just conclude my remarks and let the critic of the other Opposition Party carry on, and then get on with the work.

Mr. Chairman: Thank you. We will now hear from the critic of the Second Opposition Party (Mr. Ashton).

Mr. Steve Ashton (Thompson): Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. In listening to the Minister's comments today, I really feel his words ring hollow and wide of the agenda of the last six months of this Government. It is a right-wing agenda; it is anti-labour; it is anti-working people; and they are clear evidence just six months into this Government's term of just how anti-labour and anti-worker this Government is.

During these Estimates, I am going to highlight exactly what this Government has done. I am going to talk about the changes the labour legislation is proposing which would follow the agenda big business in regards to the final offer selection. I am going to talk about the Labour Education Centre. The Minister in his statement said, there is not enough money for the Labour Education Centre. Yet, this Government has found \$24 million for business through the payroll tax, and a total of about \$40 million for business tax cuts. So the Minister's words ring hollow in regard to that area.

We are going to talk about the unemployed help centres, both under the Labour Estimates and under Employment Services because we are concerned. As the Minister acknowledged in his own statement we have an increasing rate of unemployment. We are no longer well below the national average, and yet this Minister has not said one word about the cuts that his Government has made in regards to the Unemployed Help Centres.

We are concerned about what the true agenda is going to be in regards to Workers Compensation, given some of the statements that this Minister has already been making. And I am concerned personally, that what we are headed for in Manitoba is a B.C.-style labour relations climate. I think we are seeing the same sort of right-wing moves that we have seen year after year in B.C., and it concerns me greatly because the history in Manitoba in regards to labour relations has been, that when the Conservatives were in office, the labour relations climate does become far more unsettled. There is a far higher strike rate, a far greater confrontation between labour and management.

I note with interest the last time the Conservatives were in Government—and I was doing some quick calculations today looking at the strike rate—that the average from the period that they were in office previously was .15 percent, whereas under the New Democratic Party it was .03 percent. It was four to five times higher than the rate under the New Democratic Party, and there are reasons for that, because when the New Democratic Party was in Government previously, it moved ahead with labour relations legislation in this province, including, yes, with final offer selection, with first contract legislation, and I would note that it is only the fact that it has been proved that it does not violate the Charter of Rights that has prevented this Government from cancelling that legislation as well, because it had criticized that a number of years ago. So we have already seen historically, when the Conservatives have been in power, there is unsettling of the labour relations climate in this province.

I think there is every indication of that. What more can be a clear evidence of that with their move in regards to final offer selection, which provides an alternative to strikes. The fact that this Government has moved ahead to unilaterally cancel that legislation without any consultation whatsoever with labour organizations, without consultation with the Labour Management Review Committee which it promised previously. No consultation whatsoever indicates, I think,

what we are going to see, not just in these six months but the upcoming period of time, that is that this Government has a right-wing agenda which is anti-labour and anti-worker.

I will also be outlining not just our criticisms of this Government during the Estimates but our position in the New Democratic Party. That we need improvements for working people in this province. We need improvements for example in the areas that we have to look at in dealing with some of the negative implications of free trade. Now that we are going to have free trade, we have to deal with a very clear and evident fact that plants are going to close, and we need improved plant closure legislation. We need funding for employees affected by plant closures, to attempt to keep the plants going and to attempt to adjust to other jobs and training opportunities, funding which incidentally this Government has been refusing to provide to employees affected by plant closures up to the current point in time. Let us make it clear that there will be negative impacts from free trade. There will be plants that will be closed down. Everybody, every economist, every party agrees on that fact. We have to address that here in Manitoba.

We also have to deal, I think, with the changing workplace. We have to be bringing in legislation that recognizes the role both of parents, in general, and particularly women in the workplace. I think we have to be looking at improved employment standards legislation in that regard in particular. Of course, we have to be looking at pay equity. I am going to be raising some very serious concerns about what this Government is doing in pay equity, comparing what was budgeted in the Estimates by the New Democratic Party Government just this year in comparing what the Conservatives budgeted for pay equity, because there has been a major cutback from what we had introduced in our Estimates prior to the election in April.

So I think the bottom line has been, Mr. Chairperson, unfortunately in Manitoba over the last six months, we have seen a very right-wing agenda. I would say more right wing than even under the Sterling Lyon years. Because then there was an attempt under labour relations—

An Honourable Member: They were not right wing.

Mr. Ashton: They were right wing on a lot of issues. But at least in labour legislation, there was not an attempt to roll back the clock to the extent there is today. I think that this Government is as right wing in its intentions as B.C. If there is any check on it, it is the fact that it is in a minority position. I can say that the New Democratic Party throughout these Estimates and in the Legislature on debate on final offer selection and in Question Period in relation to the labour education centre, the Unemployed Help Centre, Workers Compensation is going to be fighting that right-wing agenda because we do not want to end up like B.C. We do not want the disruptive poisonous atmosphere that we have seen in B.C. because of their right-wing pro-business bias. As I said, it is the same bias we are seeing here in Manitoba. Throughout these Estimates we are going to be pointing it out time after time.

Mr. Chairman: I would remind Members of the committee that debate of the Minister's Salary is deferred until all other items in the Estimates of this department are passed. At this time we would invite the Minister's staff to take their places at the table by the Minister.

Mr. Connery: Mr. Chairman, while staff are coming into place, let us remind the Member of the New Democratic Party that we inherited the problems with unemployment and the high number of unemployed. As he well knows, since Sterling Lyon's days, there was a maximum of 21,000 unemployed. When we took office there were over 40,000 unemployed in Manitoba. So let us not fool ourselves that the situation with the numbers, the percentage of unemployed and the numbers of unemployed were done through the mismanagement of the previous Government.

* (1450)

The Member says that final offer selection prevented strikes. Mr. Chairman, of the 30 applications for final offer, all of them were in strike position. That is why they asked for final offer. They were in a strike position. I believe that had final offer selection not being there, a lot of the strikes might have been settled in 10, 15, 20, 30 days knowing that there was nothing down the road to help them out or to bail them out. So I think that what final offer selection has done was extended the life of many strikes. As we saw, the one in eastern Manitoba at Thiessen's where it got to be a very, very ugly strike and very detrimental to a one-industry town. Maybe that strike, had there not been final offer available, might have been terminated much quicker.

Mr. Chairman, he says improvements are necessary in labour relations. Yes, we need to have some improvements in labour relations. He talks about the plant closures. There has been no change in legislation outside of FOS to say that there are increased plant closures because of what we have done. We have, up to this point, been working with the legislation that was put in by the previous Government.

He talks about pay equity and the fact that they were going to go ahead with pay equity. I think the decision that we made, in consultation with the director of pay equity, was to put it on hold till we had an opportunity to study what had taken place. As we see now, there are some glitches, there are some problems that we have to resolve before moving forward. This is what we are doing, by consulting with the various groups to see what the problems they might see to in fact tell them what pay equity is, to see what kind of administrative time it takes and what really are the costs. In some cases, the cost is very low, as at Workers Compensation, 1.7 percent over four years.

I can tell you that this Government is not run by some unions. It is a Government that is working for all people in Manitoba, whether they be unionized workers, non-unionized workers, where the bottom line for this Government is people. I was astounded after taking office and meeting with various groups, that the previous Government did not even give equal attention and notice to all unions. In fact, I do not even know if

CAIMAW even entered this building during the time of the previous Government. So when they talk about their relationship with workers, it was a very selected group.

So, Mr. Chairman, the intent of our Government is to have a labour relations climate that is conducive to business, and that will ensure that we are going to have jobs for as many of the people in Manitoba as is possible. So we are going to work very hard to make sure that we have a labour relations climate that encourages business. At the same time, we are going to improve our Labour Code to ensure that the workers get their fair share, that they are protected. There are many ways that right now the previous Government did nothing about, but we are looking at in areas of the—when companies go bankrupt that the first opportunity for that money, of course, goes to the secured creditors which are big business. The employees are left out without an opportunity to get their money because usually there is none left.

These are the kinds of concerns that we, as a Government, have for what they would call the ordinary citizen, the ordinary Manitoban. We are concerned about the workers, Mr. Chairman. Business is important, unions are important, but the bottom line are the workers of Manitoba.

Mr. Chairman: We will proceed to No. 1. Administration and Finance—a point of order, state your point, please.

Mr. Ashton: I understand the normal procedure is that there is a ministerial opening statement and then responses from the Opposition. Since the Minister has made a second statement, I am wondering if the Opposition critics will be permitted a similar opportunity to respond to some of the inaccuracies that were put on the record by the Minister.

Mr. Chairman: The Member does not have a point of order. The items will come up under the various categories and we will proceed at this time to Administration and Finance.

Mr. Ashton: Mr. Chairman, on another point of order, could you indicate whether it is in order for Ministers to make rebuttals and not give the Opposition critics the chance for a similar opportunity. I believe that the normal procedure is to give fairly even and equal opportunity for each critic and the Minister, to put their positions on the record. I feel that the last statement by the Minister goes far beyond the normal procedure and that a similar opportunity should be given to the other Members of the committee. I am sure there will be leave of the Members of the committee to do so. I do not see why the Opposition critic and myself should not have the same opportunity as the Minister.

Mr. Chairman: The Opposition critic has indicated the will to proceed with the Estimates in an orderly fashion given we are going to be short of time. What is the will of the committee? Shall we proceed? (Agreed)

1. Administration and Finance (b) Executive Support:
(1) Salaries \$342,900—the Member for Radisson.

Mr. Patterson: Excuse me, this is my first whirl at this so I am not used to flipping back and forth the appropriate pages. Where are we?

Mr. Chairman: Item 1.(b)—pass; 1.(b)(2) Other Expenditures \$94,100—pass.

1.(c) Research and Planning: (1) Salaries \$388,300.00.

Mr. Patterson: I note the reduction of one staff year. Planning and Research analyst—says general cost control measure. I fully realize the objectives of the Minister. There are laudable ones who try to provide the services to the citizens of Manitoba and in this case to the workforce in Manitoba in an efficient cost effective manner.

I am just wondering, the Planning and Research analyst here—the Research and Planning section of the department is a very important one. I note over the last relatively few years, they have been making some excellent efforts to provide more publications to interested parties generally, things like the labour relations information bulletin and others that are mentioned here. It has been my observation, as an academic in the field, that Manitoba has been very, you might say, niggardly in its publications from the Department of Labour in comparison with other provinces in Canada, Ontario for instance. I know we cannot, of course, put ourselves in quite the same league as the larger provinces like that. Nevertheless, I think the Research Branch of the department is a vital and important one and provides needed services. I am just wondering just what effect this reduction of professional and technical individual will have?

Mr. Connery: It was a reduction of one staff year, but it was a vacant position that had been there so that there is not really not a reduction in service. It was just reduction or elimination of a vacant position. It was not the elimination of a person.

Mr. Patterson: Had it been vacant for quite some time—a year or two or three?

Mr. Connery: Since March.

Mr. Patterson: Given that the vacancy is a recent one, what effect will this have on the services provided by the division?

Mr. Connery: There has been no reduction in publications or whatever coming out. There has been no reduction in services.

Mr. Patterson: Well, there has been no reduction in services. In my previous incarnation as a university professor, I would have looked for some increase in these types of services, which I think the department had been trying to provide over the last few years.

* (1500)

Mr. Connery: No, every department would love to have an additional 20 percent, 30 percent staff increase and I think that is normal. Everybody would like to do more, but all we have to do is ensure that we are delivering the services that we are mandated to do and I feel that we are doing a fairly good job at that.

Mr. Ashton: Yes, I would like to ask a number of questions in regard to Research and Planning. I would like to first of all talk about final offer selection because the Minister made a number of statements which in my mind are quite bizarre, given the circumstances, suggesting that final offer selection had caused strikes, which is absolutely ridiculous if you talk to anybody who has been involved with final offer selection, the 30 cases that have been there thus far.

I would like to ask the Minister what research was done by his department into the experience with final offer selection, first of all; second of all, whether he is willing to provide Members of this committee with that analysis, because obviously he must, I assume, have looked into the experience in these several months that final offer selection has been in place before introducing the Bill to repeal, or at least I would hope he would have done. Once again, what kind of research has he done on final offer selection?

Mr. Connery: The report of the number of applications for final offer was developed but we looked back and, as you know, it was a campaign election promise to remove final offer selection, as was brought out in debate yesterday by the Member for Lakeside (Mr. Enns). We watched with interest last year in the debate on final offer selection.

I personally attended the committee where the discussion on final offer selection was and I think there was a lot of material there. We revisited that material to get the views of individuals. There has been quite a bit of consulting with us from various sectors on final offer, that it was detrimental to labour relations, and so we feel that by removing final offer selection I think that in the long haul it will improve labour relations in Manitoba, because there were strikes and that is what final offer is about.

When you have some way, or means maybe, to resolve or extricate yourself from a bad situation you can prolong the strike till you get to that window of opportunity which is between 60 and 70 days after a strike has commenced.

Mr. Ashton: I was asking if there had been any analysis and what I hear from the Minister is that there were statements made at committee and what not. We have had final offer selection in place for a number of months now. There have been 30 cases where final offer selection has been applied for. In most cases there has been a resolution, dispute without going to the final stage of final offer selection, something incidentally which we said would happen when we introduced the Bill.

My question was not whether the Minister was at the committee last year when various statements were made, but what has happened subsequent to that? Has the Minister had his department do analysis in terms of what the experience has been, has he or his department talked to people who experienced the final offer selection to determine what the experience has been?

I know the Minister says it was a campaign promise but we see this Government breaking campaign

promises every day. If the Minister would permit me, I would suggest this would be a good candidate, because the evidence on final offer selection is that it is doing exactly what it said it would do, and that it help prevent strikes. In fact, in the case where strikes have taken place and final offer selection has been applied for, I think the experience has been clear, not as the Minister suggests that it has extended strikes. It has provided a way out of strikes. I think if he would have talked to people involved in the strikes he would have found that. My question once again is not what happened last year but what research has been done by him or his department?

Mr. Connery: Yes, I would just like to put on the record that, should I respond in like way to the Member for Thompson (Mr. Ashton), the Labour Estimates could degrade into a mudslinging debate, and I refuse to do that.

I will talk civilly in my answers and ignore some of the caustic comments from the Member. When you look at the results of the 30 cases, that of the 30 cases of final offer selection, you see that only two have been resolved by a selector. If I remember my count that I did I think 11 of them after they had asked for final offer selection, were settled by the two groups. They got back together. I think why did they not do that before? Why did they have to ask for a selector and go through that process and then sit down, because the selector is not a mediator? The selector is to look at the offers put forth by both sides and to make a decision on which to select.

To me, if a final offer selection was working or if people wanted that, why did they go to final offer selection 60 days after a strike started and then to resolve it between themselves anyway, where they should have done that in the initial process. That is the whole idea of labour negotiations where both sides sit down and give and take. It is a give-and-take process, where in final offer one wins and one loses. In a case like that, you see negative labour relations because one side is naturally mad because theirs was not chosen and that does not add to good labour relations.

Mr. Ashton: I take by the answer that the Minister has not had his department do any research, talked to people involved with that. I mean his comments show that he does not understand final offer selection, does not understand the idea behind it, and does not understand the experience. I am not expecting him to have come in supporting final offer selection. I asked however what kind of research his department had done and the answer obviously is that the department has not talked to people involved.

The main reason I think is probably given by his statement that it was a campaign promise and we all know who that was oriented to. It was towards the big businesses of this province, the Chambers of Commerce who are opposed to final offer selection, which is their perfect right. But let the Minister not suggest that we have had research into this and it is based on that. It was a preconceived agenda, it is part of their agenda, the right-wing agenda I referred to previously.

If the Minister is indicating there has been no research in that area I would like to ask in terms of another

area, another important area for Manitobans, and that is in regard to free trade. Since the election on Monday, it is apparent that we are going to have free trade in this country. I would like to ask the Minister what research his department has done into what negative impacts that will have in Manitoba? Because virtually every economist has agreed, every political party has agreed that there will be layoffs, there will be industries that will suffer as a result of free trade. I would like to ask the Minister what research he has asked his department to do and what the research shows for the impacts of free trade on Manitoba?

Mr. Connelly: The Department of Industry, Trade and Technology (sic) will be getting information from the various departments to see what negative affects there will be. I think in any negotiations and trade deal as the one we see will come into place now nationally, and I am very pleased that it will, there will be some negative impacts. There always is. Our department is concerned that we be ready in worker adjustment but we have worker adjustment going on right now. We have a department and some people that work with plant closures or layoffs where they work with the federal Government to try to attain jobs for these people in other industries. With the creation of way more jobs than what will be lost through the negative side of it, we feel that with some retraining and some assistance these people will move into jobs and, in many cases, into better jobs.

So I do not think there is a negative—well, there is no negative affect that I can see overall to the free trade deal. It is a like a balance sheet. You have the assets; you have the liabilities. If the retained earnings are good at the bottom line then you have a good deal. To me, free trade with the winners and the losers, you put it all together and I think we have a deal that is going to be very healthy for Manitoba and for Canada. I think as far as free trade goes Manitoba and Saskatchewan are probably the two provinces that will benefit most from free trade. Manitoba is a land locked province.

We have the Port of Churchill, but we cannot ship goods and services out of Churchill as the Member knows. To the south we have a population of some 3.5 million or 5 million within a very short distance, closer than we can ship to Alberta. As the Member for Thompson (Mr. Ashton) well knows by the time we ship products to a coast port, we are not competitive with those provinces that are already on water. I know very well because in our industry, the vegetable industry, a lot of onions are sold into the Caribbean islands but Manitoba can never be competitive with Quebec and Ontario because the time we shipped them to those ports, the cost is so high that we are not in the ball park.

* (1510)

The main thrust for Manitoba has to be to the South to give us that advantage. But there also is, because of our quality and as the McCains plant is in Portage, because of the high quality of the market, we are able to ship into the Pacific Rim. But to be able to do those kind of far away markets, we have to have something

very special. In Manitoba's case, there are circumstances and industries that are very special and are able to do that.

Mr. Ashton: I think the Minister missed the point of my question. I can debate free trade with the Minister. I will be glad to at any time.

What I am talking about, however, are the people who will be negatively effected. He can talk about balance sheets all he wants. There will be people that will lose their jobs because of the Free Trade Agreement. That is something that has been documented. Even the federal Government, which has pushed free trade on Canadians, has said itself, and there have been estimates of as high as several hundred thousand Canadians who will out of a job in areas such as the textile industry which we have in Manitoba with significant employment, the furniture industry, other sectors of the economy. My question is, what research, if any, and what information has that research provided in regard to how many jobs will be lost in Manitoba? How many people will be laid off if the Minister wants to put it in that sense so he does not get into the balance sheet discussion? How many people will lose their jobs because of free trade?

Mr. Connelly: As I pointed out to the Member that Industry, Trade and Technology is doing the impact study as to what implications. That is their realm. They are in the business side. They will be examining what industries will be negatively impacted, also working with the majority of industries who will be positively impacted and create those extra jobs that all Manitobans need. Our job is, when there is a negative impact, to be prepared to work with those employees to make the adjustment. There are going to be some casualties. I do not think there is any question that we can deny. The improvement in the labour numbers is where the gains are going to be. So where we have people maybe being negatively impacted by the free trade we will have more than enough jobs to replace their needs and find them, maybe in many cases, a better job opportunity.

Mr. Ashton: I am wondering if the Minister will focus in on my major concern. I realize IT and T may be doing a study from the business side, in the Minister's own words. My concern is with the workers.

It seems to me, if we are going to have programs in place to deal with the impacts of free trade that we have to have some estimate of the number of jobs that we are going to lose. When I talk about programs I am talking about adjustment programs, training programs, some of the items that the NDP caucus has been raising in the Legislature for example. Can the Minister not indicate or make some commitment for the Department of Labour itself to be involved either with that study or conduct a separate study with a specific focus of the needs of the workers that will be laid off because of the Free Trade Agreement?

Mr. Connelly: There is a National Advisory Council on Adjustment that was established in January of 1988. We are working with that Adjustment Council. But as

the Member should know, and he should know but obviously he does not, that until we get into the free trade deal we are not absolutely sure where the casualties might occur.

As he should know, the change to free trade is not going to happen on January 1 of 1989, it is going to happen over a period of time. There is going to be a 10-year period for most things. In the horticultural industry, there is a 20-year snap-back provision so we can have protection. It will happen very slowly. Businesses, in most cases, will have an opportunity to adjust. I do not think anybody can predict today which companies are going to be the real big winners and those few that maybe will not be able to make it under free trade.

Free trade is not an open pocketbook to money, an open cheque. Free trade is a window of opportunity so it will depend a lot on the management and the desire of companies that want to really get involved in free trade. We see them coming out on a daily basis saying very happily that free trade is here, so I think the fact that businesses are excited about free trade means one thing, that we are going to create jobs. Because if a business expands, it does not do it without creating jobs and this, I think, will be the final result.

Mr. Ashton: Yes, I once again ask that this Minister conduct such an examination. It is amazing that this Minister who has been supporting free trade so vehemently now says: we do not know what is going to happen.

I think that has been worrying those of us who oppose the free trade deal over this last period of time, but since the federal election results made free trade a fait accompli, I think those of us who have been warning against the negative impacts of free trade would like supporters of it, like the Minister to provide some programs.

In fact I would like to ask the Minister of Labour (Mr. Connelly), will he commit his Government to providing assistance to workers affected by the layoffs, by first of all supporting the Plant Closure Bill that was introduced by our caucus?

Secondly, providing funding for adjustment committees—because I know of at least one case, the Wescott workers, have been having great difficulty in obtaining funding for their adjustment committee, funding that was provided by the previous Government to laid off workers. It is only a matter of a few thousand dollars but they are being told that is no longer something that is the policy of the Government.

Thirdly, will the Minister agree to himself undertake to consult with business and labour officials and other Manitobans dealing with the negative effects of free trade so that when we do discuss this next year, we will at least have some idea of what is going to happen and what is going to be in place, because it is easy to talk about a balance sheet. But if you are talking about workers in, say, the garment industry, a lot of people are worried, I know, in the garment industry that they are going to be out of a job, period, because they will not be able to be retrained because the jobs

that will be created, if any, from the Free Trade Agreement will not be jobs that they can take up. So will the Minister agree to a comprehensive package to deal with the workers who are going to be affected?

Mr. Connelly: The money for the adjustment is under Employment Services, under the Minister of Community Services (Mrs. Oleson) so that is where the money would come from for that kind of a program. You could question the Minister of Community Services on that particular issue.

Mr. Patterson: I would just like to echo some of the concerns of my Honourable Friend from Thompson. With free trade, obviously there is no question about it, there are winners and there are losers and the reason it is gone into is that the estimates are that there will be more winners than losers.

But the concern is that the losers be given some, let us say, "soft landing." I think this is an important point. Regardless of which department it comes directly under, that anticipation be made of what the effects might be in Manitoba and also, given that it is a federal initiative, that the Government go hard after their federal friends for substantial support in whatever might be needed. I can make one prediction with absolute certainty and that is that the future is uncertain.

We would hope that now that free trade is a fait accompli that it will result in overall good for the country and of course for Manitoba generally, but we do have to be concerned about those who are going to be hurt by it. Undoubtedly there will be some companies or industries and of course both the workers, and the owners and managers involved.

Mr. Connelly: I agree with the Member for Radisson (Mr. Patterson) that the future is uncertain. I am always thankful in the morning when I wake up that I am still here. But I do not think that anybody can predict, and if the Members opposite can tell me what areas are going to be net losers or what areas are going to be impacted, I have my feelings that what we will see in the Campbell Soup Plant, for instance, in Portage La Prairie, my constituency, I think she will see a rationalization of what lines they run. Certain lines right now because of tariffs, they will run a celery line. Maybe I am just guessing, but using that as an instance, celery soup might not be run in the Portage plant, but the other areas. Potato soup and your vegetable soup, because of the high quality and low cost of our product here, you will see more of it done and you will see changes within plants.

