

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Thursday, November 9, 1989.

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

PRAYERS ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Hon. James Downey (Minister responsible for Seniors): Mr. Speaker, I have a short ministerial statement I would like to make.

As Minister responsible for Seniors and in view of the fact that we will not be sitting tomorrow, the day before Remembrance Day, I have a brief statement as it relates to Remembrance Day in this country.

On November 11, 1918, the guns of World War I were silenced. Ever since, Canadians have set aside November 11 as a time to pause and remember. Our uniformed men and women served in two World Wars, the Korean War, and other conflicts and peacekeeping efforts. Many gave their lives. They all gave their youth, their hopes, and their dreams. We pay tribute to those people and their memories. They fought to protect the freedoms we enjoy and to ensure that our children might continue to take full advantage of the opportunities this country provides without fear of military aggression. We in Canada continue to enjoy those freedoms, but unfortunately this is not the case around the world. Many are still seeking these freedoms. We want them to clearly know that our thoughts and support are with them. To the Legion members and their families, who continue to ensure that the memory of those who paid the supreme sacrifice is kept alive and well, we are proud of you, and we salute you—lest we forget, let us remember.

NON-POLITICAL STATEMENTS

Mr. William Chornopyski (Burrows): Mr. Speaker, may I have leave to make a non-political statement?

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member does not need leave.

Mr. Chornopyski: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the years slip by with what seems to be increasing speed and our memories dim to what the war was all about, we have to stop and think. Those of us who are old enough to remember those days, first of all, recall the ones who served their country and never returned—the brothers and sisters, neighbours and friends who gave their lives. For some reason that is increasingly hard to justify.

For the younger people, it is even a greater mystery why such a situation should have occurred that thousands upon thousands of men and women should leave their homes and loved ones to do battle in some distant land overseas, but you only have to watch television news and read the newspapers to realize

man's inhumanity to man continues this very day in many parts of this world.

* (1335)

We may feel helpless to stop wars, as we felt when our country was drawn into conflict, but we do have an obligation to the coming generations to not forget those who made the supreme sacrifice. We can pray that our leaders will do all they can to prevent conflict, to make it possible for all people to live in peace.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we shall remember them.

Ms. Judy Wasylycia-Leis (St. Johns): Mr. Speaker, I am very honoured on behalf of my caucus to respond to the Minister for Senior's (Mr. Downey) ministerial statement on Remembrance Day, to join with everyone in this House to take note of the significance of this date and recommend its commemoration to all the people of Manitoba.

I cannot speak with the same personal involvement that the Member for Burrows (Mr. Chornopyski) has spoken with, and I cannot bring the same passion that he has brought to this Chamber, but I can speak from a bit of personal experience, having a father who served in World War II and in fact say that I am here because my father met my mother in the liberation of Holland. So this day is a very important day for me, and it is a very important day for all Members in this Chamber.

We want to, as Members of this caucus, join with all others in this Chamber and recognize the sacrifice of thousands and thousands of Canadians in that Great War. We want to pay tribute to those families who have lost loved ones; we want to remember the work of the Legion in keeping the memory alive; and we want to join with everyone to recommit ourselves to find and achieve worldwide peace. Thank you.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mr. Speaker: Prior to Oral Questions, may I direct Honourable Members' attention to the gallery, where we have with us this afternoon Councillor Jae Eadie from the City of Winnipeg, who was elected I believe yesterday to be the presiding officer of the City of Winnipeg.

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

Also with us this afternoon we have from the Neepawa Area Collegiate, fifty Grade 11 students. They are under the direction of Mr. Wayne Hollier. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Minister of the Environment (Mr. Cummings).

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

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

Instructor Decertification Sexual Abuse Charges

Mrs. Iva Yeo (Sturgeon Creek): Mr. Speaker, another tragic situation has been brought to my attention regarding one of Manitoba's teachers. Once again there has been a gross miscarriage of justice against an individual who was charged with sexual assault, physically and forceably removed from his classroom in a small Manitoba community, and today remains still unemployed despite the fact that all charges were dropped last August. Oh, yes, we must protect Manitoba's children, but so must we guard against the injustices to our teachers.

My question to the Minister of Education is this: can he tell the House what meaningful investigation took place by his department or in fact by the school division prior to this teacher from Rivers, Manitoba, having his teaching certificate removed and his salary discontinued?

Hon. Leonard Derkach (Minister of Education and Training): Mr. Speaker, over the last year we have had some very unusual and unfortunate events with regard to sexual abuse or alleged sexual abuse coming to light. Because of this, certain measures had to be taken. One of those measures was to improve the Act, The Child Abuse Act, which was done during the last Session. Another one was an amendment to The Public Schools Act, which is being proposed here before the Legislature during this Session, which will mandate superintendents and school officials to notify the Department of Education and the Minister with regard to incidents where charges have been laid.

* (1340)

In all circumstances in the past where charges have been laid, the certificate of the teacher was suspended. This was to ensure that the teacher would be removed from the classroom or from the contact with the children, and this was for the protection of the teacher and also for the protection of children.

Mr. Speaker, once the teacher has been cleared of all charges, if that should occur, the certificate is immediately re-instated. However, where there is some question as to whether the charges have been stayed or whether the charges have been completely dropped, sometimes that matter is referred to the Certificate Review Committee, who will do further investigation. We have acted in this regard on behalf of the children and parents and also of teachers in this province.

Financial Compensation

Mrs. Iva Yeo (Sturgeon Creek): Mr. Speaker, again to the Minister of Education, this teacher remains today unemployed and in torment. What financial and personnel assistance is made available by his department to these teachers who have been charged with these serious offences, but with no conviction following?

Hon. Leonard Derkach (Minister of Education and Training): Mr. Speaker, it is the responsibility of the school board that has a contract with the teacher. When that school board suspends a teacher they can do it with or without pay. In some instances teachers have been suspended with pay and in some instances teachers have been suspended without pay, but teachers are the employees of school boards. They are not the employees of the department. Because this problem again has come to light, we have taken some measures to try and correct some of the problems that have occurred.

I can tell the House today, Mr. Speaker, that our policy as of last week with regard to teachers in the future who are charged with such incidents is going to be such, that provided the teacher is taken out of the environment, out of the classroom and out of contact with children, the teacher's certificate will simply be forwarded to the Certificate Review Committee who will then deal with the matter. We will not automatically suspend the teacher's certificate, so in fact that teacher does not have a loss of salary, which has become a real issue in this matter.

Relocation Assistance

Mrs. Iva Yeo (Sturgeon Creek): Mr. Speaker, I applaud that move, but I would also ask what assistance will the Department of Education provide to teachers from smaller communities to relocate, in light of the fact that it is more difficult for a teacher who teaches in a small community to try and go back into that same small community classroom, knowing how difficult it is for teachers in the largest school division in Manitoba to relocate in another school in that particular division. What assistance will be made for those teachers?

Hon. Leonard Derkach (Minister of Education and Training): Mr. Speaker, as I indicated before, teachers are the employees of individual school divisions throughout the province. They are not the employees of the department or of the Government. It is up to the school division then to deal with that matter.

I have consulted with the Manitoba Teachers Society, the Manitoba Association of School Trustees, my Deputy Minister has consulted with the Manitoba Association of School Superintendents, and we have discussed this matter very thoroughly. We recognize that this is a dilemma. However, from the department there is very little that we can do, because the legislation is such that makes teachers the responsibility and they have a legal obligation to the school boards, and the contract is between the teacher and the school board. So there is a matter that has to be discussed between the Teachers Society and the School Trustees Association.

It is my hope that over the next short period of time there will be a resolution to this problem whereby teachers can receive just and fair treatment in matters as the Member for Sturgeon Creek (Mrs. Yeo) raises in this particular instance.

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Community Colleges Administrative Appointments

Mrs. Iva Yeo (Sturgeon Creek): This is a new question, Mr. Speaker. On Monday when I asked a question of the Minister of Education regarding administrative appointments at Red River Community College, the Minister indicated it would not be appropriate for him to interfere with the operation of the colleges.

* (1345)

Can the Minister tell us, what is the policy of his department in light of statements that were made in the House by the Minister, "it is not my role," or, "I am not going to interfere," that contradicted comments that were made outside of the Chamber, Mr. Speaker?

Hon. Leonard Derkach (Minister of Education and Training): Mr. Speaker, I do not know what contradictory statements the Member for Sturgeon Creek is referring to, but I can tell you and I can tell the House this afternoon that in fact the responsibility for staff at the Red River Community College or Assiniboine Community College or Keewatin Community College comes under the jurisdiction of the president of each of those colleges.

I do not get involved in the selection of personnel, whether it is at the vice-president level or at the dean level or at the instructor level in terms of who is hired for those positions.

When a problem arises within a staff, Mr. Speaker, then it is up to the president to deal with those matters. Now if those matters are not dealt with appropriately, then I have an Assistant Deputy Minister who is in charge of community colleges who will deal with the matter in a rational way. Above that I have the Deputy Minister who can deal with matters if they cannot be resolved. But certainly, I personally do not get involved in hirings or in firings or in reassignments of personnel at any of the community colleges in this province.

Red River Community College Student Affairs

Mrs. Iva Yeo (Sturgeon Creek): If the Minister feels that community colleges are directed by the Assistant Deputy Minister, how is it that the Minister himself intervened when the recommendation was presented that the president of Red River Community College and the vice-president of academic affairs be entrusted and responsible for student affairs?

Hon. Leonard Derkach (Minister of Education and Training): Mr. Speaker, once again it was not a matter that I got involved in personally. When the situation got to the state where there was a problem in terms of the job being split between two people, one being the president and the other being the vice-president, it was my suggestion after discussion with staff and it was concurred to by my staff that we in fact should be allocating or assigning a responsibility of that nature to one individual at the community college.

This matter was then discussed with the president and therefore the situation was changed, but once again it was changed by the president. It was not changed by anybody else.

Community Colleges Advisory Committee Recommendations

Mrs. Iva Yeo (Sturgeon Creek): We know that there is an advisory committee to study community colleges. In light of the fact that this is the third recent study to examine such things as autonomy of community colleges, when might we expect the responses from this advisory committee?

Hon. Leonard Derkach (Minister of Education and Training): Mr. Speaker, the Member for Sturgeon Creek fails to understand what consultation within the department is and what intervention is. She fails to understand or differentiate between the two.

It is obvious that my staff will consult with me as Minister with regard to situations which perhaps pose a problem. It is also normal for the students association to be able to communicate with my staff and with me indeed.

I have indicated time and time again that my doors and my telephone lines are open to student associations and to my staff to contact me at any time. This, Mr. Speaker, does not smell of intervention as the Member for Sturgeon Creek indicates.

With regard to a governance question, Mr. Speaker,—

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Order.

Grant Family Custody Assistance

Ms. Judy Wasylcia-Leis (St. Johns): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Family Services (Mrs. Oleson). She and Members of her Government will know that the Grant family here in Winnipeg has been desperately trying to have their young children, Utami and Jasa Moljady, returned to them and back in Canada after they were abducted from Winnipeg by their father October 13 and taken to Indonesia.

Considering that the children's mother, who has full legal custody, and an uncle of the children, now both in Indonesia, have been unable to get any help or support from the Canadian Embassy in securing the return of these children, I want to ask the Minister if she will use the weight of her department, the weight of this Government as a whole, to try and get the Department of External Affairs and through them the Canadian Embassy in Indonesia to help the Grant regain custody of their children?

* (1350)

Hon. Charlotte Oleson (Minister of Family Services): Mr. Speaker, as the Member herself indicated, it is really under the jurisdiction of the federal Government and the embassy. However, if there is something that my department or myself can do to help the situation, I will do it.

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: I thank the Minister for her indicating that she will look into this matter and look forward to hearing her efforts of pressure on the embassy in Indonesia. This is a provincial matter, of course, because it effects families and trauma of children. In fact this was really the result of a poor sentencing of our court system in the case of an assault case back in September when the man in this question, Mr. Moljady, received a year on probation without supervision.

My question to the Minister is, given that this family is seeking legal assistance and other representation from the embassy in Indonesia to get some agreement with the family to get the children back to Canada, will the Minister commit herself today not only to check through the legal channels but also get in touch directly with the Grant family to see what other assistance her department and her Government might provide in this very tragic case.

Mrs. Oleson: I certainly could ask the department to get in touch with them and see if there could be any assistance in this matter. I will also undertake to speak to the Attorney General about it on his return.

Tricia Manley Emergency Assistance

Ms. Judy Wasylycia-Leis (St. Johns): I have a new question to the Minister of Family Services pertaining to a 17-year-old mother whose name is Tricia Manley, who had an infant son that left an abusive relationship with that child's father in British Columbia and came to Winnipeg. The Minister will know that Ms. Manley was refused entry into a shelter in Alberta where her parents live. Given that her parents helped her to Winnipeg where she was close to family members, and given that she received absolutely no assistance—

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Order. The Honourable Member for St. Johns.

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: Thank you. On my new question to the Minister, which is a very serious situation, I would like to know from this Minister and this Government why this 17-year-old woman with a small young baby was refused emergency assistance here in Manitoba?

Mrs. Oleson: Mr. Speaker, whereas I do not make it a practice of discussing individual private cases in the legislature, I am aware of the case and I will see what help we can give to this woman.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member for St. Johns, with her final supplementary question.

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: On that same matter, given that the Minister has indicated to the family that she is investigating the situation and the horrible treatment that this woman and her baby received, I would like to ask the Minister if she will tell the House today what the results of her investigation are, when she will be

advising the family the results of that investigation, and what steps she has taken and is taking now to rectify the situation so that no one else ever—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The question has been put. The Honourable Minister of Family Services.

Mrs. Oleson: Yes, it is a great concern when cases like this come before us, and I assure the Member that my staff are working on this case as on others where people are having problems. I assure her that we will be in touch if there is anything we have to communicate to them.

Grant Family External Affairs Intervention

Mr. Paul Edwards (St. James): Mr. Speaker, as referenced by the Member for St. Johns, Ms. Nancy Grant of Minnedosa, who is the mother of a four-year-old daughter and a two-and-a-half-year-old son, has recently had those children kidnapped by her estranged husband, who has absconded with those children to Indonesia.

As the Minister has stated, this is more appropriately an international matter between Governments. However, we have been shocked and I think saddened to learn that the federal Government and the representatives of Canada in Jakarta have been less than helpful, indeed have been insensitive to the needs of the family who is over there trying to get those children back.

Will the Minister, the Acting Attorney General, act immediately to make personal contact with Joe Clark and demand that Canadian authorities in Jakarta do everything possible to uphold the laws of this province because custody is a provincial matter and these are Manitobans in Indonesia. Will the Minister make immediate contact with Joe Clark and ask him to have his department do their job in Jakarta? -(interjection)-

* (1355)

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

Hon. Edward Connery (Minister of Co-operative, Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I would be pleased to take that question as notice.

Mr. Edwards: Mr. Speaker, I might ask the Minister perhaps to speak to the Deputy Attorney General in that regard because the Attorney General is out of town for a couple of days and it is a very important matter that requires immediate attention.

Non-Custodial Parents Legislation

Mr. Paul Edwards (St. James): Second, for the Acting Attorney General, the father was able to get these children out of the country because one parent is allowed, apparently, to sign a passport application for the child, therefore without the consent of the other

parent those children can be taken out of the country. Mr. Speaker, has this Government—in light of what apparently appears is a loophole—looked at the federal legislation which would allow a non-custodial parent to, in effect, kidnap a child and, if they take the children to a country that we do not have an extradition treaty with, it is virtually impossible to get them back, apparently. Has the Government looked at this and will the Government look at it immediately, if they have not already done so?

Hon. Edward Connery (Minister of Co-operative, Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I will take that up with the Attorney General as soon as he returns.

Grant Family Family Law Branch Intervention

Mr. Paul Edwards (St. James): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Acting Attorney General, finally, to contact the Family Law Branch, the director of the Family Law Branch here in Manitoba, so that the director can contact External Affairs and explain to them exactly what the laws are in this province.

The laws of custody are a provincial matter and I think it is important and it is imperative that External Affairs and the people in Jakarta know that the laws of this province say that what has happened is kidnapping and that they have a responsibility, perhaps between Governments, to discuss this issue and ensure the children are returned to their proper parent and to this province.

Hon. Edward Connery (Minister of Co-operative, Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I will take that question as notice on behalf of the Minister and also discuss it with his department.

Crown Lands Sale

Mrs. Gwen Charles (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, one of the most valuable parts of our country are our Crown lands. Earlier this week the Department of Natural Resources has announced that it tends to sell off our Crown lands to businesses, albeit under appropriate conditions. Can the Minister explain what brought this policy about and why our virgin territory is now open for business?

Hon. Harry Enns (Minister of Natural Resources): Mr. Speaker, anyone who has experienced travel and visitation to the North, particularly of our country, they will find that one of the most common complaints of our northern residents is their access to land. They for some reason feel that they ought to be able to own some land just as we southerners do, and under very proscribed conditions, where they meet certain criteria, this Government is indeed more than prepared to make available lands for commercial or recreational or residential purposes to people who decide to do business and reside in the North.

Native Land Claims

Mrs. Gwen Charles (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that there are still Native land claims that have yet to be settled. Why is he not determining these lands, the most important lands to be determined first, before he sells them off to businesses?

Hon. Harry Enns (Minister of Natural Resources): Mr. Speaker, let me be very quick to assure her that my good friend, the Minister of Northern Affairs (Mr. Downey), would be among the very first to prohibit a sale of land in question if there is a conflict. Prior to any land being considered for sale, it is processed through all Government agencies, including Northern Affairs, and certainly the Member is quite right, there are a number yet to be settled land claims. They have been designated, in the general area, and in that case no sale would be considered.

Crown Lands Sale Criteria

* (1400)

Mrs. Gwen Charles (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, will the Minister of Natural Resources tell us if these lands will be sold directly to businesses, or is it the intention to sell the land to the municipalities so they will have control over what development takes place in their area?

Hon. Harry Enns (Minister of Natural Resources): I will handle this with as much kindness as I can. There are very few municipalities in the North. This is unorganized territory and the Crown is responsible. Other lands are administered by the Department of Northern Affairs, but the answer to the question is no, these lands, when they meet the criteria, are sold directly to the individuals involved.

Conawapa Project Environmental Impact Study

Hon. Harry Enns (Minister of Natural Resources): Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I may, while I have the floor, take this earliest opportunity to make a correction. I provided the House with some wrong information yesterday, and in particular the Honourable Member for Selkirk (Mrs. Charles).

I was led into making this mistake by my knowledge of how the Limestone Hydro plant was commissioned back in '84 and '85. At that time it was not necessary for that project to be reviewed in a formal way by the Clean Environment Commission. Since that time, as a matter of fact in July of '87, the Clean Environment Commission was amended. It now makes it compulsory or mandatory for this review to take place, and I want to assure her and indeed Members of the Public that review will take place.

Further, Mr. Speaker, a full environmental impact assessment study is under way. The firm, I.D. Systems Limited, was retained to assist in this study in July '88,

and this is under way and will be concluded. It will involve all phases of the construction of the project, including access roads, the campsites, the construction power, the cutting transmission lines.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that I am taxing your indulgence, but this information is important. I would like to share with the Honourable Members of both Parties that I would make available to them the Conawapa project environmental impact assessment study workbook.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The Honourable Member for St. Norbert, on a point of order.

Mr. John Angus (St. Norbert): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, it is my belief that this Honourable Member has taken privileges of the House to make a ministerial statement and introduce a report to which we have not had a legitimate opportunity to respond. I would ask you to take that point of order under advisement.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Order. The Honourable Minister of Natural Resources was tabling what? Order, please.

An Honourable Member: On the same point of order.

Mr. Speaker: On that point of order.

Mr. Enns: On the point of order, Mr. Speaker, it is indeed against the privileges again of this House, indeed all Members, to put wrong information on the record or to in replying to a question provide information that is not correct. It is very much within the Rules to, at the earliest possible opportunity, correct it and that is what I was attempting to do.

Mr. Speaker: I would like to thank the Honourable Minister. I have asked the Honourable Minister, what was the document the Honourable Minister wanted to table?

Mr. Enns: Mr. Speaker, I did not indicate that I was tabling a document, although I am quite prepared. I was prepared to share it with Honourable Members. I will table it with Clerk's Office with the undertaking that additional copies will be made available to Members of the Opposition.

Mr. Speaker: I would like to thank the Honourable Minister. The Honourable Member does not have a point of order.

Ontario Ministry of Environment Consolidated Professor Mines

Ms. Maureen Hemphill (Logan): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Natural Resources. On or approximately November 1, the Department of the Environment received a document from the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, which is a copy of Consolidated Professor's Gold Mine Environmental

Assessment Guidelines. This document has been put out for reaction in a very short period of time. They have asked to have the responses back by November 15.

It is very important that Manitoba have an adequate amount of time to put their feelings on record. I want to know if the Minister will immediately contact the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and ask for a delay so that we have adequate time—15 days is not enough time—to respond to such an important document, and the results of the reaction from Manitoba are going to determine whether or not they believe we should have public hearings. We need more time. Will you ask for it?

Hon. Harry Enns (Minister of Natural Resources): Mr. Speaker, I am certainly prepared to consider that request. I will consult with my officials and indicate to her, perhaps on Monday, whether that can be done.

Ms. Hemphill: Thank you very much. I thank the Minister for that answer.

Gold Mine - Shoal Lake Environmental Impact Study

Ms. Maureen Hemphill (Logan): There have also been no guarantees that there will be public hearings. The Premier (Mr. Filmon) of the province has said that there might be public hearings. Will this Government and this Minister go on record and communicate immediately our feelings that there must be public hearings in this matter?

Hon. Harry Enns (Minister of Natural Resources): Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that our clean environment Minister (Mr. Cummings) is right at this time involved in a national conference that, among other things, is dealing with that very question about trans-jurisdictional environmental concerns as to how these can properly addressed. I will certainly undertake to apprise my colleague upon his return from Ottawa about the Minister's questions and review that question.

Ms. Hemphill: I thank the Minister for that answer.

Winnipeg Water Protection Group Funding

Ms. Maureen Hemphill (Logan): Mr. Speaker, since we all know that the Winnipeg Water Protection Group is expending tremendous amounts of energy and time and a large number of volunteers to help protect Manitoba's water and it is impossible with the resources that they have for them to be able to respond to this in the period of time, the two weeks certainly, even if there is an extension. I wonder if the Government would now consider giving some financial resources to this very important body to help them prepare an adequate response so that it is not just the Government responding but so that all interested parties in Manitoba have that opportunity.

Hon. Harry Enns (Minister of Natural Resources): Mr. Speaker, I am more than prepared to take that

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suggestion under advisement. I am certainly aware of this group's activity. Again let me indicate to the Honourable Members that I was just advised in between questions that the department has already acceded to her earlier request with respect to extension of the date for response from Manitoba to that report.