Certain lines will because of their nature be dropped, but other lines will expand. So that rationalization will take place with many, many industries. It has over the years with many industries. You can take a look at the horticultural industry, which I am very familiar with, where 20 years ago or 30 years ago you grew 25 or 30 varieties of vegetables, and now you will see large growers growing four or five varieties and doing it very well. That is a rationalization of the times. I think that will happen also with industry. Certain lines will be dropped and other lines will be expanded. Where we

are most competitive will be the areas that we will expand in.

* (1520)

Mr. Chairman: On item (c)(1) Salaries.

Mr. Ashton: In fact, I will defer to the Minister in terms of his preference. I know there is a different practice sometimes in dealing with the items, whether they are dealt with under more general categories, such as Research and Planning or under specific items.

Some of the questions I have, for example, are related to legislative items which do not easily fall under a particular category. But if the Minister has a category when I do raise a question, or if the Opposition critic feels it is better raised under an item, I will be willing to raise it.

Mr. Connery: Yes, what is the item?

Mr. Ashton: For example, my next series of questions in regard to first contract legislation.

Mr. Connery: Sure, go ahead.

Mr. Ashton: Okay, I will deal with it if it is okay. My question is there has been considerable criticism in the past by the Conservative Party, by Conservative Members of the Legislature, first contract legislation when it was introduced and subsequently—and I know the Labour critic, the current Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae) was particularly vociferous in his criticism of first contract legislation. What I would like to ask the Minister is what the experience has been with first contract legislation and whether this Government has now changed its mind on first contract legislation, and will permit that item to continue in legislation based on what I feel is a very positive experience.

Mr. Connery: There has been no commitment from this Government to, at this point, make any other immediate changes in some of those, the first contract. There are a lot of people who are very concerned about it, that it is not a good labour relations tool. But at this point, there has been no indication or suggestion that we will be making changes at it. There are no promises down the road, anything can happen.

We do know that we are working towards a new Labour Code that we think will enhance the protection of workers as far as getting their money and protection for a lot of many, many things. I think the Member, when we finally bring it forth, will be very pleased that a Conservative Government—he will start to realize that a Conservative Government is truly, truly concerned about the workers of Manitoba.

Mr. Ashton: Mr. Chairperson, if the Minister wants to bring in the employment standards legislation that we had committed ourselves to, if he wants to bring in the plant closure legislation that we had committed ourselves to, as a Government, I will be very interested to see that. But thus far, all we have heard from the Minister on items that have been raised are rollbacks

of final offer selection and no commitment to do anything in terms of plant closure and employment standards. So let us not hear those hollow words, like I said, for working people.

I would like to ask the Minister again on first contract legislation. My understanding was that the Premier had said that this Government would not proceed with changes because of the fact that the first contract legislation had been held up on the grounds of the Charter of Rights question.

When this was a theme that the Conservatives raised in regard to other legislation, I know the previous critic, once again the Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae), raised concern about several provisions of The Labour Relations Act that had been in place for years, which had violated the Charter.

Is the Minister now saying that he, as Minister of Labour, does not agree with the Premier, and that first contract legislation is still on the table, is still being looked at as possible area of change or deletion? Or is he in fact supporting the Premier's position that this Government not proceed with changes to first contract legislation?

Mr. Connery: As the Member should know Governments continuously look at all aspects of their legislation regardless of what department. So we will be looking at many, many aspects of labour legislation to improve things for the workers of Manitoba, to improve the business climate, and to improve the labour relations climate. We will continue to examine and to bring in new initiatives where we see them required and there are many areas that disturb me as far as the business community where we see people being hired on piecework so they can get away from paying the payroll tax and Workers Compensation, etc. There are many areas that I see that we have to bring in improvements to protect labour, to protect unions, and to protect companies that have unionized labour. So I am very concerned that we do not see a degradation of wages, the minimum wage, by circumventing the rules.

I can tell you that we have had very many discussions with our staff pertaining to those sorts of things as to what we can do and we also talked on a continuous basis with labour unions and with the MFL. We have a monthly meeting to discuss issues. Many of them were on side—and understand the concerns they have. But before we go on, I was remiss in not introducing the staff to you and I apologize and I think I should.

The Deputy Minister is Tanner Elton. The Assistant Deputy is Tom Bleasdale; Jim Nykoluk is with Research and Planning; Jim McFarlane is Personnel; and Jim Wood is Finance.

Mr. Ashton: I am sorry if I missed it but I do not think the Minister answered the question and referred to other areas that he is looking at. He did not answer my question on first contract legislation. I will maybe ask it this way: has the Minister looked at the record of that legislation? I mentioned earlier that the strike rate under the years of the New Democratic Party

Government was I think the second lowest in Canada, was considerably lower than the period of the previous Conservative Government. I have already expressed my concern in committee that some of the changes this Government is talking about will take us back to the Sterling Lyon era, and take us into an era that I think we have seen in British Columbia with a higher strike rate than is currently in place.

The reason I am raising the first contract legislation is that I think one of the key reasons we want to avoid strikes is that often strikes occur in the case of a first contract situation where unions are fighting for recognition from the employer. First contract legislation has provided an alternative to strikes. Now I want to ask the Minister, has he looked at the first contract legislation and will he now say publicly, to calm the fears of many working people in Manitoba that have used that mechanism and will be using in the future, that this Government will not change legislation in regard to first contract legislation?

Mr. Connery: Once again, the Member knows full well that departments do ongoing studies of various components of their legislation. We have done several studies and we will continue to do studies, that is what we have departments for. But as a Government, until we make decisions and changes and before they have gone through Cabinet as the Member well knows, then our announcements will come forth. So I do not see any worry or need for the labour force in Manitoba to be concerned about a Conservative Government, because what we do and what we bring in in labour legislation will indeed be in the best interest of the labour force in Manitoba.

Mr. Ashton: I am asking if the Minister is going to conduct research. I am raising this in this area as a concern because in the area of final offer selection we have seen that no consultation was done, nobody was asked for their experience. The Minister just went from the Conservative agenda, he mentioned it as being an election promise. Obviously, that is the driving force behind it and this concern in regard to this area. It is fine for the Minister to bring up platitudes about working people but this is an item of legislation that has helped prevent strikes, unnecessary strikes, helped provide contract resolution to many cases, many contracts across Manitoba.

Why will he not conduct research into this area? Why will he not talk to people who had experience with it and why, when his Premier apparently had said that they will not proceed with first contract legislation, does the Minister refuse himself to say that first contract legislation is here to stay. I cannot quite understand the Minister's reluctance to say that the Conservative Party was wrong on first contract legislation and it should be here to stay.

* (1530)

Mr. Connery: Once again, I will echo the comment of the Member of Radisson (Mr. Patterson). The future is pretty hard to determine. So you cannot forecast into the future as to what will happen and who will even

be the Minister in the future. I cannot commit future Ministers. All I can say is that at this point there has been no decision, in fact no investigation of any degree to make these changes. We are looking at the positive side as bringing in a new Labour Code. That is where my thrust will be and to try to bring in the best Labour Code that we can.

As you know, the Member well knows, that the new Labour Code really sets some bottom lines for all employees in Manitoba, including unions. But basically, it will protect the non-unionized worker to the greatest extent who in many cases do not have these bottom-line protections. But I think the Member also should know that I think Justice Ferg's decision on first contract indicates that labour laws are the domain of provincial Governments and will not go to charter compliance. I think that is the biggest decision that came out there. So the ball is in our court. We do not have to go to the Charter of Compliance I do not think. These are all decisions that can be made, but I am sure that decision will be taken to the Supreme Court before it is finally resolved. I do not think that it will die there but in the interim that was the decision or the verdict of Judge Ferg.

Mr. Chairman: Research and Planning: (c)(2) Other Expenditures, \$59,400—pass; (d) Financial and Administrative Services: (1) Salaries, \$477,200—pass; (2) Other Expenditures, \$36,000—pass.

Section No. 2. Labour (a) Division Administration: (1) Salaries, \$210,600—the Member for Radisson.

Mr. Patterson: Under Salaries, the item of Professional and Technical salaries, there is no increase in the number of staff years. Assuming the three individuals are the same, there is a marked increase in the total, close to 50 percent, which is more than would be accounted for by the more or less normal cost-of-living, across-the-board increases, plus any standard or merit increments. I am just wondering what might be in that roughly \$40,000 increase.

Mr. Connery: What page are you on?

Mr. Patterson: Page 35.

Mr. Connery: Yes, there was a worker adjustment in that particular—which was the bulk of it. Keep in mind in the Salaries, while you are looking at an overall, I think it was 3 percent overall increase. By the time you take pay equity and increment adjustments, the overall salaries are about a 5 percent increase, but then if you get a major adjustment it can play a major role.

Mr. Patterson: Just what do you mean by a "major adjustment"? Maybe a particularly large pay equity percentage increase to the same three individuals?

Mr. Connery: The increased salary was related to the plant closures, to assist in that particular area. It was a position added for plant closures.

Mr. Patterson: I am not clear, Mr. Chairperson. There are three positions in one column and three in the other.

Mr. Connery: Yes, the position was there previously but had not been staffed. The position was in the total. The position was there but not filled and that is why the increase. Now the position is filled. So you can have a staff year indicated but if it is not filled then there is no salary. Follow it?

Mr. Patterson: I was just going to ask—my naivete in some of this shows, I guess—I assume that under the column Staff Years, those are actual physical bodies rather than a line that might or might not be occupied by that body. It is merely the—

Mr. Connery: I think we have solved the puzzle. The previous year they were told to find—the position was they brought it in but they were told to find the money from within, where this year the money is being projected. Instead of finding it in another department, they were told—which Governments have the ability to do. You get a little bit here and a little bit there, that this shows the staffing for that fifth person, where really the money, the \$165,000, represented the funds or the salaries for four people, and the fifth one was found from within the Government, within the Department of Labour, where this year the five positions are there and funded totally as you see there. Does that make it clear to you?

Mr. Patterson: Not quite. Mr. Chairperson, to get down to the—forgetting about the total, the other two lines with the managerial and administrative support are more or less normal but the column "Staff Years," let me clarify. Does that mean the staff entitlement, where here we have let us say an entitlement of three staff years where there might only be two that are filled at the particular moment? Are you saying that under the Adjusted Vote column, three individuals are paid a total of \$80,500 and now the projection for this coming year is that those same three individuals will get almost \$120,000.00? That is what puzzles me.

Mr. Connery: The \$80,500 was the salary for two employees. There were three but they were told by whatever to find the money from other departments. So the funding was only there for two people, which would represent approximately \$40,000 per person, where in these Estimates we are showing the full funding for the three, which now makes it approximately \$40,000 again. While they had to look for the funding for the third person within the department, this year we are showing the funding in total. So there were five people. There was a person brought on prior, put in and they were told to find the funding from within from other areas of the department.

Mr. Chairman: Item 2.(a)(1)—pass; 2.(a)(2) Other Expenditures \$15,200—pass.

Item 2.(b) Mechanical and Engineering: (1) Salaries \$1,493,100.00.

Mr. Patterson: I just want to inquire in regard to the note 1, the reduction of three staff years, this would draw from Propane Fuel Vehicle Inspection. Does that mean this was allocated to some other department or

for some reason it is no longer necessary to have this inspection process?

Mr. Connery: Under the Mechanical, there was reduction of three staff years. This reflects the elimination of the two positions involved in the Propane Vehicle Inspection Program and a reduction of one staff year assigned to the Gas Inspection Program. This latter position has been utilized during the 1987-88 to employ a legal researcher to assist in the Labour Standards Review which was being undertaken at that time.

The propane now is being looked after by the Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation. So those positions became redundant.

Mr. Patterson: The item under Salaries of \$53,900 on Severance Pay and Vacation Pay on Retirement. Just what specifically would this apply to these three positions we were just discussing?

Mr. Connery: Could you repeat that question please?

Mr. Patterson: The item Severance and Vacation Pay on Retirement of \$53,900, does that apply to the three individuals we were just referring to?

Mr. Connery: When people retire, there is severance, vacation on retirement. Those were two long-term employees that went there. That is the reason for that.

* (1540)

Mr. Patterson: Well severance paid to me implies something other than retiring. When one retires, one does not get any severance pay although one would get, of course, any unused vacation entitlement. Does the severance mean the severance for one or more of these individuals who had to be laid off due to the change in the fuel inspection and so on, who had to be laid off before their time so to speak?

Mr. Connery: These are long-term employees where they get separation pay, 15 weeks each, plus vacation and so forth. The department says this is where this particular section comes in. It is under the terms of the collective agreement that these conditions are there. They are entitled to this. Of course, when they retire they get this.

Mr. Ashton: I have a number of questions related to one of the functions of this particular section which is in regard to the inspection of amusement rides. I know earlier this summer there was yet another incident involving an amusement ride in which somebody was injured. I know for the last couple of years there have been a number of cases where people have been injured and at least one case that I recall where at least one person had died. I would like to ask the Minister what degree of inspection does exist at the present time in regard to amusement rides?

Mr. Connery: There was no major change from the previous. In the spring when they start up they do an inspection. All of the major rides, where the one

individual had the unfortunate fatality at the Red River Ex, the equipment had been inspected prior and it was human error that was in that one. As I will tell the Member, to do with the fairs and so forth I am concerned with them and I have instructed staff to—also from the employees of these—ensure that the standards are being followed. A lot of them come in from out of province and we are very concerned that the workers are hired temporarily, to ensure that yes hard hats should be available and steel-toed shoes, so the regular things that go with amusement rides and that they are in place. Some of them are on a permanent basis as you know and some of them are on a temporary basis as the Red River Ex, they come and go.

Mr. Ashton: I have a particular concern about some of the temporary ones, particularly the increasing number of amusement rides you see in the shopping mall parking lots. Having seen a condition myself, in some cases I would not want my kids on some of those rides. They are often put up very hastily. I realize there is an inspection program in place but I am wondering if the Minister feels it is satisfactory in dealing with particularly those—in fact some of them are so temporary there are just there for a weekend—whether that is safe for the public?

Mr. Connelly: I can assure the Member having four, five grandchildren now—I almost forgot our last little addition—that yes we are concerned about it. We have had discussions within our department. When we had two or three accidents we wanted to ensure that we are doing an adequate inspection service, so we are looking at the inspection program. This is not one that is new to me. It is one that I have been concerned with so we will be looking to ensure that our program is adequate. As you know, there is no way to prevent anything from ever happening but we sure want to make sure our program is in place and an adequate program. I thank the Member for that question.

Mr. Ashton: I am wondering too if this will come under the jurisdiction of this department. Probably it does not but I also have a concern with regard to the condition of playground equipment. I have seen some cases where it has been badly deteriorated. I realize it probably does not come under the jurisdiction of this department but I am just wondering if there is any provincial jurisdiction or whether it possibly could be brought under that because in many cases the equipment is not in good condition. It is not kept up.

There is more recent equipment available that is far safer. I have seen some of it actually in a couple of European countries and they are decades ahead. They have moved away from the metal type of equipment that we have seen in the past. I am wondering if there is any way in which this department, and the reason I raise that is because it does have the background of the amusement rides which I think is somewhat akin to the playground equipment, whether there is any way in which this department could establish standards or test playground equipment?

Mr. Connelly: They come under municipal jurisdiction, parks and recreation, City of Winnipeg. They come under municipal or city jurisdiction.

Mr. Chairman: Item 2.(b)(1)—pass; 2.(b)(2) Other Expenditures, \$310,700—pass.

Item 2.(c) Fire Prevention: (1) Salaries \$1,407,000.00.

Mr. Patterson: Again, while I do not want to criticize the drive for maintaining services in a more efficient manner, but again, the elimination of one professional/technical staff year with Fire Prevention in a very important part of the department's mandate, can the services be continued to be provided in a effective and safe manner with the production in this type of staff, as opposed to administrative support or managerial staff?

Mr. Connelly: This individual was a Technical Services officer and had been in place as a secretarial support when they were reviewing the labour standards, and that is completed.

Mr. Patterson: Thank you.

Mr. Ashton: I am wondering if the Minister is considering any review of the current fire safety standards. I know this is an item I have raised in debate in the Legislature on his Bill in regard to the Fire Commissioner's Office, or fire colleges actually. The reason I raised that is because I realize there are codes in place and there are difficulties with jurisdiction related to the municipal jurisdiction and the provincial jurisdiction.

I will give you just a quick example and that is with the availability of smoke detectors. I have had people living in apartments raise their concern about the fact that, because the apartments were built before a certain period of time, there is no requirement for smoke detectors in those apartments. I know in my own area there have been a number of fires in apartments recently where people have been killed because of the smoke, rather than the fire damage itself.

A son of a very good friend of mine, who I know personally, lost his wife and young child in a fire in that situation and it is particularly a problem in tenancy situations because I think more and more people are using smoke detectors in their own dwellings, single-unit family dwellings, but I have had people raise concern about the fact that there is no requirement to have very inexpensive smoke detectors that could make a major difference in regard to a fire situation.

So I am wondering if there is any way of reviewing the fire standards to make that compulsory.

* (1550)

Mr. Connelly: Yes, I think I would be very pleased to take a second look at that particular area. That is a good point and I would be pleased to review it. As you know, in 1990, there is a whole new building code coming out and also we are publishing some new fire codes which are out now, so those are new codes.

Also, with the Fire Prevention Fund, we are looking at trying to access that to enhance our Fire Prevention Program because, as the Member probably knows,

there are about \$4 million, or close to \$4 million, \$3.8 I think is the exact figure. If you look at it on a given day, it could be more, but when you look at where the low point will be this year, it would be around 3.8, so that is really what we have. We are looking, in consultation with insurance companies and with the fire chiefs, and I have had several meetings with the various fire departments over proposals that we are looking at and we will continue. Not continue to look, eventually at some point in time, we will be coming through with programs.

Mr. Ashton: In regard to the information, I am wondering if the Minister has any plans in regard to some of the fire hazards that I think exist in the everyday home situation. I will give you an example, and that is with furniture. In this particular case I refer to where the wife and child of this person I know died. It was because of the fact that the furniture was very combustible, produced noxious gases that this fire took place. I know there has been some attention to that nationally although I do not believe they have adopted standards in that regard.

It is a similar situation, for example, that has developed in regard to night clothing. A lot of children, their parents are purchasing night clothing that is a fire hazard without their knowledge. I am wondering if there have been any developments at the federal level or if the Minister could lobby for improved standards to prevent that? Also, whether part of the program in Manitoba of fire prevention information could be to advise parents of some of the dangers with that night clothing or advise people generally of some of the dangers especially with some of the cheaper types of furniture? I think we could probably document a significant number of the "smoke related" deaths actually occurred because of noxious fumes.

Mr. Connerly: The department, after there is a fire, does do an investigation and takes samples of material that has burnt and make recommendations.

Of course, with clothing, there are Canadian standards. There are Canadian standards for most items. As you know, we are being more rigid with what is allowed in materials so that children do not get injured, whether it be how well fastened parts of a doll, maybe an eye or something, that does not come off in a child's mouth. All of these things are an ongoing concern. I think every time there are new codes and regulations that are brought out, they are more stringent.

Mr. Ashton: A final point of concern I have in regards to Fire Prevention. I do not know how I could put this, but I know of landlords, certainly in the city, I know in my own area, who are notorious for not maintaining fire extinguishers, for example, not maintaining fire exits in proper order, in general, not following fire standard codes. I know there is always the excuse given. It has been given to me directly in some cases that I have raised that oh well, the fire extinguishers are empty or people steal them, whatever. I guess my concern is that whether that is the fact or not, the tenants in that building are often put at risk. I am wondering if the

Minister is going to undertake a review of current enforcement provisions?

I realize once again you have the municipal jurisdiction to deal with again. Also the penalties because I am very concerned. I know in my own area, and I think it is probably the same case particularly in the core area of Winnipeg, that you do get fires where the damage and the injury and possibly the death is promoted by the fact that the provisions that are normally there are not kept up. I know myself, in terms of checking fire extinguishers in my own area, that when you go into an apartment block you find they are empty. I am wondering if the Minister could indicate if there is going to be any review to tighten up the enforcement of that particular area.

Mr. Connerly: We are always looking at trying to tighten up on enforcement. It might surprise the Member for Thompson, but I am much on going after people who abuse the law and look at ways of making the penalties severe enough that people do not try to side step following the laws.

The new Environment Act has now some very substantial penalties and under the Hazardous Goods, Handling and Transportation, where prior it was cheaper for somebody to dispose of the hazardous waste in an unsafe way and pay the penalty if they got caught, it was cheaper than the disposal, but now with these severe penalties, yes. So I do favour penalties that deter people from breaking the law.

As we know, we have seen some tragic fires. We had one in Portage la Prairie in 1977 where several of the mentally handicapped, I think it was seven or nine, perished in that fire. It was faulty equipment that was responsible for that fire—very tragic. The Member at the end of the table recognized—and I think was in Portage at that time if I am not mistaken. Fire is a very, very terrible thing.

I experienced first hand, on our own farm, when careless smoking, on December 31, 1977, when one of our employees perished in the fire. That is not a very nice situation to go through. So we are very concerned about, and I am personally very concerned about, fire and tragedy that is associated. If there is no injury, just the dislocation, and your family's memorabilia that you can never replace is very tragic. So fire prevention is very high in our minds. This is why with the Fire Prevention Fund to be able to maybe access more of that money in a very appropriate way with consultation to improve it. It is to reduce and eliminate fire causes. We will never eliminate every one but to minimize it.

Mrs. Iva Yeo (Sturgeon Creek): Mr. Chairperson, I have not been asking questions for awhile so you will forgive me if you have answered some of these. I must admit I was listening with only one ear. The Fire Prevention College in Brandon, have there been any questions asked with regard to that particular college?

Mr. Connerly: No.

Mrs. Yeo: Can the Minister tell me if graduates from this program are ever hired in the City of Winnipeg in the Winnipeg Fire Department?

Mr. Connery: There have been some differences over standards between the City of Winnipeg and the standards at the college. They are being resolved now. They are working together so that there will be a common standard for the province so that the City of Winnipeg would hire people out of there. Also the City of Winnipeg is looking at putting recruits through the Brandon Fire College. Part of the problem has been transportation to get people from Winnipeg to the college. To my knowledge it is next to the college. I have not had the opportunity to tour it yet but when we quit sitting, whenever it is going to be, this year, next year or the year after, I want to have the opportunity to tour it.

Mrs. Yeo: I think we all have a great and growing list of mid-Session activities that we are hoping to accomplish. I hope the mid-Session will be long enough for us to accomplish all of these wonderful things. However, what about those students who have in the past taken courses at the Fire College in Brandon who have been unsuccessful in locating positions in and around the City of Winnipeg. They would not have followed the new proposed curriculum or have been privy to the better consultative approach that the Minister has said is going to be used. What about these people who have spent time, energy and funds and I believe also have received funding from the province to attend this course? Are these people going to be recognized?

* (1600)

Mr. Connery: A lot of them are in the volunteer fire brigades around Manitoba. We have 17 mutual aid districts within the province. I met with them last Saturday in Portage La Prairie. They had their annual meeting out there and we met with them. There might have unfortunately been some of these people who did not qualify but if they are with the volunteer they could pick up enough training that would allow them to get into Winnipeg. Now with the standardization of the training this will not happen in the future.

Mrs. Yeo: I think that would be a small blessing for an individual with whom I have spoken on several occasions, who is a young fellow who lives in the City of Winnipeg who would very much like to find employment, who has shared with me some of the magnificent text books which he was required to purchase and claims that the grades that he received were very good. However, he has not been able to find employment and he says that in fact he has been told that the Fire College was not recognized. Yet he spent a significant period of time and a fair bit of money and was out of the workforce for a substantial period of time and feels that there should be better communication. I am certainly pleased to hear that at long last, I gather, this is going to happen.

Mr. Connery: I do not want to criticize previous Governments. We learn as we go on and we improve as time goes by. We do what we think is good and sometimes it turns out that it was not adequate so you continue to improve. I can assure you what we are

doing today will be a big improvement in 10 years but another 10 years down the road, what we were doing will look inadequate. So that is just the progress and it is unfortunate that some of these things do happen.

Mr. Chairman: 2.(c) Fire Prevention: (1) Salaries—pass; (c)(2) Other Expenditures, \$468,100—pass; (c)(3) Engineering and Technical Services, \$442,500—pass.

2.(d) Employment Standards: (1) Salaries, \$1,244,100.00.

Mr. Ashton: I have a series of issues I would like raised that relate to Employment Standards. First I would like to begin with regard to the minimum wage. I know the Minister got into a considerable amount of difficulty earlier this Session when he intimated that initially the minimum wage should be reduced for young people. It took the intervention of the Premier, under great pressure I might add, from the Opposition to correct the Minister's initial statement and there was quite a big concern expressed at the time about the basis on which the Minister was making these kinds of statements. I would like to ask the Minister now, it has been several months, can he now indicate clearly and categorically that there will be no differentiation in the minimum wage between young people and workers in general?

Mr. Connery: We never indicated that there would be a reduction. So if that is on the table or people think that is there, that is misinformation. We never did indicate that there would be a reduction of any wages.—(Interjection)—No, I did not lose my head, Harry, and you have only asked me to resign twice and I thought you were going to do it three times this year. So, this is your chance. You could not get a time in the House.

But I think whatever we do, the minimum wage has to be what is in the best interests of people and, in young people of course, as you know there was a differential for those under 18. There was a lower wage than those over 18. I have had many people talk to me and say that because there is no differential, they are having difficulty getting employment because with the number of young people that are around—of over 18—that those people are finding work first and the younger ones are not.

So there has been no decision to make any change from what is current, there has been no discussions along this line but we did feel that it was important. Saskatchewan found the same thing, that when they eliminated that lower minimum wage for the very young employees that there was more of them unemployed. I guess whatever happens will be whatever we do. At this point, there is no indication that we would make a change, but whatever we do will be in consultation and the decision will be in the best interests of the young employees, and of course all employees. Those are the decisions that we have to make with very serious consideration and very, very exhaustive studies to ensure that what we are doing is on the right track.

Mr. Ashton: I do not want to play games with words and I want to nail it down on behalf of the young people

of this province, so they know the Minister's intention and this Government's intentions.

He says there was no intent to reduce the minimum wage. Will he now also say that this Government will not re-establish a differential? There are two ways you can establish a differential. One is you immediately reduce the minimum wage for young people; or else the other way is next time there is an increase in the minimum wage, generally, you do not increase the wage for young people. I think young people would be concerned about either move because once again it would reintroduce wage discrimination, which I would argue actually is contrary to the Charter of Rights. That is one of the main reasons that we previously in the New Democratic Party had changed the regulations to establish one minimum wage for everyone, which is the situation in the majority of provinces in this country.

So is the Minister not only saying he will not reduce the minimum wage for young people? Is he also now echoing what I think the Premier was saying, and that there will be no differentiation period between young people and other workers?

Mr. Connery: Well, the Member is right when he said that he thinks it is contrary to the Charter of Rights, and I think the Member is right.

Some other provinces have made for a work experience a short period of time where they would work at a lower salary till they achieved work experience. That has been done. No decision along any of these lines has been undertaken, or no studies have been done at any point for any move in this direction.

Mr. Ashton: I take it that means they are not moving ahead and I am pleased to hear that. I would like to ask a question in terms of the minimum wage generally.

Over the last number of years there were a series of increases in the minimum wage. I believe the last one came into effect over a year ago and I am wondering if the Minister could indicate the intentions of this Government in regard to the minimum wage. The previous practice was to attempt to keep minimum wage increases at least in line with the cost of living. Is that going to be the intention of this Government, and if so when can workers expect an increase in the minimum wage in Manitoba?

Mr. Connery: There is a Minimum Wage Board chaired by Wally Fox-Decent. As you know, Wally Fox chairs several boards for the provincial Government and a very fair and good resource for—he has done a good job in previous years and I think that he is doing an excellent job for us.

Manitoba's minimum wage is in the higher realm. I think there is one province that is higher. Well, the Yukon Territories is \$5.39. In the provinces we see \$4.75 in Quebec and Ontario and Manitoba is \$4.70, so we are just below the two provinces, the two large provinces of Quebec and Ontario. We can look at some of the others. Some of the others have \$4.00 is the lowest and \$4.25 for Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island. The Federal minimum wage is \$4.00.

Mr. Ashton: Is the Minister then saying that this Government does not plan to increase the minimum wage to keep up with the cost of living, because of the fact we are one of the highest in the area of minimum wage? Personally I feel that is a positive sign for Manitoba.

Like I said previously, we have consistently increased the minimum wage. I know it was done under the New Democratic Party by an average of about 4.4 percent a year, which is in keeping with the cost of living. It was increased effective September 1, 1987. As of April 1, 1988 the youth minimum wage was adjusted to the adult wage.

My question is can those who are on minimum wage—and there are many in Manitoba on minimum wage—expect some sort of indexing of their minimum wage earnings as was the case under the New Democratic Party? Or is this Government now saying that because we have had one of the better records in terms of the minimum wages in the past, that we are now not going to keep up with the increase in the cost of living, and the people earning minimum wage are going to fall further and further behind in terms of their purchasing power?

* (1610)

Mr. Connery: Well, the Member should know that the last increase was on April 1, 1988. It went from \$4.55 to \$4.75, so we are not even close to the year as you know. In the heavy construction industry, the Winnipeg construction and the rural construction there were increases that went through just not that long ago.

It is an area with those minimum wages and they go on. I erred. I must apologize. It is not Wally Fox-Decent, it is John Atwell that is the Chair of the Minimum Wage, so I do not want to mislead the meeting. We will be looking with John at all of these things.

(The Acting Chairman, Mr. Darren Praznik, in the Chair.)

Mr. Connery: As I said, those other three areas under the construction industry we moved. I must say the recommendations were unanimous from management and labour and they were in the area, I think of just over 3 percent on the average.—(Interjection)— Yes, 3 to 5 percent, but the average I think was just over 3 percent accepted by management and labour.

We want to take a look at the timing. I have had some concern from the rural people as to the timing of the minimum wage announcement as to how it should be done in the case of contracts being out and then they find that the wages are up and they have not allowed for it. That puts a bit of a tough spot on the employer who has to then pick that up. We are sure open to suggestions from Members opposite as to how we can improve it.

Mr. Ashton: I would suggest the best way of sending a signal to minimum wage earners, and there are many in Manitoba that earn minimum wage or close to minimum wage that would be affected by an increase

in minimum wage, and to businesses themselves, would be a commitment by this Minister and this Government to keep minimum wages in line with increases in the costs of living. I think if the Minister would make that commitment and communicate it to businesses, they would be able to account for that in their planning.

My concern is, and we heard it in the Chamber today, the Member for Brandon (Mr. Leonard Evans) was talking about increases in the cost of living of 5.7 percent in Winnipeg. We have to look at the situation facing the poor in Manitoba, both in terms of income security and in terms of the minimum wage. I want to ask the Minister in this area which is under his jurisdiction whether he will communicate to businesses and minimum wage earners that the Government will be committed to keeping up the minimum wage with the rate of inflation, including keeping it at the level of one of the highest in Canada, because as I said, I think that is positive for Manitoba and certainly positive for the poor in Manitoba. I am wondering if the Minister is willing to give that commitment.

Mr. Connery: Well, the process is no different than has been carried on for the previous many, many years as to review and we have a committee that does the review and makes recommendations to the Minister, then takes it naturally to Cabinet. That process will continue to review these minimum wages. As I said, the other three construction industry ones were processed in the same vein and we will continue to review the minimum wage. As I said, it was April 1 this year that the minimum wage was changed.

Mr. Ashton: I will certainly continue in this. I do not want to continue at this point because we have other matters to deal with, because I do hope the Government will continue the practice of increasing the minimum wage. I do have a question in regard to wages for the disabled. I am wondering if the Minister is reviewing the existing employment status regulations in regard to the disabled.

I know there were concerns expressed previously. I know the previous New Democratic Party Government was looking at a particular area, particularly sheltered workshops, whether it is fair and appropriate to exclude the disabled from minimum wage legislation. I am wondering in particular if the Minister has met with representatives of the disabled or will be meeting with the representatives of the disabled to discuss their concerns in this particular area?

Mr. Connery: Well, I am pleased to tell the Member, yes, last Friday, I spent four hours with the physically handicapped at their annual meeting in Portage listening to their concerns. This is not the first time. We have had several meetings with Mr. Lane and David Martin, I am sure that you know very well. These people have met with us and we are examining some of the things we can do. Accessibility to buildings is a very key issue and I sympathize. We have building codes. One of the concerns is that under the City of Winnipeg they have given too many variances and I would hope that practice would not be as prevalent as it has in the past.

I think the building codes are there to make it adequate accessibility. The Premier (Mr. Filmon) has

guaranteed our Government will work to ensure that as soon as possible all Government buildings have accessibility, which means some of the older buildings—do we have any left that still have some? I think we still have some with difficulty but we are working toward that direction.

As you know, as you go down the cities, you see sidewalks at the corners down to allow those in wheelchairs. It is not only those in wheelchairs who have disabilities, there are also those who have hearing impairments, sight impairments. There are many forms of physical disability that people have. Yes, indeed, we are concerned.

The minimum wage or the wages paid to the physically handicapped, as the Member well knows, is one that is not an easy one to resolve. The resolve can be achieved through massive amounts of money and I think what you see with the physically handicapped, and rightfully so, is their pride is being hurt and I agree with them. When somebody who does not have great capabilities because of their physical handicap is not being paid the minimum wage or wages that are comparable, their pride is in effect hurt.

We are working to try to resolve that particular issue. We have had several discussions on it. It is not a new issue for me within our department. We have discussed it and discussed the various pros and cons as to what we could do to resolve that, and I know the previous Government rassed and rassed with it. This is not a new item to come up with but we are working with them and hopefully we will find a resolve to it.

Mr. Ashton: I certainly hope the Minister will look at this particular area. I do believe the disabled have some very appropriate concerns about legislation and I talk to people. I think the Minister mentioned the right word in terms of pride, and also in terms of their concern about their financial position they are placed in because of the wages they are paid. I think it is an issue we should be dealing with.

I also have a further question in regard to Sunday shopping. As the Minister certainly is aware, we introduced Bill No. 7 which I believe came into effect July 1, 1987 with the agreement of all three Parties at that time which made amendments to the legislation, The Retail Businesses Holiday Closing Act, to ensure we did maintain as far as possible that there should be a day in which employees have a day of rest in which there is some recognition of the importance of families having that day. I am wondering if the Government is committed to going ahead with that legislation and maintaining it as it is.

Mr. Connery: There is no indication or any thought to changing. As you know, when the legislation was brought in our Party supported it fully and so did Mrs. Carstairs, Leader of the Liberal Party, supported that legislation, so I do not anticipate—I know there have been pressures. People are concerned but there is no thought on our part to change that.

Mr. Ashton: I have some questions in regard to employment standards generally. One area we were

looking at in the New Democratic Party was in the area of changes to employment standards, particularly changes that reflect the changing position of people in the workplace, the family responsibilities, etc. I am wondering if the Minister will bring in changes to employment standards that will recognize, for example, the role of parents in the workplace and will allow for greater recognition of their parental responsibilities, either in terms of pregnancy leaves—I suppose paternity leave because more and more fathers are wanting the opportunity to spend time with newborn children—whether it be in terms of sickness, because anybody I know with young children or who has had young children is aware of the burden that can place and the pressure it can place on people in the workplace. I wonder if the Minister has any plans on improving employment standards in this very important area.

Mr. Connery: The Member knows until legislation has gone through Cabinet and is introduced, we cannot get into the very specifics except, yes, the labour standards portion in the rough detail will be made public or sent out for public review for the employee side, the management side, for the general public side to have some input to this new Labour Code, but the absolute specifics as to what will be the outcome, of course, I cannot say until we have it in print form. I am sure the Member for Thompson (Mr. Ashton) will be very pleased with the final results of our negotiations and deliberations. I think he will be very pleased with the Labour Code that will be coming forth under this Government.

Mr. Ashton: I would be pleased if the Minister takes the legislation that we have committed ourselves to introducing. We will be watching to see if that occurs and certainly pushing for it, especially after the last statement by the Minister. We will be holding him to the statements he has made in committee.

A further question to the Minister though is, when is he planning on bringing in this particular legislation since we are obviously going to be in Session for a considerable period of time in this Session? Will he commit himself to bringing in that legislation this Session, as was the announced intention of the previous NDP Government?

* (1620)

Mr. Connery: It is kind of interesting for the Member to say he will be comparing what we bring in to what they were developing. Is the Member saying that he has got a copy of the legislation that was being developed?

Mr. Ashton: I do not know if it is appropriate for Ministers to ask critics questions, but I can certainly indicate that we committed in the Throne Speech, and we were committed to major improvements in The Employment Standards Act—a completely new Act. I want to put the Minister on notice that we still intend to fight for the kinds of provisions that we had outlined. I do not know if he is playing games here, but he should be aware that a considerable amount of work was done. In fact, it was announced in the previous Throne Speech,

a considerable amount of work was done in terms of employment standards.

My main question was when is the Minister going to act? Is he going to act this Session? He seemed fit to bring in final offer selection legislation this Session. I think he has hurried it in. He has not looked at the facts of final offer selection, but will he act just as expeditiously on a positive note, at least in terms of employment standards? Will he bring it in this Session?

Mr. Connery: We believe that the repeal of final offer selection was a positive thing to do. No, the Labour Code will not be introduced this Session because there is not enough time frame. I know that the previous Government was going to attempt to introduce it and the Workers Compensation legislation this term. I can see by the amount of work that we have had to do, the amount of work that is being done, that there would have been very little consultation with the various client groups to allow them to have input, because it was not ready to be introduced. It would have been a very quick and very shallow piece of legislation, and not having all client groups the opportunity to review it and have input to it.

So it will not be in this particular Session, but it is coming forward and yes, indeed, all client groups will have an opportunity to say what they think about it and what improvements or whatever, they would like to see in it.

Mr. Ashton: I can indicate, if the Minister does not give this item a priority, and I do not think it is fair for him to suggest that work had not been done. He knows that the NDP was committed. He knows that the election intervened. I expect out of this Government some movement on some of the important areas that I have identified. I can indicate, if the Government is not prepared to move, the NDP caucus will be proposing measures because these obviously are items that, I feel, cannot wait. We have got a changing work force out there. More and more women, in particular, are finding it difficult to get and stay in the labour force because of some of these pressures.

I am just wondering why the Minister now is putting changes to The Employment Standards Act on the back burner. Why will he not commit himself to this Session? I can tell him that with Bills like final offer selection before us, we are obviously going to be here for a considerable period of time, probably into the new year, and that is the choice this Government made. If we are going to be here why do we not do something productive for men and women in Manitoba, and bring in an important needed item of legislation, which are some major reforms to employment standards?

Mr. Connery: The Member of course is not privy to the inside of our discussions when I meet with staff. But I am sure if he wanted to meet with them privately and ask them if am I concerned about moving with this Bill, they would tell you, yes, indeed, that it was just only in the last week that we were discussing about the Bill and moving it along, making sure the various client groups have an opportunity to discuss it. It is

not on the back burner, it is on the front burner, but it is going to be introduced properly. It is going to be introduced after adequate consultation with all of the interested parties.

Mr. Ashton: If the Minister is not proceeding this Session, obviously it is not on the front burner. He has brought in final offer selection. That is obviously the priority of this Government, which is to live up to the agenda they had in the election, and for him to suggest that changes in employment standards is on the front burner just does not wash when we see the real priorities.

But I do have a couple of further questions in regard to employment standards, in regard in particular to enforcement. There has been a concern expressed in the past about the enforcement of employment standards legislation, both in regard to construction wages and in regard to employment standards generally. I am just wondering if the Minister is reviewing the current enforcement provisions in those areas.

Mr. Connery: We have had many discussions with our staff on an enforcement in many areas that I do not perceive to be adequate. We have discussed various means of improving enforcement. As you know, if an employer does not pay the full wages, that there are no fines or no penalties for not having paid their employees, and then the employees go to the Labour Board. They do get their resolve but there is no penalty, so the employer just pays the back wages, as you know. If an employer does not pay the full construction wages and is found out through an investigation or an audit, as the proper word is, and finds out that he has been paying an improper wage for the category of work being performed, that he is obligated to make up that difference and no penalty. I do have some concerns along that line that we want to ensure that it is not good to do this.

A construction unit was created and given responsibility for enforcing The Construction Industry Wages Act. There is investigating of all complaints under The Construction Industry Wages Act in the greater Winnipeg area, providing investigative support to regional officers, establishing procedures for dealing with habitual offenders. It is the position of employment standards that habitual offenders will be dealt with by simply proceeding to prosecution when violations have been proven. We are concerned about violations to standards. There is no question that improvements can be achieved along this line to make it not palatable for people to abuse the system.

Mr. Ashton: I would certainly urge the greater strengthening of penalties, because there is a clear pattern of habitual abusers of the rules. It is a small percentage of business, but there are some that I know that are particularly abusive of employment standards legislation. I have seen that particular case, where young people are employed and are often not given their full rights, their proper wages, etc.

What really concerns me is that most people will not go to the Department of Labour. They will not go to

the Labour Board. One of the reasons they will not go is because they know the difficulties that other people have had in getting what is due to them. I would suggest that unless we do strengthen the penalties that these businesses are going to continue. I am not saying they are a majority. It is a very small minority of businesses, but they are able to take advantage of the difficulties of getting an order from the Labour Board, the many hoops that have to be gone through. As I said, probably one out of ten people, in the case of these businesses, ever complained. So obviously, the other nine do not have their full rights.

It is really sad, actually, to talk to the young people affected. I have talked to people who have become very cynical about the whole system when they look at this. So I would certainly appreciate any action the Minister could take in this area.

Mr. Connery: I hope the Member is not being critical of the members of the Labour Board. I think they are doing a good service for the employees and employers in Manitoba.

* (1630)

Mr. Patterson: In respect to this matter of penalties, I would just like to make the comment that after a lifetime of intense research and observation, and state that the most sensitive part of the human anatomy is the pocket book. I fully support the efforts, that penalties have got to be bloody tough. The consequences of behaviour, in cases of breaking the law let us say, should be such that one does not indulge in that particular behaviour. So I strongly support very, very strong increases in penalties for violating these various acts and regulations.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Praznik): 2.(d) Employment Standards: (1) Salaries—pass; 2.(d)(2) Other Expenditures, \$139,400—pass; item 2.(d)(3) Payment of Wages Fund, \$320,000—pass.

Item 2.(e) Manitoba Labour Board: (1) Salaries, \$428,000—the Member for Thompson.

Mr. Ashton: Excuse me, I was just looking around the Labour Board.

Mr. Patterson: Note 1: Reduction of 1.26 staff years—I am wondering if there is some kind of typographical error there. If you reduce 1.26 from 6 is 4.74, then the .26 is inadvertently typed.

Mr. Connery: It is one of those weird anomalies that you find, and, yes, it is 26 weeks which is one-and-a-half staff years. It is the elimination of a half-time librarian position. You find this in many departments where an individual will work for two departments and there was a full-time case management clerk position as a general cost control measure.

Mr. Patterson: I am learning a lot the hard way.

Mr. Connery: Yes, but .6 does not mean a quarter of a staff year, it is 26 weeks.

Mr. Ashton: We just previously discussed the role of the Labour Board and one of the concerns I know that has been expressed by the Labour Board, by people involved with Labour Board, is the need for further resources for the Labour Board which reflect the increased responsibilities that the Labour Board has. There have been an increase in the number of acts which now come under the jurisdiction of the Labour Board. I am wondering why the Minister, or this Government I guess, chose not to proceed with the originally budgeted increase. In fact the original total would have been \$621,000 which would have at least gone partially towards reflecting the increased workload at the Manitoba Labour Board.

Mr. Connery: We realize the workload that the Labour Board is under and some of the time it takes to get a decision rendered and our department is actively reviewing this to see what can be done to make the workload compatible so that they can make their adjudications as quickly as possible.

Mr. Ashton: I would certainly appreciate it if that matter could be taken under consideration because I think even if the original \$621,000 had been allocated, that would have been an increase of \$31,000 and would at least started the process because when I talked about frustrations at Labour Board before—I am not talking about the individuals or the concept of the Labour Board—but one of the greatest frustrations is the backlog of cases at the Labour Board and it is going to get worse because of the increased number of Acts that now involve the Labour Board, included for example, The Workplace Safety and Health Act and the various items under the jurisdiction of this department. So I think there is going to have to be some significant increase in funding there or else there is going to be a continued, in fact, worsening backlog

Mr. Connery: Part of the problem is there used to be able to be one-member panels and the courts dictated that they had to be three-member panels which really has made it a lot busier because of having that three instead of one.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Praznik): 2.(e)(1) Salaries, \$171,700—pass; 2.(e)(2) Other Expenditures, \$171,700—pass.

Item 2.(f) Conciliation and Mediation Services: (1) Salaries, \$346,300.00.

Mr. Patterson: Some of these mediation services, Mr. Acting Chairman, I note that the retirement of the former director, I think it is about a year ago in May, where we had the director and four conciliators and the director of course conciliating as well himself. Again this is, along with the Labour Board, one of the very busy sections of the department. Has that position been eliminated or is it still open to be filled?

Mr. Connery: There was an executive director and a director. What we have done is eliminated the one position and made available one more conciliator to

work, so actually we have put more troupes into the field by eliminating a little bit at the upper end.

Mr. Patterson: I am not clear, but the executive director, was that Mr. Allison?

Mr. Connery: Yes.

Mr. Patterson: Well then, Mr. Pound, the director, also was a conciliator along with four conciliation officers. Now one of the conciliation officers has been made director and we have the director and three officers. In short, there are four full-time conciliators now where there used to be five.

Mr. Connery: We are at our full complement. That one person has now gone into conciliation so we have a full complement of our conciliators. We are not missing any.

Mr. Patterson: You had five and you are down to four.

Mr. Connery: We do have five conciliation and grievance mediation officers.

Mr. Patterson: I am thinking that we had Mr. Pound as the director, and then with Messrs. Davage, Murdock, Tom Beggs and Dewey Merrett. Now with Mr. Pound gone, there are just the four conciliation officers, one of whom has been made a director, Mr. Davage.

Mr. Connery: I am pleased the Member for Radisson knows so many people. The numbers I will give you: Orrila Last, Ellen Fleury, James Murdock, Dewey Merrett and Tom Beggs. That is five. That is our full complement.

Mr. Patterson: I am sorry, I was going by the phone book which is out of date then.

Mr. Ashton: I do not necessarily want to open the debate in terms of final offer selection but I do want to note this is the department in which the process is enacted by the department under conciliation and mediation. That is to point to the fact that the key element with final offer selection has been that negotiation has continued even though final offer selection has been requested by one of the parties involved. I think that is important to note because that is the process of mediation. It is also the impact of final offer selection. I get back to my previous questions which I asked for the Minister to do some research on before he brings in legislation repealing final offer selection. I think if he would check, the statistics are clear, and that is that negotiation has continued even after parties have requested final offer selection. The fact that two out of 30 applications have gone the full stage and the vast majority have been settled before that point indicates that final offer selection does not hinder the negotiating process, which is one of the major concerns that was expressed. It is not compulsory arbitration where you have paralyzation of negotiations when parties put out extreme positions in the hope that there will be a saw-off in the middle.

* (1640)

Final offer selection has been proven in studies elsewhere and I think will be proven in Manitoba to result in negotiations, it brings the parties together. They do not want to end up in an extreme situation. They cannot play the saw-off game because of the fact that they know that the arbitrator cannot bring in a midway decision.

I am wondering once again, if the Minister will now conduct a study of what has happened with final offer selections and put aside the ideological questions, put aside the so-called election commitment—and as I said I do not think the commitments of this Government are necessarily worth the paper they are written on, they have not been in other areas. I am wondering if he can look at the experience with final offer selection, perhaps meet with people that dealt with it directly, both the employer and employees, and also the people in this department.