We have just simply asked that the short period of time is not acceptable to us, and a formal request has gone from my department to Ontario requesting additional time.

Elder Abuse Hearings Participants

Mr. James Carr (Fort Rouge): My question is to the Minister responsible for Seniors (Mr. Downey). As Members know, the public meetings scheduled by the Minister to hear public reaction to the Discussion Paper on Elder Abuse started this week in southwestern Manitoba. We understand that many potential presenters have been unwilling or unable to share their views with the Minister's staff because of the sensitivity of the issue of elder abuse, because sometimes families are involved.

My question to the Minister is, how is he going to assure that he has all of the necessary facts at his disposal in order to make intelligent judgments when he is consulting Manitobans about the recommendations in his paper, if people had been so shy to be forthcoming?

Hon. James Downey (Minister responsible for Seniors): Mr Speaker, let me first of all thank the Honourable Member for that question. As I indicated during the Estimates process, that was a major concern. That was the sensitivity as to people coming forward with specific cases of elder abuse.

It is our desire to identify those people in the hearing process and that we do have a seniors information line, we do have the names of those individuals who have participated, and there will be private visits made if necessary to accommodate those people who feel either intimidated and/or concerned about making any way, shape or form the information that they have public.

Private Meetings

Mr. James Carr (Fort Rouge): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question to the same Minister. Can he make sure that those who are being invited to make presentations in front of staff in rural Manitoba and then in Winnipeg are informed that it is possible to set up private meetings with the Minister or his staff to make sure that all cases of elder abuse can be documented, so that when the time comes for the Minister to act on the advice given to him by Manitobans, he has all the necessary information that can be made available?

Hon. James Downey (Minister responsible for Seniors): Mr. Speaker, I again appreciate the concern shown by the Member opposite. I think it is extremely important that seniors do have that knowledge, that

there is an opportunity to further add information as relates to seniors abuse. That is why we did not want to rush the exercise, to make sure the job is done thoroughly so that when we come forward with the recommendations that we know that as best possible all the bases are covered to protect the seniors of this province.

Elder Abuse Documentation Project

Mr. James Carr (Fort Rouge): The first step in a series of recommendations contained within the Elder Abuse Discussion Paper put out by the Minister was to extend the pilot program at the Seven Oaks Hospital to document cases where elderly people go into hospital and are suspected to be victims of abuse.

Given the fact that we have had so much reluctance of individuals to come forward, will the Minister commit to extending that pilot project at Seven Oaks Hospital to all the hospitals in Manitoba as promised in the White Paper now and not later?

Hon. James Downey (Minister responsible for Seniors): Again, Mr. Speaker, I can appreciate the concern of the Liberal. However, I cannot necessarily understand it. Given the fact that we were elected as a Government, we have moved in a major way dealing with elder abuse in Manitoba. We have put resources to it. The Liberal commitment to the seniors of Manitoba was no resources and no elder abuse paper and no action on behalf of the seniors of this province.

Goods and Services Tax Labour Impact

* (1410)

Mr. Leonard Evans (Brandon East): I have a question for the Minister of Family Services (Mrs. Oleson), who is responsible for employment programs in the province. Today we received a report indicating that the Conference Board has estimated for the provincial Finance Ministers of Canada a job loss of up to 400,000 for this country because of the implementation of the goods and services tax, a very serious situation. Manitoba proportionately could be looking at as much as 20,000 jobs being lost because of this.

Has the Minister had her department do an analysis of specific job losses in this province? Can she tell us specifically which industries and which occupations will be negatively affected?

Hon. Leonard Derkach (Minister of Education and Training): Mr. Speaker, this is an area that falls within my department's jurisdiction, and I can say that certainly staff of my department have been looking at the employment figures for Manitoba over the last number of months. We have found in fact that Manitoba is faring very well in comparison to the rest of Canada with regard to employment in Manitoba.

Mr. Speaker, it seems that Members opposite are constantly looking at job losses, but they forget to look

at the jobs that have been created since this Government took office. I can tell you that we are very happy with the employment statistics in this province to date. We are one of the third in Canada with regard to our employment statistics, and we are very proud of our performance since our Government has taken office.

Labour Adjustment Strategy

Mr. Leonard Evans (Brandon East): Mr. Speaker, I was—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Order. The Honourable Member for Brandon East.

Mr. Leonard Evans: —disappointed to learn that Premier Filmon has really not opposed vigorously the GST at the First Ministers' Conference today. There has not been the opposition that there should be.

Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is this: it is sad that the department is not prepared to treat this as a very serious matter. Is the Minister prepared to set up special programs to help unemployed Manitobans find jobs after the GST is implemented?

Hon. Leonard Derkach (Minister of Education and Training): It seems like the Opposition have difficulty in understanding something, because over and over again they have been told about the Premier's stance on the GST and they seem to misunderstand that, or they will not accept his position.

I can tell you that the question the Member from Brandon East just posed is a very hypothetical one to begin with, and second, if he takes a look at the labour stats since this Government has taken office he will find that indeed our economy in Manitoba is performing very well, that our job market is very good, that we have 19,000 people more working in Manitoba today than when the NDP were in Government.

I have to tell you that we are very encouraged by what we see happening in Manitoba. Manitoba is open for business and it is the businesses in this province that will create the jobs for Manitobans.

Mr. Leonard Evans: I would remind the Minister that the report we are talking about is prepared for the provincial Premiers of this country. They have said there are going to be these job losses and the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) of Manitoba said there will be job losses, so I am asking this Minister who apparently is now in charge of employment instead of the Minister of Employment Services, will he and his colleagues prepare to take any initiatives for those thousands of Manitobans who are definitely going to lose jobs because of the GST?

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Speaker, if the Member for Brandon East has been cognizant of what has happened since this Government has taken office, he will see that there has been a pro-active approach in terms of creating employment in this province, and we will continue to do that as long as we are in Government.— (interjection)—

Seniors' Information Line Elder Abuse Referrals

Ms. Avis Gray (Ellice): I have a question for the Minister of Seniors (Mr. Downey). We have been very much concerned on this side of the House about the lack of leadership from the two Ministers of Seniors, including the current one.

The Member for Fort Rouge (Mr. Carr) asked a question today about valid concerns about elderly who are concerned and are not willing to come forth with sensitive information in regard to abuse. The Minister responded in the House today and said, well, we have a Seniors' Information Line. Mr. Speaker, he is contradicting himself. In Estimates the other day the Minister clearly indicated that if an elderly person phones the information line and feels they have been abused, the Minister's answer was, well, we would refer it to the Department of Justice.

Can the Minister indicate today, what good is the Seniors' Information Line to deal with these sensitive issues of elder abuse when the Minister, with the support of his staff in Estimates, clearly indicated that those cases would be referred to another department?

Hon. James Downey (Minister responsible for Seniors): Let me try and help the Honourable Member out. If an individual phones indicating a concern and a need to meet with the Seniors Directorate as it relates to elder abuse and they would like to meet with someone as it relates to the Elder Abuse Paper, elder abuse concerns that they have personally, they will be met directly with the Seniors Directorate. I want to make that very clear.

If it is a criminal case or physical abuse that would include or involve the police, then the police will be notified, and notified immediately. If it is a health matter that relates to the Health Department, they will be notified immediately. I hope that makes it clear for the Member. Our concerns truly are for the seniors of this province.

Assessments

Ms. Avis Gray (Ellice): I have a supplementary question to the same Minister. Is the Minister telling this House today that when an elderly phones for information that with one telephone conversation his staff will be able to adequately assess the individual's situation and will be able to then make a determination about whether the police should be called or who should be involved? Is the Minister indicating that with one telephone call that the—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The question has been put.— (interjection)— Order. The Honourable Minister responsible for Seniors.

Hon. James Downey (Minister responsible for Seniors): I again will try to help the Liberal Member who, during the election campaign, had a Leader who said she and the Liberal Party had no resources for the Seniors Directorate, did not touch or even mention elder abuse.

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Let me make it very clear that when individuals phone the seniors' line, or if they identify themselves to any Member of the Legislature who want to talk to the Seniors Directorate about elder abuse, we will more—I will re-emphasize "more"—than make sure and emphasize the need to talk to those people and do it in a private setting so they do not feel intimidated.

Ms. Gray: We will gladly lay out to this Government how we could utilize the Seniors Directorate and spend less money than what you have done and accomplish a lot more, gladly do it.- (interjection)-

Mr. Speaker: Order. Order, please. I would like to remind the Honourable Member for Ellice that this is not a time for debate, this is Question Period. Would the Honourable Member for Ellice kindly put her question now, please?

Ms. Gray: Mr. Speaker, this is a final supplementary to the Minister responsible for Seniors. Can he tell—

Mr. Speaker: I would like to remind the Honourable Member for Ellice it is not a time for debate, this is Question Period. The Honourable Member for Ellice, kindly put her question now, please.

Ms. Gray: Mr. Speaker, with a final supplementary to the Minister responsible for Seniors. Can he tell this House how he was going to ensure that those elderly individuals throughout Manitoba who feel that they are being abused and who are very reluctant to come forward are in fact going to be identified and will have the opportunity to come forward and speak their mind? Can he tell us exactly how he will assure that in fact he will be able to get that information?

Mr. Downey: I am sure that the Member has a clear appreciation for communication and how that process takes place, but I have to say that the Conservative Party and this Government are extremely upset and absolutely opposed to the Liberals who are committed to reducing the money that is in the Seniors Directorate, as was just indicated by the Member for Ellice.

We intend to increase the expenditures. We intend to make sure the resources are used to protect the seniors of this province, not only as it relates to elder abuse but all the other needs of the seniors in Manitoba.

* (1420)

Mr. Speaker: Time for Oral Questions has expired.

NON-POLITICAL STATEMENT

Mr. Mark Minenko (Seven Oaks): Mr. Speaker, could I have leave for a non-political statement?

Mr. Speaker: Does the Honourable Member for Seven Oaks have leave to make a non-political statement?

Some Honourable Members: Leave.

Mr. Minenko: As a serving member of the Canadian Armed Forces Medical Services, and a member who

10 years ago was selected to serve in Egypt as a peacekeeper, I would also like to add my comments to the comments made earlier.

Mr. Speaker, every year at the eleventh hour on the eleventh day of the eleventh month, a lone bugler plays The Last Post. During this moment Canadians from sea to sea pause to remember. We pause to remember the tragedy that is war. We remember the millions who died. We pause to remember the sacrifice of our family, friends and neighbours.

With the wind carrying away the last note of The Last Post we look to the future. We hope that the future of all of us will bring with it peace and harmony.

ORDERS OF THE DAY HOUSE BUSINESS

Hon. James Downey (Minister of Northern and Native Affairs): Mr. Speaker, let me first of all make a comment as it relates to House Business. In view of the fact that there was a disposition at some point to call today a Friday as far as hours are concerned and we are not doing that, I know that there is a certain disposition from the Members to call five o'clock, six o'clock.

However, I do not have full concurrence yet from some of the individuals in the House, but I will work to that objective and later on, as we get to five o'clock, will make a statement on that as it relates to the Private Members' Hour. I do want to speak to the Liberal House Leader (Mr. Alcock) further on this, Mr. Speaker.

Let me therefore move, seconded by the Minister of Highways and Transportation (Mr. Albert Driedger), 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 Health; and the Honourable Member for Burrows (Mr. Chornopyski) in the Chair for the Department of Culture, Heritage and Recreation.

* (1430)

CONCURRENT COMMITTEES OF SUPPLY SUPPLY—HEALTH

Mr. Chairman (Harold Gilleshammer): I would like to call this committee meeting to order to discuss the Estimates of the Health Department.

When last we met we were on Section (d) Health Promotion: (1) Salaries \$624,800—the Honourable Minister.

Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health): Before we go on, so that my honourable friend gets a chance to collect her thoughts -(interjection)- If you want to collect

mine, you can.—(interjection)—I do not doubt you have. Mr. Chairman, when we last met, and I cannot even remember when it was, Monday, it was a long time ago because I seem to waste so much time with those Opposition Parties in the House.

At any rate, I have these books that I was going to leave with my honourable friend, the Liberal Health Critic, and I know that my honourable friend, the MLA for Ellice (Ms. Gray), will make sure that he gets them. Now I have one for my honourable friend for Ellice, "Teenage Pregnancy in Manitoba" and one for the Member for Thompson (Mr. Ashton). I have a review of the prenatal education enrollment in Manitoba.

What else is there? Fact sheets on OPV, MMR and DPT, there are those fact sheets. Information on the Manitoba Immunization Monitoring System, acronym MIMS. Some information sheet on Lyme disease and I believe, yes, this is the one that we distributed this spring when there was some concern that Lyme disease may reach Manitoba. I have the most recent statistics for hepatitis A, hepatitis B, pertussis.

I have information available to two questions and I do not recall which MLA asked them but it was in what training is available for the food industry and what material is available for education for the general public. Another question was: is there a tuberculosis pamphlet available in Cree? No, there is not. However, a slide tape presentation which is used for education of all newly diagnosed cases of tuberculosis is available in many languages, including Cree. In other words, it is not a written pamphlet, it is a video slide and tape presentation in Native tongues. In addition, a comic book targeted at young Natives is being developed. The text will initially be in English but it will be available in Slavics in the future.

I believe I wanted to give each of my honourable friends in the Opposition a copy of Towards Healthier Eating. This is the latest nutritional information that—well, I mean if you have one, they are very expensive and I—(interjection)—Oh, okay. Well, the MLA for Kildonan wanted one. As a result of that format that presentation form, our requests for this year are up by 300 percent—very, very successful.

An Honourable Member: Does that cover the cafeteria food service?

Mr. Orchard: Oh, no, that information does not cover the quality of the food service in the cafeteria.

Ms. Avis Gray (Ellice): Mr. Chairperson, the Minister referred to the program towards healthier eating and I will apologize if this is a question that has already been asked, but could the Minister tell us, this particular program, who was it developed for and is this to be used by direct service staff in the department and/or individuals and other agencies or what is the strategy in terms of implementing this program?

Mr. Orchard: Is my honourable friend referring to the—

Ms. Gray: Towards healthier eating.

Mr. Orchard: That is the large presentation I will soon be giving to my honourable friend. A varied distribution

group, educators, and I will give you—we have distributed 361,243.

Ms. Gray: I am sorry?

Mr. Orchard: I know your mind was on the cafeteria downstairs. The distribution to date of the package is 361,243 gone to schools, seniors organizations, non-Government organizations, volunteer nutritionists, weight-loss groups, police departments, work sites, day cares, health units, restaurants, grocery stores, and athletic associations and then of course the usual distribution within the department in terms of our regional offices, et cetera.

Ms. Gray: This program that is being sent out, is it on a request basis, i.e., for instance in the schools, and is there any type of contact by staff in regard to follow-up? I guess what I am asking is, were the programs sent out and it is hoped that they will be used, or have people been requesting them and what type of resources are available as well as the program in terms of public health staff, home economists, et cetera, to assist in the implementing of the program?

* (1440)

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Chairman, I guess it is both. The initial distribution led to, I think it is very fair to say, an exceptional acceptance of the program and that resulted in a significant increase in the requests for additional material because it was found to be extremely valuable. Now under normal circumstances we would distribute a little over 40,000 and that was done to a regularized mailing list, if you will, a regularized distribution group, and additional requests have come in since that because of the utility of the information.

Ms. Gray: Is there any evaluation that is being conducted to determine if in fact—I mean it is one thing to send out all these resources, it is another thing to know if in fact the resources are being utilized, being utilized appropriately, and if in fact there is an evaluation built in as to the success of this program because, as the Minister indicates himself, these packages are not inexpensive.

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Chairman, I do not want to be facetious to my honourable friend but we have not gone into the dining rooms of the nation to see whether they are following the guidelines. I think it is fair to say that with the balance that is present in the information package and the request for it, and the types of groups that have been asking for the additional copies like your weight-loss groups for instance, we have every confidence that the information being well received is also being implemented.

Ms. Gray: Is this program written so that non-professionals can utilize this material?

Mr. Orchard: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

Ms. Gray: The Minister still has not answered the question. He was concerned about being facetious but

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what I want to know, is there an evaluation mechanism in regard to this particular program, and if so, could he outline it for us?

Mr. Orchard: There is and I can, Mr. Chairman.

Ms. Gray: Is the Minister able to do that at this time?

Mr. Orchard: It is primarily through the home economists that we do follow-ups.

Ms. Gray: If the Minister is saying that home economists do follow-up, does the Minister have written information or directions or strategy that have been given to staff in regard to exactly what follow-up there will be? The further question is, the Minister says there is follow-up and there were over 3,000 I believe packages that were given out. I am not sure of the number of home economists working for the Department of Health in rural Manitoba, but I know in Winnipeg it is less than six, so perhaps the Minister could elaborate on how this follow-up is to be conducted.

Mr. Orchard: Again, without being facetious, to my honourable friend there would not even be six if it had not of been for the intervention of myself and my colleagues when we were in Opposition when those home economists were not to be part of the activities.

There are two yearly training sessions I am told in which evaluation and feedback is sought as to the utility and the advised utilization and worth of the material presented. From that comes suggestions for change if there are areas of weakness, or certainly building upon the strengths and what is more acceptable to the craft future additions.

Ms. Gray: Have the home economists, and just to clarify and I said this last year, that certainly as a home economist, as someone who believes in the program, the salvaging of the home ec directorate and that is not the field home economist that I am referring to, the Minister is correct. We certainly give credit to the Opposition for salvaging that when the NDP Government was quite prepared to get rid of the entire home ec directorate, but I am referring to field staff in the region as opposed to directorate.

I guess I am wondering if each home economist then has been given responsibility for following up with the various programs that have been given out to various groups, et cetera, or schools in their particular region.

Mr. Orchard: On this nutritional—towards healthier eating program the 11 home economists that are throughout the province in the various regions, that is one of their responsibilities, to get feedback and provide us with an evaluation of how well received the program is and their best estimate on whether it is a valuable approach to be continued.

I think from the basis that we decided to put up a significantly enhanced effort into the nutritional program, I am convinced that either you say that it is a valuable use of health promotion resource dollars.

Ms. Gray: Can the Minister indicate, do the 11 home economists all have a consistent evaluation tool or

mechanism which they are using? He indicated 11 home economists. Could he possibly tell us how many, I am just curious, how many evaluations per home economist are some of these home economists going to be required to do, given their other responsibilities?

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Chairman, I will have to consult as to whether they have a prescribed form that they use for evaluation or whether they feedback their observations as they encounter a variety of groups because I think my honourable friend would appreciate when you are dealing with a range of groups from school children through to senior citizens and, for instance, weight-loss groups, that various portions of the entire program will be evaluated in different degrees by those different groups who access the information at different times.

Ms. Gray: How much of a priority is this particular program in regard to a home economist's responsibilities?

Mr. Orchard: It is one of the significant efforts that the home economists undertake throughout the regions.

Ms. Gray: My concern in raising these questions is, I submit in fact there is not a formal evaluation mechanism at all and although the home economists I would guess, and I have not talked to any of them, have probably been told that, yes, they should be getting feedback on this program, that in fact there has not been a formal mechanism possibly that has been instituted from the executive director to regional directors to their supervisors down to say that this is a high priority.

I would also be concerned that there is not an evaluation mechanism or tool so that home economists will be working closely with the schools in particular as one of the major groups, I would assume, to assess and determine how successful this particular program is.

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Chairman, I would welcome my honourable friend's professional advice as a home economist as well as an MLA.

Ms. Gray: If the Minister would welcome that advice, is he then, in effect, agreeing with my comments?

Mr. Orchard: I am saying that my honourable friend, as a home economist, formerly employed with the department, I would value her, as to whether she believes this is a worthy initiative of Government and whether a Government she might be part of would curtail it. That seems to be where my honourable friend is heading.

Ms. Gray: If the Minister would listen closely, I have not alluded to that at all. My concern is, once again we have these programs and I question, it is nice to throw out all these words and string words together and talk about evaluation and feedback mechanisms, but if you really have not established a strategy and if you really do not have a formal process in place and

given that field worker's time, whether they are home economists, social workers or public health nurses, are always very much—they are pulled and pressed to do a number of various programs and services, I really question whether, and I am asking the Minister, is he confident that in fact there is a formal evaluation mechanism in place whereby these home economists have been charged—and it sounds like being the front line people—to get these evaluations conducted. Is he confident that in fact that will be done?

* (1450)

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Chairman, my honourable friend, she might recall the answer I gave her a short while ago. She is asking me, is there a two-page, checked-off, yes, no, agree, disagree, strongly agree, strongly disagree, rating of every page in the book. No, that is not the case because the information that is presented in there is information that applies from a range of individuals from babes to seniors, from those with weight problems to those with specific health problems, for instance diabetes, for instance heart disease, and it suggests nutritional advice in one complete addition that can provide that kind of advice. My honourable friend is asking, is every single page evaluated? No, that is not done.

I want to tell my honourable friend that I am confident as Minister of Health in a Progressive Conservative Government that this is a valuable initiative by Government. We will continue and build upon this initiative. The reason I say that is that we have not had to go out and flog this material to have it taken out. There have been more requests for this package of nutritional material because of its balance, its utility, the information presented in it and the easily-understood format in which it is placed. It has led to a significant demand by Manitobans for the information, significantly greater demand than for any other, I believe, any other pamphlet or program that we have initiated in health promotion.

That to me indicates when we embarked upon this course as an initiative, very much tied to health promotion, to healthier lifestyle, to promoting health, that we have hit the target by the very fact that Manitobans are demanding this more than any other print material in health promotion. That to me is an indication of success. I am confident that we are utilizing the resource of Government for very effective use in health promotion.

As I say, if my honourable friend has some sense that is not the case, and she believes we ought to curtail that. I want to know if that is a personal opinion as a home economist or whether that is a Party position of the Liberals that she is putting forward.

I am confident this information is good, and we will continue to provide it. When we receive advice on improvements we will make those improvements to make the package even better.

Ms. Gray: If the Minister feels that just because people are clamouring for information, and no doubt they are because there is very little information in the area of

healthy lifestyles and nutrition, that is the evaluation mechanism as long as people are clamouring for something therefore it must be good, I totally disagree with that statement made by the Minister.

Schools were clamouring for the food for thought information as well. I would suggest that was probably at least as popular as this particular book, but they were clamouring for that, and there were workshops held. Teachers came by droves to participate in it, and it is because they wanted information on nutrition. It was only when that program was evaluated over a period of time, that the department could then assess whether in fact it was a useful program. In fact it did turn out to be a very useful program.

I think if the Minister of Health is suggesting, because resources are developed and because people are clamouring for the information and want to use it, that is sufficient evaluation, I would suggest to him the potential is there for wasting taxpayers' dollars. I am not making any comments at all about whether this particular program is good or bad, because obviously I do not know. The Minister does not know either, because he has not had the program evaluated. It probably has not been out long enough.

My question is—and I asked this question again last year in Estimates—if you are going to move ahead in a direction in terms of health promotion, disease prevention or whatever it is surely to goodness you need to evaluate your programs. There are very many, many types of evaluation, which I am sure the Minister is aware of. Can the Minister indicate to us what particular method of evaluation is used in this particular instance to evaluate this particular program?

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Chairman, I realize my honourable friend is seeking—and I again tell her that there is not a sheet which evaluates everything and you check mark it off. That is not the evaluation. The evaluation is in terms of its acceptability by the user groups which is high.

As I indicated to my honourable friend, we do not have people in the kitchens and dining rooms of the province surveying to see whether you are having your carrots today, your lean beef tomorrow, and your fish on another day.

An Honourable Member: Friday.

Mr. Orchard: My honourable friend from St. Boniface said Friday. That may well be.

The information is being utilized in a greater degree than ever before, and, in part, one will be able to determine the impact of any health promotion program including nutrition by various surveys that we do in terms of population status.

One of them we launched three weeks ago with the healthy heart survey, a component of which involves nutrition. I suppose the only way one is able to evaluate, on a population basis, as to whether you are hitting your mark with your information target is to know whether your eating habits do in fact change over a period of time.

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I think having done that does one attribute and take credit for it because one has put out a successful package of information, like we have done here, or do you attribute to commercial advertising and the emphasis on low cholesterol and low fat diets and emphasis on salad and other vegetable diets? Does one attribute it to the growing numbers of weight clinics and Weight Watchers and other organizations throughout the province that do, indeed, indicate to people what a healthy diet can do for them in terms of maintaining a healthy body weight? Does one attribute it to the many professional clubs in the private sector that sell fitness memberships? As part of it there is counselling for individuals.

We believe this program is a valued addition to that. It indicates in a factual way, because the Government of Manitoba has no commercial interest to promote, that our information is the soundest nutritional advice that is available. We receive feedback as to its receptiveness to the various target groups.

It is indicated that it is well received. Well received, I have to assume, means used. That does not necessarily mean that a person with the catalogue follows every single suggestion in it, because, as I have said to my honourable friend, we do not sit in the dining rooms of the province watching people eat.

Ms. Gray: Given the Minister's last comments, is this resource material available to individuals, or is it used for groups and schools where there are groups that are being taught?

Mr. Orchard: An individual can ask for and receive this information.

* (1500)

Ms. Gray: Can the Minister tell me—I am not quite sure why this would be available to individuals in this format, because even having the opportunity to briefly look through it, it would appear that they are set up in terms of lessons and teaching plans. So would it not make sense that this be available to people who would then be utilizing it with a group?

Mr. Orchard: The package my honourable friend received is the educational package.

Individuals can receive components. For instance, if you are diabetic and wish to have the section on diabetes that is the information that is sent to an individual. If you are concerned with weight loss there would be that information package sent to you.

Ms. Gray: Can the Minister tell us what reading level the material was written at?

Mr. Orchard: I am told that for different target groups there are different reading levels. So I assume that Grade 3 to 4 people would have a different reading level than for instance literate adults.

Ms. Gray: Is the Minister saying that this program is written with different reading levels?

Mr. Orchard: Components are, yes. If my honourable friend read through it she would see which were which, possibly.

Ms. Gray: Well, I have not had the opportunity to thoroughly read through it, but maybe the Minister of Health could indicate to us where there might be differences throughout these in terms of reading levels, university level versus elementary.

Mr. Orchard: Certainly I will provide that information for my honourable friend, because it is such a burning issue.

Ms. Gray: Well, I will save the Minister some time, if he is not able to do that now. I do not really want his staff going to all that work in having to provide that information.

The Minister talked about this having a high level of acceptability, and he talked about how do you evaluate how this information is used. I am wondering, is this material aimed at awareness level and knowledge level changes, or are we actually looking at behaviour changes and practice changes with this material.

Mr. Orchard: We are trying to demonstrate what would be healthy eating habits for various groups, whether it be a medical condition, an age group, a seniors group, one who wished to lose weight, the best nutritional information that is available.

Ms. Gray: What is the Minister hoping to accomplish with this? Is he actually hoping that this material will accomplish actual behaviour change? Is he doing any type of pilot projects or any spot evaluation with various groups, school children, adults, et cetera, in terms of actually looking at behavioural change as far as eating habits?

Mr. Orchard: No, as I have indicated to my honourable friend we are providing the best information—we believe state of the art information—in terms of the various nutritional requirements for the various target groups in Manitoba society, be they seniors; be they preschoolers; be they young adults; be they expectant mothers; be they growing teenagers; be they people with a weight problem; be they people with diabetes; be they people with a heart condition; be they people with other medical difficulties; people with bone problems, in emphasis for instance on calcium as part of a diet.

We are attempting to provide the most accurate information available. That accurate information is available in easily understood form so the individuals accessing the information can understand and achieve the goal towards healthier nutrition in a very presentable, easy to understand format, which has wide acceptance and we believe is absolutely a tremendous asset for Manitobans to have.

Ms. Gray: Mr. Chairperson, the Minister is still being very evasive about the type of evaluation. I am still not convinced there is an evaluation, but let us say that, in fact, there is some sort of evaluation going on with

this program. Perhaps the Minister could indicate to us, does he have a time frame in regard to when an initial or interim evaluation might be completed or carried out? If he has a time frame would he be prepared to share that interim evaluation with Members of the Opposition at that time?

Mr. Orchard: That sounds like a reasonable suggestion from my honourable friend.

Ms. Gray: I do believe it is a reasonable suggestion. My question still is: is the Minister prepared to give us that interim report, and does he have a time frame about when he might have an interim evaluation on this particular program?

Mr. Orchard: No, yes, and thank you.

Mr. Chairman: Shall the item pass?

Ms. Gray: The Minister is indicating that, no, there is no time frame at this point. Am I correct?

Mr. Orchard: Unless I had your order of questions wrong that is correct.

Ms. Gray: Does the Minister feel it is important that before—I would imagine, given the amount of resources and the cost of reprinting this material—that it would be important to evaluate this program, let us say, before they all run out and there needs to be reprinting. Does the Minister feel there should be an evaluation carried out, even an interim evaluation, to assess the usability of this particular program?

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Chairman, as I have indicated to my honourable friend, we have not had any reason to believe that this information is not appropriate and valuable except the concerns expressed by my honourable friend.

I do not know whether it is personal or whether it is Party position where they seem to have some reluctance of informing Manitobans of the most up-to-date nutritional information available.

Ms. Gray: For the Minister's information, the best resources, whether human, written resources, et cetera, in the world are not going to change people's behaviour unless in fact we know the material is being used—we know the material is being used appropriately and we can evaluate some sort of behavioural change.

Is the Minister not interested? Does he actually think this particular material—and I see who the author is of this material. I am sure it is very, very well done. I am sure it is very good material. Is he suggesting that everything in this manual and this material is perfect and there will be no need for any further changes or modifications down the road where, in fact, it could even be better utilized by some groups or programs?

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Chairman, that is exactly what I told my honourable friend about a half an hour ago.

Ms. Gray: The Minister has indicated he told me that an hour and a half ago. What exactly is he saying that he told me?

Mr. Orchard: I told my honourable friend that part of the feedback may suggest where we can improve the material, and those improvements will be incorporated.

Now, if my honourable friend has forgotten I indicated that to her. I have answered that question.

I realize my honourable friend may well just be here to put in the time this afternoon in the absence of the Liberal Health Critic, but we can go around this all afternoon, and I cannot give my honourable friend any more information than I have given her already to date.

Ms. Gray: Mr. Chairperson, I am beginning to realize that in fact the Minister is correct. He cannot give me any more information on evaluation, because he has not given me anything to begin with.

I do not think he has any idea about what evaluation of programs and services are. That was the concern I raised last year in Estimates, and I have no reason to believe he has educated himself any more in this coming year in regard to the evaluation of programs and services.

Rather than going around and around this issue I just want to reiterate, I think it is very, very important that when any new initiatives are established part of that new initiative have an evaluation component tied into it.

I see the Minister—and I will give him a hint of where he has seen fit to do that. We will be asking questions later on in regard to the partnership with the health initiative, the new fund.

Again, it is indicated that people submitting projects should have an evaluation component tied into that proposal. I think that is very important. I am glad to see that in the information, except I question why we spend time and make sure that outside agencies have evaluation components tied in. We do not in fact have those evaluation mechanisms firmed up in our own department.

Again, I really believe that for too long and too many years in this province we have gone ahead with a lot of programs and services, and we have never evaluated them even when they have been pilot projects. They go on and on and on, and we have never been able to indicate whether they are cost efficient.

Mr. Orchard: I think my honourable friend was making a general statement not posing a question.

Mr. Chairman: Shall the item pass—pass.

Ms. Gray: Mr. Chairperson, in this particular section the Health Promotion deals with smoking reduction and cessation. I am sure the Minister is aware that smoking and alcohol use are precursors of drug abuse.

I am wondering if the Minister would indicate to us, what is the nature and scope of the public education programs in regard to smoking reduction or cessation.

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Chairman, I would like to give both my honourable friends and any of their smoker friends

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a package that is available from Health Promotion to help them curtail smoking.

Ms. Gray: Is that the answer to the question?

Mr. Orchard: Well, I think my honourable friend asked what information was available from Health Promotion, and she has just received it.

* (1510)

Ms. Gray: I also asked the Minister if he could indicate the nature and scope of this program, which also would involve who conducts these particular programs. Is there a public awareness campaign? Are there particular resource people who have been designated to actually teach smoking cessation or reduction programs? Who are the target population, et cetera, et cetera?

Mr. Orchard: A lot of the components that my honourable friend mentioned are part of the Health Promotion effort and the department's efforts, yes.

Ms. Gray: Is there a particular target population in regard to the Health Promotion Directorate really wanting to target in on any particular group, i.e. school-age children versus adults?

Mr. Orchard: As my honourable friend knows, the most rapidly growing group of individuals who are smoking are teenage girls. I think the advertising, the Break Free campaign, has been sensitive to that particular age group and has been thereby targeted to some degree.

Ms. Gray: The Break Free Program, can the Minister indicate, I am not quite sure how long that has been going on but is that particularly an awareness program as opposed—is that the level that program was implemented, in terms of awareness level of the risks of smoking, or are we actually looking at other things in that program?

Mr. Orchard: The Break Free media campaign was launched in the fall of 1985, the campaign target group is youth age 12 to 17 years old. The message is the benefits of remaining smoke free. The objective is to persuade young people to remain smoke free, to position nonsmoking as normal, desirable behaviour and to influence group pressure toward nonsmoking.

The campaigns that were undertaken under the Break Free campaign were Luba, September 1987 to January 1989; Leader of the Pack, January 1989 to the present. Again, the target group was youth 12- to 17-year-olds. Luba was popular with 10- to 14-year-olds. Leader of the Pack is popular with 15- to 17-year-olds. Awareness of the campaign between smokers and nonsmokers was 41 percent of 12- to 14-year-olds were aware of the campaign; 49 percent of the 15- to 17-year-olds were aware of the campaign. Awareness of the Break Free slogan was up to 80 percent which is I think a pretty high recognition.

Ms. Gray: Can the Minister tell us, are there any programs, education programs, that are being

conducted in the school system, elementary, junior high, in regard to smoking cessation?

Mr. Orchard: I would defer detail on that to questioning of my honourable colleague, the Minister of Education (Mr. Derkach). I know my honourable friend would get a full and complete answer including evaluation from my honourable friend, the Minister of Education.

Ms. Gray: Is the Minister indicating that his Health Promotion Directorate has no responsibility for any types of programs that might be carried out in the schools?

Mr. Orchard: No, I am not indicating that but this is the Department of Health and we provide materials that are used in the school systems. How they are used in the school system, as was my honourable friend's question, would be more appropriately addressed to the Minister of Education.

Ms. Gray: Is the Minister then saying that none of his staff within the Department of Health carry out any type of smoking reduction programs or act as a resource to school teachers who might provide those programs?

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Chairman, what I am saying to my honourable friend is that we develop the campaigns and the materials, and on request they are made available to school divisions. Assistance is provided to guidance counsellors and others who may wish to undertake those programs in the school systems. That is the role of Health Promotion, to be the provider of information on request and the developer of information upon request.

We also have the AFMs program Tuning into Health available through Health Promotion upon request of the school divisions but if my honourable friend wants to know which divisions and which schools and which grades and how many classes a day, that question would be most appropriately asked of the Minister of Education.

Ms. Gray: How does the Health Promotion Directorate know that its materials and resources are being used appropriately, if at all, through the Department of Education?

Mr. Orchard: Well, Mr. Chairman, I have to assume that school teachers, guidance counsellors when they ask for information and information packages from Health Promotion that they use them in the manner designed, i.e., to provide information, education and Health Promotion initiatives in the schools. I do not believe, as would be suggested by my honourable friend, that they are wasted by those individuals when they are supplied by the department.

Ms. Gray: Does the Minister see a role for the Health Promotion Directorate to be innovators and initiators in regard to ensuring that some smoking reduction programs actually occur with various target populations, one of the most important being school aged children? One would think that a very opportune forum to provide some of that education would be actually in the schools.

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Can the Minister indicate—and maybe I have the role of the Health Promotion Directorate wrong, I would think that one of the roles might be to actually initiate some formal meetings or some formal structures with the Department of Education to ensure that some of these programs are being carried out.

Mr. Orchard: That is what the department does.

Ms. Gray: I am glad to hear that is what the department does. Perhaps the Minister can indicate for us, he then must be aware of what types of programs are being carried out in the schools in regard to smoking reduction. I am not asking for specific school divisions, I am asking the extent of the programs being carried out. Is it done basically in all the schools as the Minister would have us believe in Question Period?

There must be some information the Health Promotion Directorate has available given that they are giving out these resources and given that the Minister has just admitted that in fact they have responsibility for ensuring, whether they actually do the delivery, that some of these programs are being carried out.

Mr. Orchard: I believe my honourable friend two questions ago—and possibly she could write her questions down so she knows what she is asking and she knows what is being answered—asked me if there was any co-ordination between Health Promotion and education, and at the staff level. I said, yes, there was. Then my honourable friend then automatically turns around and says, well, now the Minister has assumed responsibility for delivery in the school and will he make sure—(interjection)—Oh, my honourable friend says that is not what she said. Well, maybe she would like to rephrase what she said.

Ms. Gray: I might suggest maybe the Minister should write down my answers so in fact he can read what I said.

Mr. Orchard: You do not give answers, you ask questions.

* (1520)

Ms. Gray: I also give answers sometimes. What I am asking the Minister is, what I want to know is, what is the relationship between the Health Promotion Directorate and the Department of Education? If he could specifically indicate to us what relationship there is in regard to ensuring that there are smoking reduction cessation programs being carried out with school-aged children.

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Chairman, we work as a resource division to provide pamphlets, campaign material to those who request it. In the anti-smoking campaign that can be restaurant association, that can be public institutions, as well as school divisions. When the school divisions wish us to participate in terms of provision of materials and we have them, we do that.

Our materials are created in consultation with the Department of Education so that our message is one

that is acceptable. We do not create them in isolation but if my honourable friend wants to know what programs are undertaken for smoking cessation in what schools, in what divisions, in what grades, I do not have that information, because that is where school counsellors who work within the Department of Education undertake that program. They provide the information, and part of the package we have was given to my honourable friend. I indicated to her the media campaign that we are continuing with.

Ms. Gray: Can the Minister tell us, how does the Health Promotion Directorate know if any of the resources and materials are being effectively utilized in the schools, or does the Health Promotion Directorate even know that?

Mr. Orchard: Is my honourable friend asking if the Department of Health Promotion and Department of Health evaluate how school counsellors use the material and whether it is effective? No, I do not believe we have that kind of information.

Again, my honourable friend might wish to pose that question if she can be part of the education efforts to find out whether school counsellors and others in the school system undertake that initiative.

Ms. Gray: Is the Health Promotion Directorate continuing to evaluate new resources that would be used in smoking cessation or reduction programs?

Mr. Orchard: That is correct.

Ms. Gray: On what basis is the Health Promotion Directorate developing these new resources when they do not even have any idea of how the existing ones are being utilized or how effective they are?

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Chairman, there is a general belief that across the population in general, the exception being teenage girls, there is a reduction in smoking.

I cannot tell my honourable friend—and I am not certain whether there is designed a survey that is going to say to you, with any accuracy whatsoever—that the package I handed to my honourable friend caused 13 percent of the population to stop smoking.

I think if my honourable friend would care to think about it, and reflect on it slightly, she might ask herself, if that package helped, what was the impact of the national advertising program; what was the impact of the media campaign under Break Free; what was the impact of the caps that we have under Health Promotion, Break Free, with the broken cigarette on; what is the impact on peer groups who have already quit smoking; what is the impact on cessation of smoking by the—where they zap you in the ear—

An Honourable Member: It does not work.

Mr. Orchard: An old smoker says it does not work.

My honourable friend—and I may be wrong, and if I am wrong, I will fully admit to my error, but I do not

know whether one can take and say that a given package, a given advertising campaign, has caused X number of people to cease smoking.

What is happening—and surely my honourable friend would recognize that it has been successful, in that Canada has one of the leading world rates in reduction of individual citizens smoking tobacco products. That to me indicates that the entire program, part of which is the Health Promotion Program, part of which is delivered in the schools, is part of an overall successful Canadian campaign.

I cannot tell my honourable friend, and I do not believe my Director of Health Promotion can tell my honourable friend, if the Break Free hat has caused 41 people to stop smoking; or whether it is the ad that caused 57 people to stop smoking; or whether it is the national ad that has caused 81 people to stop smoking; or whether it is the price of cigarettes being \$5.00 has caused 100 people to stop smoking. It is all part of a concerted initiative by Governments across this country to break away from the smoking habit.

Ms. Gray: The Minister might be surprised about what his Director of Health Promotion might be able to tell him about evaluation.

I have two points. The Minister talked about young girls, and they are on the increase in regard to smoking cigarettes. One comment I have is I think it might be a good idea for this particular target group to be looked at in regard to doing some specific targeting of programs, whether it be done in combination with the Department of Education and the Department of Health staff, i.e. public health nurses, health educators, et cetera and to do some work on control groups, because I disagree with the Minister.

I think you can reach some conclusions in determining if a particular education program has an effect; has an impact; has results and behavioural change in a group of participants.

You can do that by looking at a control group who, of course, would be available and would have access and know about all the advertising campaigns and all the various gimmicks there are to quit smoking. You could look at that group, and you could compare them to another specific group of people where, in effect, you actually do some specific group counselling, one-to-one education, et cetera.

With taking those variables and those factors into consideration you could make a reasonable determination at the end of that program whether that extra program; that individual counselling; that group work had resulted in smoking reduction or cessation by a group of individuals.

So there are ways to do it, Mr. Chairperson. I am surprised that the Minister would not be aware of those.

Mr. Orchard: Is my honourable friend saying that to establish this control group, to test a piece of additional literature, that you can separate out the background and identify perfectly whether one is exposed to a television advertising campaign, a radio advertising

campaign, the impact of a peer group and all of those factors? My honourable friend did not listen to my last answer.

She is trying to say that all of a sudden in this liberal world of evaluation you can have these controlled trials on specific pieces of information. I submit to my honourable friend that would be challenged by those groups, who do evaluation, as an impossible task to separate out and isolate a reduction in smoking to a single pamphlet or production of material, because of the concerted background by many people in Government, provincial-federal, in the school systems, in various non-Government organizations like the Heart Foundation, the Lung Association who actively promote no smoking. My honourable friend is not right.

Ms. Gray: Mr. Chairperson, we will obviously agree to disagree on this, because you can take a group of 13-year-old girls who go to the same school, who come from the same socioeconomic background, who are involved in basically the same activities, who hang around in the same groups, and you can divide them up and they will be influenced by the same factors. You can take part of that group of individuals who smoke and you can also do an extra educational component with them, and I think you could come to some conclusions. Be that as it may, the Minister and I will probably disagree on that particular aspect.

(Mr. Edward Helwer, Acting Chairman, in the Chair)

* (1530)

I just have a final question for the Minister. In moving off evaluation, I understand that in the Health Promotion Directorate there is a home economist, a nutritionist, who also has some responsibilities to staff in the Department of Agriculture. Am I correct?

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Acting Chairman, maybe my honourable friend could rephrase the question, because we missed that.

Ms. Gray: What I was asking the Minister is: am I correct in assuming that there is a nutritionist under the Health Promotion Directorate who works with the Health Promotion Directorate, Catherine McNeill, who also has responsibilities in providing some type of service with Department of Agriculture home economists?

Mr. Orchard: Consultation is provided by that individual to the Department of Agriculture.

Ms. Gray: Can the Minister indicate—and I raise this not only because of the individual involved, but because there have been concerns expressed in the past in regard to the amount of time this particular individual is able to spend with home economists in the Department of Agriculture, because of course she also has responsibilities in the Department of Health, and we often times know that you may do the work and prioritize your own staff and your own department as opposed to the work that you may need to do with another department.

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I am wondering if the Minister can indicate if those concerns have ever been brought to the attention of his senior staff.

Mr. Orchard: I am informed that the director has been made aware of that, yes.

Ms. Gray: Has there been any resolution or any way to relook at these job activities to ensure that adequate consultation is provided to staff in both departments?

Mr. Orchard: Is my honourable friend saying there is not enough time that the individual, Catherine McNeill, spends with the Department of Agriculture? Is that what my honourable friend is saying?

An Honourable Member: That is the concern, yes.

Mr. Orchard: Well, Mr. Acting Chairman, the individual is spending time with both Health economists and the Department of Agriculture economists, and that may be inadequate. The individual is—I cannot comment on whether it is enough, not enough or about right.

If my honourable friend has some concerns she might want to indicate them, and we will take them under advisement and investigate them as to whether they are resolvable.

Ms. Gray: It was a question I had raised last year in Estimates, in the Department of Agriculture. Apparently there have been some concerns that when you have an individual in one department who has responsibilities for staff in another, those staff in Agriculture possibly feel they are getting short shrift.

I would just leave it at the fact—I understand the Director of Health Promotion is aware—if perhaps the Minister of Health could possibly investigate that and see if there has been any resolution and possibly also talk to his colleague, the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Findlay).

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Acting Chairman, I am told we have not had any formal complaints from Agriculture that were a problem, but we will take my honourable friend's advice.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Helwer): Do you have any other questions?

2.(d) Health Promotion: (1) Salaries \$624,800—pass;
(2) Other Expenditures \$443,300—pass.

(3) External Agencies \$1,310,000—do you have a question on this one? The Member for Ellice.

Ms. Gray: Mr. Acting Chairperson, this External Agencies, does the Minister—perhaps he has already done this—does he have a list of the agencies that have been given funding under this particular line?

Mr. Orchard: I can make that information available to my honourable friend.

Ms. Gray: That is fine. If the Minister does not have that right now, once we have that information available

if we would be able to ask questions possibly on that at a later time.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Helwer): Shall the item pass—pass.