Mr. Connery: We have ongoing talks about and research with legislation, and how legislation is working. I think the conciliation and mediation process that we have and the people that we have in place are an excellent group of people. I think they have been successful and I really appreciate the efforts—and the long efforts and arduous mediations that they go through—and I think they have done an excellent job and we are very pleased that they have done this.

I think it has prevented a lot of strikes at times, and also has resolved strikes. So we are going to make sure that we keep this section in full strength.

Mr. Ashton: Mr. Acting Chairman, my concern was not the strength of the section. My concern was the fact that we have had final offer selection in place for a number of months. I do not think it has had enough time yet in terms of analysis, but this Government apparently without even looking at what has happened is moving to lead it, and I am asking the Minister if he will talk to the people involved, put aside his ideological commitment to get rid of this particular item of legislation and deal with the people that have had experience with it because there have been 30 cases now, not all of which have gone through to a settlement, some of them are still in process, the various process of final offer selection.

Will the Minister also look at the experience and discuss with the employers—in fact, a number of employers have requested final offer selection? Mind, out of the two settlements one of them is going to favour the employers and one in favour of the employees.

Why will not the Minister look at the experience of final offer selection? Why will he not give it a chance? Why will he not look at the experience it has had thus now and give it a further chance over the upcoming months?

Mr. Connery: I guess the Member for Thompson (Mr. Ashton) and I will just have to agree to disagree. We could carry on the rhetoric for hours and it will not change anything.

Mr. Ashton: Well, Mr. Acting Chairperson, I am not talking about rhetoric here. I am talking about looking

at what has happened. In fact, I think one of the problems that we have with this Government on this issue is that they are using rhetoric. They are not looking at the experience of the last several months.

Now, this legislation was put in with a clear understanding that it was innovative, it was new, it was put in with a five-year sunset clause so that, if it did not work after the five-year period was up, then it would automatically terminate.

What I hear from the Minister, basically, is that he is not willing to look at the experience at all? He is not willing to give it a chance. He is not willing to give it another six months, a year, two years, three years. He is not even willing to look at the record up to now, and that is not rhetoric on my part. It is something he has confirmed in his answers to the questions that I have placed before him.

I am asking not to whether we are going to continue a rhetorical discussion at some other time. I am asking, why will not the Minister look at the experience that has taken place thus far with final offer selection? Why in particular will he not discuss with the people that had experience with it first, both the employers, employees, and this particular section, why will he not put the bill on hold, at least, postpone discussion of it so we can get the facts? Now that is not rhetoric, that is getting the facts, and that is what I am asking the Minister to do?

Mr. Connery: We have looked at the experience and we made a decision.

Mr. Ashton: Let the record be clear, Mr. Acting Chairperson, this Government has not looked at the experience, they have not talked to people who have been involved with final offer selection; they have not even talked to the Labour Management Review Committee, which they said they would do before introducing this type of legislation; they have not conducted any study on it. I think it is really inappropriate for the Minister to suggest that they have, and it is clear from his previous statements. In fact, that is fine, if they want to say it is because of an election commitment, it is because of their ideology, well at least we know where they are coming from, but let not the Minister say that he has studied this particular area and it is based on that because the answers clearly show that is not the case.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Praznik): 2.(f)(1)—pass; item 2.(f)(2) Other Expenditures, \$47, 100—pass.

Item 2.(g) Apprenticeship and Training: (1) Salaries, \$818,000.00.

Mr. Ashton: I have a couple of questions on the apprenticeship area. I would note, first of all, it is one of the areas that I, as a Northerner, am particularly most pleased about when I look at the trend in recent years because there has been a significant improvement in the Apprenticeship Program, particularly amongst Northerners and northern Native people. I would like to note, and I am sure the Minister can confirm this from his report from the Department of Labour, that

right now 30 percent of all apprentices are Native. It is the highest figure we have ever had. It is a result of the programs that were put in place because of Limestone and certainly many other Northerners have become apprentices as a result as well. It is certainly an area that I am quite pleased with, in fact over the period of the NDP Government, there was a dramatic increase in the number of apprentices, I believe from about 900 to well over 1,300 people. So there has been a significant improvement in that particular area. It is certainly an area that is, I think, important in terms of making sure we have people that are trained for the future.

I do have a couple of questions that are related to the recognition of out-of-province qualifications. I have had concerns expressed to me by individuals who come with experience from other provinces and have found that their apprenticeship training is not recognized to the full degree that they feel it should be. People that have come from other provinces find that their apprenticeship training is only recognized for one year when they have had the two-year second-year level. I am wondering what procedures the Minister envisions to ensure the people's apprenticeship qualifications are recognized to the extent they should be.

Mr. Connerly: I guess communication was part of the problem, and also some of the programs were not fully up to date, and that is being resolved at this point. I agree with the Member that apprenticeship and training is very, very important, and I am pleased that we have the number of Natives and Northerners enrolled so that they can indeed take their fair place in this business community and the work community and contribute and be part of our society. So we give our support to the Apprenticeship Program and would like to expand it. I think, as the Member knows, the federal Government has capped their contributions so this is a bit of a drawback. We will be continuing to push the federal Government for additional resources to continue the Apprenticeship Program and to expand it.

Mr. Ashton: That leads, actually, to my next question. I know one of the concerns that they indicated, expressed previously, was in regard to the Canadian job strategy and the impact that had on the Apprenticeship Program, the potential impact in the future, and I am wondering if the Minister will continue to fight for changes in that job strategy which does adversely and will have an adverse affect on the Apprenticeship Program in Manitoba.

* (1650)

Mr. Connerly: Our department is continuing to review these and I can assure you that we are going to fight for every federal dollar that we can get into this province.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Praznik): Item 2.(g)(1)—pass; 2.(g)(2) Other Expenditures, \$128,700—pass.

2.(h) Pension Commission: (1) Salaries, \$213,400.00.

Mr. Ashton: I have a question to the Minister and it relates to the many private pension plans in Manitoba

that are currently in existence. In fact, 105,000 people, according to the most available statistics, have a Manitoba registered pension plan and I believe somewhere in the neighbourhood of 195,000 total have pension plans whether they be registered in Manitoba or outside of the province.

One of the recommendations of the 1983 Green Paper on Pension Reform in Manitoba was in the area of indexing of pension plans, indexing that would follow, for example, some of the discussions that have taken place in Ontario where the task force was initiated which has brought down a report advising on a formula that could be used to ensure that pensioners with private pension plans do receive an indexed benefit. What I would like to ask the Minister is what action, if any, the current Government is looking at in regard to the indexing of pension plans.

Mr. Connerly: The Pension Commission is currently getting information that we can look at in the near future—well, near future. As you know, these sorts of changes go about very slowly. The federal Government has been working on their changes to the federal legislation for 10 years and it is a very painful process, but our department is gathering information relative to that.

Mr. Ashton: I would certainly urge the Minister to look at this particular area and move on it. I know it was an item the Pension Commission was going to be considering, really as a second stage followed from the amendments that were brought in in response to the initial green paper, amendments that I might say led the country in terms of pension legislation.

I think the next step has to be to index pension plans in some way, shape or form, because we are finding an increasing number of people who are retiring with pension plans that they thought would provide them some level of income security. We are now finding that has been seriously eroded by inflation. I indicated there has been some discussion in Ontario. Nova Scotia did introduce enabling legislation. I know it is certainly something that our caucus is quite concerned about. In fact, I introduced a resolution in the Legislature last year dealing with this particularly, because I think ultimately we need federal standards.

I am wondering if the Minister has had any discussion with his federal counterparts to call for federal standards that relate to the indexing of pension plans.

Mr. Connerly: To this point, with the newness of being in Government, I personally have not had an opportunity to discuss it with the federal people, but our commission will be reviewing the resolution of the Ontario task force to see what implications and possibilities it would have for Manitoba.

(Mr. Chairman in the Chair.)

Mr. Chairman: Item 2.(h)(1)—pass; item 2.(h)(2) Other Expenditures—pass.

Item (j) Grants, \$6,500.00.

Mr. Patterson: I note, and of course from the announcement in the Legislature some months ago,

the reduction of the grant to the Labour Education Centre—again, while \$204,000 is not exactly a trivial amount, it is relatively small in relation to many expenditures that are made by Government and, as I understand it, the Labour Education Centre was providing a very useful service to the work force generally, not just to union members. Resources were available to all—management, workers, researchers from university, and various other areas—and I am just wondering why the Minister felt that this had to be done. Was there any analysis made of the offerings of the Education Centre and the benefits that might flow from it before the decision was made?

Mr. Connery: I can assure the Member that I toured the facilities and had a good discussion with the staff there about what their programs are. They do carry out some training programs that are beneficial to employers and employees but they did have quite a surplus and they have not been using up their money as quickly. They had a fair surplus that by the contract that was with the Labour Education Centre, the Province of Manitoba could have asked to be refunded. I believe it was in the area of \$64,000 or \$66,000 that we waived and we felt that they would get by this year without the grant.

The Labour Education Centre does a lot of work for unions also that is union-oriented, good work that I have no objection to, but probably could be funded adequately through the unions. The amount of money that was there that the Government had put in I thought was adequate for them to continue their training programs as what they were doing. They are continuing with the training programs. Grants to all groups will be reviewed on an annual basis as to their validity and whether we will carry on or not.

Mr. Patterson: I assume from that then, it is possible that in the coming year some grant, maybe not in this amount, but a grant that would enable them to continue doing good work could be given to the centre?

Mr. Connery: Those possibilities have already been discussed with Wilf Hudson in my office to see what the ensuing year would bring.

Mr. Ashton: I have a number of comments on this. Of all the things this Government has done affecting working people I think this is probably the most petty. Given the amount of the funding that was there, given the service that was provided by the Labour Education Centre, I really think there is absolutely no justification for the cutback that took place, other than a rather petty political agenda that this Government had toward this Centre.

In fact, I really have a great deal of difficulty with the rather pious statements by the Minister and by the Government generally that this was done because of the tight financial position this Government was in. We all know they had additional revenue this year over last year, an unexpected increase in revenue. We all know that they put the greatest priority for that revenue in terms of decreasing taxes for businesses, mostly big businesses, by \$40 million according to my calculations; by more than \$24 million in regard to the payroll tax.

What I do not understand is how this Government has the nerve to say that it cannot come up with an expenditure that represents less than 1 percent of the decrease that took place in the payroll tax. Now, if the Government was to be honest it would say that it would cut the Labour Education Centre because it does not agree with the purposes of the centre. It does not want to fund education programs for working people, also ignoring the fact that it has worked with businesses as well. I think that will be the honest thing for this Government, this Minister to do and if he wants to put that on the record now I would certainly welcome that because at least then we would have an honest statement where this Government is coming from.

But surely this Minister does not expect us to believe that the Government could not have found the \$234,000 to continue this particular program. I am particularly amazed now that the Minister is talking about the possibility of maybe doing something. Why did the Minister cut the funding in the first place? Why did he do it only months after he took office? Why did he do it without obviously looking at the experience of the Labour Education Centre, looking at the fact that it is a representative not just of Labour but also the academic community as well? All he has to do is look at the board that has operated the facility and he would find that it is not just labour. They are representatives from the various universities. Why has he done it without looking at the very great successes of the Labour Education Centre in terms of the kind of information it is putting out?

As I said, this indicates, to my mind, the pettiness of this Government, the fact that they had to go, and one of their first priorities in terms of working people was to cut the Labour Education Centre without even giving them, once again, a chance for doing it. The Minister wonders why I keep talking about the right-wing, anti-labour agenda of this Government. I have mentioned what is happening with labour legislation. I look at the Labour Education Centre, I look at what it has done with the Unemployed Help Centres, which I realize is not under the Minister's department, but nonetheless two centres received a cut in funding once again. I mean, two organizations that were dealing with working people—dealing with the unemployed.

This Minister talks about what this Conservative Government is doing for working people in this province. I think what the Government is doing, in a very petty way, is giving them the shaft. I do not see how anybody could respond differently to what happened. I know that some people have said, well, that should be expected from the Conservatives. I remember there was an editorial in the Winnipeg Sun that said that we should expect that. Well, maybe we should. I think we should expect a little bit better than that. I should think that we should not get this kind of pettiness. If the Minister is going to cut this kind of funding, and I do not know whether he argued for it in Cabinet, perhaps he did. If he did and did not get it, he is obviously not doing the job as Minister of Labour. I am not even sure that he was lobbying on behalf of the Labour Education Centre, quite frankly, given the statements he has made generally.

I remember some of the statements he made in Opposition about this facility and what not. His colleague

is calling it a propaganda centre. I would like to ask the Minister if he will now say on the record that the real reason that this funding was cut was because of the right-wing anti-labour agenda of this Government? The fact that while it can find 100 times that amount to cut taxes for businesses, that it could not find 1 percent of the cutback in the payroll tax, the money that went out in the form of that tax break for business, why he could not find 1 percent, why this Government had to cut the grant provision down to a measly \$6,000-odd in this section just so they could get back at the Labour Education Centre for pure crass unadulterated reasons of straight politics?

Mr. Connery: I can assure the Member that we are not anti-unions and anti-labour. We are very pro labour. Yes, we are. That is my ministerial position and I will fight for labour.

But also as a Government, we have to make priorities as to where we are going to spend our money. We do not finance the management side. But in the educational part, there was sufficient money for them to carry on the program that they had. I am sure the Member will be pleased, as time goes by, by the things that we do for labour and for unions, as we will do for other groups. We will be doing our utmost to promote labour and to ensure that labour is well treated in this province and under this Government.

Mr. Chairman: The hour being five o'clock, it is time for Private Members' Hour.

Committee rise.

* (1440)

SUPPLY—CULTURE, HERITAGE AND RECREATION

Mr. Chairman, Mark Minenko: I call this section of the Committee of Supply to order, please. We are continuing to consider the Estimates of the Department of Culture, Heritage and Recreation.

We are presently on item 2.(b) Grants Administration:
(1) Salaries.

Mr. John Plohman (Dauphin): I had a couple of questions dealing with the Manitoba Community Places and Culture section of the department. If it is appropriate to ask them now, if you have that kind of flexibility, I would ask them now. Otherwise, I am prepared to wait a few minutes until we get to that point. It deals with Manitoba Community Places.

Hon. Bonnie Mitchelson (Minister of Culture, Heritage and Recreation): There is not staff here right at this moment but, if I do not need staff, I am certainly prepared to answer the questions. I do not know how much detail the Member wants to go into.

Mr. Plohman: I would like to ask a question about a specific situation. It involves the Dr. Vernon L. Watson Arts Centre in Dauphin. The centre has received support from the provincial Government in the past in various

ways. It has contributed tremendously.- (Interjection)- Well, the Member for Emerson (Mr. Albert Driedger) maybe should not put that particular remark on the record. If he wants to, I think it would not be productive at all in this discussion.

Mr. Albert Driedger (Minister of Highways and Transportation): You heard that?

Mr. Plohman: Yes, I did.

The Dr. Vernon L. Watson organization is the centre, and the staff have contributed a great deal to the cultural enrichment of the Town of Dauphin and the area. They are located in a historic building. The former Government had undertaken with the centre some major renovations to that building which were needed, the roof and a number of other major repairs. This was done through the Manitoba Community Places Program.

Unfortunately, and my information is that they went overbudget on those renovations. They are now in significant debt insofar as they are concerned, I believe \$15,000 or more. They have had to lay off their staff which have, as I said earlier, contributed a great deal in programming to the cultural enrichment of the community. I am not saying, in asking the question about whether the Minister has responded to their requests for additional assistance, that we should necessarily be approving or condoning every time a project goes overbudget. But I think, in this case and because of the nature of the building, being an historic building, designated so, and the nature of the activities being undertaken in that building for this non-profit organization, that indeed there should be some consideration.

I ask the Minister whether she has received a request from the centre in Dauphin, whether she is considering responding to it, because it is a tremendous loss that these very important staff have had to have been laid off and indeed their programming curtailed during this time.

Mrs. Mitchelson: I just do want to indicate that the community arts councils throughout the Province of Manitoba play a major role in promoting and enriching the cultural life of all communities.

I met just a short while ago and did meet someone from Dauphin who I spoke to just briefly on this matter. I am planning further consultation, further meetings with that person, with myself and with staff, so that we can look at all of the details of the problems that they are encountering right at this moment. I certainly cannot give it any guarantee at this moment of any extra funding for anyone until I have the details and we can look at the total situation and see what the problems are.

Mr. Plohman: I appreciate the Minister's comments that she will review the situation in more depth.

I want to just say in closing my remarks on this in this context that I would urge her to consider the circumstances surrounding this particular situation, go

through the Manitoba Community Places Program and other possible avenues to help them alleviate the difficulties that they are in at the present time. I think it would be well received and appreciated in the whole community, and I just bring that to your attention. Thank you.

Mrs. Mitchelson: If I might just comment, I believe that their year-end is at the end of December. Once we get a verified financial statement—there are programs within the department for deficit reduction and that kind of thing, so those are avenues we could pursue at that time, once we know what the final statement is and what the true implications of that deficit are.

Ms. Judy Wasylcia-Leis (St. Johns): I just have one or two very quick questions. I know the Minister realizes I would love to pursue a long line of questioning. It is my old department, but I will refrain. The time constraints certainly help.

I will ask a specific question about a person in my constituency and keep it very direct and short. The constituent's name is Katrina Stieffenhofer, and she had applied to the department when the New Democratic Party was still in Government for some assistance with apprenticeship, the training courses around glass blowing. She has an apprenticeship under Ion Thorkelson (phonetic) and is attempting to train under Ion and to acquire greater skills in this area. It was recognized by the department at that time that certainly it is a unique craft, that she brings a unique craft to Manitoba, and that it very much fit into the criteria of affirmative action objectives of the department.

At that time, it was recommended that some assistance be provided to her to help her pursue her career, to pursue the training, at that time out-of-province travel, but also to pursue her apprenticeship under Ion Thorkelson in some way. Since it was the time of the election, it was recognized that it would not be appropriate to provide funds during an election. So I had put a stop to any flow of funds to her at that time and was disappointed to learn afterwards that the Minister had made a decision not to provide any support, financial support, to Katrina Stieffenhofer.

* (1450)

My question is simply—I recognize, as the Minister herself states in a letter to this constituent of mine, that the department does not have a specific program for supporting individual artists. However, given the uniqueness of her craft, given the particular situation she finds herself in as a female artist, trying to raise a family and combine those responsibilities with the pursuit of this very important craft and her career, and given that she has to date not been terribly successful in terms of funding through the Manitoba Arts Council, I would simply ask the Minister if she would be prepared to review the entire file, to give some very serious consideration to some funds through the department for supporting her in some way.

I am not making a specific recommendation, just that the Minister would look into the situation, look into

some of the difficulties this artist may be experiencing, and pursue the kind of contribution she could make to cultural life here in Manitoba and indeed right across the country, if she could make a commitment to come back with some recommendations following that review and to look very seriously at this case.

Mrs. Mitchelson: Yes, I can certainly take a look at the whole file and see what has happened. But when I was appointed Minister, there was recommendation from staff that at this point in time, I guess in the new fiscal year with fiscal restraints, that there was some concern whether we as a department should be funding an individual person for specific—an individual artist and someone who would be going out of province, out of country, for special training of any sort.

I guess it is regrettable that there is not a program in place where the Arts Council provides the full amount of funding that might be needed by an individual artist for this thing. I am quite concerned about overlap in grant where someone receives a little bit of money from the Arts Council and a little bit of money from the department that quite often the one grant from the one area is not substantial enough really to meet the needs or requirements of that person or that program. Those are all things that are going to be addressed through the Needs Assessment Study, and I would like to see a little less complex funding system throughout the whole arts community.

Ms. Wasylcia-Leis: Just a quick follow-up, given that the department has and will continue at times to support individual artists through discretionary funds or through whatever options are available to the Minister of the department, I would just simply reiterate the uniqueness of this particular person's craft and her particular circumstances and ask that if exceptions are made to the rule that this be one of them and that the Minister take this whole case and look at it from that perspective and not from the perspective of necessarily trying to supplement funding that she may already be getting from another body, but for the uniqueness of the craft and the uniqueness of her situation.

Mrs. Mitchelson: Yes, I really care. We will take a look at that.

Mr. James Carr (Fort Rouge): We were getting into a discussion on Tuesday about the distinction between the role of the Manitoba Arts Council and the role of the Department of Culture, Heritage and Recreation, that there are general guidelines which determine whether it is the Government or the arm's length agency that would give a grant to an individual or an organization. Could the Minister tell us what happens in a situation where a group asks for support from the both Arts Council and the department? What coordinating mechanism is there in place to ensure that the left hand knows what the right hand is doing? Are you attempting to refine those definitions to reduce the potential for confusion?

Mrs. Mitchelson: There is some coordination. When applications are filled out through the department for funding, on those applications forms, there are

questions about who else they are receiving funding from. So there is coordination in that respect.

I have indicated already my concerns for the complexity of funding and the Member knows back in 1979 when he was involved in the Arts Policy Review and involved with the arts community, and I am sure he still is to some degree but funding has changed since that time. I think that basically, I guess, it was the Arts Council or maybe in the department that were funding the arts at that time. Since then the funding has become more widely dispersed and there are several different organizations that do fund the arts. Besides the Arts Council and the department, there is the Manitoba Intercultural Council, CIDO through the ERDA Agreement, to some degree the Manitoba Community Services Council, the Arts Gaming Fund.

So it has become much more complex and people can apply to many different groups and organizations for funding and that is a concern that is going to have to be looked at in the Arts Policy Review that will be undertaken. I would like to see things a little less complex and a little more coordination of where the money is coming from and actually, quite frankly, possibly—well, I guess I will have to wait and see what the Arts Policy Review recommends.

Mr. Carr: The Minister has now made a number of references to the Arts Policy Review. Who is doing the review? When is it scheduled to begin? When is it scheduled to be completed? How much will it cost?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Those are all really good questions and I want to indicate to the Member that I have been meeting informally with some of the groups and organizations out there and the department has been talking to people to get this Arts Policy Review under way. There is no money in this fiscal budget for an Arts Policy Review. It is going to be extensive. It is not going to be something that is going to be done overnight. I want them to come back with a policy that will provide some direction for years to come. If it is something that is going to have to last for the next 10 years before another one is undertaken, I think that we want a fairly extensive review.

Mr. Carr: Mr. Chairperson, I gather then that there have been no tenders for consultants. You do not know whether it is going to be a voluntary group of individuals such as it was in 1979. You do not know what its mandate will be, so the Government is just expressing a will to do it but has not yet worked out any of the details. Is that correct?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Yes, it will primarily be volunteers who are doing the review. There is an estimate that it could cost as much \$100,000 to \$140,000 at this point in time. That is sort of the ball-park figure that we are looking at. I have met with the Arts Alliance and other groups to discuss an appropriate method for reviewing cultural policy in Manitoba.

Mr. Carr: Mr. Chairperson, I might be missing something but I do not see any schedule attached to the \$4.935 million on grant assistance. Is it broken

down somewhere in the Supplementary Estimates? I see that on the following page we have a breakdown of Lotteries grant assistance monies but there is no breakdown of the \$5 million, or am I missing something?

Mrs. Mitchelson: No, Mr. Chairman, there is no breakdown. It is just two grants to the Manitoba Arts Council and to the Museum of Man and Nature.

Mr. Carr: Could the Minister tell us what the relative increases are to those two organizations in percentage terms? Am I right that almost \$5 million represents only two grants?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Yes, Mr. Chairman, there has been a 3 percent increase to those two organizations. The Arts Council received \$1,646,400 and the Museum of Man and Nature \$3,288,700.00.

Mr. Carr: Mr. Chairperson, is the grant to the Manitoba Arts Council related to its ability to garner Lotteries revenues? That is to say, in a year when lotteries perform more poorly than expected, is it the policy of the Government to make up that shortfall through appropriation? The converse, when the Arts Council achieves more revenue than expected, does the department compensate by reducing its grant?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Chairman, I am informed that the last time we were in a crisis situation that we did give them a special grant, but it has never been reduced.