2.(e) Hearing Conservation: (1) Salaries \$108,700—the Member for Thompson.

Mr. Steve Ashton (Thompson): First of all, I was just wondering on the specific item of Salaries if the Minister could indicate the staffing situation. I assume there is a vacant position, by the fact there is a reduced amount budgeted for Salaries in this particular area, for the Minister to clarify.

Mr. Orchard: I am sorry I was just changing directors, and I wonder if my honourable friend could pose the question again.

Mr. Ashton: I just asked for an explanation of the change from last year to this year. There is a reduction in salaries. I assume there is a vacancy in the department or a partial vacancy budgeted, I am just wondering if the Minister can clarify exactly what the change is.

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Acting Chairman, there are three SYs in this area, and one of the SYs previously budgeted or voted on salary was overprovided by \$5,000, and what you are seeing is just a reflection which properly states the amount required to fill that salary. There has been no change in the individual filling the position. It is just a more accurate statement of budget allocation to cover the salary.

Mr. Ashton: What I would like to ask in terms of the Hearing Conservation Program is, first of all, for an update in terms of the situation in terms of audiologists. There has been a shortage, I know, in previous years. It has been a major concern, and it has been expressed.

We currently have a program, I believe, offered in each of the 10 health regions, specifically Portage, Morden, Beausejour, Steinbach, Selkirk, The Pas, Dauphin, Thompson, Brandon and four hospitals in Winnipeg. I wonder if the Minister can indicate the overall staffing situation and whether there are any specific shortages at any of these delivery points.

Mr. Orchard: I am told that we have no shortages throughout the regions that my honourable friend has indicated. There is a total of 16 and a half staff years allocated throughout the province, and I believe all of them are currently filled.

Mr. Ashton: I am just wondering what the overall situation is in terms of why, because there have been problems, I know, periodically in the past in terms of availability of trained audiologists. I am wondering if the Minister has information on that, whether there is likely to be an adequate supply or if we are liable to face difficulties in terms of training in this particular area.

Mr. Orchard: In the last number of months there has been neither a recruiting problem nor an inability to

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fill the positions that we have. They are subsequently, as indicated, filled positions.

Mr. Ashton: So the Minister, in terms of long-term planning in this area, does not feel there are likely to be any shortage in the future. Part of the problem has been, in terms of parallelling the situation with other health care professionals in terms of rural and northern communities, people not willing to locate.

As I have said, it has been a problem on and off in a couple of locations in the past. I am just wondering, in terms of the overall supply situation, whether the department is satisfied that we have an adequate supply of trained audiologists and other professionals, audiometrics I guess would be the other professional classification in this area.

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Acting Chairman, all I can say is the four positions that are available in Norman and Thompson are filled, and we at this time have all of our positions filled. I simply cannot speculate as to what the future holds, but certainly we have been able to successfully recruit and retain where needed.

Mr. Ashton: I would like to ask the Minister for an update in terms of the various areas the Hearing Conservation Program is involved with, the clinical education and administrative. Rather than ask the Minister for the specific details I wonder if he could just, at some point, provide information on the number of tests.

I believe it has been in the upper 30,000 range in terms of children. Further assessments have, in the past, been around the 15,000 range. In terms of diagnostic audiologic evaluation there have been tests in the range of 8,000. I do not know if the Minister has that information available. I have information current up to '87-'88, but I am wondering if the Minister, at some point in time, could provide that information to the committee.

Mr. Orchard: I can give my honourable friend the '88-'89 actuals: preschool children, zero to four years of age, 2,492 were referred for assessment and 723 of those were confirmed to have hearing loss; school children five to 17 years, there were 35,250 screened; of those, 5,166 were referred for assessment, and of those, 2,486 were confirmed as having a hearing loss. Of adults 18 to 64 years old, we had 3,516 referred for assessment, 2,455 of those were confirmed to have a hearing loss. Of adults over 65 years of age, we had in fiscal year '88-'89, 3,115 referrals for assessment, and of those, 2,977 were confirmed as having hearing loss.

* (1540)

Mr. Ashton: I would like to ask the Minister whether there are any additional hearing centres contemplated in the province. I know even in '87 or '88 there was one established—and I know the Minister will be fairly well aware of—in Morden, the second such centre in that particular region, the central region. I am wondering if the department has any further plans to expand the number of hearing centres.

Mr. Orchard: There are proposals that have been proposed. There are no new additions this year in terms of this year's budget, and proposals of course go through, as they always have, an assessment as to whether funding will be proceeded with.

Mr. Ashton: The reason I am asking the question is, because while there is a reasonably comprehensive number of centres, and in terms of each region there are some centres, it is obvious in looking at the geographic location that people in certain areas have to travel a considerable distance to take access of the programs at the centres. I would certainly encourage the department to look at further such expansions. I know the Minister could probably provide me with a better update in terms of the experience in the Morden centre, but I know that was introduced around '87-'88 as a further expansion, so I certainly encourage it.

I would like to ask a question in terms of the occupational aspects, and one of the concerns that has been expressed to myself in my other capacity as Workers Compensation Board Critic is in terms of hearing and hearing loss. There is particular concern involving a number of cases where there is some question as to the degree to which it is occupation-related, yet there are various studies that have been shown which have gone further in terms of recognizing the impact of occupational noise on hearing loss.

I would like to ask what role, if any, the Department of Health plays in terms of establishing standards for both the measurement and analysis of hearing loss in occupational situations.

Mr. Orchard: Basically, Mr. Acting Chairman, a consultative role with Workplace Safety and Health in terms of their establishment of workplace levels and this department of Government provides as much information as they have for the establishment of those levels by Workplace Safety and Health who bring in the regulations, not the departments.

Mr. Ashton: I am wondering the extent to which the department is involved in terms of education. I know it is listed as one of the mandates for this particular department. I was wondering if the Minister has any information on the extent of lectures and workshops that were conducted, I presume mostly with either medical staff or with individuals in educational institutions, obviously teachers, counsellors, et cetera.

I am just wondering the extent to which this section of the department is involved in lectures, workshops and other educational activities relating to hearing loss and hearing impairment.

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Acting Chairman, the department participates at workshops throughout the province as invited or as required, but we do not keep statistics on how many participations they do. I will just leave both my honourable friends with a more recent pamphlet that the division has put out.

Mr. Ashton: The reason I am asking is, in terms of reviewing the activities of this particular section—we

have discussed in other areas the needs for review, et cetera—it seems if there is one area of clear advantage in terms of health prevention where you can document it, that is in this specific area. It was only a few years ago that it was very rare in the workplace, for example, to see people wearing any kind of hearing protection.

I remember when I first started work at INCO it was the official policy of the company, I do not think it had anything to do with regulations of Government, and it was an official policy that was neglected more than it was observed. In fact, as soon as anybody was not looking people would take off what they considered to be highly uncomfortable hearing protection, and I am sure my experience is not unique. I am sure it is a experience throughout the province. So I would urge there be a review of the extent to which this particular branch is involved in terms of that. I realize that Workplace Safety and Health also has this as its direct mandate.

I do think there is a lack of recognition of the amount of damage that can take place. I am getting people now, for example, in my own community who have been working INCO 20-30 years and they are now beginning to regret not having been concerned about potential loss to their hearing. A lot of them are engaged in pretty tough fights with Workers Compensation to get recognition for the extent to which it has affected not only their working validity but also their lifestyle.

When we are looking at Health promotion I would certainly encourage the Minister to look at a greater awareness of the potential damage from hearing loss. I should perhaps broaden it, not to go just to occupational. I think that many people are exposed to high levels of noise in other areas. I remember quite a few concerts I used to go to which probably did not do much for my hearing at the time. It is well documented, there is a lack of awareness of that. I feel amongst, for example, a lot of people attending concerts with high amplification, that the ear has an ability to rebound, but only so much of an ability, and in many cases you can have permanent hearing loss with continued exposure.

* (1550)

With those few comments, unless the Minister has a reply, I pass the floor back to the Acting Health Critic for the Liberals.

Mr. Orchard: My honourable friend knows from wearing his second hat in Workplace Health and Safety, that is where the actual workplace education takes place. We provide diagnostic assessments, but also we train the industrial audiometric technicians who are in the workplace. We offer two training courses a year, and those are the individuals who attempt to bring more understanding and indeed more protection to people in the workplace, to individuals in the workplace.

My honourable friend's question is right. There are a lot of rather young farmers who are prematurely deaf, because with the advent of cabs they did not take precaution in terms of the ear protection. The earlier cabs did not have sound insulation, and you just sort

of got used to the dull roar. I know there are a lot of young farmers 45-50 years old who are wearing hearing aids because of that alone.

My honourable friend's caution, I think, by and large has been acceded to throughout various areas of the workplace. I know in the agriculture machinery field and I think the industrial machinery field, anything that is covered in vehicles has sound level standards now that are North American standards and offer a fair degree of protection, but it was not always the case and some people have suffered unfortunate consequences and loss of hearing.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate, with the various staff who are providing the screening and the hearing, who do they report to, and do they have a direct line to the directorate in terms of receiving supervision?

Mr. Orchard: I am told that the individuals who are in the regions are under the supervision of the regional directors.

Ms. Gray: Is the program staff supervision provided by the directorate?

Mr. Orchard: The program and policy side is provided by the directorate, but the day-to-day service delivery activities are the responsibility of the regional directors to manage staff in that regard.

Ms. Gray: Are there ever any waiting lists or is there a time delay in terms of people wanting to get in to see an audiologist for an assessment? What are the delays?

Mr. Orchard: Upwards of six months for adults for an assessment on hearing.

Ms. Gray: What about for children?

Mr. Orchard: One to two months.

Ms. Gray: Have those waiting lists increased over the last few years or has there been any reductions?

Mr. Orchard: They have been at those levels for several years apparently.

Ms. Gray: Do we know what the impact is of these long waiting periods in regard to possible further deterioration of hearing on adults and on particularly the children?

Mr. Orchard: As my honourable friend would probably appreciate, in the statistics that I laid out, particularly with adults 65 and over where we did 3,115 assessments, 2,977 of which were confirmed to have some hearing loss, the major outcome is a hearing aid, so what you have is a delay in full social participation but seldom a health risk per se.

Ms. Gray: What about the children or the infants?

Mr. Orchard: Well, children, that is why the waiting list is considerably shorter, one to two months, because

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that can be a deteriorating situation that intervention may well remedy.

Ms. Gray: Is there a substantial number of concerns or complaints that get registered with the department in regard to the delays or waiting lists to be seen by audiologists?

Mr. Orchard: I have not had any complaints reach my office on waiting lists for audiology. There have been concerns in terms of speech pathology but not audiology.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Helwer): Item (e) Hearing Conservation, (1) Salaries \$108,700—pass; (2) Other Expenditures \$191,100—pass.

(3) External Agencies \$46,300—pass. Did you have a question? The Member for Ellice.

Ms. Gray: Would the Minister be prepared to give us an indication of the external agencies that are funded, if not now, in the next day we resume for Estimates?

Mr. Orchard: There are only two of them. Luther Home, there is a \$7000 grant; Winnipeg School Division No. 1, \$46,300.00.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Helwer): Shall the item pass—pass. For a total of \$346,100.00.

Go on to item (f) Gerontology, (1) Salaries \$171,800—the Member for Thompson.

Mr. Ashton: I have to leave in order to catch my plane back to my constituency. I did, however, want to just address a couple of points by way of a question to the Minister.

First of all, in terms of the budget—when we go through this item we should be able to get some further information—I notice there has been an increase in terms of the budgeting for this department. That is certainly a positive sign although this is one area, as I understand it, that was underspent in the previous fiscal year. I think we all agree in this Legislature there needs to be improved programs for our seniors.

What I would like to ask the Minister, and my apologies if I will have to read the answer in Hansard here, but I would like to ask the Minister just a couple of things. One is in regard to the co-ordination of seniors programs between his department which has delivered a number of seniors programs in the past. The handbook, for example, a number of programs that have been sponsored by the gerontologists, the Council on Aging, are all aspects of this particular department.

I would like to ask the extent to which there is improved co-ordination of programming for seniors. I think there has been concern expressed over the confusion surrounding the Minister responsible for Seniors, the Seniors Directorate. I think there is a real feeling there needs to be greater co-ordination. I know there has been some concern, the extent to which the appointment of the Minister for Seniors has achieved that.

I would appreciate if the Minister could advise the committee as to the extent, the relationship between this section of the department and the Minister responsible for Seniors, the degree of co-ordination between the various activities, in addition as well, the direction this particular section of the department is taking in terms of external agencies, funding of outside projects. This is one area where there is a significant number of groups that have a lot of good ideas.

I am encouraged, as I said, to see increased funding for external agencies. I would appreciate if the Minister could provide us with some information on what those agencies are, and also if the Minister will be looking at further support for outside agencies. As I said, there are a number of agencies which either represent seniors or deal directly with seniors or seniors issues that I know would be out there providing the programming if the funding was available.

So with those two particular points, my apologies to the Minister but I will certainly read the answers in Hansard.

(Mr. Chairman in the Chair)

Mr. Orchard: Just briefly, to answer my honourable friend's concern about some of the lapsed funding from last year, we have a unique situation that troubles this program in terms of the formal approval and the cash flowing, which cannot be done until we have some pretty serious indication of a budget passing. As my honourable friend well knows, that was significantly delayed last year. Many new agencies are anxious awaiting their funding again this year and will receive same.

* (1600)

Mr. Chairman: Shall the item pass—the Member for Sturgeon Creek.

Mrs. Iva Yeo (Sturgeon Creek): I am wondering, with the very obvious increase in the number of seniors in our population, and for all purposes we know that is going to continue, what sorts of funding will be available to increase the number of seats in the gerontology program that I believe is still offered at the University of Manitoba.

Mr. Orchard: You see, I cannot answer that, as to whether there will be an increase. That just is not a direct responsibility that I have. We have discussions, for instance, with the Faculty of Medicine in terms of disciplines which are more appropriately focused on an aging population like gerontology, like rheumatology.

I think there is consensus around the issue that there ought to be more graduates, but it is a little more complex than simply establishing the number of dedicated slots to that training discipline.

We do have some specific fee schedule issues with gerontology and particularly rheumatology that need to be resolved. Let me indicate to my honourable friend that is one aspect of addressing the issue of an aging population. I think that within the gerontology area of

this department, from a program standpoint I am quite convinced that we are on the right track. You have to appreciate in support services for seniors, this is a program, and I have never been reticent to give credit where credit was due, this was a program that was initiated about 1985 to meet a need of funding for all intents and purpose to put the program in simplistic terms that volunteer co-ordination of additional services the community might be able to offer to its senior population. It has had four to five years. We think it has been a quite successful initiative and we are providing one of the larger increases in terms of the external agencies in this department to fund more of support services for seniors programs throughout the province.

At the same time, so that my honourable friend, the Member for Ellice will feel care and comfort, we are going to, I do not know whether we will complete it this fiscal year, but certainly we intend to undertake an evaluation of how the support services for seniors funding has been delivered and how effectively the objectives of the program have been met in the community.

Particularly, I am looking for as Minister, of facing innumerable requests for funding throughout the whole system. I am looking for some answers as to how effectively the support services for seniors programs throughout the province have been maintaining individuals economically in their home environment, deferring for a period of time the need, for instance, home care, and certainly we think or I believe, deferring for a period of time the panelling process and eventual placement in a personal care home setting.

I think that this program has been for \$1.8 million this year of anticipated expenditures, I think a quite effective program because it builds upon a natural desire and good will in the community as expressed through volunteers to provide that extra service that Governments simply are not mandated nor can afford to provide. I do not know what the value, I do not know whether we can evaluate the financial contribution that volunteers brought into the service delivery mode that this \$1.8 million, I do not know whether we could get a handle on how much the volunteer service component would be worth if Government had to staff it and provide it. I know it would be significant.

Mrs. Yeo: The Minister is a master at presenting a soliloquy of ideas that evolve from one question about gerontology courses at the University of Manitoba to then go on and talk about seniors programs and volunteer programs, et cetera. What I would like to do after that sort of eight-minute presentation is get back to the question on gerontology.

The program that I am referring to is one that I have heard there have been several requests for from support medical people. I am thinking of LPNs and RNs, the nurses aid community, and in fact from the families who are going to be faced with the dilemma of aging parents and grandparents and who have said we feel ill-prepared to tackle this sort of situation. Are there plans in progress to increase the programs that will be available for these people that I have referred to.

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Chairman, the reason I answered that question in part to my honourable friend and then talked about the support services for seniors program is that is what this line of the Estimate involves. What my honourable friend is talking about is programs under continuing education which are available through U of M, Red River Community College, Assiniboine Community College, and I think my honourable friend, as Education Critic, would appreciate that I do not have direct knowledge as to how available they are, although I understand there are no restrictions on entry to those courses, but I would not feel confident in answering questions of that nature which are the competence and program and the responsibility of one of my colleagues.

Mrs. Yeo: Perhaps the reason I ask the question of this particular Minister is because the other day when I posed questions to the Minister of Education (Mr. Derkach) in the House, the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) bobbed up and answered all three questions. So, pardon me, Sir, but I am just following previous actions from this particular Minister.

Mr. Orchard: Well, pardon me, Ma'am, for answering your questions.

Mrs. Yeo: I was not so sure that the questions had been answered, but thank you.

Mr. Chairman: Shall the item pass—the Member for Ellice.

Ms. Gray: Is the Minister indicating by his answers to the Member for Sturgeon Creek (Mrs. Yeo) that the gerontologist of the province does not have any involvement whatsoever with any type of continuing education or courses that may go on at the University of Manitoba in regard to courses related to age and gerontology, et cetera?

Mr. Orchard: No, that was not the indication of my answer.

Ms. Gray: Can the Minister tell us then, does the gerontologist have any involvement in her capacity as gerontologist in regard to these courses that are carried on at the university level?

Mr. Orchard: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

Ms. Gray: Can the Minister tell us what the nature of that involvement is?

Mr. Orchard: I believe the head of Gerontology sits on the Advisory Committee.

Ms. Gray: The gerontologist sits on the Advisory Committee. Did I hear correctly?

Mr. Orchard: Yes, my honourable friend heard correctly.

Ms. Gray: Can the Minister then indicate in regard to the questions that were asked by the Member for Sturgeon Creek, would the Minister then not have this

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information or be able to glean this information from the gerontologist who sits on the Advisory Committee?

* (1610)

Mr. Orchard: I believe I answered any question my honourable friend posed. Would my honourable friend from Ellice care to pose the question so that I can attempt to provide her with the answer that she seeks?

Ms. Gray: I am sure that the Member for Sturgeon Creek (Mrs. Yeo) is quite capable of repeating her questions and I am sure she will do so in due time. I would like to ask the Minister of Health some questions in regard to support services, and he indicated there will be an evaluation of the support services to seniors that will be carried on and I think that is a good idea. I am glad to see that the Minister still has an idea of the importance of what evaluation can do. I would ask a question though, first of all, in regard to this gerontology section, and there still seems to be in following up from comments from the Member for Thompson, quite a bit of confusion in regard to the difference between the roles and responsibility of the gerontology section within Manitoba Health and the roles and responsibilities of the Seniors Directorate.

The Seniors Minister was unable or unwilling, I am not quite sure which, to in fact specifically indicate to us during that Estimates process what the differences were in roles and responsibilities, so we were left in assuming that there is much overlap or there may be much fragmentation.

I am wondering if the Minister of Health who has been in his portfolio longer, could indicate to us what he sees as the differences with the gerontology section, which again talks about program planning and policy development, and how that differs with the Seniors Directorate which also deals in program development and policy development.

Mr. Orchard: I think my honourable friend might appreciate that the funds that we are hoping to receive support for approval from my honourable friends are program dollars in which we fund support services for seniors groups throughout the Province of Manitoba to undertake a range of service enhancement to seniors.

My honourable friend might know after having debated thoroughly and completely the seniors Estimates that the seniors Minister is very much involved in current policy development. I think the most important initiative undertaken in recent time of course is the paper on elder abuse.

My honourable friend, the Minister responsible for Seniors (Mr. Downey) undertook the development of that seniors abuse paper and its distribution to interested Manitobans, and at the present time is embarked upon a series of hearings throughout the province seeking feedback and opinion as to how Government from a policy standpoint might approach the issue of elder abuse in the Province of Manitoba.

Ms. Gray: Under the Activity Identification in this area, it not only speaks to program development and

implementation, but also talks to providing policy advice in regard to aging. Again I would ask the Minister, how does that relate with or complement the Seniors Directorate which also appears to be, according to the Activity Identification, involved in policy development in relation to the elderly?

Mr. Orchard: Very well, actually.

Ms. Gray: I am glad that the Minister feels that the section and the directorate complement each other very well. Maybe the Minister then could tell us exactly how there is that complement. Are there particular meetings that are set up on a regular basis? Is anything that the gerontologist gets involved with in regard to policy advice, does that automatically mean that the seniors secretary or executive secretary, whatever her title is, also is involved or how exactly does that work?

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Chairman, there is significant exchange of information, ideas, and advice and I without reflection would have to say that it, in the majority, is from gerontology to the Seniors Directorate because as my honourable friend can appreciate, there is a great deal more experience in gerontology in terms of senior issues than in the newly established Seniors Directorate.

There is substantial policy consultation and discussion, and as I have indicated to my honourable friend the significant policy development undertaking by the Seniors Directorate that is ongoing as we speak is on elder abuse. That is a policy initiative undertaken by the Seniors Directorate on behalf of Government.

In terms of my honourable friend's concern about the policy planning role of gerontology, that is also an essential format because in terms of the maturation, if you will, of support services for seniors program there is always a policy evaluation component in program delivery. That is why one sees in the description of the undertakings of the Gerontology Department not only a program approach but a policy development approach, because I think my honourable friend, having been a professional, would understand that with program delivery there is also a complementing need for policy development and policy modification from time to time.

Ms. Gray: I am not quite sure how the Minister defines policy approach and program approach. I see a policy needing to be established and then you look at what your program is going to be and how you are going to deliver that program in the evaluation. I am not sure how he is using those terms, but I am wondering if the Minister could indicate to us, does the Seniors Directorate and the gerontology division or section, are they working on joint objectives for the coming year in regard to what they see their mandate being and what initiatives they want to see accomplished?

Mr. Orchard: Let me put this to my honourable friend, because I know the Liberal Party is a little confused in terms of what they ought to do about the Seniors Directorate because when her Leader, prior to the 1988 election, was asked to put an anticipated cost to all her plethora of promises across the province to the

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Seniors Directorate or seniors initiative, her Leader put a zero dollar commitment. In other words, it was going to be a name and nothing else, no staff, no monies to undertake an Elder Abuse Program. It was truly a gesture of words.

What we have done in this Government is we have established a Ministry of the Seniors who have a modest staffing component undertaking some policy initiatives. As I indicated to my honourable friend, the most prominent one of which is the discussion of elder abuse.

Now, let me tell my honourable friend that it is the goal and objective of the Ministry of Health; the Minister of Seniors (Mr. Downey); the Ministry of Family Service; the Ministry of Education; the Attorney General (Mr. McCrae); the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness); the Minister of Culture, Heritage and Recreation (Mrs. Mitchelson); the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Cummings); the Minister of Labour (Mrs. Hammond); the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs (Mr. Connery); the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Enns); the Minister of Energy and Mines (Mr. Neufeld), all of the ministries of this Government to provide what we hope is as high a level of support and services to seniors in this province as is possible. That is why, for instance, in Education we have—I am lost for the specific name but the continuing education program for retirees supported by the (interjection)- Creative Retirement, thank you, in the Department of Education.

* (1620)

We have no charge for fishing licences in the Ministry of Natural Resources in an effort to assist comfortable retirement by seniors in the Province of Manitoba. That is why in Family Services, a number of programs focused at seniors, inclusive of income support, are part of that ministry. I could go on and on because each department of Government has a responsibility and takes it very seriously in terms of seniors issues, but previous individuals discussed at length the issue of elder abuse, but Government did not take the issue on in a pro-active way until a separate Ministry of Seniors was established and did that in terms of the activity that is going on right now.

My honourable friend might find it confusing that this Government would actually dedicate resources, spend those resources in terms of further analysis policy program development as focused on Seniors when in fact her Leader committed zero dollars to the seniors of Manitoba.

Ms. Gray: I thought that was quite interesting, this list that went on and on of all the Ministers who were so dedicated to the efforts of seniors, particularly the former Minister responsible for Seniors and now Minister of Energy and Mines whose famous words "so what" were in reference to lack of services for our Francophone individuals, including of course Francophone senior individuals.

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Chairman, let not my honourable friend play Liberal games. My colleague was replying to a question from his Leader of the Opposition sitting in her seat in the front row, to which my colleague

replied to his Leader, "so what." His reply was not to the question or on the issue. That was addressed in the House, so let us not play these silly games.

Ms. Gray: Well, we will let the people of Manitoba be the decision-makers in regard to what was said to whom and what the implication was.

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Chairman, I agree exactly, but let them decide on factual information, not fabrications from the Liberal Party.

Ms. Gray: We obviously have a disagreement about what is fabrication and what is not.

In response to the Minister's comments about my Leader in regard to the Seniors Directorate, the Leader had indicated that there would not necessarily be a need for any new resources to be added to the Seniors Directorate. In fact, and if the Minister is interested in sitting down and discussing this at any time, or the Minister responsible for Seniors, we certainly have a plan as to how we could have had a Seniors Directorate within the Government which did not necessarily add any new resources onto the system and would have a Seniors Directorate that in fact would have accomplished far more in a year and a half than what this Government has been able to do.

This Minister talks about a gesture of words, and that is exactly what the Seniors Directorate of this particular Tory Government now has established. We have moved from one Minister to another Minister and there is not one—this is the second Minister—been able to articulate any particular issues other than elder abuse which is something that has been ongoing for a number of years. He has not able to articulate exactly what the responsibility of the Seniors Directorate is, because we heard it was there to advocate on behalf of seniors. When questions are posed to the Minister responsible for Seniors, and I would think that the Minister of Health should be concerned about this given that he serves a number of seniors within his department and certainly given that he has a gerontologist and an entire section that deals with gerontology.

Again, the Minister referred any issue that related to seniors to another department and this is called passing the buck, Mr. Chairperson. The Minister of Seniors (Mr. Downey) and his Seniors Directorate have failed to articulate their program policy and development. The questions that we are asking are exactly what does the Seniors Directorate do in relation to what the Gerontology Department does. The Minister says there seems to be a lack of pro-activity. Well, I am asking the Minister, is he suggesting that the section of gerontology in regard to their staffing and the individuals and the work that they have done over the past have failed to be pro-active in the area of seniors and aging in the last few years?

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Chairman, of course not. My honourable friend too soon forgets what I said just 20 minutes, a half an hour ago. I pointed out that in 1985 the support services for the Seniors Program was proposed and accepted and brought forward by the

previous administration at the recommendation of the provincial gerontologist. I indicated that has turned out and that is the initiative that we are discussing in, by and large, here in this point in the Estimates. It has been a very successful undertaking of program support to seniors, but I really regret that my honourable friend, who is now trying to claim that with zero dollars, as promised by her Leader in the last election, that they were going to accomplish wondrous things for the seniors in Manitoba.

I wonder how, with zero dollars in the Seniors Directorate, a Liberal Government would have created, printed and distributed an elder abuse paper to seniors. I mean, I know that the Liberals have this magic wand that summons a Brinks truck out of nowhere, but I do not know how they would have accomplished that with zero dollars, as the Liberal Leader indicated was going to be their financial commitment to seniors in Manitoba. I do not know how with zero dollars my honourable friends in the Liberal Party would have put staff on the road to consult with seniors throughout Manitoba on the elder abuse paper with zero dollars.

This is turning out to be quite a wondrous Opposition Party and a simply miraculous Government-in-waiting. They can do things without money. I simply find that to be absolute, unadulterated balderdash, and my honourable friend, the Member for Ellice and her colleague, the Seniors critic, who has just arrived at committee, knows it is balderdash.

Mr. Chairman, my honourable friend says that all we have heard from this Government on the Seniors Directorate is "words." Surely my honourable friend jests. Because—

An Honourable Member: I think she is serious, Don.

Mr. Orchard: That is the problem, I think she is serious, which makes me wonder where my honourable friend has been in the last year and a half, because, Mr. Chairman, with an expenditure of money, which we are fully prepared to justify, we created the paper on elder abuse, and my honourable friend writes that off as "words" only. I do not know how she can do that.

I know the critic for Seniors has not done that. I believe he has been very complimentary of the elder abuse paper. Maybe the two of them should get together and discuss a common approach to the elder abuse paper so they are not fighting in public as they will do this afternoon if my honourable friend, the Seniors Critic, ever gets a chance to speak on this.

Mr. Chairman, it is a very serious issue that this Government has dedicated resource to, dedicated resource to the Ministry of Seniors. It is not "words" only, it is "action." My honourable friend says that "well, it was discussed for a long while." That may well be, but it is this Government that has taken action, not action that cost zero dollars, as promised by the Liberal Party, but action that cost us in terms of the production of the paper, distribution of the paper, and now in terms of seeking opinion throughout the Province of Manitoba at a series of public meetings.

* (1630)

That is a commitment of resource, and I make no apologies for supporting my colleague, the Minister of Seniors (Mr. Downey), in the expenditures of those tax dollars to attempt to guide Government, in consultation with seniors and knowledgeable individuals throughout the length and breadth of this province, who have something to contribute on this issue to Government. I make no apology for that, I make no apology for dedicating that resource. I think my honourable friends in the Liberal Party ought to be ashamed that their Liberal Leader (Mrs. Carstairs), in the last election, said, "they were going to spend zero dollars on seniors." Tsk, tsk, tsk.

Ms. Gray: Mr. Chairperson, the Minister of Health is very good at twisting the truth in regard to what our policy is in regard to seniors and spending zero dollars. I will be quite prepared to discuss that in full with him when we have an answer on what exactly is the difference between the Seniors Directorate and the Gerontology Department, but I am saying that rhetorically because we have been asking and asking and have not received an answer.

I would, first of all, like to ask the Minister: what does he feel are the benefits of the Schell Report and are there any deficits that came from that report or was there something missing from that report that was conducted?

Mr. Orchard: I know that my honourable friend, the Minister responsible for Seniors (Mr. Downey), who is knowledgeable of that has given my honourable friend the question, and I would defer to his greater wisdom and knowledge.

Ms. Gray: Mr. Chairperson, the gerontology section continues to distribute the Schell Report, as indicated under their expected results. So I am asking the Minister of Health if he will tell us why are they continuing to distribute the Schell Report and are there any deficits in this report that would lead the Government of the Day to decide they needed a further report?

Mr. Orchard: We distribute it because people wish it for information purposes. Is my honourable friend wanting to burn the books and not provide information to Manitobans? I mean, I realize that under your financial commitment of zero dollars you would not have been able to distribute it, but we have no hesitation in providing that information to Manitobans.

There are probably other reports undertaken in other jurisdictions on elder abuse that we could potentially distribute as well, but that is part of the information that we have and we are willing to make available to Manitobans. I make no apology for that.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister tell us the key recommendations that came out of the Schell Report, which he is continuing to distribute through his department?

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Chairman, I will go one better. I will make sure I get a copy of the Schell Report for my honourable friend so she can see the recommendations in it.

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Ms. Gray: I have seen the Schell Report. My question is: is the Minister aware of the recommendations in the Schell Report and does the Minister feel that there were any deficits in that report that necessitated a further report being conducted by this particular Government?

Mr. Orchard: This Government has put out a paper on elder abuse. It is being distributed throughout the province. We are seeking input from various groups, professional, seniors, others on our elder abuse paper to formulate or to give guidance to Government on what a policy for 1990 might well be. So I realize that may not meet my honourable friend's abilities if they were Government with zero dollars in budget, but it is an initiative we are undertaking with an effort to formulate and guide this Government in policy development.

Ms. Gray: What does the Government's Elder Abuse Discussion Paper say that the Schell Report did not?

Mr. Orchard: Again, I will get a copy of the elder abuse paper, as well as the Schell Report, give them both to my honourable friend so she can go through them line by line and make those conclusions herself.

Ms. Gray: Is the Minister suggesting that he does not have any comments or opinions on the difference between the two reports? He is Minister of Health.

Mr. Orchard: Yes, my honourable friend is right, I am the Minister of Health—

Ms. Gray: That is something we agree on.

Mr. Orchard: —and my colleague, the Minister responsible for Seniors (Mr. Downey), is undertaking a discussion with interested individuals throughout the province on elder abuse based on a report tabled by my colleague, tabled by this Government.

Now, if my honourable friend wishes to discuss that with my honourable friend, the Minister responsible for Seniors, I would fully expect she probably did that.

Mr. Chairman, my colleague is undertaking the initiative of consultation, it is within his ministry, and I believe he is competent to answer those questions. We are dealing with gerontology and not the issue of the elder abuse paper that my colleague, the Minister of Seniors, has distributed throughout the province and is currently undertaking a series of hearings. My honourable friend asked questions on that policy paper and the direction my honourable friend envisions it to be going in, he ought to ask my colleague.

Ms. Gray: Well, I must give the Minister of Health credit. At least he is consistent with the Minister responsible for Seniors. They both do a very good job of not answering one question in regard to gerontology and aging as it relates to their respective portfolios. So I do give them credit for each being consistent.

Can the Minister tell us why the Schell Report is being distributed, as indicated in these Estimates, as opposed to the Elder Abuse Discussion Paper?

Mr. Orchard: Because it is being asked for.

Ms. Gray: Why is the Schell Report being asked for and not the Elder Abuse Discussion Paper, which was certainly widely touted by this Government.

Mr. Orchard: I cannot ask why people are asking for the Schell Report. My honourable friend is going to have to ask the people who ask for it, because I do not know why they ask for it.

Ms. Gray: Is the Minister concerned, are there any deficits in the Schell Report, because if he feels that the Elder Abuse Discussion Paper is a superior document, surely to goodness he would not want to be distributing a less than adequate report when a better one existed.

Mr. Orchard: I am going to attempt to calm my honourable friend's fears because the Schell report is a research document and it is being distributed upon request. Now with the availability of the Elder Abuse Report it is going out as well, so the individuals have both.

Ms. Gray: Has the Minister read the Schell Report?

Mr. Orchard: No, Mr. Chairman, I have not read the Schell Report.

Ms. Gray: Has the Minister read the Elder Abuse Discussion Paper? It would not take long.

Mr. Orchard: I have to confess that I have.

Mr. James Carr (Fort Rouge): I did not know I would be given this pleasure.

An Honourable Member: Mr. Chairperson, on a point of order.

Mr. Chairman: On a point of order, the Member for Flin Flon.

Mr. Jerry Storie (Flin Flon): I believe I was on the list some time ago. I have been waiting for a considerable length of time. Now unless Mr. Carr was on the list before I arrived, I would like my opportunity to ask some questions.

Mr. Chairman: I thank the Honourable Member. I do not have a list, I recognize whom I see first. We will endeavour to give everybody a chance here.

Mr. Carr: I will be brief, Jerry. I am glad the Minister has read the elder abuse paper. It makes a number of recommendations which, by the way, in their writing do not seem to be contingent upon the wide network of public hearings currently under way.

The first recommendation is that the Seven Oaks Hospital pilot project on investigating elders, who are in the hospital for reasons which are suspect, be extended to all hospitals in Manitoba and that seems to be a promise contained within the elder abuse paper,

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and also an initiative which obviously would require the concurrence of the Minister of Health.

Could the Minister tell us if there has been any movement toward expending that pilot program to the other hospitals in Manitoba, and just what stage that is at?

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Chairman, that is part of discussion on program initiatives that the department takes and when decisions and particular decisions that may impact budget are made they are announced in the Estimate process.

Mr. Carr: The elder abuse paper says that pilot program will be extended. Will it or will it not?

Mr. Orchard: I believe the Elder Abuse Report says it is an effective program and will be extended, but I do not believe that the elder abuse report puts a deadline or a time frame on that expansion. As I say to my honourable friend, the Government as I have said, answered to his colleague that sat right across from him, Government is asked to expand any number of programs in any given day, week, or month. We put them through an analysis which balances available resource hopefully targeted to the most effective use of that resource and those decisions, when made, are announced.

* (1640)

Now, it is an initiative that is recommended, but my honourable friend knows that it did not say it had to be implemented in year 1989. It is an initiative that becomes part of the service, potential, expansions that Governments make decisions on in terms of both timing and completion.

Mr. Carr: Mr. Chairperson, I have a number of other questions to pursue with the Minister on the elder abuse paper but, out of courtesy, I will yield the floor now to the Member for Flin Flon.

Mr. Storie: Thanks to the Member for Fort Rouge. Mr. Chairperson, I have certainly been entertained by the Minister's perhaps not monologue but dialogue. I am intrigued by his interpretation that the Liberals had planned no money on the Seniors Directorate. It is also interesting that the Conservatives have managed to spend \$400,000 but accomplished nothing. I do not know which is better or which is worse. I think they are both appalling. The Minister's record of spending some \$403,000 over two fiscal years and having accomplished, in his own words, the release of a discussion paper is not exactly a laudable set of achievements.

I wanted to deal with some of the more specific issues around the question of elder abuse and perhaps the Minister can indicate whether the department has any firm numbers when it comes to the elder abuse problem. I assume when we are talking about abuse we are talking about more than physical or psychological abuse but also financial abuse, whether the Minister can tell us perhaps in those three categories the kinds of numbers that we are talking about in terms of abuse.

Mr. Orchard: I guess that is one of the challenges in terms of the elder abuse issue because it is not identified as to how extensive, what the prevalence of elder abuse is. That is one of the difficulties.

Mr. Storie: Does that mean the Minister has no information? The Minister cannot say how many cases are before the courts in terms of civil actions of parents against other siblings perhaps when it comes to financial abuse, elder abuse. Do we have no numbers? Can we draw some inferences from what is going on in other jurisdictions?

Mr. Orchard: It is a most vexing area where there is no information on case numbers. For instance, where some of the elder abuse cases occur, it is where the individual is under the—I am looking for the word—auspices of the public trustee. We are unable, because of legislative mandates, to have information because that is kept in, I guess, a confidential manner by the public trustee. That is one of the difficulties in quantifying and that is not new, that is a difficulty of quantifying that plagues us and other jurisdictions.

Also, there is the simple area, and I think my honourable friend probably wrestled with this around the Cabinet Table, what constitutes elder abuse? Is it simply physical abuse by an individual, a family member, or a friend? Is it intimidation, threaten to not visit any more unless certain things are done by the senior? In reality, that is what the hearing process is hoping to give Government, some guidance from individuals who have knowledge either directly as people who know of cases of elder abuse in the community and know the kind of unique circumstances surrounding them to give Government some idea as to what is the problem and what ought to be some of the proposed solutions.

It is not, obviously, an easily addressed problem or else we would have, for instance, policy and/or legislation regulation in place already but that is not the case. The reality is it is an unquantified-to-date phenomenon, partially because of definition, partially because of inability to report, partially because of the individuals involved being protected by other jurisdictions of Government.

Mr. Storie: I think we all recognize the difficulties surrounding the issue. I suspect it is very much like the question of reporting child abuse. There are certain similarities in that we really had no appreciation—and I am talking, when I say, we, I am talking also about provincial civil servants and professionals working in the area of child welfare—no understanding of the depth of the problem. It was only after the Government took action to require the reporting of abuse that we began to see the magnitude of the problem. I think that the feedback that the committee, that is leading the discussions on elder abuse, is coming to the same conclusion.

In fact, until there is some sort of mandatory reporting, until we have some safety nets in place for people who report or people who are victims of abuse of one form or another, we are not going to really know the status of the problem, and that perhaps it is time to act by establishing first the requirement for action.

The Minister would also know that this issue was discussed at length and it was reviewed from many angles. In fact, there was a draft Act, an Elder Abuse Act, which was prepared. I am wondering why the Minister has chosen to, once again, review this question when really the review—and I think that was the point the Member for Ellice was making—has been done, that there may not be much more to find out. Why is it so difficult for the Government to choose to act, at least in terms of the reporting of suspected abuse and establishing some mechanism for reviewing that review process?

Mr. Orchard: First of all, let us clearly identify the roles involved here. This line of the Estimates, Gerontology—and I am quite willing to participate at length in terms of any discussion my honourable friend wants, but the Ministry of Seniors has undertaken the Elder Abuse Discussion Paper, the public hearings, the eventual outcome whether it be policy regulation, legislation will lie with the recommendation that flows from that public discussion.

My honourable friend was a Member of the previous Government. My honourable friend did not proceed with legislation for whatever reason; my honourable friend did not proceed with policy for whatever reason; my honourable friend did not proceed with consultation papers with wide distribution and public hearings.

* (1650)

So when my honourable friend asks me: why did Government need to have public consultation, I simply submit, because none have been done in the form that this has been done. Without having that open public consultation process one may err in the proposals they may wish to make. So the answer is very simple and direct. We did not inherit from the previous administration any clear-cut directions even legislative, regulative or policy-wise because it was the Council on Aging that commissioned the research report known as the Schell Report. That provided certain levels of information but there was no open forum of public discussion that has taken place.

We are now to the stage where we feel comfortable with undertaking that and it will be the responsibility of my colleague, the Minister of Seniors (Mr. Downey), to synthesize that public discussion process into a proposal that he will make to Government. Ultimately, anything that this Government does will be subject to substantive comment in the forum we are in now or in the House.

Mr. Storie: The Minister says that there was no blueprint, there was in fact a draft Act that he has access to. There was consultation. The provincial gerontologist was involved as were many other Members of the Department of Health. There were discussions certainly with many, many groups with respect to the need for some means of protecting elders and preventing elder abuse.

My concern is, and I hope the Minister's concern is, that every day, every month that we delay taking action even on something as simple as requiring reporting we

are endangering the lives, the physical health of senior citizens. I think we all want whatever action Governments might want to take to be appropriate, but we also want them to be timely.

For our part, as a Party, we are imploring the Government to act and not merely to study it because, like many of the initiatives of this Government, I am willing to predict that we will see no action in this area prior to the next election, that it is window dressing of the most opportunistic sort and there is no real intention to act and that is disconcerting.

Mr. Chairperson, moving onto another question in the same area, I understand that there is a new seniors handbook—and I have missed the discussions—and I am wondering if the Minister could ensure that Members of the Legislature receive some copies of these because they are extremely useful. I know I would appreciate receiving some.

Mr. Orchard: I can make sure my honourable friend gets a copy of the handbook, but I take some offence at my honourable friend's comments. I simply have to point out to him that if the previous Government that he was a Treasury Bench Minister, and I believe an incredibly influential one, if the previous administration had undertaken such a great amount of discussion, such a great amount of public consultation, then why did they do nothing? I submit to you, because they did not undertake the level of public discussion that is being undertaken right now, so that my honourable friends in the previous administration did not know what to do and therefore did not do anything. That is not the case today.

This Government has put out a paper for discussion, it is undertaking the public hearing process in a very deliberate effort to set the agenda for action. Although my honourable friend enjoys the luxury of Opposition to say, why do you not do something, it is a luxury enjoyed from seven years of inactivity whilst a Cabinet Minister in the previous administration.

Mr. Storie: From the Minister's comments it is quite obvious that this Government is still 18 months away from any action and that is 18 months further behind than the previous Government, because we have actually had legislation prepared to deal with this.

The Member knows, and I will concede, that there are many problems with introducing new legislation and particularly in an area that is this delicate, but the Government and the Minister of Health is not fooling anyone by pretending that the course of action established by the Minister responsible for Seniors is intended to accomplish anything, other than to provide some optics for the Government.

My next question was a little bit different and perhaps changes the topic somewhat. It had to do with the whole area of breast cancer screening. I am wondering whether the Minister can provide any statistics on the number of women, elderly women, women over the age of 65, for whom breast cancer is a problem. I am living under an assumption that the incidence of breast cancer increases with age and I am wondering if the provincial

gerontologist can tell us, or the Minister can tell us, what proportion of people are affected by breast cancer at age 65.

Mr. Orchard: I cannot give you specific information, but I will attempt to provide that clearly age is a factor in the incidence of breast cancer.

Mr. Chairman, can I offer a suggestion to my honourable friend. Monday is a very important seniors conference in Brandon at which the provincial gerontologists will be attending and if we do not pass the item today I will have to take questions of detail as notice on Monday, if we do not pass the item. So I just want to forewarn my honourable friends.

Mr. Storie: Mr. Chairperson, I think there would be a willingness to forego questions perhaps in this area, should we not finish until such time as the provincial gerontologist is available. We could move on to a subsequent area quite easily.

Mr. Orchard: Well, since neither critics of the Opposition Parties are here, maybe we could make an arrangement on Monday. I am simply telling my honourable friends that if they are delaying the Estimates until five o'clock for their respective critics to come and pose questions, that is fine. I am just simply indicating that in the afternoon, when next we may get to Estimates, the provincial gerontologist will not be here.

Mr. Chairman: Is it the will to pass this? We have to go line by line through the Estimates, and I would suggest maybe the issue could be brought up, perhaps under another item, if we pass this.

Ms. Gray: Mr. Chairperson, the Member for Flin Flon has suggested that if the gerontologist is going to be away on Monday, that is fine, that we could then move into another section and come back to gerontology. I take some exception to the Minister suggesting that we are here to delay Estimates when, in fact, we have been attempting to get some very pertinent answers on elder abuse and we have not even got into the area of the support services to seniors, which is part of gerontology, and I am sure that both Oppositions will have questions in that area. So if the gerontologist cannot be here on Monday, could we not move into then Continuing Care and come back to gerontology when the staff are available?