Mr. Carr: Mr. Chairperson, is it the policy of the Government to, in its long-range plan, begin reducing the Arts Council's dependency on Lotteries revenues by increases in appropriation? Now we realize this cannot happen overnight. These dependencies have taken 10 or 15 years to develop, but is the Minister anxious to move away from the situation where over time dependency increases on Lotteries revenues while growth from the tax base is really frozen at or below the rate of inflation? Is it her policy to, in the long range, return the Manitoba Arts Council to the tax base while gradually reducing its dependency on Lotteries money?

* (1500)

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Chairman, I think in the long run if Lotteries revenues remains capped we would have to be making larger adjustments to that kind of thing. I think the arts policy will have great implication on what will happen in the arts community over the next long period of time. We will be looking at short-range and long-range planning as a result of that.

Mr. Carr: Mr. Chairperson, in recent months, there have been some tense moments at the museum. Can the Minister give us a report on how things are going at the museum and in particular if she intends to make any changes to the museum's board, and whether or not she is satisfied with the current statutory requirements of the Order-in-Council appointments to the board, the requirement that Government does appoint a certain number of members to that board, and whether we can anticipate any changes to that legislation in the next year or so?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Chairman, we do as Government appoint 50 percent of the members to the Museum of Man and Nature Board, and I am not anticipating any changes to that legislation at this moment.

There have been a couple of vacancies or resignations over the past little while of Government appointees on that board and we will have to be appointing, I believe it is, two. I think it is two members. There are two vacant positions on that board. It seems the board over there with staff has solved their problems. We have not heard anything untoward recently about problems over at the Museum of Man and Nature. It seems like they are working together trying to get things under way and back on track.

Mr. Carr: I just have one more question in this section. It says there was an additional staff year provided for increased consultation with extradepartmental agencies. Could the Minister tell us what this staffperson does, what agencies he or she relates to, and what happened before you had this coordination and this person who had that responsibility? It is page 32.

Mrs. Mitchelson: I am informed the manager under this branch before had all of the responsibilities. Now with this one new staffperson in place we have someone who can look at just the majors and the capital requirements and the capital needs of those majors, do a complete analysis of that.

Ms. Maureen Hemphill (Logan): First of all, I want to indicate to the Minister when I slipped out the other day it was not because of lack of interest in Cultural Affairs Estimates, but Urban Affairs were starting at the time and we gave opening remarks to that and then came back in.

I am in a bit of a unique situation as I am not as interested in going page by page and line by line. I have three or four areas I wish to discuss and we have a very short period of time so, with the agreement of the Minister, we have agreed I will just go into the areas I would like to question and you will deal with them as you can.

An Honourable Member: Do not do them all at once though.

Ms. Hemphill: No, do not worry. I do just want to let you know though, the two areas I am coming to will be Lotteries and Community Places so, if you do not have staff here, there will be time to get them down.

What I would like to start with is going to be dealt with under the Historic Resources section and I am wondering if the Minister has been made aware of an issue of very great concern for the Metis community and whether or not she has seen any of the letters or correspondence that have gone between the Metis community and the church, and now to Gordon Earle, the Ombudsman.

I will just give her a bit of background about what the issue is. Around the historic St. Norbert Catholic Church at 80 Rue St. Pierre is one of the largest known Metis cemeteries in Manitoba and possibly the largest

in western Canada. Church records that date back to the mid-1800s indicate that about 1,500 Metis are buried on this site. The total could be well over 2,000. The graves are unmarked. There has been vandalism and neglect over the years.

However, the very grave concern now is that the St. Boniface Diocese of the Roman Catholic Church has given the Knights of Columbus approval to disturb and ravage the sacred burial grounds by having the bishop approve the construction of a 42-unit senior citizen apartment over the ancient cemetery and the city fathers have agreed to rezone the land. They feel that a flood of private and personal memories lie buried deep in the hearts and minds of a small and declining group of citizens like themselves. They cherish their landmarks, "for this is our heritage, our roots, and these are our dead." This is quoting from their letter.

I am wondering if she has been made aware of it and if they have any concerns or have taken any position on this matter.

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Chairman, yes, I have been made aware of this issue, and I will tell you what has happened and what we are prepared to do. I am told that disturbance of graves is not likely, as the proposed senior citizens' residence is not directly on the former church cemetery site, as much popular opinion does believe.

The Knights of Columbus project proponents hired an archaeologist in August, 1988 to do an impact assessment. The consultants did the research using early photographs showing the location of the church, rectory, church gardens and cemetery, and the research determined the proposed senior citizens' residence was not on the former cemetery site. The on-site examination, the impact assessment that was done, confirmed documentary evidence. Shovel tests and drilling at least 12 test holes found no human remains.

This area has previously been subject to flooding, which destroyed nearly all of the wooden markers and diking in 1966, and disturbed many unknown graves at that time. So, there has been widespread disturbance in the past of the whole graveyard.

I want to say we will have staff on-site when the excavation is being done, and we do have the authority to stop work if there should be any problems or any human remains found.

Ms. Hemphill: Mr. Chairperson, I appreciate the Minister has been made aware of it and there does seem to be some concern about the protection of remains in what was a sacred burial ground. The Minister seems to feel the information she has suggested where the church is being constructed, they do not believe there are any remains. I doubt very much if the flood waters took all of the artifacts away so we can expect, with 1,500 buried, there are still large numbers around.

What communication has she had and, if she has not, will she have with the members of the Metis community so they can be informed of the steps that are being taken to protect, and they can be involved

in the discussions about the protection that is needed there to be to their satisfaction for this sacred ground? Could there be something settled, with yourselves acting as perhaps mediation conciliator between the church and the Metis community, so progress is not being halted but it is not going ahead at the expense of something as important as a sacred burial ground to the Metis community?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Chairman, I think the safeguards that are going to be put in place, of course, of having staff on-site at the time—I know staff have been in touch with the Metis community. I have not personally received a letter or correspondence from them, but I will find out what has been going on between staff and the community, and we can certainly indicate in writing to them what safeguards will be put in place.

* (1510)

Ms. Hemphill: Mr. Chairperson, I have one other small one that might fall into the category of constituency related. Birds Hill Camp previously was made available for Inner City kids, and it was run by your department and staffed by STEP students. I think it was one of these small examples but very, very symbolic that really upset and concerned a lot of people in the Inner City that right after the election this was cut, this program was cut. The Winnipeg Boys and Girls Club was asked, I believe, to help see if they could find other camps and other placements for these kids. That put the onus on the Winnipeg Boys and Girls Club and they had to solicit what availability there was, if any, in other camps.

I am wondering if the Minister is aware of this, and why was such a small amount of money that would have been used to give kids in the Inner City an opportunity to attend camp, that none of those kids would have an opportunity to do were it not for programs like this, why that was cut, and whether or not the department has taken any steps to find out whether or not those kids were placed after having that program cut off, whether other accommodation was found for them or whether a number of Inner City children lost an opportunity to go to camp because of the fairly quick and arbitrary cut that took place.

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Chairman, yes, this program was discontinued in this fiscal year, but the funds that were budgeted, the \$35,000 that were budgeted for Birds Hill Camp, were granted to the Sunshine Fund, the Manitoba Camping Association, to provide for camperships. This ensured camping experiences for economically disadvantaged children would be provided which—and I will tell you what it did do. It placed children in camps accredited by the Manitoba Camping Association, thereby ensuring a safe and fulfilling experience. It offered a wide range of accredited camps affording flexibility and meeting the specific needs or interests of the individual campers. This initiative did prove to be very successful.

Approximately 50 percent of the camperships were given to the Core Area youth, many of whom had attended Birds Hill Camp in the past. A significant increase in the number of camperships awarded was

also attributed to this, so there were more children who were able to go to camp as a result of the change in the program and giving the money to the Sunshine Fund. We will be continuing to monitor and ensure that Core Area youth have opportunities to go to camp.

Ms. Hemphill: Just quickly, I am not quite sure. Overall, there may have been more children placed. My question was, were there any children who were not able to be placed who were previously getting the opportunity through the camp? Since the Boys and Girls Club was asked to find other placements, were there any who did not find other placements, either through the Sunshine Club or other camping opportunities?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Chairman, no. There were only three children who were refused and those were all from families who had incomes of over \$45,000, so there was no one who was not supposed to be there.

Mr. Chairman: Item 2.(b)(1)—pass; item 2.(b)(2) Other Expenditures—pass.

Item 2.(b)(3) Grant Assistance.

Mr. Carr: Mr. Chairperson, there is a difference between the Supplementary Estimates and the Main Estimates Book here. On page 37 of the Supplementary Estimates there is Lottery Expenditures of some \$1.77 million. Is that where we are now?

Mr. Chairman: Page 32 and 33 of the Supplementary, I believe, relates to Subappropriation No. 2.(b), so we will be on pages 31, 32, 33 in this item.

Mr. Carr: In that case, we are looking at over \$4 million of grants out of Lotteries. Again, are they listed? Is there a schedule that indicates to whom these \$4 million are directed?

Mr. Chairman: The Honourable Member is referring to the items as set out on page 33 of the Supplementary Estimates?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Chairman, the operating grants are \$3,968,100, and the Capital are \$287,200.00. Do you want me to read you the grants?

Mr. Carr: It is very difficult to ask questions about \$4 million when we do not know where they are going. Does the Minister have a sheet she could distribute to Members so that we can have an idea of the detail of that item?

Mrs. Mitchelson: I have a sheet. Do you want me to read them and the amounts?

Mr. Carr: Well, the major ones anyway, we will stop you.

Mrs. Mitchelson: The Centennial Centre Corporation, \$1.365 million; the Art Gallery, \$1.507 million; CCFM, \$276,000; Ukrainian Cultural and Educational Centre, \$136,000; Manitoba Children's Museum, \$67,000; Manitoba Heritage Conservation Service, \$96,000.00.

Mr. Carr: May I just make a recommendation to the Minister and her staff that in future years, if we had a schedule of where these grants went, it would be much easier to evaluate them? One issue that immediately speaks out at us though is that the Manitoba Centennial Centre and the Winnipeg Art Gallery apparently are funded entirely out of Lotteries sums. Is that correct?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Carr: Mr. Chairperson, what increases have gone to those two major organizations over last year?

Mrs. Mitchelson: 3 percent, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Carr: Was there a policy of the department to apply across-the-board increases to major organizations?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Not every organization, but most of the majors got a 3 percent grant increase.

Mr. Carr: That implies no hard-nosed program evaluation. If the department is making the decision to treat all major organizations the same way, by giving them an across-the-board 3 percent increase, we are left to ask the obvious question whether or not that 3 percent derives from individual study examination and evaluation of those institutions, or whether or not it is just the convenient way of appropriating funds?

* (1520)

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Chairman, I am informed that these were the only guidelines that were available to the department and 3 percent increases, I guess, were given to some of those organizations that had large salary commitments to meet and fulfill.

Mr. Carr: Mr. Chairperson, the Minister says these were the only guidelines available to the department. Who came up with these guidelines? Are these guidelines not generated from members of the department themselves? Does the department not decide who should get how much? Could the Minister tell Members of the committee just who it is that establishes these guidelines?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Chairman, I guess a review by Treasury Board indicated that departments were given a certain amount and they had to live within those guidelines. I do not know what the Member is asking. Is he asking that they should have received less than 3 percent?

Mr. Carr: Mr. Chairperson, I am talking about the issue of accountability, of responsibility, of decision making, and the ability of the department to evaluate its programs to determine how well the money is being spent. I gather that the Treasury Board told the Department of Culture there should be an across-the-board increase of 3 percent to all cultural organizations. If that is so and I were the Minister of Culture, I would say, what do you mean. Some deserve five, some

deserve eight, some deserve two, others perhaps deserve a cut. I would like some clarification from the Minister on this very important subject.

Mrs. Mitchelson: The Treasury Board guidelines were that the high limit was 3 percent or less, and they had to live within the amount of money they had. So there was an assessment made by the department on who would receive the maximum of 3 percent or less.

Mr. Carr: Let it be on the record then the Minister is telling us centrally, through Treasury Board, a decision was made on cultural grants, that the Minister had no discretion to go beyond 3 percent regardless of the need of one particular organization or the lack of a need from another. Did the Minister kick up a fuss? Did the Minister say, you have taken away the ability of this department to make decisions based on changing circumstances, or did the Minister just say, yes, that sounds good to me?

Mrs. Mitchelson: With our Government, all departments were given the same guidelines. We all had to live within them. That is accountability and that is good financial management. There is a decision made. Those decisions were followed by myself and my department.

Mr. Carr: What the Minister is telling us is the Department of Highways, the Attorney-General's Office, the Department of Education, and the Department of Municipal Affairs were all told grants to external agencies must be within the level 3 percent—now, if Treasury Board said to the department, this is how much money you have to spend this year and you make the decisions of how that money should be spent, then we could talk about fiscal responsibility and central management that makes sense. But if Treasury Board said, grants to individual organizations could not exceed 3 percent, then the Minister's autonomy, her decision-making ability, her stamp on her own department was completely taken away from her.

Could the Minister confirm for us whether or not her department was given a total sum out of which she could make decisions about how it is spent or whether it was prescribed by Treasury Board that each individual component within her budget could not be increased more than 3 percent?

Mrs. Mitchelson: The guidelines from Treasury Board indicated the grants could not exceed 3 percent. There was some decision-making process on whether they could receive 3 percent or less. These were grants. You are talking about different departments. I am talking about departments that have grants to external agencies, and all departments were asked to live within those guidelines.

Mr. Carr: I will not go much further on the subject because our time is short. There are many other avenues to explore. Let us be on the record to say the Minister of Culture, Heritage and Recreation (Mrs. Mitchelson) was told by decree from Treasury Board that she could not make substantive decisions that

affect the running of her own department. I hope she will have the courage of her convictions the next time this subject is debated in Cabinet or debated in Treasury Board to say, no, there are agencies out in that community that deserve higher increases than others, and it is my job as Minister to determine what those are. In the interests of time, we ought to get on to another item.

Mr. Neil Gaudry (St. Boniface): Could the Minister indicate if the CCFM got the 3 percent increase?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Yes.

Mr. Chairman: Item 2.(b)(3) Grant Assistance—pass; item 2.(c) Cultural Resources: (1) Salaries—pass; item 2.(c)(2)—pass.

Item 2.(c)(3) Canada-Manitoba Communications and Cultural Enterprises Agreement.

Mr. Carr: Mr. Chairperson, we had a very brief discussion about this the other day when we learned the department has hired a consultant from Toronto to review the Manitoba-Canada Agreement on Cultural Industries. At the time this agreement was negotiated and at the time a review committee was set up to advise the previous Minister, the argument was made that much of this money ought to be used on training. Rather than spending the bulk of our resources on producing product, we should concentrate our energies on producing individuals who could create a first-rate product.

We were interested in promoting excellence and in creating in Manitoba cultural industries that had at its foundation first-rate practitioners, film makers, directors, producers, technicians, writers, those who would become the core of the cultural community in the production of films, plays and other artistic products. Will the Minister tell us how much of the money within this agreement has been spent on the training component, and has the Minister and/or her officials had a chance to evaluate the success?

* (1530)

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Chairman, obviously the Member opposite knows that this was an agreement that was arranged by the former Government of the Day and the federal Government. I am not going to speak on the agreement itself and how it was organized and arranged and signed, because I was not responsible for it at that time. I do want to say there is an evaluation going on right now, we are evaluating the program.

I think all three political Parties are federally committed to wanting to negotiate a new ERDA for Manitoba. I have made that commitment too that I want ongoing discussions to renegotiate and, at that time when the renegotiating is done, if there are problems with the present agreement that are there right now, which will be indicated by the evaluations that are ongoing, we will certainly be looking at renegotiating a different agreement that will address those concerns.

Mr. Carr: Mr. Chairperson, I encourage the Minister to negotiate a better offer than that negotiated by her predecessors. I would like a commitment and some words from the Minister on her own view of the importance of training as a component of developing our cultural industries, and whether or not she considers the advancement of funds toward training to be a priority of her department as she begins to sort out the priorities for any renewal of this Canada-Manitoba Agreement?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Chairman, staff have already undertaken meetings and consultations with the film community and with those out there who are affected and impacted by the agreement, and will be receiving funds through this agreement and through any future agreement that is negotiated. Training is an important factor. It is something certainly that will be looked at.

Mr. Carr: Just one more comment, Mr. Chairperson, in response to the continual exhortations from the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) and the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) and the Member for Arthur (Mr. Downey) that Oppositions have a role to propose rather than to simply oppose, let me put it on the record. We on this side believe training must be an essential part of the development of cultural industries.

Look at what the Australians did. While the Canadian Government was giving tax incentives to dentists in Toronto so third-rate films could be produced, films which nobody watched, the Australians were spending their energy and their money on creating first-rate producers, writers, musicians, script assistants, those people who produce cultural products. Let me just encourage the Minister when she renegotiates this deal or when she establishes priorities for her own department that training be right on top of her list of priorities.

Mr. Chairman: Item 2.(c)(3)—pass.

Item 2.(d) Public Library Services: (1) Salaries.

Ms. Hemphill: Mr. Chairperson, as I had indicated before, I am not quite following either page by page or line by line. They have two areas that I want to discuss. One is Lotteries and one is the Community Places Program. I think the Minister may be able to handle them. We can start or could you bring staff down?

Mrs. Mitchelson: I have staff here from Community Places, if you want to start with those questions.

Ms. Hemphill: Okay, and when will the staff be here from Lotteries?

Mrs. Mitchelson: The staff is here from Lotteries. It was my understanding that under Minister's Salary we would normally discuss Lotteries. Can we leave that till then?

Ms. Hemphill: Okay, then maybe can we bring the staff down for Community Places and you can go on?

Mr. Carr: I will get a few items out of the way in a hurry while we are waiting for the staff. Just one question

on Public Library Services, there is the development of a long-term plan that is currently in the works. Can the Minister tell us what stage that plan is at, when it intends to be completed and what the objectives are for this year?

Mrs. Mitchelson: I think I indicated in my opening remarks that we were setting up a Library Advisory Board, something that under the Act has supposed to have been there and has not been there since 1969. So that is something that is going to take place. I am in the process now of receiving recommendations from staff on appointing that advisory board. Their first main priority is going to be to look at the Act itself and see whether it needs some changes and some update and then look at the recommendations that have come forward regarding libraries so that we can implement a long-range plan. I think we have to address the issue of rural libraries and those out in rural Manitoba that are not receiving the service they should be receiving.

Mr. Carr: The funding for the Public Library Services is a bit confused this year because of the manipulations and manoeuvres with lottery money. Am I correct to assume that the difference between last year and this year has a difference between 3.64 and 3.96?

Mrs. Mitchelson: I agree with the Member opposite that it is somewhat confusing as a result of the Auditor's concerns in moving Operating and Salaries from the rest of the department into appropriation. We had to move the City of Winnipeg Library Grant into Lotteries to try to adjust that need on an interim basis and satisfy the Auditor.

The City of Winnipeg's Library Grant this year was increased by 10.4 percent. I am just trying to find the numbers here. Okay, \$1.6 million, rounded off, an increase of \$153,000, which was 10.4 percent.

Mr. Chairman: 2.(d)(1) Salaries—pass; 2.(d)(2) Other Expenditures—pass; 2.(d)(3) Grant Assistance—pass; item 2.(e) Historic Resources: (1) Salaries—pass.

2.(e)(2) Other Expenditures.

Mr. Carr: It looks like there is \$200 moved over from Lotteries in the Communication line for a total of \$40,100 last year which represents the same total as this year. Has that particular function of the department been frozen?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Chairman, Communication means telephone, electronic mail, postage, courier, advertising exhibits, radio systems, and there is just not a need for as much as was budgeted in the last year's budget.

Mr. Carr: Mr. Chairperson, in the old days, we used to talk about a Heritage Council at arm's length from the Government where decisions, at least advice, for the expenditure of Government funds in this area should be aided by those in the community who had a particular knowledge and expertise in the field, volunteers who would give their advice. That idea seems to have died. I am not going to ask the Minister a question about it. I just would encourage her to look into the situation

and see if she thinks it might be feasible. It was, by the way, her Conservative predecessor who dealt with that recommendation some years ago, Norma Price.

The total expenditures of this branch are almost frozen, if I am calculating it correctly. Last year, it was \$1.405 million; this year, it is \$1.407 million, which is well below the 3 percent the Minister has granted to external agencies. Has the Historic Resources Branch been singled out for this poor treatment and, if so, why?

* (1540)

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Chairman, there was a decrease of \$30,000 in the expenditures, and that was attributed to the elimination of provision for Heritage Awareness promotion related to The Heritage Resources Act. That was an Act that was passed a couple of years ago, and there was some awareness promotion at that time that does not need to be done anymore.

Mr. Carr: Again, we are going to have to move.

Mr. Chairman: Item 2.(e)(2) Other Expenditures—pass.

Item 2.(f) Recreation: (1) Salaries.

Ms. Hemphill: I think this may be a little bit awkward but, if we keep going line by line and page by page, I am never going to get my questions in because that is not the way I am operating. I understand the staff is here for Community Places, so I would like to proceed with questions in that area.

I am wondering if the Minister can tell us whether or not she has both concerns and has an intention that Community Places money will be shared fairly across the whole province by all the people of Manitoba.

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Chairman, you bet it will.

Ms. Hemphill: Then, Mr. Chairperson, if that is the case, can the Minister tell us how she thinks that will be achieved since they made a very radical policy change shortly after they took office that eliminated the North's removal from following one of the criteria, and that was that the individual organizations would have to raise 50 percent of the funds. How does she think they are going to achieve a northern parity with the removal and change of that policy?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Chairman, I have indicated before that when you set up a program of some sort it should be fair and equitable for all regions of the province and all should be able to access it. Obviously, it was not a terribly great program that was set up if there was different treatment for some northern communities than there was for the rest of the province, and those areas in the rest of the province that have some difficulty raising funds also were not treated equally or the same way as northern communities were treated.

I do want to indicate to the Member opposite that we have made provision for Northern Affairs communities to be able to access some extra funding

for those northern communities in the interim, until we finish a review of the whole program. So they have been able to receive funds and their portion of some of their funds through the Department of Northern Affairs, rather than through the Community Places Program.

Ms. Hemphill: Mr. Chairperson, I am glad the Minister mentioned a review. I guess one of the points we were trying to make is that it seemed a little premature to make such a drastic policy change prior to the review and prior to getting information that would tell you whether that was an unfair or unequal policy that had been established.

I am wondering how the Minister believes—I understand the point she is making, that she believes the policy was unfair and unequal to people outside of the North because they did not have the same exemption from having to raise the 50 percent. How did the Minister and this Government believe that northern communities that face upwards of 90 percent unemployment, that have no businesses in their community and that have no community organizations in their community, so they are very unique in their total lack of inability to raise money both because of the poorness of the district, the area, the people, the lack of businesses and the lack of community resources, where in hell did they think they were going to get their share of the 50 percent? Pardon the language.

Mrs. Mitchelson: The comments that the Member for Logan (Ms. Hemphill) has just made do indicate that obviously this program is not the type of program that should be available for northern communities. I have to say that the Minister of Northern Affairs (Mr. Downey) and myself have been in close consultation in trying to work together to address some of the needs of the North. Maybe a Community Places Program is not the type of program we need to address our needs. Maybe we have to be looking to our Minister of Northern Affairs and working together with him so that we implement and provide programs that are going to address their real needs, and that 90 percent unemployment and the statistics that the Member quoted were there long before this Government took office. We are trying to address the needs and the concerns of the northern community. Obviously, even with a Community Places Program, they were not addressing the real needs of northern Manitoba.

Ms. Hemphill: I certainly appreciate the point. If they can find a better way of delivering supports and to share resources to develop community infrastructure, which northern reserves are missing more than any other community in our province, we would not disagree with that. I suggest they put that in place through the Northern Affairs Department or whatever other department before they cut them off at the pass of the only existing programs there are presently for community infrastructure, that they develop the others before they cut them off.