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Chairman, I only made that observation because my honourable friend sat in Estimates for I do not know how many hours with the Minister responsible for Seniors, who has an elder abuse paper out, and then proceeded to come in here and play the games to try to get one Minister saying one thing and another Minister saying the other thing, and when she has not succeeded in that game, she then moves on.

I simply am pointing out that the gerontologist was here all afternoon to answer detailed questions on the program under this responsibility. My honourable friend, who is not the critic for Health for the Liberals, chose

not to ask one question on the program involved in gerontology, for which we are proposing to spend \$1.8 million. If she did that merely to save time until her colleague, the Health Critic comes, that is fine. We waste time on a routine basis in this House, but I am simply informing my honourable friends that questions of detail will be answered to the best of my ability and if we cannot provide the specific answers on Monday afternoon we will certainly provide them at a later date to the critic, should the critic have those questions, should the critics have those questions.

Mr. Storie: Mr. Chairperson, I do not want to speak for the Member for Ellice, but I find those comments insulting and demeaning and the Minister of Health should know better than to put those kinds of remarks on the record. The fact is that he has not answered any of the questions. Either he does not understand seniors' issues, or he does not understand the relationship between these issues and seniors' health, and the Minister of Health may want to intimidate by his wit, or lack thereof, but the fact is that there were legitimate questions and the Minister did not answer them. We can only assume that he did not know the answers.

* (1700)

Mr. Chairman: I am interrupting the proceedings at this time. The hour being 5 p.m., it is now time for Private Members' Hour. Committee rise.

* (1430)

SUPPLY—CULTURE, HERITAGE AND RECREATION

Mr. Chairman (William Chornopyski): The Committee of Supply will come to order to continue considering the Estimates of the Department of Culture, Heritage and Recreation. We are on item 2.(b) Grants to Cultural Organizations—the Honourable Member for Selkirk.

Mrs. Gwen Charles (Selkirk): First of all, Mr. Chairperson, could we ask the Members that are discussing if they could at least move over? That is the echo chamber to me where they are positioned and I would appreciate it if they could move over to the side. It certainly would help my listening abilities. Thank you.

Furthermore, could the Minister indicate whether it is proper that I ask questions on CIDO agreements at this time or would that be better off at another place?

Hon. Bonnie Mitchelson (Minister of Culture, Heritage and Recreation): Mr. Chairman, if we could get through Cultural Resources, it is 14(2)(c)(3) Cultural Industries and that would be the appropriate time to ask those questions.

While I am standing, I have some information for the Member for Selkirk (Mrs. Charles) that I had agreed to provide to her during the last day of Estimates, and one of them is a letter about the arrangements for the

Deputy Minister's severance package. I have a letter that I am prepared to share with her for her information.

I also have—I believe this was a question that came from the Member for Transcona (Mr. Kozak) on Grants—a book here on Grants and Resources, 1988-89 and it outlines the criteria for the federal and provincial grants for volunteer organizations. These manuals are available, are public information and available in municipal offices, public libraries and our recreation directors have copies of these also. I also have a list of untendered contracts to provide to the Member opposite, also.

* (1440)

Mrs. Charles: I thank the Minister for providing me with this information.

Mr. Chairperson, one of the sections that Grants are given out to is the Winnipeg Folk Festival which is a marvellous couple of days in the summertime where we have the pleasure of even enjoying the rain under the bright sunny clouds of Manitoba to enjoy music of all types, and I certainly support the Folk Festival in all ways and means.

I was wondering if the Minister has a breakdown on how many people from out of province or out of country that the Folk Festival attracts, and perhaps if there is any breakdown, and maybe this is more appropriate in Tourism, of what amount of money that would be spent within the province from people attending the Folk Festival.

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Chairman, there was an analysis done a few years ago. I do not have that information here with me, but if the Member opposite would like, we will get that information and provide those specifics. I do not think there has been anything done in the last two years. Might I indicate that I have had the opportunity to attend the Folk Festival and it is a very valuable addition to our summer festivities here in the province.

Mrs. Charles: I believe all organizations and all Governments can take a lot of comfort and gain a lot of knowledge from the Winnipeg Folk Festival which has worked through a lot of problems, including a major fire, and have worked themselves out of deficits and into a very healthy position, and certainly there has been a need for support and grants to the Folk Festival.

I was wondering if the Minister could provide me with the amount of money that has been provided to the Folk Festival directly for giving them tents that they can use for accommodation of their festival proceedings.

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Chairman, it was not the Department of Culture, Heritage and Recreation that provided money for tents for the Folk Festival. It was the Department of Tourism, and I do not know if you would like to discuss that with the Minister of Tourism (Mr. Ernst). I have the information here, I can provide that. It received a \$200,000, three-year project grant from Tourism Manitoba through the Economic Regional

Development Agreement. One-third of the funds went to purchase four tents, and two-thirds went towards developing the Folk Festival as a tourism market.

Mrs. Charles: The reason of course I am raising this, as you probably are aware of correspondence I have had with you, is that certain companies within the city are quite concerned that they are in competition with the Folk Festival, and I definitely want to point out to both the Folk Festival and to yourself that I am fully supportive of the Winnipeg Folk Festival, and wish it continued success and continued support by all Governments so that it may grow and prosper and provide the entertainment that it does. However, at the same time I feel sorry for companies that are being forced to be in competition with a non-profit organization that has at times undercut the prices of the industry.

I understand they often will advertise their rate for 20 percent less than the going rate, and then use volunteers to go out and put it up. My question to the Minister is that, in light of this fact, has there been discussion in her department whether this is appropriate, that non-profit organizations through grants can perhaps undercut the price of several companies, and we are looking at perhaps losing employees of these companies as a result of that procedure?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Yes, Mr. Chairman, and we have had correspondence back and forth, and when the issue was brought to my attention—a considerable time ago, I guess—we did meet with Rosalie Goldstein from the Folk Festival, the Minister of Tourism (Mr. Ernst) and myself, and indicated the concern that was out there in the private sector. She indicated at that time that she would attempt to meet with them and resolve that.

We just recently were in contact with some of those private sector firms, and to this date there has been no resolution of the problem, so what we are doing now within the department is attempting to get a meeting together with the private sector of tent rentals and the Folk Festival and staff from my department, to sit down and discuss the issue and try to come to a resolution of it.

Mrs. Charles: I thank the Minister for that, and I am sure the companies will be pleased to hear that the Folk Festival of course continues to grow, and as they do and receive grants they continue to increase their inventory of tents, and that it is very competitive to what now the companies can supply. I think it is perhaps because this is tax money going to the Folk Festival and to other organizations, that perhaps it is very necessary that we look into how we continue to support businesses as well as allow these non-profit organizations and special-events people to grow and prosper.

In lieu of the fact that the last time we spoke we were discussing how we can get private corporations to support and fund, and certainly we cannot ask them to support organizations when we are undercutting them, when we are out of season, so I encourage this

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conversation to take place, and I hope there is some priority given that so that this next season, as it comes up—we will have spring and summer I am sure again—that we will not have the same issue reoccurring.

Going on to other issues within this department, there is of course no end to the amount of grants that can be given out to all organizations. Everyone wants more and every sector wants more, and I certainly can appreciate that as much as the Minister I am sure has to live with it every day. However, one sure fact is that throughout Canada and North America in general, that artists are continually having to struggle, and live below the poverty line and that perhaps it is not attracting the growth in the industry that we could have in that we can be recognized, as we are in many ways with authors and past artists that we have had, as a major cultural centre for all of North America. Can the Minister outline any grants that are available directly to Argus and whether there is any reconsideration to be given those granting assistance?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Chairman, the specific grants directly to artists are handled through the Manitoba Arts Council and I can provide a list. I do not have it. They may be in that book that we passed over for the Member for Transcona (Mr. Kozak). If they are not, we can certainly provide information to the Member on what the criteria in the guidelines are and what grants have been distributed to artists.

* (1450)

Mrs. Charles: Because individuals with talents are somewhat different from organizations developing a field of expertise or a field of particular interest, is there any discussion to take place within this department of separating artists and the individuals within the various cultural industries and having them to be less competitive with organizations, and that we are putting individuals trying to vie for grants along with organizations? Is there any way of separating them so that they can be seen on their own merit and not having to be seen as perhaps part of a larger group or organization and therefore be in competition with the larger organizations?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Chairman, grants to individual artists are separated from organizations and the Arts Council. There is a jury process that is in place. It is a peer jury process where artistic peers evaluate and grant individual artists. So it is a separate program within the Arts Council. There are grants to organizations and then there is the jury process.

Mrs. Charles: When groups such as we have discussed before, the puppet theatre and Agassiz Theatre and so forth, have been turned down by the Manitoba Arts Council, is there any way of appealing that process that has turned down their grant?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Chairman, in the past there never has been an appeal process. I do understand from the Arts Council that they did meet with Agassiz Theatre on two separate occasions to review again their

application after they had been turned down. Through the Lotteries Needs Assessment and the renegotiation of agreements with the Arts Council and different organizations, too, there are many that have never had an appeal process in place: the Heritage Federation, MIC, the Arts Council, and we are attempting to resolve those issues and work with them to develop some sort of a process where there will be an appeal if groups, organizations or individuals feel they have been unfairly treated.

Mrs. Charles: Do you propose that this appeal process would be through the same organization with perhaps a separate board, or would it be directly through Government, or have you determined any way that it could possibly work?

Mrs. Mitchelson: It would probably the same organization with different members. I think that it is through the process of consultation and working with them to determine what might be the best process so that everyone has a fair opportunity to appeal, if they feel they have been unjustly treated.

Mrs. Charles: I would like to go into the other organizations that do the granting, but I would like to give the floor over to the Member for Logan (Ms. Hemphill) if she has any direct questions on the cultural granting system.

Ms. Maureen Hemphill (Logan): Mr. Chairman, in the previous discussions, I did raise questions about a number of projects that come to my attention, and that I had some concerns about their inability to survive, not just a loss of funds, but their inability to survive, like the puppet theatre and the Agassiz Theatre and the street festival.

I also think at the end of that evening I asked a question about the West End Cultural Centre in terms of receiving money this year, and I understand that the answer from the Minister is that they had received, I think, the proposal in the middle of the fiscal year, I recall, and it would not be possible to receive funding. There was not funding available. But I wanted to raise the question again in a little more detail, I guess, and to put on the record what I see as a very important cultural facility that is delivering a service that I think was not being delivered before to a target group and a population that perhaps did not have access to the arts because of the artistic activities that they are interested in.

I guess I want to say that I believe that the West End Cultural Centre, for many people, is their ballet. I am going to say that these are points that I made directly to the Minister and the Deputy Minister at the end of Estimates, and I just want to put them on record. But I think for many people it is their ballet, I think for many people it is their symphony and their opera and their Manitoba Theatre Centre. It is not to suggest that all people who go do not always also participate, but that many of the people do not attend some of our more traditional cultural programs that are given hundreds of thousands of dollars of money.

Really, while they help in our tourism industry and we have world-class cultural groups, both the theatre

and the ballet and the symphony, they also appeal to a small segment of our population. I wanted to put on record I think that the Cultural Centre had to prove itself, and I want to go on record on behalf of our Government who did give the initial grant of \$99,000—\$75,000 for community places and \$24,000 for start-up—and gave a fairly tough letter and said, this is a one-time only grant—in the letter, but at the same time communicated directly with them and said, look, you have got to prove yourself.

Remember when the Folk Festival started? Does anybody remember the chances that were taken to give money before they were established, before they were an international program that attracted people from all over the world? I think that the message was two-pronged, that this was a one-time grant, but you have to prove yourself, and whether you get any additional funding will depend on what you do, will depend on your projects and what you do. I think they have proven themselves, and I think they have proven themselves by having over 400 shows in the two years they have been in operation. I think they have proven themselves by having an attendance of 45,000 people attend, and I was going to get some of the attendance for some of the symphony and some of the others and I did not get it, but I would like to see it to see how it compares.

Most importantly, as I was gathering information about them, one of the things that although I knew they were doing a good job of Outreach and making their facilities available to community groups, I was very surprised to find the number of groups and organizations that are either jointly producing programs with, or they are renting out and they are putting on productions of their own. I have a list of 40. I am going to make them available to the Minister because sometimes it is hard, with all the information coming forward to Minister, to get all the information about exactly what a group is doing. But what I see here are 40 different groups that are using the West End Cultural Centre as a facility. I guess one of the first questions, and, for instance, the Contemporary Dancers uses them, the Folk Festival, the YMCA put on a benefit for Camp Stephens that was a fabulous folk festival using all local musicians. In fact, I have heard it was one of the best sort of folk festival celebrations that we have had, and they are using the facilities.

So I guess the first area that I want to question is: does the Minister's department provide funding for other facilities to provide space for artistic groups, and if they do, which are those facilities that get funding and how much money are they being provided?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Chairman, there is a grant of \$56,200 for the Gas Station Theatre, \$276,000 for the CCFM, \$35,000 to Art Space, and the Concert Hall \$1.4 million.

* (1500)

Ms. Hemphill: I thank the Minister for that answer, and I do not have really any difficulty with any of those monies going to those facilities, but I wonder if the

Minister can tell me what she thinks is the difference between those facilities that are making space available for arts groups and for productions and for the jobs at the West End Cultural Centre is obviously doing with. What I understand is the 40, the list that I have, is just a partial list that are using their facility for cultural activities and for productions?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Chairman, indeed, I feel this money is going to very worthwhile organizations for very good operating, but I do not think that any of these organizations, if they had applied in the middle of a fiscal year when a budget had been already set and money had been committed would be able to expect any different treatment from what the West End Cultural Centre is now experiencing. We have indicated we will look at it with no specific guarantees, but we will look at it next fiscal year.

Ms. Hemphill: Yes, I quite agree with the point the Minister is making and I was not suggesting that the decision for the proposal being received in the middle of the year for this year was a problem for me.

I am trying to set the stage for putting forward some support and some arguments, I guess, for really full consideration in the next fiscal year. That is what I am asking for. I am not asking for reconsideration in this fiscal year. I know money is tight and I know that it is committed ahead of time, and you do not always have a lot in your back pocket.

I guess I am just trying to make the point that I think the work they are doing, apart from making the facilities available to so many groups, is really creative, innovative and is really meeting a need to a large number of people in Winnipeg and indeed in Manitoba.

I am just trying to show the Minister, and as I said, I will give her a list that I hear is a partial list, but that shows the kinds of productions that are going on there, so that when the Minister is looking at that, she can look at it in terms of the other facilities that they have been prepared to fund as facilities making available their facilities for cultural activities and for other productions. That is all.

Having said that, I was going to talk a little bit about—the Minister had said that they were available for project money and they did get, was it a \$5,000 grant for the Literary Festival? Is there a nod? I cannot remember—\$6,000.00. I am not going to go into detail here because we do not have a lot of time, but it seems that it took about six months to get approval for a \$5,000 grant. They know from experience that bureaucracies move slowly often.

But I think, if we are going to put an organization through such a long period of time for such a small grant, it is important that perhaps the Minister's own department take a look at how they are processing applications, and I will give her the details of the processing of that application later on just for her personal information.

So my last pitch, and it is a pitch, is just to say to the Minister that I appreciate the point she made, that there is not money available in the middle of the fiscal

year. I appreciate her indication that she is willing to look at them for some funding in the next fiscal year. When she says that it does not mean there is a commitment. I just ask her to keep an open mind about the programs they are putting on and the support that they are giving as a cultural facility to so many groups and organizations in production in our city.

Mrs. Charles: I did have one other direct question I wanted to ask about a group that was funded. It was under the Community Places Project. There was \$40,000 given to the Raja Yoga Centre to include free yoga classes and counselling services.

It seems with so many areas to be funded that this seems a little bit strange to me and I was wondering if the Minister could provide me with particulars of why \$40,000 was given to this particular organization.

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Chairman I cannot recall the exact details of every grant that was given out but the staff member that is in charge of Community Places will be here, and he can provide some background on the application and why it was recommended for approval, sort of, at the end of the Estimates Supplement. So if we could wait for that time and get the detail from him, I would appreciate that.

Mrs. Charles: Thank you for that instruction. Further to comments made to the Minister where she says that they have plans of pulling in granting organizations so that the Government has more control over them, can the Minister elaborate on why she feels this is necessary, why that boards of peers of the group chosen, usually by the group and organizations that the funding mechanism is there to represent in many ways by giving out the grants, why she thinks that political boards will be more appropriate than volunteer and representative boards?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Chairman there is not going to be any change in the process that is in place at the Manitoba Arts Council for judging what grants should be allocated. Those that are funded are given grants by the Arts Council, but clearly indicated the other day that normally if there is a problem with a grant that is given by the Arts Council or by any umbrella group, it is the Minister who is responsible for that organization that is ultimately questioned, even though it is arm's length.

The decisions are not made by Government and they are not going to be made by Government under the new system when the Arts Council and the Heritage Federation and the Community Services Council fall responsible to one ministry or the Sports Federation does.

There are still going to be those organizations in place that are going to determine what the grants will be, but there will be a line in the Estimates next year that will include the Manitoba Arts Council; the Manitoba Heritage Federation; the Multicultural Grants Advisory Council; the Manitoba Community Services Council, so that when we are in the Estimates process, Members of the Opposition can ask questions on the activities

of each and every one of those organizations. The information will have to be provided through the Legislature, which has not happened in the past. It is accountability to the Legislature and to the people of Manitoba that we are looking at with the new decision that has been made.

Mrs. Charles: Will this new system include the appointments to the board directly by the Minister that they will be political appointments on the board, or will appointments still be made by the community, as was done in the multicultural MIC when they were appointing their own board from nominations and elections taking place within their community? Will that type of system be in place, where the boards are still responsible for themselves reporting more directly to you, or will you be appointing the people to the board on a biased, and understandably that we all put our own biases in whatever we do, but what could be taken as a directly political bias, from time to time? Would that not make you more susceptible to looking as if you are using them politically, rather than less obvious that you are doing it politically?

* (1510)

Mrs. Mitchelson: Presently the Manitoba Arts Council is appointed by Government. The gaming fund that looks after support to artists where the jury process is in place is part of the Arts Council that is elected by the community, and that will remain the same. The Heritage Federation will remain the same. It is an elected body. The Manitoba Community Services Council is a community body also that will remain the same.

Mrs. Charles: Just for my own clarification, I am not sure I have this right. Can you explain then exactly what the difference will be in the responsibilities of reporting to the Government?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Chairman, in the past the Lotteries Foundation was responsible for generating Lotteries revenue and also for signing umbrella agreements with all of the different umbrella groups and the special agreement groups. Under the new system, the umbrella agreements for funding will be negotiated with the department that is responsible, so the Minister of Sport will negotiate and sign an agreement with the Manitoba Sports Federation, and the Lotteries money will flow through the department of Finance, through the Minister of Sport to the Manitoba Sports Federation rather than sitting at the Lotteries Foundation. The Lotteries Foundation will no longer be responsible for distribution of lotteries revenues.

The money that goes to the Manitoba Arts Council, the Multicultural Grants Council, the Heritage Federation, the Manitoba Community Services Council, will flow through the department of Culture, Heritage and Recreation, and the umbrella agreements will be negotiated by the department of Culture, Heritage and Recreation with those organizations rather than with the Lotteries Foundation.

When it comes to determining the needs for the arts community and the sports community, you have a

Lotteries Foundation which is basically a business that is in business to generate revenue, determining or signing agreements and managing agreements. They cannot relate as well as the department might be able to relate to, because they do not have the experience or the expertise with those organizations to be doing that.

Mrs. Charles: In this negotiation to get the funds from Culture, Heritage and Recreation by these funding organizations, what do you see, as Minister, that would influence you in the negotiations? What will these organizations have to provide to you in order to get added funds or not to be cut? Are you going to set up some criteria that they will just have to meet, or will you be sitting down bargaining along the union-management style?

Mrs. Mitchelson: There is a process, Mr. Chairman, that has been put in place already to sit down and look at the long-range needs, and we have asked, just as Government is wanting to do, long-term budgeting and multi-year budgeting. What we are wanting these umbrella groups to do is to look at what their needs are going to be and let us know and it will be—I think maybe I should go back just a little bit and say that we all know that Lotteries revenues have stabilized.

There has been a very minimal increase, I guess, in Lotteries revenues over the last few years. We are not expecting revenues to increase at the rate they used to, as the province was expanding Lotteries in the past, so there is not going to be the major increases. I think that community organizations that are distributing money realize and recognize—we all do—they are not going to get the major increases, have major increases in funding, and be able to provide major increases to the community that were able to be done in the years around 1984 when there were major jumps in increases in revenue.

I suppose the accountability procedure that we are trying to put in place is to sit down and work out with the Arts Council, the Multicultural Grants Council and the Heritage Federation, what the roles of the department are versus the roles of the umbrella groups, so that there is not a duplication or overlap of the functions that we do in increased administrative costs. There will be that accountability and that working together to ensure that we are both on the same wavelength, doing the most or the best we can with the limited resources that we have to provide funding for the respective communities.

Mrs. Charles: When this changeover occurs, will the organizations in paper for a moment in time be stripped of all funding and have to re-apply and re-assess or re-prove why they have to have this funding, or are you going to start at the level of funding they now are at and negotiate from that point on as to whether they should get more, or I suppose, whether they should be decreased? What will be the procedure at that time?

Mrs. Mitchelson: The procedure is already in place and is working. I had some questions from the Member during Question Period a while back on Bob Swain.

He is working very actively with all of the umbrella groups and the special agreement groups right now to put in place an agreement. He is certainly not negotiating the amount of the agreement, that is a Government decision, a Cabinet decision.

We are looking at the base line of where the allocations are right now. We are not looking at decreasing or cutting back in any way; we are looking at moving into the future. He has developed a very co-operative and good working relationship with the umbrella groups and the special agreement groups, and it looks like we are going to be able, by the end of this fiscal year, to have agreements in place that will be somewhat standard throughout Government. The agreements at the top end will be very similar until it comes down to the specific needs of each individual umbrella group, based on the type of funding that they do.

The working relationship is good, there does not appear to be the threat there that was hanging over the organizations' heads when the needs assessment was being done, that they were going to be cut off or be stripped, because that is not the case.

Mrs. Charles: I am somewhat surprised that the Minister says the working relationship is good, and yet within the last few months I have been contacted by five or six organizations saying that they cannot figure out just how this is all working. Sometimes they are told to go directly to the Minister and then told to go directly to Mr. Swain, and they feel as if it is a little bit of "who you know and how you get there." There has been very vocal complaints to my office saying that they do not feel this process is really working, and they question why Mr. Swain has so much authority. In their words, there was never any notification of who this fellow was and why he would hold this power.

Mrs. Mitchelson: I kind of reject those comments, because the way it has been related to me from these agreement groups is that the research people from the Liberal Caucus had been calling trying to stir up some trouble with these organizations, saying I hear negotiations with the Government are not going very well and what can you tell us about the lack of co-operation that has been going on? Information I have received back from these organizations is that they are very happy with the process that has been put in place. If the Member has a specific organization that appears to be unhappy, I would like her to let me know, because not one of them have complained.

As a matter of fact, they seem to think that things are going very well and that the agreements are getting under way in a very orderly fashion with a lot of co-operation. If there seems to be one specific group that has had a concern I would be interested in knowing, but to my knowledge they all are very happy with the process that has been put in place, and we are working in a very expeditious way to try to get the agreement settled so each group knows exactly where they are going to be going in the future.

Mrs. Charles: I do not want to give any names of any organizations, board members or so forth out, in that

there is fear within the community, not directly at this Government, but there is always fear that they are not sure how grants are settled and they do not like their names to be battered around.

* (1520)

The Community Investment Fund was what was promised to be set up, and it was supposed to be comprised of a volunteer board. Will that be put in place and will Mr. Swain, who has his Progressive Conservative Party connections, be replaced so that people will feel a little bit more free to come forward and be able to use their names so that we can discuss the problems without the fear of recriminations due to some differences of Party affiliations?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Chairman, I have to reject those comments again. Because somebody has a Progressive Conservative Party membership does not mean that they are not a competent person capable of dealing, negotiating and working with people. He has a record of service to the community in a volunteer capacity in many ways and has developed a very good relationship, and I am pleased and honoured that he would have agreed to assist in this process, because he is doing a very good job.

The Community Investment Fund will require legislation. There will be a volunteer board that will be put in place, and that volunteer board will be appointed by Government. That was clear right from the beginning.

There are many volunteer boards. The Multicultural Grants Advisory Council is a volunteer board, was appointed by Government, but those people are volunteering their time without anything but out-of-pocket expenses for travel into the city possibly or accommodations that they might need, because they have a commitment and a dedication to ensuring that there is fair and equitable distribution of Lotteries revenues. There will be a volunteer board put in place once we get legislation on the table and passed.

Mrs. Charles: I am surprised at your definition of volunteer board, only in that it is not how I perceive a volunteer board. I think you are speaking of a non-paid appointed board rather than a volunteer board.

A volunteer board in my opinion consists of people who have come forward from the representative industry who will put their names forward to be on the board, not ones who are chosen by politicians to be put there and not to be paid.

I think when you mention volunteer board, certainly in a small-town community that I am in, it certainly would not be seen as somebody in a powerful position being able to place that board and put them in place. The concept would be that volunteer means you come forward and say, "okay, I volunteer my time." I mean, that is what volunteer means. It does not mean somebody who says, "I ask you if you will do it, but I will not pay you, knowing you will get recognition by being there and probably have some connection because of the choices naturally that are made by people we know." I question why you use the term

"volunteer board" when you mean "appointed non-paid board"?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Yes, the Member for Selkirk (Mrs. Charles) and I have different points of view on this. I believe that if someone is asked to serve on a board and they commit their time without pay, because they have a commitment and a dedication to the community they are going to serve, they indeed are volunteers.

You know, when I worked as an area director for the Manitoba Heart Foundation in my former life, I did not go to the Heart Foundation and volunteer my time, the Heart Foundation called me and asked me if I would be a volunteer and I said, "yes, I would," so I was appointed by them to serve my community as a volunteer, and I believe I did a fairly credible job of it when I was doing it.

You know, you can twist words around or attempt to imply something that is not there, but these are people who are approached, and if you are approached to serve in a volunteer capacity—and volunteer to me means without pay—you accept, because you are committed. I think that is a volunteer commitment.

Mrs. Charles: Will these appointments be determined, will you write to the industries involved and ask for people to put their names forward, or will you go out and choose and pick those who will be sitting on the boards?

Mrs. Mitchelson: When the legislation comes forward to set up the Community Investment Fund, I think that will all be spelled out.

Mrs. Charles: Yes, can you tell me how Mr. Swain was determined to be the head of the Community Investment Fund or the interim person until the Community Investment Fund was put in place?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Swain is not in charge of the Community Investment Fund, Mr. Swain is in charge of dealing with all of the different umbrella groups and the special agreement groups that Government provides Lotteries money to, to co-ordinate agreements along with a member for the Department of Finance, Rodger Guinn, and along with someone from the Policy Management Secretariat. It is a team of people who are working together to see that we get the best agreements put into place that are going to meet the needs of the communities being served with the Lotteries dollars that are available.

Mrs. Charles: Yes, but I do not understand why Mr. Swain in particular was chosen. Was it his Party connections or his ability to represent all of the cultural and arts industry in Manitoba?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Swain was chosen because he was a very competent person who understood the Lotteries distribution system and I think has proved his competence and his ability to deal with people and with organizations. Unless the Member can tell me who is upset, all indications are that organizations and groups are very pleased with the job

that he is doing. There appears to be a lot of co-operation in working together, because everyone wants to see the system up and running and working well.

Mrs. Charles: For one, I am upset, because I do not believe that this starts the whole idea and concept off on a very good foot. When you take a person who has been first vice-president of your own political Party and put him in place, regardless of how competent he is—and I would not question that, I do not know the person and I will take it that he is a very competent person and will not in any way speak of a person on his merits as they well may be—but I feel that if you are trying to put this in place, in all honesty to be a board, to set up all these boards rather, in order to have some equality given, and then you put in place a very obvious and visible card-carrying Conservative, then I think you are saying that you are ready to make this all a political appointment. That sets a tone. Whether purposely done or whether that is not your intention, I feel that can be read into the appointment.

Mrs. Mitchelson: I suppose we could have taken the first vice-president of the Liberal Party and appointed him. That would have made the Member of the Opposition much happier, and she would have thought that the process was a much better process, but unfortunately, Mr. Chairman, we are Government and they are the Opposition.

Government from time to time has to make decisions which are in the best interests of the Province of Manitoba and the community at large. We have appointed a very competent person who we feel is capable of doing the job, and the proof will be in the end result. The people of Manitoba will judge that. If they should judge that the Liberals should form Government someday, then I would hope that the Liberals would make the conscious, concerted decisions that they should make in the best interests of the people of Manitoba.

Mrs. Charles: So the Minister thinks that the appointments should be made just because of who is in Government and that is a determining factor. I think that is unfortunate. We are speaking of a culture and arts industry and not only an industry, but as I mentioned before, it has to be believed that we develop, but all our children and adults, whoever they are, wherever they are in Manitoba, have a right to a full and competent industry and all the projects and support we can give them. I think it is unfortunate that this tone has been set in place.

Can the Minister indicate how much Mr. Swain is being paid in his position?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Chairman, the details of that I have with my Lotteries Estimates. I believe it is \$10,000, but do not take that as the gospel truth until I check with my figures from the Lotteries Estimates to give you that figure.

* (1530)

Ms. Hemphill: Mr. Chairman, it is a little bit difficult for me to know exactly what is the right line to raise

this question, but when we are talking about grants and the amount of money that the Department of Culture is spending, giving to cultural groups and organizations, I wonder if the department has ever extrapolated what they are putting out and what we are getting back in the economy. In other words, it is my belief that the cultural industry and arts industry is a major tool to our economy. I think that is a point that we have to continually make because it can be seen by others to be handing out money for sort of frills and for fun.

I notice that yesterday—and I meant to bring it with me—there was a report and a summary distributed by the Manitoba Arts Council that was showing the number of projects that it had undertaken, the amount of funding it had given, and the amount of money they had projected had been put into the economy, and the difference was quite significant. My recall is that they were bringing back \$70 million. I cannot remember what the ratio was.

In tourism for instance, which I think is sort of related, we used to figure if we put \$1 million out, we got about \$7 million back. I am wondering if the department does those projections, and if when we are sort of fighting for a fair distribution of money to the arts, if her Cabinet and her Government sees them as a major economic tool? That is sort of following up a bit on the point that my colleague was making in her opening statements when she was talking about the increase, the amount of money that was going to the arts and whether they were considered seriously as a major economic tool or just seem to be sort of a frill and fun area and activity? Does she have any information like that?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Yes, Mr. Chairman, the Department of Tourism would probably have more information than we do on specifically what tourist attraction the arts and the festivals are to our province because they deal in a very concrete way with a lot of the festivals and organizations. We do have information on the cultural agreement, the ERDA, and I indicated to the Member for Selkirk that we would get to that a couple of tabs down. I have some very basic information.

One of the reasons that we do want to continue and have encouraged and been speaking with the federal Government to develop another cultural cost-shared agreement—and I am not talking ERDA now because I think ERDAs are a thing of the past—but a cost-shared agreement with the federal Government.

Our money is on the table provincially because we believe that the ERDA that was in place, that is due to expire very soon, has been of great benefit to the Province of Manitoba. Just some of the figures that I have here are, \$1.1 million expended by the province in 1988-89 has levered \$7 million from other sources; \$1.6 million was generated by income tax alone; direct impacts amount to 219 person-years of employment, and over \$17 million in economic activity. So there has been great benefits to the Province of Manitoba through the film and publishing industry also. We think it is of great benefit and it is something we would like to see continue. We have our money there and want the federal Government desperately to enter into another

agreement with us, but that is the only specific detailed information that our department has on economic benefit and job creation.

Ms. Hemphill: I thank the Minister for that answer, and feel that when we are talking about the Department of Culture it is important to relate the importance of it as an industry, and as a major economic tool to our province. When we are looking at sort of using a lot of the funding coming from Lotteries—and we have all been talking about how Lotteries are not going to be guaranteed to be maintaining at the same level—then if we only rely on that for believing that is where funding comes from for the arts, and if it goes down then the funding for the arts goes down.

I am just suggesting to the Minister that when they are looking at the money they have to distribute they see this as a place where they put money out and they get more than they put out back into the province. They are willing to provide funds on that basis, not just for the maintenance and the development of world class cultural organizations and activities. I wish we had done that, because everybody in Government is fighting for a limited pie.

The department might start doing what the tourism industry does when they are making presentations. We found it very effective, and that is that they prepare their proposal and—I am just going to wait until the Minister has put in her request—we found it very helpful, we were not always doing this.—I am speaking as a former Minister of Tourism, where we also had the problem of, well tourism is sort of fun and games and not seen as a serious economic tool—and that is we started developing proposals and projecting the benefit to the economy from the proposal. It amazed people really, the Government, the amount of jobs that were created and the amount of increased money that came into the province.

So when you are fighting for that buck for a very important industry use all the ammunition you can get.

Are we getting some shots from the arts connoisseur over there?

Mr. James Carr (Fort Rouge): The Minister knows that we have had a concern for a number of years about the relationship between tax-based dollars and Lotteries dollars, which flow to major cultural organizations through the Manitoba Arts Council.

Can the Minister let us know what the trends are? Are you moving towards more Lotteries funds used to finance our major cultural organizations or less? If you could quantify the trend with this year's figures I would appreciate it.

Mrs. Mitchelson: I guess the answer, in this year's Estimates, is it is somewhat similar to what it has been in the past, but certainly if we see a stabilization or a decrease in Lotteries growth there will be more money from appropriation for the arts.

Mr. Carr: What is the Government's policy, as the Government looks ahead beyond this year to the next

two to three? Is it the policy of the Minister of Culture, Heritage and Recreation that less funds be used to finance our major cultural institutions from the Lotteries pot and more from the tax dollar? What should we anticipate the Minister's direction to be over the next number of years?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Chairman, if the Member for Fort Rouge is wanting a Government policy I guess we see them as two different pots, Lotteries money and appropriation money. I know we discussed this briefly last year in Estimates, and the Member for Fort Rouge raised the same concern. Of course, there is always the concern that if lotteries revenues do stabilize, or in fact decrease there is the danger that the arts are going to suffer as a result of that.

At this point in time, I do not believe that we as Government can be looking at any major change in moving money from Lotteries over into appropriations. The expectations is of course that lotteries revenues will at least maintain their own. I do not think the bottom will ever fall out of lotteries in the Province of Manitoba. I do not anticipate that happening and the money that is being provided by Lotteries should be used for community activities.

Mr. Carr: The Minister says that there are two pots of money, but they are not distinguishable one from the other to the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, which receives a grant from the Manitoba Arts Council. Let me test the Minister on this question. Of the grant that the Royal Winnipeg Ballet received from the Manitoba Arts Council, how much of it came from appropriation and how much came from Lotteries?

Mrs. Mitchelson: I guess the figures are roughly 20 percent from appropriation and 80 percent from Lotteries.

Mr. Carr: As the Minister knows, the Lotteries funds first began to flow into the provincial treasury back in the early 1970s when the former New Democratic Party Government. It was Larry Desjardins I believe who was the first Minister responsible for Lotteries. There were precise ways in which that money could be spent, and the policy was constructed for a reason. I believe they were good reasons. Lotteries monies could be used for non-recurring projects, one time special grant, for travel around the province from small and large council organizations or for capital projects, so that there would not be an ongoing reliance on the gambling wins of Manitoba to sustain the major cultural institutions of our province.

* (1540)

Well, that has changed. Now, the Minister tells us that the Royal Winnipeg Ballet depends upon the gambling wins of Manitobans for 80 percent of its maintenance grant through the Manitoba Arts Council.

Mr. Chairman, this is wrong. Those Lotteries monies, if we must continue to exploit them, and it is the position of this Government we know because they are building casinos, in my constituency by the way, and

recommitted themselves to plumbing that resource, then should the Government not say at the same time that those cultural and sporting organizations who are worthy of continuing support from the Government of Manitoba, whether it is through an arm's-length agency like the Manitoba Arts Council or not, deserve the security of funding which comes from the tax base.

Now the Minister I guess could argue that lotteries are more secure than tax revenues. I think that is a philosophical debate that we could probably join. I would disagree with that argument. I think that the whims of the gambling public are far more ephemeral than the foundations of a tax base. I would ask the Minister to consider the appropriateness of a policy for Lotteries revenues which divorces itself from the ongoing maintenance grants of major cultural organizations.

If the Minister has to come up with some money to replace the seats in the Concert Hall or to fix the carpets in the Planetarium then that is an appropriate use of Lotteries funds. If the Minister wishes to build an arena in rural Manitoba that is an appropriate use of Lotteries funds. But for the major cultural organizations of this province to have to rely continuously—and let me say on the gambling habits not of the rich in Manitoba because it is not the rich who go to the casinos. It is not the rich who buy lottery tickets. We know that it tends to be the poor, often not even the working poor, but the unemployed. Often the least fortunate in our society are those who spend the most money on gambling revenue. It very often is the upper-middle-income people who attend the cultural organizations that are being subsidized by the Government.

So what we have here really, if you want to be brutally frank about it, is the poor are subsidizing the wealthy when they buy their tickets to the ballet, the symphony, or other cultural organizations, which are sustained through Lotteries revenues. There has to be something fundamentally wrong with that kind of a system.

I would ask the Minister to have a look at this policy again, and if she needs some moral encouragement from Members of the Opposition I am sure that she can rely on it. I cannot speak for the New Democratic Party -(interjection)- well, the Member for Logan (Mrs. Hemphill) said yes I can. This is a rare moment, Mr. Chairman. I am encouraged by that nod of support from the other Opposition Party in this Chamber, so that we can finally make some sense out of this mishmash of tax-based revenues and Lotteries revenues used to sustain cultural organizations.

I would ask the Minister to give us a thoughtful response to some of these observations.

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Chairman, I note with interest the NDP's agreement with that philosophy when they were the ones that initially got into lotteries generation and revenue.

When I took over this portfolio some 18 months ago things have not changed since then, and we have not started putting more Lotteries dollars into the arts community. So it is very easy when you are in Opposition to look at things from a different perspective than when you are in Government.

I guess I believe, right at this point in time, that both Lotteries dollars and tax dollars are green and they both serve a useful purpose in providing support to different organizations for different reasons. I can tell the Member opposite that the only money that goes to sport in the Province of Manitoba is Lotteries money, there is no appropriation money. So in fact, the commitment to the arts through appropriation is greater than that commitment to sport.

Anyway, I recognize and realize—and it would be wonderful if we could support, through the tax base, all of our arts facilities and organizations and all of the sport facilities and organizations, in reality of today's tax dollars and tax base, and I suppose the fiscal reality of the situation with a major debt and deficit spending—that all Governments are trying to get their House in order and things under control. I cannot see, in the near future, a major change. The Member opposite shakes his head and I do agree with him, philosophically, that it would be a wonderful thing to do.

I have not heard from the Liberals yet what their policy is on Lotteries dollars and Lotteries revenue, as a matter of fact, and whether, if they were Government, they would get out of the lottery business altogether as a Government. We have not heard a word about that. It is fine to be critical of a Government, but it is on one hand be critical and on the other hand we would like some solutions, some recommendations for some solutions to the problem.

If in fact, you are asking for how many millions of dollars it would be to come out of the tax base, or appropriation, how would you determine we get that money? Where would we take it away from? Are you suggesting we might take it away from Family Services, or the Department of Health, or are you suggesting that we ask the taxpayers of Manitoba to pay more taxes, and how much?

Mr. Carr: Mr. Chairperson, we do not advocate radical changes of policy. We do not advocate overnight solutions to problems. What we are asking for is a commitment from the Minister to move toward a more rational and defensible funding arrangement for cultural organizations in Manitoba.

We know that she cannot do it overnight. We know that she did not establish the lottery system in Manitoba. It has been going on this way for almost 20 years. We know that no Government has the fiscal ruling to do it from one day to the next, but we want some good will and some commitment of purpose and of direction from the Government so that we know at least that she is doing whatever she can to take us down that road, however slowly she and the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness), and the Members of the Treasury Bench feel it appropriate to move.

We do not ask for miracles. We asked for a commitment of -(interjection)- the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Enns) said that the affairs of state move slowly. So do some Ministers in his Government, Mr. Chairman, move slowly and sometimes too slowly. What we are asking for here is not a commitment that by next Tuesday or even by next February, that all of this

is going to change. I am glad to hear the Minister agrees with us, that it is a noble goal and an objective worthy of her consideration. All I am asking from her today is a commitment from her to get us there, however long it may take.

* (1550)

Mrs. Mitchelson: Well, if the Member for Fort Rouge (Mr. Carr) can guarantee that I will be here to fulfill that commitment for several years, then I can probably make that multi-year commitment to him.

The problem is, Mr. Chairman, that nobody can make those guarantees. I can guarantee to the Member for Fort Rouge that it is very definitely a concern, and I share his concerns. I do not know whether he would like to sit down and write out a proposal on what percentage increase or decrease we should—and where are we going to receive that revenue from, and what other department are we going to take it away from in order to make that happen.

Mr. Carr: The Minister is on the record saying that if Lottery revenues, in fact, dry up or decrease over time everyone will be cutback equitably. That comes right from Hansard.

Now the Minister told us just a few minutes ago that in fact she would do everything she could to ensure that no cutbacks would take place. So we hear on the one hand—now the Minister wanted to be quoted directly—very definitely, Mr. Chairman,—and I am quoting from the Minister—I agree and I think that any responsible organization would agree that Lotteries revenues are funds that fluctuate, that go up and down. If there was a decrease that kind of thing should be shared by everyone, and not one specific facet of community life should be impacted to any greater degree than another.

What that says to me is that there would be some sort of lock-step penalty should Lotteries revenues dry up or decrease. All we are looking for today from the Minister—and I appreciate that she cannot move unilaterally on this, that she has to consult her colleagues—but at least that she will argue and advocate on behalf of a more rational funding system for major cultural organizations in Manitoba. That is the only commitment we are looking for from the Minister today.

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Chairman, the commitment I can make to the Member for Fort Rouge is, in fact Lotteries revenues should decrease, and there has to be a shared responsibility to accept that decrease, that I will fight very hard to ensure, through appropriation, the arts will be supported by this Government.

Mr. Carr: I thank the Minister very much for that answer, which is consistent with apparently NDP policy and certainly Liberal policy.

I would like to ask the Minister just a short series of questions which may not be on this line of the Estimates. I wonder if the Minister would indulge me, and my friend the honourable critic.

It seems that in the first week of September the Salvadorean Cultural Centre was robbed and that some \$14,000 of equipment was stolen. The group was currently negotiating a lease, which had not been completed at that time. As a result they were left without any insurance. So the Salvadorean-Canadian Cultural Centre is out some \$14,780 worth of equipment, mostly musical equipment, PA equipment, and it is hurting this organization considerably. Does the Minister have any programs or any flexibility to meet with these people to determine whether or not the Government could participate in some kind of program to replace the equipment that was stolen from the Salvadorean-Canadian Cultural Centre sometime in September?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Chairman, I was not aware of that happening. I certainly feel very sorry for the community that has experienced this major loss. It is not a large community, and \$14,000 would have a major impact. I will certainly agree if the Member will provide me with some details and some contact people to agree to have staff sit down and meet with the community and determine if there is not a way to help them in some manner.

Mr. Chairman: Item 2.(b)—pass.

2.(c)(1)—the Honourable Member for Selkirk.

Mrs. Charles: The Arts Review Committee, of course, is in place and hopefully functioning quite well now. Mr. Chairperson, could we ask that the gallery at the back perhaps move to the loge and we could hear better? -(interjection)- Well, it is in my direct hearing line and it is very difficult with the background noise, and I notice the Minister was having trouble, although she would not want to say it to her colleagues. The Arts Review Committee is up and working, and I was wondering if the Minister could provide me with the information that she has given the Manitoba Artists for Women's Art in response to the copy of the letter they sent to the Minister on August 15, 1989, asking for an outline of concerns they had with what was at that time the upcoming Arts Policy Review.

Mrs. Mitchelson: I do not know the specifics of what letter you are talking about. If the Member would like to provide us with a copy or give us the information, I will go back and determine what response was given or is in the process of being developed.

Mrs. Charles: The letter was from the director, Kathy Driscoll, and both critics and you were given a carbon copy of it dated, as I said, August 15, 1989. It was sent to Mr. DeFehr asking questions, what the criteria for participation was going to be in the Arts Policy Review several weeks ago, and speaking to them. They had not had these responses given to them from your department. If you have provided those, I certainly would appreciate it. Although I do not have a photocopy, I am willing to send this over if you want to see what it is, and then if you send it back to me, I would appreciate it. At some further date, you will be able to comment on it if possible.

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Chairman, if I understand correctly, the letter was written to Mr. DeFehr and a

copy to all of us. Are you indicating that the Arts Policy Review Committee has not responded, or my department has not responded?

Mrs. Charles: I certainly hate to put words in Ms. Driscoll's mouth, but she obviously was writing to Mr. DeFehr. I think she was expecting a response from the Government as well in conversations I have had with her. But I will put that with some doubt as well, and, as I say, I do not want to say something that perhaps I am interpreting and she did not mean to be, but she certainly is concerned. Because Mr. DeFehr is your appointment, maybe you could check into whether information was provided Miss Driscoll and the association, and report back at the appropriate time.

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Chairman, if the Member opposite does not mind, we will send the Page out to get a copy of it, and I will get my staff to try to get the answers.