I just want to quickly read into the record some of the losses of groups under this Government, how much less they are getting. The North is getting 48 percent

less than they were under this Government; North Central, 10 percent less; Parklands, 10 percent less; South Central, 8 percent less; Southeast, 23 percent; Southwest, 11 percent; Winnipeg, 14 percent; Interlake is 24 percent. I think that shows that one of the big losers were the northern communities. There is not anything else put in place.

Would the Minister give, not right now, but give us information that shows how northern communities have kept pace in terms of equity and sharing of resources since this Government took office under the Community Assets Program? I know she will not have that with her but I would like her to give that information to us.

Mrs. Mitchelson: I wonder if the Member might provide me with a copy of her analysis or assessment of where the changes have taken place or the decreases throughout the province.

We will certainly provide information that indicates how we, as a responsible administration, have looked at the overall province, the number of applications that have come in. We, as a matter of fact, have depoliticized the Community Places Program in that we have asked staff to make recommendations on what are good and viable projects and what projects fall within the guidelines and the criteria. We are asking them to make the assessment and give the recommendations on what projects should be approved and should not be, as opposed to what happened in the past where I believe there was a Cabinet committee and someone working in the Community Places Program that was working with Government exclusively on that program. So we have made those positive changes. We are asking staff for their input on what types of projects should be approved.

Ms. Hemphill: I just have to put something on the record. It is true that there was a Cabinet committee. That Cabinet committee was following the same procedure as the Minister suggests her Government is and that is that we had departmental reviews, full information brought forward and followed the recommendations of the department.

I just want to make clear, would the Minister then—and she is saying that she has information that shows the distribution between regions so, if she is willing to make that available to us, we can see how the community groups are faring.

Mr. Chairman: Item 2.(f)(1) Salaries—pass; 2.(f)(2) Other Expenditures—pass.

2.(g) Regional Services: (1) Salaries.

Mr. Carr: I gather this is the area in departmental spending that deals with outreach in rural areas. We are often accused in this Legislature, and even every now and again in my own political Party, of having a disease called “Perimeteritis.” It is not true, Mr. Chairperson. There are no “itises” on this side of the House. We are committed to reaching out to rural Manitoba so the same kinds of opportunities particularly for children, to develop their talent, exists. If there were more time, I would like to spend a great deal of it on this item.

Let me ask the Minister what her own objectives are for the coming year to ensure children and all citizens of rural Manitoba have the same opportunities to develop their talent and to have made accessible to them training, teaching and other cultural opportunities so we can truly boast of a cultural life that extends beyond the City of Winnipeg and to every corner of the province.

* (1550)

Mrs. Mitchelson: We, especially on this side of the House, have real concerns about ensuring there is a good quality of life out in rural Manitoba and they have access to the same programs and the same opportunities as those within the City of Winnipeg, within the Perimeter.

So we have some initiatives that are under way and it is a recreation policy and a statement. It was under way and I received a draft form of that policy, I suppose, and I have put one person in charge of developing and coming forward with a recreation statement and policy. Recreation federally, I think all provinces have agreed, and the federal Government, a definition of recreation includes leisure time activity and goes right into the arts, sports, recreation, health promotion, health prevention, employment opportunities, everything for rural Manitoba. We are looking at ways and means we can ensure all of those things are working together out in rural Manitoba so we can improve and share the resources each department has throughout Government to provide for leisure time activities for all Manitobans.

Mr. Chairman: 2.(g)(1) Salaries—pass; 2.(g)(2)—pass; 2.(h)(1) Salaries—pass.

2.(h)(2) Other Expenditures.

Mr. Carr: There was a number of years ago a crisis in storagespace for the Archives in Manitoba, that very important papers were subject to rot, rust, water through leaky roofs. Has that problem been solved and can we rest assured that our great heritage passed on from Government to Government is being properly preserved?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Yes.

Mr. Chairman: 2.(h) Provincial Archives: (1) Salaries—pass; 2.(h)(2) Other Expenditures—pass; 2.(j) Legislative Library: (1) Salaries—pass; 2.(j)(2) Other Expenditures—pass; 2.(k) Manitoba Intercultural Council—pass; 2.(m) Manitoba Film Classification Board: (1) Salaries—pass.

2.(m)(2) Other Expenditures.

Mr. Carr: Mr. Chairperson, there is quite a substantial drop in Other Expenditures. Is that noteworthy? Does the Minister want to make a comment on that?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Chairman, the decrease there was due to a planned economies in board members' viewing fees, a public information campaign on board inspections associated with the proposed interprovincial agreement on classification and . . . videos.

Mr. Chairman: Item 2.(m)(2)—pass.

Resolution No. 39: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$15,242,200 for Culture, Heritage and Recreation, Culture, Heritage and Recreation Programs, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1989—pass.

3.(a)(1)—pass; 3.(a)(2)—pass; 3.(b)(1)—pass; 3.(b)(2)—pass.

3.(b)(3) Public Sector Advertising, \$2,201,000.00.

Mr. Carr: This presumably would be the area to ask a question on ethnic advertising and the ethnic press. What kind of advertising does the Minister and members of the department place with the ethnic press? Is it simply advertising the deals with multicultural issues or immigration issues, or does it include all kinds of Government advertising?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Chairman, I have a list of advertising that we do. Do you want me to tell you the types of things we do: messages to non-profit groups on housing, appointment notices, repeal of private Acts, election boundaries, polling day information, a Vocational Schools Act, annual public meetings, temporary traffic interruption, unplanned pregnancy, Aboriginal Justice Inquiry, Christmas from across the Sea, off-road vehicles, MPIC, MTS rate reduction, rent regulations, housing regulations.

Mr. Chairman: 3.(b)(3)—pass; 3.(c)(1)—pass; 3.(c)(2)—pass; 3.(d)(1)—pass; 3.(d)(2)—pass; 3.(e)(1)—pass; 3.(e)(2)—pass; 3.(f)(1)—pass; 3.(f)(2)—pass.

Resolution No. 40: Resolved that there be granted to her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$4,410,800 for Culture, Heritage and Recreation, Communication Services, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1989—pass.

Item 1. Administration and Finance (a) Minister's Salary, which was deferred. As I understand, in accordance with our previous discussions, any matters with respect to Manitoba Lotteries would be raised in this section.

Mrs. Mitchelson: I did have a brief opening statement. If you would rather I just distribute it to you rather than read it into the record, that might go along with saving a bit of time.

(The Acting Chairman, Mr. Kevin Lamoureux, in the Chair.)

Ms. Hemphill: I wonder if the Minister could give us some understanding of what is going on with Alberta in terms of the Minister for Lotteries in Alberta expressing concern about the economic benefit for Alberta from their operation of the Western Canada Lottery Corporation. We know this is because the infrastructure, the head office is here, the infrastructure is here and the staff is here, but there are so few things that happen that the infrastructure, the staff and the head office is here that it is really of great concern to find Governments complaining bitterly over the little

bit of benefit that we get out of having a head office in Winnipeg.

My question is, since there are, I think, 170 jobs through this employment, is this Government going to take the position that the head office should not and cannot be removed from Manitoba?

* (1600)

Mrs. Mitchelson: I have met face to face with the Ministers from Alberta and Saskatchewan on this very issue, back in June. We had very good discussions, as a matter of fact, and there was a cooperative atmosphere that we all wanted to work together to ensure that the corporation stayed together. What we did was have staff at that point in time go back and take a look at exactly what the economic benefit was and if there was any way at all that any economic benefit could be accrued by Alberta because they sell the majority of the lottery tickets there. We discussed that in detail. We had staff go back and look at ways and means that could happen.

We have received a report from staff and the three Ministers are to be getting together again. We had invited them to Manitoba for December for a meeting. The Minister from Alberta is not able to make it in December and we will not be dealing with that issue until some time in the new year when the three Ministers can get together and have discussions, but I think there was general agreement that we wanted to work together to ensure that—(Interjection)— Yes, to keep our jobs here in Manitoba.

(Mr. Chairman in the Chair.)

Ms. Hemphill: Mr. Chairperson, I know that there is presently the Needs Assessment looking at the distribution and the allocation and I am sure that any question regarding that, the Minister would say that she is awaiting the results of the study. However, the Manitoba Intercultural Council has received what might be called a reasonably significant increase in Lotteries revenues, and I am wondering if the Minister feels that it was too large a percentage increase and whether there are any plans to reduce that.

Mrs. Mitchelson: I have no plans in reducing or changing anything until I get the results of the Needs Assessment. Maybe I will just give you an indication of the time frame on what is going to happen and that might benefit both Opposition Parties.

I am expecting the report from the consultants. Actually, I have asked the consultants for that final report and recommendations by mid-December. After that, there has been a Needs Assessment Committee set up under the Lotteries Foundation, the board of the Lotteries Foundation that will be looking at those recommendations and meeting with umbrella groups on an individual basis to discuss any changes that there might be as a result of the recommendations. They will be on an individual basis one by one. There will be no changes before the new year, and there will probably be a long-range plan for implementation of any changes so that each and every group knows exactly where they are going to be at some period in the future.

Ms. Hemphill: I would like to discuss for a moment or two the issue of gaming on Indian reserves. This is a very sensitive and delicate issue and one that we had agreed that we would try very hard not to have resolved in the courts but we could try and resolve through negotiations. During those negotiations that we had with them, there was an understanding and agreement that jurisdiction to authorize gaming activity was their responsibility, that they can use the funds that they raise for band projects, that they recognize that they have a desire for self-Government and gaming activities on reserves is one of those areas that they think they should be controlling.

I would like to ask the Minister—I think they were allowed to set up a Native Gaming Commission through O/C that allowed them to regulate on reserves but there were still some outstanding issues that had to be negotiated. Are the negotiations going on? Are they productive and positive? Are they coming to resolution, and does the Minister think that the outstanding issues can be resolved through negotiations without requiring a court battle over this issue?

Mrs. Mitchelson: We are not positive on what the end result will be at this point in time but the Minister of Native Affairs (Mr. Downey), the Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae) and myself have been meeting, discussing. We have had meetings with some of the Native groups so there are ongoing negotiations. I think the Member opposite knows it is not an easy problem to resolve but we are working towards a good end result.

Ms. Hemphill: I am wondering if the Minister can indicate whether they have any intention or are giving any consideration to a permanent casino.

Mrs. Mitchelson: That is something that will be determined in the future. There is a Needs Assessment going on. There is a new board at the Lotteries Foundation that is working toward it. They will come forward with recommendations to us as Government and we will have to make decisions when those recommendations come forward.

Ms. Hemphill: A last question, and then my colleague has a question on Lotteries and then we are finished. Does this Government have any intention—we have previously been discussing taking some Lotteries money, identifying it and moving it into a very important area of health reform. I know that the Lotteries monies have, you might say, stabilized and there have been some reductions. I am wondering if this Government has any intentions to do the same. Are you looking at Lotteries monies and are you looking at using it for directing money towards health reform issues?

Mrs. Mitchelson: I think that is an ongoing concern of the general public out there and people are telling us, and I think they are telling all Parties that they do want Lotteries revenues to go to health care. The concern that I have with money just going to health care is that it should not go into ongoing operating for any type of health care. For health reform, or one-time only projects that might—capital projects, those kinds of things, we certainly are looking at and will be looking

at for the future, but it will not be going into general ongoing operating.

Mr. Elijah Harper (Rupert's Land): I did not get to hear her answer regarding the Lotteries, regarding the Indian reserves. I was wondering what the status of the negotiations are. I know, when we were in Government, there were some jurisdictional disputes between the Indian reserves and also the provincial Government. Under the federal legislation, Lotteries come under the jurisdiction of provinces, and also under the federal legislation, under the Indian Act. The bands are able to make dialogues respecting gaming and for some time we have been negotiating with all the Indian bands in Manitoba whether we would proceed with—one of the options was setting up an Indian Gaming Commission or else opting in for the Manitoba Lotteries Commission. I was wondering what the status of that is, and I would like to maybe have a response on that, please.

Mrs. Mitchelson: I just indicated to the Member for Logan (Ms. Hemphill) that it was a problem that was not easily solved by your administration and we are going through the same things right now. But the Minister of Northern and Native Affairs (Mr. Downey) and myself have met with some of the Indian bands. We have had discussions. The Minister of Northern and Native Affairs, myself and the Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae) are in ongoing discussions right now to see whether we cannot come to a resolve to this in the very near future.

Mr. Harper: Thank you for that response. I was just wondering whether the federal Government has a partial role to play in it. I know they have a national task force that they were undertaking and they had made some recommendations. Also, I do not know which organizations—is it the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs that are meeting with the Attorney-General, the Minister of Native Affairs, and the Minister responsible for Lotteries? Because I know several bands are at different stages and they seem to be coming from different directions, one in terms of self-government and one from a different point of view altogether. I know, when we were dealing with the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, they wanted to establish a committee with the Manitoba Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs to deal specifically on the negotiations on the Lotteries Committee. Can she tell us which Indian bands or which organizations she is dealing with?

* (1610)

Mrs. Mitchelson: I am informed it is just part of the ongoing negotiations, and the federal Government have not taken an active role in the past.

Mr. Harper: She did not respond to the other part, which organizations is she is dealing with. Is she dealing with the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, because we had initially dealt with the chiefs' organization rather than dealing with individual bands or dealing with individual tribal councils. We had set it up in the way we would be dealing with the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs who want to deal with the Lotteries.

Mrs. Mitchelson: The intention is to deal with the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs.

Mr. Harper: Just a short question, in terms of dealing with the Lotteries, are they proceeding with the deal under the negotiating with the chiefs to set up an Indian Gaming Commission or is it still up for option to deal under Manitoba Lotteries. I would like to clarify that, please.

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Chairman, we will be dealing ultimately with the Assembly of Chiefs, but any of the bands that want to come forward for a licence can come through the Manitoba Lotteries Foundation and receive that now.

Mr. Carr: Mr. Chairperson, I just have two short questions and then I would like to make a very brief closing statement and that will be it. Can the Minister tell us what the six-month results are for Lotteries monies in Manitoba for this current fiscal year?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Chairman, there is 3 percent to 4 percent above last year.

Mr. Carr: We are debating the Minister's Salary now, so I would like to ask the Minister what I consider to be a very important question.

She was here during—

Mr. Chairman: Order, please. If there are no further questions with respect to Lotteries, perhaps then the Minister could excuse her staff.

Mr. Carr: The Minister was in the House during Question Period and she now is fully aware the debate over the Meech Lake Constitutional Accord is going to be an historic one in this Chamber. She also knows the terms of the Accord have been received with indignation, concern and regret by members of the ethnic communities in Manitoba because of the singular lack of attention paid to the multicultural fabric of Canada in the Meech Lake Agreement.

Does the Minister have a view on that very serious situation as it affects those in Manitoba who believe the multicultural fabric of our nation ought to be discussed in the Canadian Constitution? Has she had discussions with leaders of the ethnic communities where she has expressed her view and listened to those they have expressed, and does she intend to make her views known during the public hearings?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Chairman, I have to indicate quite openly and clearly I have not had discussion with anyone in the ethnic community about the Meech Lake Accord. It has never been on the agenda. No one has ever come to me and asked to discuss it or brought their concerns to me. I have received absolutely no communication in that respect, but we have indicated quite clearly and I, for one, would like to hear what the ethnic community has to say about the different communities. I am hoping they will make representation at the hearings, as we are encouraging everyone to do. I want to listen and learn, understand their concerns. What more can I say? I am willing to listen.

Mr. Carr: I am pleased to close off debate on the Estimates from the Liberal Party. It has been a pleasure for me to stand in this House and talk about issues which are so important to Manitobans. I, for one, believe this Minister is in charge of one of the very most important departments of Government because it has the responsibility of enhancing and enriching the cultural life of our province.

When we talk about the cultural life, we are not speaking only about music and art and theatre and poetry. We are talking about the very fabric of the communities which make up Manitoba. The Minister has particular responsibilities to promote the expansion of cultural opportunities outside the City of Winnipeg. She knows she is the Minister of a department which boasts probably the richest cultural life, funds the richest cultural life of any community of this size anywhere in the world. Those responsibilities are great. She has the challenge of sorting out the difficult and complex problem of funding. It is very important the cultural communities of this province have a security in the base of their funding.

We have for too long been dependent upon the vagaries of Lotteries monies. As the whims of the gambling public pass us by, as Lotteries monies go up and down, so do apprehension and intention among those who have grown accustomed and dependent upon them in past years. May I encourage the Minister to look at the establishment of endowment funds so over the years we can build up reserves of Lotteries monies, the interest of which can be used to look after some of the capital challenges across our province both in the field of recreation and of culture.

May I close by thanking the staff, many of whom I have worked with in the past? We will not suggest the Minister's Salary be reduced to a pallet and three kinds of paint. We wish her well in her very important ministerial responsibilities.

Ms. Hemphill: I just have a few closing remarks to make too. I am going to focus on one particular area, although all of the areas in this department are important. It is the area of multiculturalism.

The point I want to make is this Government has been trying to indicate, and through a lot of words, has been talking about how important this area is. I think that needs to be proven because when the election was on, this Government also refused, under repeated requests from the multicultural community, to come out with a multicultural policy. So they did not have a multicultural policy when they went into the election. They had almost nothing about it in the Throne Speech. I think there was one reference to ethnocultural, the words, once. So they did not give any indication of their intentions in the Throne Speech. I do not see very much intention in the individual Estimates coming forward from the various departments.

I guess I am suggesting to the Government, while this study is very important—we initiated it—it should be shared and there should be some talk, there should be some indication by this Government of what they intend to do other than sitting and waiting for a year

doing nothing in all of these critically important areas. Her opening statement, for instance, had substance and action in most of the other areas but on the issue of multiculturalism it relied, as they have been, completely on the report, on waiting to get the report out, to consult and then to decide what they are going to do. I want to suggest I think they should have taken steps in terms of mandatory, and these were things that could have been done without the report having been dealt with, but mandatory heritage language, directing the school divisions to move on the development of a multicultural policy immediately in the school divisions and giving them time to do it as we have needed time, but setting those things in motion.

The recommendations I suggested before of the human rights where they could have an investigator under the Ombudsman for ethnocultural communities, the Race Relations Committee, the Government advertising. While she talked about a number of things that were done, I wish, as the important coordinating Minister, she would look at that because I do not believe the various departments are as aware as they could be because we had the same problem of the fact that they are advertising for their ordinary programs should not just be done in the traditional press but should be shared with the ethnocultural community and the ethnic press and Inner City Voice, and that they require reminding of that because they think of doing only things that are related to multiculturalism.

There was a mention made of Folklorama being given the same importance as the Ukrainian festival and some of the other festivals and organizations. That was in the recommendations, and I think they could come out with a very strong statement like that.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please. The Honourable Member for Logan (Ms. Hemphill) has the floor and I am having some difficulty in hearing her. Perhaps those Honourable Members wishing to engage in private conversation could do so outside the Chamber.

* (1620)

Ms. Hemphill: The two other areas that I think they could have moved on immediately are contract compliance and affirmative action, and requiring all those bodies receiving funding from them in reasonable amounts to have built-in affirmative action personnel hiring policies. I did not quite accept her statement that we have to get our own working perfectly before we tell anybody else to do it or make it a requirement of funding. All these are things that would not have cost a lot of money, but would give very, very clear messages that you are not sitting around for a year waiting for the responses to the task force. I would suggest to her that she talk to her colleagues and see what actions they can take immediately in this very important area.

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Chairman, I thank the Members opposite for their closing remarks and statements. I will review Hansard and take into account everything that has been said.

I guess the one thing that I do want to clearly state is that I suppose as a result of new programs and

policies and recommendations from task forces or whatever might be, as our Government goes about after the Session meeting and dealing with the major issues that are out there in the community—the Member for Logan (Ms. Hemphill) knows how busy it is during a Session and, I am sure, the Members opposite do. We want to ensure that once this Session is over and we can get on to the day-to-day business of running Government and implementing the programs that need to be implemented, the communities out there will be the judge of what we do or what we do not do. Ultimately, they will be the ones who will be making decisions on whether they have confidence in us and will support us as a result of the actions and the programs and the things that we implement and put into place.

I want to just in closing say thanks to both of the critics for their cooperation through the Estimates process, and I want to really thank from the bottom of my heart my staff who have put in much time over the last several weeks and especially over the last week in getting me prepared for these Estimates. I want to say that we have had a good working relationship and I look forward to continued good relationships. If the Opposition do have any constructive criticism and good suggestions, I look forward to hearing them and working with them so that we can improve the Department of Culture, Heritage and Recreation and Lotteries distribution throughout the province in a fair and equitable manner so that all Manitobans will benefit. Thank you.

Mr. Chairman: Item 1.(a) Minister's salary—pass.

Resolution No. 38: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$1,696,700 for Culture, Heritage and Recreation, Administration and Finance, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1989—pass.

Mr. Chairman: I believe we will next be considering the Estimates of the Department of the Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae).

(RECESS)

* (1630)

SUPPLY—ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Mr. Chairman, Mark Minenko: Let us begin with a statement from the Honourable Minister responsible.

Hon. James McCrae (Attorney-General): Mr. Chairman, the past few months have been a major learning experience for me. From my previous role as a court reporter, a small cog in the engine, I have suddenly found myself responsible for the entire train. As Attorney-General, I am responsible for the integrity and improvement of the justice system in Manitoba. As Attorney-General, I want to have a department that works well and works effectively.

We all want to have a justice system that is viewed with confidence by the people of Manitoba. I believe that our system works very well, but I also accept that

there are some unfortunate perceptions within the community which have to be dispelled.

In this complex world, where both individuals and communities struggle to cope with systems not of their own making and not under their control, crime poses an increasing concern, particularly violent crime.

Modern technological advances that make the details of a crime in Detroit or Paris as available as one committed in your own neighbourhood fuel an atmosphere of fear. To dispel those fears it is essential that the administration of justice in Manitoba be addressed and be seen to be addressed in a cohesive, coordinated fashion, in a way that is sensitive and responsive to the changing needs of the community. The creation of a department that contains all the justice programs was an initial step in this direction.

(The Acting Chairman, Mr. John Angus, in the Chair.)

Our ultimate goal is safe neighbourhoods throughout Manitoba, for ourselves, for our children and our senior citizens, for visitors to our province. I believe that can be accomplished by approaching problems in a businesslike and deliberate way. These Estimates, Mr. Acting Chairman, reflect our intentions.

The opening statement from which I am reading contains very little in the way of financial detail, and that would account for my not having made the opening statement available to Honourable Members.

Stopping crime before it happens is obviously a major objective. Crime prevention is a priority of our Government and of my department. Effective crime prevention can only be accomplished with the support and involvement of ordinary citizens and local communities.

The stated purpose of our election commitments was to increase participation in Manitoba's crime prevention movement by providing a coordinated approach to encourage community education, development of self-help groups, volunteer assistance to high risk groups, and services to high risk victims' groups.

Our goal is to work with all three levels of Government, the police, and with community groups, to support such community-based efforts as the "Neighbourhood Watch" program, the "Block Parent" program, and "Crimestoppers." These Estimates include monies to begin the fulfillment of our commitment to crime prevention through enthusiastic encouragement and support of community-based crime prevention programs.

Stopping crime before it happens is obviously our first objective but, Sir, we live in an imperfect world. Crimes will continue to be committed. It is important that the justice system that follows a crime is, and is seen to be, swift and impartial.

To our Government, that commitment means strong policing services for all Manitobans. We have already taken action to return the local detachment to the community of Reston. We are committed to maintaining and, where appropriate, increasing Manitoba's present level of rural RCMP services.

We are committed to addressing concerns about lengthy and costly delays in the delivery of justice. Long

trial delays and backlogs are unacceptable. It undermines respect for the justice system by offender and victim alike.

Justice must be made more accessible to Manitobans. As a first step in speeding up court proceedings and decreasing the cost of litigation, legislation has been introduced to increase the jurisdiction of Small Claims Court from \$3,000 to \$5,000.00.

The delivery of justice involves more than the delivery of criminal justice. We are keenly aware of the emotional and financial hardship created by lengthy delays at the Land Titles Office here in Winnipeg. When the Government has exclusive jurisdiction for a service, as we do for the registration of land and personal property, it is responsible to ensure that the service is delivered efficiently, promptly and at a reasonable cost. To this end, I have already made it one of my priorities to ensure sufficient resources to quickly reduce the turnaround time on land title registrations and transfers to an acceptable point, and to speed up the conversion of all Manitoba land titles records from paper to computer. We already know, Mr. Acting Chairman, that all it takes is the will to solve a problem. We can sit on problems and let them fester and go on for a long time, but it takes the will to make a decision to correct a problem, and this we have done.

Because our Government believes that justice should be the same no matter where you live, our Government will join with other provinces to minimize the variation in sentencing for similar crimes in different regions of the country, by developing appropriate and uniform sentencing guidelines for all provinces.

To address widespread concerns about how Manitoba's justice system deals with members of the aboriginal community, this budget includes \$840,000 to finance the first year of the Public Inquiry into the Administration of Justice and Aboriginal People headed by Associate Chief Justice Hamilton and Associate Chief Judge Sinclair. The balance of the inquiry's \$1.52 million cost will be funded in 1989-90.

Our Government believes that the pursuit of justice is an ongoing process. Creating and changing laws should involve more than just writing or rewriting legislation. Law reform needs continuous review by people outside the hurly-burly of political life and the stresses and strains of Government service. It needs a clear understanding of how laws are applied, as well as how those applications affect ordinary people. It needs unbiased consideration of how laws are going to change or preserve the lives of the people they affect.

Because of those beliefs, our Government has restored the independence of the Manitoba Law Reform Commission. These Estimates restore its budget, including staff, to its previous level.

One of the commission's first tasks is a re-examination of its own Act. I want to enshrine the commission's independence within its legislation so that it never again can be put at risk without a legislative change. I have also referred The Provincial Court Act to the commission.

The so-called "Ticketgate" affair seriously eroded the public's respect for the official participants of Manitoba's justice system. That respect must be, and is being restored.

To help in that process, I have asked the Law Reform Commission to consider the independence and appointment of justices of the peace and magistrates, and the independence of Provincial Court Judges, including their appointment and tenure.

A major change for the department is the transfer of Corrections from Community Services, a first step in the development of an effective Justice Ministry. This move, which our Government promised during our election campaign, is logical. It makes better use of resources. It puts the people in charge of Corrections into the same department as the people responsible for sentencing. It offers better opportunities to understand what brings people to the point where they become inmates, and how to prevent them from returning.

I am sensitive to the fact that people become involved in crime for a variety of reasons. In many circumstances, the problem begins with a youthful offender from a disadvantaged background. I recognize that some offenders only need the chance to gain job skills, or improve life skills, in order to become contributing members of our community. It is important that our justice system offer those skills early before the young or first-time offender becomes hardened and committed to a life on the wrong side of the law.

By the same token, I am also sensitive to the community's feelings toward violent, repeat and habitual offenders. We are working with the federal Solicitor-General to ensure that parole and day parole provisions for these individuals ensure the safety of Manitobans is not put at risk.

The full weight of the police, the courts, and the correctional system must be brought to bear on dangerous and professional criminals, habitual offenders who are hardened into a way of life in which any chance of rehabilitation is minimal. In those cases, the criminal justice system must respond to the community's desire for protection.

Our Government is committed to working with the federal Government and the other provinces to ensure that Canada's criminal justice system does just that. Justice is not a commodity that is delivered by one person or one department, or one level of Government. It is very much a partnership. It requires involvement and commitment from all of us as individuals and as elected representatives of our communities.

These Estimates, Mr. Acting Chairman, represent that commitment on the part of my department and our Government.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Angus): We thank the Minister for those opening remarks and now we will hear from the Her Majesty's Honourable Opposition, the Member for St. James.

Mr. Paul Edwards (St. James): Thank you, Mr. Acting Chairman. I propose to waive on opening statement.

Given the shortness of time that we have to deal with the Estimates in the Attorney-General's Department, I would like to get right into the Estimates. If my honourable friend has comments, I am willing to . . .

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Angus): We will now hear the opening statements of the Honourable Member for Flin Flon.

* (1640)

Mr. Jerry Storie (Flin Flon): Well, I appreciate the Member for St. James' interest in proceeding to the details of the Estimates. I think there are a couple of things that should be said in response to the Minister's comments and I would like to put those on the record at this point.

I guess I have 40 minutes -(Interjection)- five minutes. I will certainly attempt to keep my remarks brief, because I do know that others have questions and we have a tentative schedule for finishing these Estimates. But I did want to say a couple of things about the administration of justice in the province. Obviously two things come to mind immediately, and one is the Inquiry into Aboriginal Justice which the Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae) mentioned in his opening remarks.

I think that it goes without saying that there are a number of concerns out there about how that inquiry is proceeding, and that is not a reflection on the job that is being done by the justices involved or any of the participants. But it does reflect on the Attorney-General's decision not to lend support to individuals or any more support to individuals, to groups who are looking to present informed opinions to the commission.

I want to say, and my colleague from Rupertsland, I can assure you, will have more to say about the importance of financial support going to groups and individuals who have something to contribute to this process. But I want to say that the Members of the New Democratic Party and certainly those who represent northern Manitoba are as aware as anyone of the injustice of the current system. I know that there was a recent report—and this is, unfortunately, all too typical of the justice system in Northern Manitoba—that talks about the requirement of someone from God's Lake or Gods Lake Narrows paying some \$240 for an airplane trip to attend court in the Island Lake area or Thompson. If they in fact want to present a defence, a witness to provide some sort of defence for themselves, there are additional costs that will be incurred by that individual or group in terms of their own ability to defend themselves through the system. Clearly there are many, many stories that need to be told to this inquiry, and I think one of the concerns that my colleague has and many of the northern representatives have is a question of access to the justice system.

The Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae) mentioned in his opening remarks that his desire is to see that justice is served to individuals, regardless of where they live in the province, and that the justice delivered is the same regardless of where they live in the province. The Minister may be able to affect how justice is delivered,

the standards which apply, more easily from his seat in Brandon or his seat in his office. But the question of whether it is going to be applied equally is going to be resolved not by some philosophical, some bureaucratic order from the Minister. It is going to be resolved by a willingness to support the justice system financially and it is going to be resolved, I think, in the final analysis by some of the things that have been said to the inquiry by aboriginal leaders. I think, fundamentally, it is going to be resolved by a transfer of responsibility for justice to aboriginal peoples themselves.

I know that is something that has arisen as an objective on the part of aboriginal groups for many years, but I believe fundamentally that is true. They are going to have to deliver their own justice system because of their closeness, their understanding of, I guess, the background of a particular offence, a particular crime, and also their understanding of what the community demands in terms of some innate sense of justice.

Justice is only done if it is seen to be done in the eyes of the beholder. What is justice for myself perhaps or what is justice for the Attorney-General, the court system of Winnipeg and Manitoba, may not be justice in the eyes of the community, and that is equally as important. I hope that the inquiry will receive the benefit of the opinion of the hundreds and hundreds of people out there who have had an extremely negative experience with the court system. I hope that this Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae) will have the wisdom to provide the necessary support to make sure that the inquiry does not become an exercise in a review by Southerners of their expectations of the system. It should be a review by those who understand the system, who are familiar with it, who are part of it. It should be an exercise in terms of rearranging the system so that it functions in the interests of the people in northern Manitoba.

It is not going to be a simple task. It is not going to be done without stepping on some toes in the Attorney-General's Department, in the justice system generally, but I think it is something that we have to address. I hope that this Attorney-General will have the wisdom and the courage to break with tradition and perhaps do something new and innovative when it comes to aboriginal justice.

My colleagues are also going to want to talk about the gag order which did exist, unfortunately, with respect to civil servants. I know that my colleague from Rupertsland (Mr. Harper) is going to have more to say about that. I think it is indicative of what is going to happen in this inquiry unless we expand its horizon and invite criticism of the system and invite criticism which is non-judgmental, that we do not get into a situation where we do not encourage criticism of a system which clearly has failed Native people, aboriginal people, in many respects. Let us not get ourselves into a situation where we want to limit criticism. Let us open it up and let us truly try and understand what parts of the system have failed and why they failed.

Some of the interpretations that I have seen from members within the Civil Service who have received

instructions about what they may say and how they may say it and when they may say it to the inquiry, I think, are disturbing. My colleague has some more information to be dealt with on that.

Finally I want to say, and I was disappointed that the Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae) did not talk about how in the province we may simplify the justice system. I recently spoke on the amendments to the Court of Queen's Bench. I am not a lawyer, I am not an expert in the legal system but there were things in that amendment, things in those amendments, which I thought were useful, which I thought would simplify the system, which I thought made the system more humane. We talked about amendments to the Small Claims Court which I thought were good amendments, which were going to make the system more accessible to the average person.

One of the tasks, I think, of the Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae) should be to listen to more than simply the legal profession and those who have a vested interest, and that is perhaps not the right word, but have a vested interest in the legal system. I have argued this for many years. I argued it unsuccessfully with previous Attorney-Generals, including the previous Attorney-Generals of the Government, that we need to simplify the system.

We need to write laws in English. We need to express Government regulations, including those under the jurisdiction of the Attorney-General, in English. We need to demystify the legal process. We need to allow people to work with legal documents in a manner in which they can understand and feel comfortable. That includes—and I remind the Attorney-General that my colleague has a Private Members' Bill on here dealing with The Real Property Act, I believe that is the title, which calls for such a simplification, which calls for a demystification of the process of transferring land titles and registering titles.

* (1650)

I think there is a whole area for this Government to get involved and this Attorney-General to get involved in the area of preparing wills, in the area of land transaction, in the area of uncontested divorce. I think we need to get into that to empower the average person, to give the average person some sense of assurance that they can deal with legal matters without relying on professionals. They can deal with simple straightforward issues before courts, before judges, in dealing with legal transactions without the necessity of relying on professionals. I believe that self-fulfillment, that the ability of individuals to do for themselves is something that is extremely important, and we can go a long way in this department to help people fulfill themselves, to make them feel more competent and capable if we try to simplify some of the things that we do and, it seems to me, that are unnecessarily complicated.

There are a number of other areas, more specific areas that will be questioned by myself and some of my colleagues, but those are a couple of the areas which, in principle, I think the Minister should have

addressed more thoroughly and perhaps he will have an opportunity to address more thoroughly as we ask specific questions. Thank you.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Angus): We thank the Honourable Member for that information. We will now invite the administration in and the real Acting Chairman back to the table. We will take about a three minute recess while they bring in the administration.

(Mr. Chairman in the Chair.)

Mr. Chairman: Item 1.(a) Administration and Finance, Minister's Salary as per normal, as is usual, is deferred.

Item 1. Administration and Finance: (b)(1) Executive Support, Salaries.

Mr. Edwards: By way of general statement about the Administration and Finance Branch, I note that even with the Aboriginal Justice Inquiry, even with \$840,000 added in, there is still a substantial increase in the amount of funds that are appropriated for 1989 when compared with the '87-88 actual expenditures and, in particular, with respect to 1.(b)(1) and (2). I am wondering if the Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae) can simply explain the increase in that particular appropriation which is in the neighbourhood of, according to my calculation, approximately \$61,000 or \$62,000.00.

Mr. McCrae: Mr. Chairman, before I get to the detailed answer, I would like to introduce to the committee the four gentlemen in front of me. I take great pleasure in re-introducing, if that is the right word, to the Legislature, Mr. Gordon Pilkey, recently appointed Deputy Attorney-General; and to his left, Mr. John Guy, Assistant Deputy Attorney-General for Criminal Justice; and to my outside left, Mr. Ron Perozzo, Assistant Deputy Attorney-General, Justice Division; and right in front of me and to my left, Mr. Pat Sinnott, Executive Director of Finance and Administration.

I think the question the Honourable Member is asking is about the increase in, I take it, both 1.(b)(1) and (2). I think the answer with respect to Other Expenditures has to do with funding for the inquiry into the so-called "Ticketgate" matter, the Dewar Review.

Mr. Edwards: Just for clarification then, is the Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae) saying that amount of money—I think you mentioned in the House it was \$75,000—came out of the appropriation under Executive Support?

Mr. McCrae: It came out of appropriation 1.(b)(2) Other Expenditures. The amount was, I think, precisely \$75,300.00.

Mr. Edwards: Can the Attorney-General indicate, in terms of Executive Support, how many employees are included in that Salaries appropriation?

Mr. McCrae: The appropriation is to cover the salary costs for 10 people, including those people in the Minister's office and in the Deputy Minister's office.

Mr. Edwards: I realize that. I was wondering how many outside of—and let me clarify—non-clerical staff that includes?

Mr. McCrae: For my office, the appropriation is intended to cover the salary costs for an executive assistant, a special advisor, and a special assistant. The occupant of that position is an executive assistant. In the Deputy Minister's office, the appropriation is to cover the Deputy Minister's salary plus a secretary plus an administrative assistant.

Mr. Chairman: Is it the will of the committee to pass this item? (Agreed) Item 1.(b) Executive Support: (1) Salaries—pass; item 1.(b)(2) Other Expenditures—pass.

Item 1.(c) Research, Planning and Evaluation: (1) Salaries.

Mr. Edwards: Mr. Chairman, it is my understanding that under this subappropriation, and I am looking at the objectives that have been listed, independent studies and research done by the Attorney-General's Department might fall under this area. In particular, I am wondering about the June 20, 1988 announcement by the Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae) that there would be a study done by his department into wife abuse. I am wondering if he can comment on how that is coming along.

Mr. McCrae: The question the Honourable Member asks refers, I take it, specifically to the issue of family violence and more specifically wife abuse. One staffperson is assisting the Department of Community Services in an analysis of the Women's Directorate. The Research, Planning and Evaluation Division of the department is also working with the federal Government in discussions regarding family violence.

Mr. Edwards: The Attorney-General has indicated that he has a staff member, I believe, who is working on this or coordinating certain work with perhaps the federal Government. We know that there is presently a committee going around this province. The MLA for Kirkfield Park (Mrs. Hammond) is on that committee. What is the relationship with that committee? Is it that committee's mandate to look at wife abuse cases and to hear testimony about wife abuse and the dealing with that problem by the Attorney-General's Department, or is the Attorney-General coordinating his own study about wife abuse in this province?

Mr. McCrae: I think the question regarding an initiative of another department is better put in the Estimates or on any other occasion the Honourable Member might have to ask those questions regarding the activities of other departments.

Mr. Edwards: Mr. Chairman, I certainly was not asking the Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae) to comment on that particular study. I am asking him to comment on whether or not his department has had any involvement with that study. That study is obviously travelling around this province, talking to women about women's issues and of course wife abuse is a very large women's issue. They are hearing testimony, according to the press reports, on that subject. Is the Attorney-General taking a role in those committees? Has he got representatives analyzing and hearing about what the committee hears,

or is he planning his own study on wife abuse which he has committed himself to on June 20, 1988? In particular, I would like to know if they plan to hold public hearings or if these are the public hearings that are going on right now.

* (1700)

Mr. McCrae: The committee the Honourable Member refers to is indeed very actively involved right now and my department will be very interested in receiving any information that comes out of that task force. Any recommendations or any report that comes out of that, my department would be interested in, as I would suggest any department concerned with the question of family violence.

Now family violence very often becomes very much a criminal concern and our department, our prosecutors, our police people across the province, our judicial system, are all involved in trying to grapple with the problem of family violence in whatever form it takes, whether that be child abuse, child sexual abuse, wife abuse. Family violence is violence and it comes under the heading, in too many cases, of criminal violence, and this Government is very much interested in and committed to the reduction of the problems which result in family violence.

Of course, as a justice system, unfortunately it is our job to deal with the effects of family violence. Any part that we can play in the prevention side is also something that we will be very interested in. But the department of Attorney-General is not directly involved in the committee the Honourable Member refers to.

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

Call in the Speaker.

IN SESSION COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Speaker: The hour being 5 p.m. it is time for Private Member's Business.

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

I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Lac du Bonnet (Mr. Praznik), that the report of the committee be received.

MOTION presented and carried.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS 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 Minister of Urban Affairs (Mr. Ducharme). (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 Member for Osborne (Mr. Alcock).

Mr. Darren Praznik (Lac du Bonnet): I would like to speak on this Bill, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Would there be agreement to leave it standing in the name of the Honourable Member for Osborne? (Agreed)

Mr. Praznik: I am certainly delighted to have the opportunity to speak again on what is essentially a dual piece of legislation being proposed by our colleague, the Honourable Member for Elmwood (Mr. Maloway). I had the opportunity earlier in the debate on Bill No. 2 to offer some of my thoughts and comments on his two-pronged pieces of legislation, and I appreciate the opportunity to reiterate those comments today on Bill No. 3 with respect to amendments to The Corporations Act.

First of all, I think the intention of the Member for Elmwood, as I said earlier, is certainly a good one. He certainly has seen a situation that he would like to resolve, and that is a concern and an attitude that I think is shared by all Members of this Assembly. Certainly, we are not happy with the situation that has developed because of an anomaly in the two particular statutes. Certainly, we feel for the Brick's Fine Furniture, the particular company, on the inconvenience that they have suffered as a result of the arrival of The Brick Furniture Warehouse in Manitoba. Needless to say, it has caused them a great deal of concern. They have suffered a great deal of concern because of that.

As one Member opposite, I believe a Liberal Member, has pointed to the House—I believe it was the Member for Radisson (Mr. Patterson)—suggested that the publicity surrounding this turn of events may have even been financially advantageous to the Brick family. I am not going to argue that one way or another. I think we will take the words of the Member for Radisson, the Liberal Member for Radisson at par, Mr. Speaker. But whether it has resulted in greater business for the Brick family or whether it has not is really not the point. It certainly has caused them a great deal of heartache and inconvenience, and there is no doubt about that.

The problem we face, as Members of this House are very well aware, of course is the fact that we have federal trademark legislation that has somehow snuck in underneath the protection provided by The Business Names Registration Act, and it is certainly a very unhappy situation. I think I speak for many, many people in Manitoba who are in the business community when

they see a problem that their names cannot be protected by The Business Names Registration Act, where they comply with this particular piece of legislation, The Corporations Act as well, and yet they are not protected by those pieces of legislation, because of the ability of a company to register under federal legislation and then come into Manitoba and operate without paying any due regard to the statutes of this Assembly. I do not think there is a Member amongst us who thinks that is a good situation.

* (1710)

The question that arises, Mr. Speaker, very plainly, very clearly, is how do we correct that situation. I somehow wonder, as I have listened to the debate in this Chamber, as I have spoken privately to our colleague, the Member for Elmwood (Mr. Maloway), again I say, whose motives I do not challenge in any way. I think they are very noble and worthy ones. It is an attempt by a Member of this House to solve a difficult situation, and I give him full marks for that. But the question is, does this particular legislation, does this really answer the question? Does this provide a legal alternative? Does this provide a statute which will ultimately be upheld by the courts of Manitoba, or will it simply provide another piece of legislation that we are going to see overturned by our courts and found to be totally wanting because of a constitutional question?

The kind of evidence of just that fact happening, I think, that has come from the Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae) and other Members of this House has been very convincing that this piece of legislation is going to do just that. It is not really going to solve the problem that we have with this anomaly in our law.

I rise again to make those—(Interjection)—The Member for Elmwood (Mr. Maloway) has said we will not know unless we try. The Attorney-General made the decision on the advice of his department not to prosecute The Brick Warehouse in this particular situation. I am sure there are Members of this House, some perhaps on this side, who would think that perhaps we should have gone to court and tested our Bill, and that is certainly a very fair argument.

That is the kind of decision that an Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae) has to make. This is certainly one of those cases that I think is—I would not even say borderline, certainly leaning the other way, but one that I think a fair argument could have made that perhaps we should have proceeded. Perhaps the Attorney-General should have turned down the advice offered to him by his department and gone to court and seen if a conviction would have been obtained or if it would have been thrown out. But the Attorney-General received very strong opinion from his department, from solicitors in his department and, as a good Attorney-General, relies on that kind of advice and made a decision.

That really begs the question here as to whether this is the right route to go because, if it is not, Mr. Speaker, we have wasted a great deal of time in this Assembly, a great deal of many hours of debate, when perhaps the real solution—and this is where I would like to urge

the Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae) today. Since we have now completed the federal election, we now have a newly or re-elected Government in Ottawa and, I take it, very early in the new year we will know who the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs will be in Ottawa. I say this to our colleague, the Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae), I would hope and I trust that he will in the new year call upon the federal Minister and his colleagues from the other provinces in this country to assemble and to deal with this problem.

Mr. Speaker, I think the answer is going to lie in the federal Parliament amending the Trademarks Act and other appropriate federal statutes to give the kind of teeth to the authority, to recognize the authority of the provinces to have paramount legislation in this area, so that we can protect businesses in our province.

As well, Mr. Speaker, I think it is very clear that the key element to solving this problem in the long haul is not necessarily this type of retroactive legislation because I think it is going to lead to, even without the retroactivity, continual disputes about registration from companies who register federally, who meet those requirements and then come into a province thinking that they have a fine registration, the ability to use their name and then find they cannot.

We are going to have these continual wrangles, Mr. Speaker, and quite fairly you are going to see companies who register federally years before a provincial company in Manitoba or any other province would register who have a long history with a particular name, not necessarily in that province but nationally, who are going to be making the argument that they were certainly there first with a well-established name and someone has come along and registered ahead of them in a province.

So if that were the case in this situation, I think the Member for Elmwood (Mr. Maloway) may not have brought in this piece of legislation. The problem we have is the Brick's Fine Furniture is a long-established company in the Province of Manitoba.

What all of this points to I think very clearly, no matter how one works paramountcy of legislation, is the issue of having a national registry for business names in this country. I think what has to come out of this entire debate—and I say this to our colleague, the Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae), and I know from my conversations with him that he understands this issue very well and I would hope his intention to carry it through. Perhaps the challenge that comes to us in Manitoba is to use this situation to push on the federal level very strongly for the national registry for business names. The Attorney-General has indicated that and I think, Mr. Speaker, that is the route that we have to go in Manitoba.

There is no doubt, no doubt in my mind, and I think no doubt in the mind of the majority of Members in this House, that kind of registry operating from coast to coast will allow us to eliminate this problem totally, Mr. Speaker, because then it becomes simply a question of plugging in your name and seeing if it pops up in other parts of the country and what paramountcy the time of registration provides to you.

Mr. Speaker, that is the real solution to this very difficult problem, and again I have said in my previous speech on Bill 2 and I have said earlier today, I do not think anyone doubts the motives, the intentions of the Member for Elmwood (Mr. Maloway) in presenting this piece of legislation.

I just have to question as to whether or not this really is the route that we should be going to solve this very difficult problem. I would hope that as this debate continues to evolve in this Chamber that perhaps the Member for Elmwood (Mr. Maloway) and perhaps the Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae) could meet to discuss this real option of how quickly could we convene Ministers of Consumer and Corporate Affairs nationally, how fast could we get the new federal Minister when he is appointed in the new year. I understand the Prime Minister has indicated that he would be making his Cabinet changes in the new year. How fast can we see this move ahead? Because if there is real movement early in the new year—and I am sure our Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae) will be a key player in seeing that happen. If we have real movement in the new year, then the need for this legislation has gone.

Mr. Speaker, I would add in my comments to the Attorney-General today, to this House today that, in those negotiations, perhaps we should be looking at some retroactivity to solve just such a problem. I think it has to come from the provinces and the federal Government sitting down and working out a scheme that will work across the nation.

If you look at the history of The Corporations Act, The Business Names Registration Act, they really hail from a day when national companies were few and far between, when markets were very much localized, when businesses were localized. They were designed for a time when, if you had a company operating in Ontario, the province whose legislation we have modelled, or in Manitoba or Saskatchewan, that you really operate it within that provincial jurisdiction. There was not really the need for a national registration. Times have changed. I think, as we move into free trade, we will see that happen again. We are expanding our boundaries. Our businesses have been expanding their areas of operation. So the need for a national business corporation names registration scheme is going to be pressing upon us with even greater intensity in the years ahead.

Mr. Speaker, the Brick situation in Manitoba, although very difficult for the Brick family and there is no denying that, has certainly presented the Province of Manitoba, this Legislature, and our Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae) with an opportunity to be a leader in Canada in pushing for the establishment of that system. Although the Member for Elmwood (Mr. Maloway) has made an attempt to rectify the situation, I do not think really that it is the right way to go. We should be pushing for the national registry.

* (1720)

Mr. Speaker, in closing my remarks, I would hope again that the Member for Elmwood and the Attorney-General would be able to carry on some discussions

that would accommodate that end, as opposed to seeing us pass this particular legislation, which I do not really think solves the long-term problem. Given its retroactivity, it perhaps could cause some additional problems that are not seen at this particular time.

I thank you again for the opportunity to speak on this particular Bill. I look forward in the new year to seeing the national registry, of some sort, established to meet the need that is certainly there.

Hon. Clayton Manness (Minister of Finance): I move, seconded by the Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae), that debate be adjourned.

Mr. Speaker: Order. This one, by leave, is going to remain standing in the name of the Honourable Member for Osborne (Mr. Alcock).

BILL NO. 13—THE MANITOBA HYDRO AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Speaker: On the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie), Bill No. 13, The Manitoba Hydro Amendment Act; Loi modifiant la Loi sur l'Hydro-Manitoba, standing in the name of the Honourable Member for Inkster (Mr. Lamoureux). (Stand)

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 Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Cummings). (Stand)

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). The Honourable Member for Lac du Bonnet (Mr. Praznik) has seven minutes remaining:

Mr. Darren Praznik (Lac du Bonnet): I would appreciate the opportunity, with leave of the House, to speak after my colleague the Member for La Verendrye (Mr. Pankratz), who would like to address this.

Mr. Speaker: Does the Honourable Member for Lac du Bonnet have leave to let it remain standing in his name? (Agreed)

Mr. Helmut Pankratz (La Verendrye): Actually I expected that now that the election is over and a lot of comments have been made and this Bill pertains very much in respect to the free trade, that we would see Members opposite withdrawing, making retractions, and maybe even going as far as making apologies for

all the different comments that had been put on the record. I think it would have just shown that they truly allowed the democratic system to flow forward the way actually the election proved itself and they used this Bill, plus quite a few other Bills, just to create scare tactics for the people in the Province of Manitoba. In all fairness to all the people in Manitoba, I think it would be great if they would now also be able to prove themselves by actually withdrawing this Bill. This Bill actually should be withdrawn like some others should be, because there is no reason for them to be on the Order Paper at all.

We have had a good relationship with the United States for many, many years. We have had a water agreement which was signed, I believe in something like 1909 between the two countries. I think the United States has treated us very fairly as a neighbour and I think, in order to have a good neighbour, you also have to be a good neighbour. I think that holds true when it comes to country relationships as well. It is not only in places where we live but it is also as countries as well. I think the United States in all fairness, we must say the big giant they are, they have proven themselves as being real good neighbours.

An Honourable Member: We do not have to marry them.

Mr. Pankratz: That is right. We have seen demonstrations when the USA had a consulate office in Winnipeg. We have seen where there were demonstrations—and even as far as I think some Members opposite were also at a flag burning ceremony, attended it. I think some of those things are documented, and it is very hard now to come back and actually retract that from the record. I mean it is there.

But something of this nature where we get a Bill of this nature which has just been basically introduced just to create scare tactics among the people in the Province of Manitoba before an election like some of the other Bills, I think it would be wise if the Members opposite would be as honourable as they were when they introduced the Bill and now retract the Bills.

As they possibly will not be doing that, I would like to go back to the statement in regard to the Red River diversion. When Duff Roblin was the Premier of the Province of Manitoba, we had a couple of floods and the Red River flooded. He had the foresight to make an agreement with the United States of America and they built the Red River Floodway. A lot of people were very critical over him, and actually it was almost to the point where that would be the finish of Duff Roblin. But it so happened that now actually about 20 years later a great big plaque was erected in his honour for what he had accomplished at that point in time. But at the time, the people were very negative about the project.

I think in all fairness this Bill was introduced again, like I said before, to be critical over the free trade Bill which was before us. The people in Canada have spoken. They have given the federal Government a clear mandate to go ahead with the free trade.

Water which has never been a part of that free trade became an issue. I think it was something that was just clearly put on the record just for political gain, not what is best for the people in the Province of Manitoba or Canada as such but totally just for political gain. There for a while it seemed as if some of that fearmongering and so forth would actually take off. But you know the people in the province and also in Canada—you can only deceive some of the people sometimes. You give them enough time and they realize what is happening, and then they will not buy that kind of fearmongering.

The Member for Rhineland (Mr. Penner) indicated when he was speaking on this Bill that they have had an agreement with the communities from across the line, from the United States, border communities for, I think, 13 years, I believe it was what he indicated. That shows cooperation. That shows cooperation from the American side helping us at that point in time already. Here we had cooperation when the Red River was flooding with the Americans. We can see time and time again where we have had cooperation with the American Government and all we have done here, on this side of the House, is be critical over them. I think, in all fairness, that is not how we can create a good neighbourly relationship by just being critical over our neighbours.

Mr. Speaker, what we need to see is more cooperation. I would like to quote actually the Leader of the Official Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs) two years ago in the House. She indicated—and actually I will never forget that comment because I actually thought that was a very good comment that she made at that time. She says, to be critical for the sake of criticizing something, that we should not be critical for the sake of just criticizing. Just because we are in Opposition, we need not be against. The Member for St. Norbert (Mr. Angus) who introduced this Bill, it seemed he was naturally opposed to free trade. He and his Members did everything they could in that part to stymie free trade, anything they could before the election. Now it would be appropriate if the Member for St. Norbert would get up and actually retract this Bill. We are wasting time in this House, speaking on a Bill which basically has no value to it whatsoever anymore - (interjection)- Like the Member for St. Norbert says, let it die. I think that is possibly what will happen, I guess, with the Bill. I would not doubt it.

* (1730)

The other thing that I thought was quite interesting to see was that Rafferty-Alameda Dam project in Saskatchewan and how Members opposite have been critical over this project. The Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Penner) has been questioned in the House time and time again on this project. Now we see that there are quite a few municipalities within Manitoba that want the same project and want another one like that. Here again, like what the Leader of the Official Opposition at that time indicated to me two years ago, well not only to me but to a couple of us, that you should not just be critical just because you are in Opposition. I think that holds true. I think some of the Members opposite should take heed of what she

said two years ago. I think that was a wise statement that she made at that time.

We saw the Member for Selkirk get defeated and how actually, I think, the Member did get defeated was basically because of his record. When a province like Manitoba builds up a deficit, the Member when he was in charge of the Province of Manitoba, the deficit that we accumulated, there is just absolutely no way that we could carry on with something of that nature. Mr. Speaker, we also saw that the Member indicated numerous times that, for instance, we should not be negotiating or we should get our trade with our neighbours before we get our trade with the United States in place.

In 1987, there was a letter passed that the Manitoba Telephone System should not tender—they should tender their project, but 65 percent of their tendering projects should go to Manitoba companies and 35 percent, if it was within 5 percent, also should go to Manitoba companies. The reason why a memo like that was passed to a Manitoba Telephone System was because we were not being competitive anymore. The fact of the matter is that, because of our payroll taxes and a few other taxes that we were imposing on industries in our province, they could not be competitive in the marketplace anymore. So we were already passing legislation.

I can see very clearly why these Members were against the Free Trade Agreement. When you see memos like that coming forward from the Government of the Day, it is very clear that business in the Province of Manitoba gets taxed right out of it and they cannot compete any longer.

I would like to indicate to Members opposite that we see in regard to this water for the Province of Manitoba that most of the water that we have in our province all comes from other provinces. It all flows through our province, and I think we are a very fortunate province in that respect that we can capitalize on a lot of this. We can capitalize on this water that is running into our province and make use of it but, in all fairness to our neighbours to the South, I believe we must show cooperation and, with cooperation with our neighbours, I think we can allow something of this nature to improve—that whatever we do with our neighbours in that regard, we can improve our relationship.

The Minister of Trade and Tourism, he indicated, well now the globe, the earth has shifted in such a way that now all our water will now all of a sudden have to run to the United States. Well I think, thank Heaven that over some of these issues we do not have control or possibly we would even be disputing that fact. But I think we are very fortunate - (interjection)- Yes, like the Member indicates, what about the snow? That is right. It says even in this Bill something to that effect, that even the snow—maybe we should pass some legislation that the snow cannot pass the boundary or that you need an export permit, that we can apply a fee for the snow that blows there in the wintertime. Maybe that is possible.

Well, I think, like I indicated in the outset of my speech, this Bill should be retracted, like a few others should

be, so that Members in this House are not speaking to something that basically has been introduced just totally for fearmongering and basically to some degree, I would say, it has come very close to having something in the neighbourhood of almost like lies documented on the Order Paper.

So I think, Mr. Speaker, with that, I would like to state that if it would be anything that the Opposition could do at this present time to show that the election, a democratic system is in progress. If they believe in a democratic system, then it would be in their best interests if a Bill like No. 20, that they would remove that Bill from the Order Paper. Thank you.

Mr. Praznik: I appreciate the opportunity to conclude my remarks of the previous week on this particular piece of legislation. At that time, we were in the height of the federal election, height of the free trade debate. Given the lack of questions from Members across the way during the course of this week, I would take it that they are accepting the results of Monday's general election, and it is time to get on with other issues.

Just a comment on that if I may for a moment, I notice that their federal Leader, Mr. John Turner, committed his federal Party to assisting or not interfering in the passage of the trade legislation through Parliament, although the five Liberal Members from Manitoba led by Mr. Lloyd Axworthy on the night of the election pledged to fight it tooth and nail, pledged to continue fighting it. So needless to say, the knives are out for Mr. Turner, and I am sure in the days ahead the political pundits of the province will have great fun in watching the once-mighty Liberal Party chewing up its Leaders, as it often accused the Conservative Party of doing.

Mr. Speaker, if I may use these final minutes remaining to me, I would like to speak with respect to this legislation. The kind of thrust that it came from was obviously an anti-free trade point of view.

What concerns me most about the Members opposite in the Liberal Party is their lack of consistency in anything they do. Their critic for Finance, who is obviously an opponent of the free trade bill, opponent of prosperity and progress in Manitoba, in a speech given in this House on Friday, the 28th of October, said on a number of occasions, pointed out about the excess of \$11 billion of debt in this province. He said, Mr. Speaker: "The growth rate of Government expenditures cannot continue to exceed the growth rate of the provincial economy." He talked again, the Member for Transcona (Mr. Kozak), about the need to stimulate the private sector, the need to eliminate the 2 percent flat tax on net income, and he spoke about his participation in a Royal Bank economic briefing in the province and again stressed the need for us to get our spending under control.

* (1740)

Well, Mr. Speaker, just on this note, I would like to remind the Members of the Liberal Party opposite that since July 21 of this year their commitments of spending have totalled over \$555,115.00. That is just their

commitments or their promises since the 21st of July. That is not their election commitment. Eliminate rural party lines, \$33 million per year; eliminate long distance charges, \$1.24 billion I believe; provide funding for the In Vitro Fertilization Program, \$750,000; allow producers to enrol retroactively in the Crop Insurance Program, another \$100 million; \$65,000 for emergency funding for additional police on the Red River; additional funding for the Port of Churchill, another \$101 million; use all revenues from land titles to reduce the backlog, another \$12.7 million; \$200 million to roll back the payroll tax.

It goes on and on, Mr. Speaker, one promise after another to spend more money on the part of the province, one after another, and yet their Finance critic, Mr. Kozak, in this House has the nerve to get up and make comments that we should be controlling our deficit.

The reason I tied that into this Act is because this Act, Mr. Speaker, was put to this Legislature deliberately as an anti-free trade piece of legislation. I would hope that in the spirit of last Monday's results, the Member for St. Norbert (Mr. Angus) would do the honourable thing and withdraw this piece of legislation from the Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: By leave, this matter will continue to stand in the name of the Honourable Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae).

Hon. James McCrae (Attorney-General): Mr. Speaker, I rise to participate in the debate on Bill 20, the proposed Water Rights Amendment Act put forward in this House by the Honourable Member for St. Norbert (Mr. Angus).

I really wonder at this stage of the game why it is when debate began today or when Bill 20 was called today, why the Honourable Member for St. Norbert was not on his feet rather quickly requesting that the Bill be withdrawn in view of the events of the last few days, in view of the fact that the Bill does nothing, the Bill helps no one, the Bill is nothing more than a little bit of fluff, and the Honourable Member for St. Norbert knows it. I am surprised that the Honourable Member for St. Norbert was not very quick on his feet to tell Honourable Members, okay, the joke is over, I am not going to take up any more of your time with this piece of fluff. I am here to try to see that the business of the House is not impeded by foolishness.

But the Honourable Member for St. Norbert did not say any of those things. He did not do that. He did not remove his Bill from the Order Paper as he should have done. If he had done that, he would have shown a mature attitude. He would have shown a respect for the electorate of this country we all love. But no, the Honourable Member, in classic Liberal style, has shown the kind of arrogance that we experienced for 16 years under the leadership of the Right Honourable Pierre Elliott Trudeau in this country. Honourable Members opposite in the Liberal Party unabashedly say they would like to follow in the footsteps of Pierre Elliott Trudeau and do to the people of this country what the Right Honourable Pierre Elliott Trudeau did to the people of this country.

I think it is a shocking admission and, Mr. Speaker, if I was an Honourable Member sitting among the

Liberals, which makes as a very hypothetical situation I must say, but if I were sitting with Honourable Members opposite, I would be hanging my head. I would be saying, let us get serious about what we are doing in the Legislature. Let us get serious about what we are trying to do for the people of Manitoba.

The Honourable Member for St. Norbert (Mr. Angus) allows this to remain. The Honourable Member for St. Norbert ignores strongly held feelings of Manitobans, certainly in those areas outside the City of Winnipeg and I suggest to a large extent within the City of Winnipeg, but he ignores the feelings of rural Manitobans and Manitobans from outside Winnipeg. His colleague, the Honourable Member for St. James (Mr. Edwards), is up the last couple of days during Question Period purportedly showing some kind of concern for the city of Brandon and rural areas about having a Unified Family Court.

Well, Mr. Speaker, these people are not fooling anyone. Right in front of the Honourable Member for St. James (Mr. Edwards) sits the Honourable Member for Kildonan (Mr. Cheema), who is the Health critic for the Liberal Party. The Honourable Member for St. James says that he is concerned about problems in Brandon and in rural Manitoba, but why has he not done anything to talk to, for instance, as his colleague, the Honourable Member for Kildonan, on behalf of those 2,300 psychiatric patients in the city of Brandon and in that area? If they are so concerned about rural Manitoba, why did they bring forward this kind of fluff that is contained in Bill No. 20? Why do they stand steadfastly to a position opposed to a freer trade arrangement between Canada and the United States?

Why do they do these things, Mr. Speaker? They do not do it to help the people of this country. They do not do it to properly represent the people of this country. They do it to engage in some politicking and to take a position opposite from the position taken by a Government, re-elected by a majority in Ottawa, in opposition to a Government in Manitoba, which is doing its level best day in and day out to represent the people of this province and to conduct the affairs of this province in a responsible way, when every empirical study, every study by anyone of any credibility tells us the Free Trade Agreement will inure benefits to the people of Manitoba, probably more to the people of Manitoba than any other jurisdiction in this country. The Honourable Member uses Bill No. 20 to launch his attack on free trade.

Well, the debate should be over. The Honourable Member for St. Norbert (Mr. Angus) and his colleagues should understand what happened in this country on Monday. They should accept willingly what the people of this country have had to say.

No, they will not do that but instead, they will quickly get off this business of free trade and get on to another issue that they think there is some pretty good politics in for them, and that would be our constitutional arrangements vis-a-vis the federal Government and the provinces.

I tell you, Mr. Speaker, it is the cheapest kind of politics I can imagine to conduct oneself in the way

Honourable Members opposite have been conducting themselves in this House.

First of all, we know, as a result of the events in this House since this Session began July 21, the Honourable Member for Concordia (Mr. Doer) refers to the Brinks truck syndrome, and I will tell you the Liberals in this House have it bad. They have it very bad. We can go chapter and verse over all the demands made by Honourable Members of the Liberal Party during Question Periods in this House regarding the spending they would urge upon the Government. But let them be responsible for the things that they say. Let them be responsible and held accountable for the things they say and the positions they take.

Now there is, as I say, chapter and verse as to what those positions are. When the time comes for those Honourable Members to face the people who sent them here, the people will be reminded of the positions those Honourable Members have taken. They will also be reminded of the solid performance of the Government Party in this House, and they will have another chance to make a choice.

But if Honourable Members want to run another election on the free trade issue, I welcome that. In the meantime, I suggest to the Honourable Member, withdraw your Bill, withdraw Bill No. 20, and let us get on to the real issues that should be concerning us.

I have talked briefly about what happened on Monday. There was good news for the Liberal Party and bad news for the Liberal Party. There was good news for the Progressive Conservatives and bad news for the Progressive Conservatives. There was dismal news for the New Democrats. We all know that all the Parties have had to take some lumps and have had some minor victories. When we talked about the New Democrats showing a dismal performance, everyone forgets they came out of that election with more seats than what they went in with. So there is a little bit of brightness on the horizon for all of us. Let us grow up a little bit and recognize where we all are in this country, and that is we are Canadians. Let us not horse around with this kind of foolishness that we have in front of us today.

* (1750)

To tell the Honourable Member about what I have been thinking about free trade and the days leading up to it and the days just after the federal election campaign, those indicators, the dollar, the exchange rate on international markets and interest rates, those indicators told everyone what the world sees Canada as being in the world regime. Those indicators said Canada is ready for free trade, the ones before the election that we saw, when there was a reaction to popular opinion polling saying the Liberals were rising, perhaps even going to win the election, we know what the economic indicators said. These people are not politicians. The people who set these trends and cause the big things to happen in the international money markets, they do not care if you are a Liberal or a New Democrat but they care about what the issues are. The issue was free trade.

Now we saw what happened with the indicators after the election. The world is saying, yes, Canada, we are

ready to embrace you in terms of doing business with you. We are ready to do that. The people of Canada spoke loudly and clearly. Now we have Winnipeg MPs, newly elected. I do not know what they had for breakfast, but they felt that the battle against free trade should go on.—(Interjection)—What was that?

An Honourable Member: Grits.

Mr. McCrae: They had grits. They have some grit and they sure have a lot of gall going to Men Only clubs and making announcements about continuing to fight free trade. The Honourable Member for Thompson (Mr. Ashton) wants to get involved. I refer to the Men Only clubs strictly to point out the hypocrisy of Honourable Members in the Liberal Party who are so quick to call the kettle black. I tell you, there is another piece of hypocrisy that the people of Manitoba will not forget.

Honourable Members have a strange view of the history of this country. I have done a little studying of the history of our country. I am a big fan and I am a big supporter. If I had been around, I would have been a big supporter of Sir John A. Macdonald who had his visions for the country. I think everyone in this House is going to say he was right when he was against reciprocity in those early days of our country. Those were the days when our country was vulnerable. Our country was not the strong and vibrant country which is such a major player in the international stage. Our country was not like that in those days.

The Honourable Member for Thompson (Mr. Ashton), Mr. Speaker, wants to get involved but he always wants to do it from his seat. As Tommy Douglas used to say that some Honourable Members, when they are sitting in their seats, they have a way of disturbing their own thought processes every time they sit down. It makes them trip a lot from their seats.

Sir John A. Macdonald had the right vision for his day. I suggest that by the time 1911 came along, when Sir Wilfred Laurier suggested that the 20th Century belonged to Canada in favour of reciprocity, I suggest even then the Conservative Party at that time had the interests of our country at heart.

A lot has happened since 1911. Now the Honourable Member over there from Wolseley (Mr. Taylor), he wants to get involved in the debate too. I suggest to Honourable Members, look at some of the more recent history of our country and look at our country's contribution on the world stage and accept the verdict of the people of this country. Accept the democratic verdict of the people of this country.

I suggest Mr. Broadbent's comments seemed to indicate that he is willing to accept that verdict. Even the comments of Mr. Turner somehow seem to indicate an acceptance of the verdict delivered so decisively last Monday. But some Honourable Members here in this House have to be dragged kicking and screaming into the 21st Century, led by Prime Minister Mulroney and assisted by the Free Trade Agreement. Why is it that the vision that their Leader of 1911 had has to be put off for a century by their own intransigence and their own ability or unwillingness to see the realities of

life in the latter 20th Century. Heavens, the 21st Century is nearly upon us. We need some leadership to take us into that century. We need an agreement like the one that has been entered into and the one the people of Canada have assented to. We need that kind of thing to get us into the 21st Century and to give us that kick start we need so that we can thrive, so that we can create wealth, so that we can keep our social programs going at the level that we have come to expect. We need those things.

This kind of foolishness contained in Bill 20 is simply an attempt to slow down the progress of our country. We have a Liberal Party in Manitoba that is absolutely hidebound. They used to talk about the Conservatives being the dinosaurs. Well, I think those days, if they ever were, certainly are not here any more. We know that the progressive reformers of the 1980's are the Progressive Conservatives, not only in Ottawa but also in Manitoba. We have a bunch of hidebound New Democrats and hidebound Liberals in this province who, for whatever reason—and one is not supposed to impugn one's motives in this place—but for whatever reasons, they are taking positions that perhaps would have been better taken 30, 40, 50 or 60 years ago. Canadians are not prepared to sit still, to stand still and to see their country left behind as the rest of the world moves into the 21st Century.

The Honourable Member, if he accepts my advice, will stand in his place after I am finished, Mr. Speaker, and ask that this Bill be withdrawn from the Order Paper and stop this insulting of the intelligence of the people of Manitoba. The people of Manitoba are prepared to accept the verdict of the people all across this country. They are prepared to get on board and to work with the federal Government to see that this Free Trade Agreement works to the benefit of all Canadians.

Honourable Members opposite in the Liberal Party really must take their blinkers off now. It is morning time. They should have a little sip of the coffee, maybe even sniff it once or twice and get the idea that there really is a Canada here to be proud of, not something that we need to play games with such as the Honourable Members opposite are playing with Bill 20. So I earnestly ask the Honourable Member for St. Norbert (Mr. Angus), in all seriousness, it is time to put an end to this foolishness, withdraw Bill 20.

Mr. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, I would move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Radisson (Mr. Patterson), that this Bill 20 be adjourned and in my own name.

MOTION presented and carried.

BILL NO. 25—THE UNFAIR BUSINESS PRACTICES ACT

Mr. Speaker: On the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Elmwood (Mr. Maloway), Bill No. 25, The Unfair Business Practices Act; Loi sur les pratiques commerciales déloyales, standing in the name of the Honourable Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) and also the Member for Thompson (Mr. Ashton) who has six minutes remaining.

Mr. Steve Ashton (Thompson): Mr. Speaker, I had to outline in detail my comments on the Bill last time I spoke. I just wanted to emphasize in the final minutes remaining to me the need for improved consumer protection in Manitoba. In fact, I would commend the Member for Elmwood (Mr. Maloway) for bringing in a series of Bills that I would hope that all Parties would support.

I was indicating in my last comments my disappointment with the apparent position of the Liberal Party in regard to this particular Bill, although I notice they have shifted on a number of other Bills. I would urge that they also shift on this particular Bill. I realize that they do have a problem sometimes in terms of dealing with some of these matters, but I would urge them to look at it because I think this Bill does deal with a very important area of consumer legislation. With that brief summation of what I had said previously, Mr. Speaker, I would really strongly urge that all Members support this Bill.

Some Honourable Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Is there leave to leave it standing in the name of the Honourable Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness)? (Agreed)

BILL NO. 26—THE CONSUMER PROTECTION AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Speaker: On the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Elmwood (Mr. Maloway), Bill No. 26—the Honourable Attorney-General.

Hon. James McCrae (Attorney General): Being four minutes to six, shall we call it six o'clock?

Mr. Speaker: 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)