Mrs. Charles: I notice that in some of these expenses under the Grant Assistance that they have in many cases remained static even with the cost of living, as well as some have decreased. Can the Minister provide me with the information, the criteria, that adjusted these amounts over the past year and going on to this year?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Can I just ask what page the Member is on? As I look through the list then that cultural council's program is down? This is a formula-based annual operating grant to cultural councils established in rural Manitoba based on shared costs. The decrease of \$14,300 reflects provision for a grant of \$10,700 to the Wasagaming Cultural Council offset by the elimination of a grant of \$25,000 to the Brandon Allied Arts Council. So there is an up of \$10,000 as a grant to Wasagaming, but what has come out of that line is \$25,000 that was given to the Brandon Allied Arts Council, because it became an art gallery and is funded out of a different line.

Mrs. Charles: Because of the comments I have made previously, the Arts Schools program has been reduced. Will the Minister comment on that as well, please?

Mrs. Mitchelson: The Manitoba School for Theatre and Allied Arts folded, so there would be no grant. That was one of the reasons for the down. These are formula-based annual operating grants to non-profit community based organizations for the provision of instructional programming in artistic disciplines at the amateur and pre-professional levels. It is because the School for Theatre and Allied Arts did fold, so they did not obtain a grant.

Mrs. Charles: Recognizing that that is the cause and that this money I suppose was moved over in other areas, were there any groups under the same line that perhaps could have stood to be puffed up perhaps a little bit more with the money that was taken away? That obviously would be with the lack of the allied schools program that something has been missing in the whole community, and perhaps another organization could have taken over some of their work? Is that a fair statement to make, and was that considered at all?

* (1600)

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Chairman, these are formula-based grants based on application to the department and if someone had applied that was eligible under that program, they certainly would have been considered.

What I can say is the Arts Policy Review is certainly going to be looking at funding in rural Manitoba and some equity for rural Manitoba, too. That was one of the mandates that I did give them. So a lot of these things will possibly be impacted when we look at long range funding to the arts in the future as a result of the policy review.

Ms. Hemphill: Mr. Chairman, just a question, I know that we are all looking forward to the results of the Arts Policy Review. I am just wondering—I think two questions here—one is, although the Minister and her Government are waiting for the results to come in before they perhaps come out with some policy, some program changes, I wonder if the Minister can tell us what is the philosophy of this Government towards arts and culture, what is their definition of arts and culture? I am particularly, as she might suspect, interested in the attitude of the Government towards the feelings of many members of the ethno-cultural community who see much of what they do in terms of promoting their culture and retaining their heritage and their traditions as important cultural activities that they would like to see recognized as such, not just something for their own community, but an integral, important part of our culture and our arts for the province. What is her attitude towards that? I am just wondering if the Minister has been kept informed of the representations that are being made to the Arts Policy Review to date. While we are awaiting the ultimate report, are there any interesting or consistent messages to date coming from the arts community that she has been informed of?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Chairman, yes, in fact one of the main components was to ensure that there would be access to all to make presentations to the Arts Policy Review Committee, and one of the areas they are going to be looking at is ethno-cultural arts. There seems to be a sense, and whether this is right or not we will not know until they have made presentations and that is evaluated—a sense that ethno-cultural arts do not want to be isolated on their own, they want to be part of the main stream arts community. I believe this is something we should really be taking a look at. I have a sense that is what the community feels. I believe through their presentations that will either be confirmed or not. We will be looking at funding to ethnic arts as a part of the whole picture.

We have made sure that the advertising for the Arts Policy Review has been put into all of the ethnic papers. We have sent copies and letters out to all of the members of MIC and the different multicultural organizations that the Government has a list of, encouraging them to participate and contribute to the process, so in the end, we will have a good cross section of the community that has an interest in the arts, that has participated, put their comments on the record, and we can develop our policy based on that.

As far as the hearings that have been going on, there has been the odd newspaper article that has indicated those in rural Manitoba feel they sometimes do not get their fair share, and they are making those types of presentations to support their points of view.

I did see an article too in the paper about an artist saying that we were not funding enough traditional art and funding too much contemporary art. That was his point of view. When he made a presentation to the Policy Review he indicated that kind of thing. So everyone will have the opportunity to present their point of view, and the committee will have to come up with recommendations that, I suppose, support the majority of presentations that were made and take a look at funding into the future.

Mr. Carr: Just out of curiosity, because as the Minister knows I was tangentially involved with the last Arts Policy Review in the Province of Manitoba, what is this one going to cost, I mean, any payment to staff, advertising, consultants? Are the members of the review themselves paid, and just what is the total budget of the review?

Mrs. Mitchelson: The budget is set at \$100,000, Mr. Chairman. The members of the Arts Policy Review themselves are not being paid, they are volunteering their time. There are two support staff. There is a secretary to the committee, and another, I would believe, secretarial support staff.

Basically, I suppose, the increase in costs—and that is probably going to be the next question from what the Policy Review 10 years ago was—are due to a broader perspective, and maybe the Member can clarify or correct for me, if I am wrong, but there is a fair amount of travel to rural Manitoba and northern Manitoba to hear presentations. I do not believe that was as much a part of the last review as it is this time.

* (1610)

What we wanted to do was ensure that rural communities have the opportunity to make presentations and not have to travel at their cost, wherever possible to do that, because that was one of the issues that had been brought to my attention, obviously, by a lot of my colleagues who live in rural Manitoba and by people in general as we have travelled throughout the province.

There is a sense that rural Manitoba does not receive their fair share of arts funding. So that is one of the areas I have asked the Arts Policy Review Committee to look at in some detail, and to receive presentations and get the point of view from outside the Perimeter Highway on funding to the arts.

Mr. Carr: What is the funding split of the department now, as between Winnipeg and the rest of the province? If you took the global budget of the Department of Culture, Heritage, and Recreation and divided it according to monies that are retained within the City of Winnipeg, and those which go outside the City of Winnipeg, what would that split be now?

Mrs. Mitchelson: That is some information we do not have. We could certainly attempt to compile that. It

would probably be very interesting information, but the difficulty in obtaining it really quickly is, we would have to examine what specific organizations that might be funded within the walls of the Perimeter Highway do have some impact or do provide some form of assistance to areas in rural Manitoba. So I think it might be very valuable information to try to compile, but it is not something I can have for the Member instantly.

Mrs. Charles: I have one final question under this heading. The Minister, in response to a question in the House, brought in a list of all organizations that had been contacted or told of the Arts Policy Review. Would the Minister be kind enough to share the names of those organizations that information went to? I imagine both critics would appreciate that information.

Mrs. Mitchelson: Certainly, Mr. Chairman, I have no problem with that. The reason I did not table it in the House was because there are 400 pages, and I thought for every Member in the House to receive that copy would be probably somewhat—I do not want to say here a waste of money, because the information is valuable—but I certainly can provide those for the critics.

Mrs. Charles: If I may go on to the Cultural Resources section. As it states here this is the area to ask questions under CIDO. Could the Minister catch us up to date at exactly what the future of CIDO will be? I understand it runs out March 1, 1990. Will that be re-signed, and will any of the agreement be changed at that time?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Chairman, are we under 14.2(c)(3) or are we—I did not realize we passed the one before.

Yes, as far as the ERDA renewal, I think I indicated just a little while ago that ERDA seemed to be a thing of the past, cost-shared agreements and Western diversification, and there are different names to cost-shared agreements, but I have indicated, and I have indicated to my federal counterpart, Mr. Masse, that we support some sort of cost-shared agreement with the federal Government for cultural industries. The information that I read into the record a little while ago about the economic benefit and the job creation are very positive things, very positive things for the Province of Manitoba.

We have committed our money, as a province, to support film, and book publishing. I believe it is now sitting with negotiations between the federal Government and our department to try to make that become a reality before the end of the next agreement.

Mrs. Charles: The federal Government has not always seemed to be supporting the cultural industries in Manitoba, and indeed Canada, although, the Minister himself perhaps does not share all of his Government's actions.

Could the Minister indicate what her department has found to be the impact of the last federal budget on the magazine publishing industry in Manitoba?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Chairman, we are still in the process of working on getting figures. We do have some

figures from border crossings that they have provided to us. We do not have them with us here today, but we can bring them and share them with you if you would like.

I do know that publishing programs and the Economic and Regional Development Agreement have had a very major positive impact on our publishing industry in the Province of Manitoba. I did read into the record what film has done, and maybe I could just read into the record what our observations have been from the evaluations that have been done on the Economic and Regional Development Agreement and what the positive impact has been.

Book publisher's sales and employment grew by 300 percent, and sales in employment of magazine publishers in the Economic and Regional Development Agreement grew by 200 percent. Over the first four years of the program operation, book publishers received a total of \$603,000 from ERDA programs and generated total sales of just over \$3 million. Magazines received a total of \$249,000 from the ERDA programs and generated total sales of \$627,000.00.

So there have been positive things happen as a result of the ERDA. That is one of the areas that we are very supportive of, establishing a cost-shared agreement again with the federal Government.

Mrs. Charles: As the Minister has mentioned, and certainly I support that the ERDAs have been most beneficial to not only the growth of industries in film and publishing in Manitoba but also to our economy, as those industries grow.

I have had some conversations with some film groups feeling that there are problems within the agreements of CIDO, and that many film companies, once they reach a certain level, are now leaving the province, because they feel they are being cut out of getting the grants on an ongoing basis.

I do not know if this is a fair statement or not. It is just what I have been told, that there seems to be some personality problems within the group itself. I would like to just express that to the Minister so she could be aware, and when the arrangements are made in the next CIDO, as we will still maintain our hope that takes place, if they could look at the organizational structure of handing out the grants to film groups, in that, I believe there have been four major film companies that have left our province over the last year, THETA Productions left. The other names leave me, but I can think of three. I believe there are four that left our province.

Further on film companies, I noted in the paper, within the last few weeks, that the film to be taken place in Gimli has been called off. Is the Minister aware of why that filming is not going to take place? Was it anything to do with lack of funding and support or was it other considerations?

* (1620)

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Chairman, I am not aware of that specific situation or that film. Did you say it was in the newspaper? We will have to—if you have the

article and can share it with us, we will certainly get some information.

Mrs. Charles: I note the Recovery Canada-Manitoba Enabling Vote has gone from last year being \$77,800 to \$46,700.00. Could the Minister explain this reduction in the amount of the transfer payments there? That is on page 39.

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Chairman, if you will look at page 39, we are on the third line down. You are talking about the decrease from 77,000 to 46,000.00. That is salaries, and last year there were positions that were filled by civil servants that were seconded to CIDO to work on the agreement and as some staff resigned, there was a staff turnover, and so that is why there is a decrease. Those staff were rehired then. The ones that were seconded from Government resigned. CIDO hired staff to replace them. So if you look down the page, you will find that the Enabling Vote recovery is higher there as a result of the changeover.

Mrs. Charles: It never fails to amaze me how complicated things can get in Government.

Further to the line-by-line designation and under Supplies and Service, could the Minister indicate the differential there?

Mrs. Mitchelson: The decrease, Mr. Chairman, relates to the elimination of one-time expenditures for evaluation of the agreement and completion of the three-year Publishing Employment Assistance Program. It was a one-time evaluation of the program which was included in the year before that was finished, so obviously those costs did not recur.

Mrs. Charles: Could the Minister indicate—and if it is so, could she provide me that evaluation form of the program, and was the cost of that evaluation also covered in the granting system? Is that a balanced off situation, or did this Government pick up the total cost of the evaluation?

Mrs. Mitchelson: According to the agreement, the federal Government picked up 60 percent and the provincial Government 40 percent. Once those evaluations are public information, we can share them.

Mr. Chairman: Item 2.(c)(1)—pass; 2.(c)(2)—pass; 2.(c)(3)—pass.

Item (d) Public Library Services. Shall the item pass?

The Honourable Member for Selkirk.

Mrs. Mitchelson: Excuse me, Mr. Chairman, I understand we have already passed it, but I have an answer on the Gimli Film, if I could just provide that for the Members. That was a U.S. film, an offshore film, and CIDO does not fund any offshore film production. There are Japanese investors in that that have put the project on hold for now.

Mrs. Charles: Like the Minister, I too meant to ask one question. In that when you have provided me today

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with the awards given on untendered contracts, there was one given to Ray St. Germaine Productions Limited for \$30,000 to co-ordinate and produce the concerts in the North tour.

Could the Minister indicate with the critics' permission, and asking under this line, why there was no tendered gone out on that and why this particular production limited was chosen over all others? Were there others that could have done it? What was the criteria for choosing this?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Yes, Mr. Chairman, normally this type of thing might be tendered, but Mr. Ray St. Germaine came forward to the Government with a proposal that was going to travel out to the community in a very major way, and the evaluation of his proposal indicated that it was a far superior program to any other program that we had tendered, and it would reach out to more people.

On that basis we awarded the tender to him, and all of the feedback that we have gotten on his tour has been excellent feedback. So it certainly was the right decision to make and it is far superior and has reached more people than any of the other tendered proposals that have been approved in the past.

Mrs. Charles: I have just one question on that. Was there a reason that he did not participate in the tendering? Was he not able to, or was he just not around at the time? Why did he go outside the tendering process?

Mrs. Mitchelson: The reason this was evaluated and granted was because he came to us before there was any call for proposals or tenders this year. I am talking about in years past when we called for tenders and the department evaluated them and chose one. This was a far superior proposal this year and reached far more people than anything in the past.

Mrs. Charles: In general, does your department have a policy for what is tendered and what is not? Is this an unusual situation that we cannot expect to reoccur?

(Mr. Bob Rose, Acting Chairman, in the Chair)

Mrs. Mitchelson: This is unusual, Mr. Acting Chairman, but I guess it was a proposal that came forward that was an offer that was almost too good to refuse and it has proved to be extremely successful. Therefore the decision that was made was obviously a very good one. I think the feedback from anyone that has had the opportunity to attend has been great.

Mrs. Charles: Yes, onto library services—and I first want to give my support to all those that worked to support our public libraries in the rural communities as well as the city. I suppose enjoying myself, having been on the library board in Selkirk as a town representative and now as a volunteer to bingos to support the library, I recognize the hard work that goes into them.

One problem that we continually have, because libraries are set up by the communities themselves,

although supported on a per capita basis by provincial Government, is the fact that we all have the right to knowledge and information that libraries have, and although we have interlibrary lending facilities set-up which work quite well, there are times when you would like to go into a library in an area. Perhaps where you do not live or in the rural areas, one municipality may not have a library. In Selkirk, sometimes we would like to come into the Winnipeg library and be able to make use of that.

* (1630)

It is my understanding that the City of Winnipeg fees have increased to \$40 for non-residents and that is really prohibitive to so many people. Understanding all the problems involved with libraries and funding them, could the Minister give me her viewpoints on whether there is any way that we could solve this problem that some have the access to libraries at a relatively cheap or free cost, other than their taxpayers' dollars, and others have to pay prohibitive amounts to receive knowledge that should be available to all Manitobans.

Mrs. Mitchelson: I guess there is a bit of a dilemma here, because there are a lot of libraries and communities outside the City of Winnipeg that would not want to see the City of Winnipeg give free access because then, in fact, they would not attract enough members to form their own libraries. So it is a little bit of a problem. Nonetheless I do agree there is always the argument from the city, I suppose, that it is the taxpayers of the City of Winnipeg that are paying through their taxes for the library service. If those from outside that are not paying the taxes for libraries want to utilize them, they should be contributing to the cost. So it is a problem. It is a City of Winnipeg decision, and I can see both sides of the issue and both sides of the problem.

Mrs. Charles: I am not putting it all on the City of Winnipeg because we in Selkirk have the same dilemma. I sat on the board where we tried to solve the same thing where residents in municipalities around us who do not pay taxes into the Selkirk library have to pay an additional amount in order to be part of. If they have equal access and their tax dollars are not going in it, then Selkirk is supporting their area. At the same time, if we can encourage them to be part of our library, everybody ends up paying more or we get added service.

It is a terrible dilemma, and I would like to ask this Minister that we could perhaps look into how we can resolve this, because as I say I feel badly that residents in St. Andrews, in our district, cannot come to our library and take out a book as freely as my children can. At the same time, my children cannot come into the City of Winnipeg and take out information that is not in our library as easily as children in the City of Winnipeg. Certainly it is worse in the North, and so on, although again I support the interlibrary exchange program. Sometimes you just need to go there, look through the books—what you need. You do not know what the book is; you need to go there and be able to take it out and take it home and study and work

on it. I think that is quite a problem, and it is not one that we are going to be lobbied for and find many letters on our table. But if we really are supporting the exchange of knowledge, I think we should look at perhaps reforming a library system that equal access and equal opportunity is there for all Manitobans.

Mrs. Mitchelson: Yes, and I understand that Selkirk should be congratulated and commended for their activities in library development, and that they have made major increases in membership over the last few years, and that is good news. The Library Advisory Board that was re-established back in June of this year is going to be taking a look at ways of trying to resolve some of the problems and having better service delivery to some of rural and more remote Manitobans. We have a fair number of those, especially in our remote areas, that are unserved by a library of any kind.

It is of great concern to me, so I am hoping that by the spring I will have an assessment or some sort of report from them on maybe some new and innovative ways, and I would certainly ask the Member for Selkirk if she has any suggestions that we could sit down and discuss those, and we certainly are willing to accept because we do know that it is a major problem, and I would like to see better service provided.

Mrs. Charles: I thank the Minister for that invitation. I wish I had some real brain wave. It is obviously going to be a new funding mechanism that will open it up, but I would like to as well say that there are many specialists, as she is well aware, and I would like to give tribute to our librarian in Selkirk who just retired this year, Micky Reid who has been acknowledged in the province as one of the top librarians. Perhaps the Minister might see fit to contact her if she has any direct input. Now that she is a retired person, perhaps she would be willing to come a little bit more forward and not feel that she is rocking any boats anywhere, and maybe she will be one of the answers.

While I am on my feet, as well, I would like to be very parochial and give tribute to two people who have in fact made sure that our library is up and running, by every week for the last two or three years showing up and running our bingo every Saturday night. They are Walter and Ted Wozney. They have taken probably about eight to 10 hours every Saturday to make sure that our bingos are run. We have raised around \$35,000 each year in those bingos, and I would like to have the patience of this House in being able to give them the tribute they deserve. They are not people who anybody else will recognize because they do it quietly, as so many of our volunteers do, to put that type of commitment into the support of our youth, the support of our elderly people and the public at large. To support their knowledge and learning, I think, is what this problem is all about, how proud we can be. Thank you for your patience of putting up with my statement on that behalf.

Ms. Hemphill: Just when you are talking about libraries, I guess it is important to put the point that we keep putting on the record. When library money is short or when library money is being cut, one of the first places

they look is inner city libraries. It is a real concern for us to have to keep fighting to keep open our inner city libraries when they seem so easy to sort of attack or go after when they just use statistics that they compare to other suburban libraries. On the basis of usage being down, they suggest that since usage is not up at a certain level we can eliminate these libraries. The sad thing is that the people there need access to those facilities often, and the children more than other people. We have to find new ways of using the inner city libraries.

So I want to just make the pitch, since we are making pitches, that even if the usage is down we recognize the inner city has to have access to library services. There are innovative programs that are working very well and I want to mention one of them. It is not in the Minister's area, but it is usage of libraries, and I am glad the Minister of Education (Mr. Derkatch) is here. It is a program called Bookmates. It is run by volunteers and it is aimed at children who have English as a second language. In talking about Bookmates, I am making the argument for maintaining support for a very innovative program in the inner city that is being delivered through the libraries that have in the past frequently been threatened with closure. If they were, projects like this would not be able to continue.

It is for children from three to five who have English as a second language. They have volunteers who are trained who take these children every Saturday to the library, expose them to the library, read them library books and literally get them hooked on books and on going to the library. What they found, although it had only been in place for a couple of years, is that the teachers receiving children in the inner city schools could actually tell if these children had been part of the Bookmates program. Their language facility, their language capability, their interest in reading were all significantly improved. So it really is a preliteracy program that is helping prepare young children who have English as a second language to cope in schools with the English language, and it is promoting use of our library system at the same time. The more young children we get into those libraries in the inner city at such an early age, the more the use of the library system in total is going to be.

I am sure the Minister is sympathetic with both maintaining and keeping our inner city libraries open and promoting innovative programs that use inner city libraries in a way that they do not need to use them in the suburbs, but that open up access to the library system to families who might not ordinarily use it.

* (1640)

Mrs. Mitchelson: If I might make a couple of comments, I do recognize and realize that there needs to be service, and a special type of service in some instances, in our inner city libraries, and I think that more than just looking at innovative ways of expanding programming, and I think we should be expanding where there is a need or justification, but I think that sometimes there could be some innovative, or some thoughtful, heads put together maybe within the department, within the City of Winnipeg, the Library Branch. That is under Planning, and maybe even working along with officials

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in the Library Branch in our department and maybe with the Department of Education officials to see whether there is not a multipurpose use for some of our library facilities. In fact, do our libraries need to be just a library, or can it be combined with a special type of school.

I think there are lots of ways that we can take a look at reduction of overhead costs, maybe with sharing of activities and different programs and different departments, bringing things together to look at a more cost-effective way of delivering a service that is absolutely necessary. So I think there are probably ways and means of accomplishing some of that, or moving in that direction, but there has to be a general desire to make that happen.

(Mr. Chairman in the Chair)

We have indicated, when I met with Ernie Gilroy, who used to be the chairman from the City of Winnipeg, and indicated that there was an 8 percent increase in funding to the City of Winnipeg this year for libraries, and that we could not expect, or anticipate, continuing to increase library grants by 8 percent or more year after year, because we have a situation where half of the population in rural Manitoba is not even served by a library of any sort. So that we offered to put our staff together with their staff and try to see if we could not come up with ways of attempting to resolve the problem, and that will be getting under way. There is a new chair of that committee at City Hall now, so maybe the first contact or meeting that we have, that is one thing that should be brought up and discussed and maybe we can get moving on it.

Mrs. Charles: Mr. Chairman, excuse me, could we break for just two minutes, please?

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Mr. Chairman: Item 2.(d)(1)—pass; 2.(d)(2)—pass; 2.(d)(3)—pass.

Item 2.(e) Historic Resources—the Honourable Member for Selkirk.

Mrs. Charles: Although I do not have questions in particular in this area due to our time limitations, I would like to put on the record that it is not in any way an indication of my lack of support for this area. Having been a student of art history and having had the wonderful occasion in high school to write a 52-page report on doors, historical doors, I want everyone in the field to know that I certainly support a heritage resource program. I think this Government has done well in making sure that buildings have been exempted from assessment which are over 60 years old and that certain major buildings have been preserved, such as this building itself, Fort Osborne Barracks has been recognized. I think we all do well to know where our past has been. If we strip that all down, then I think our future is in danger of not recognizing its roots. Just as families need to know security of the past, so do cultures and history.

So I support this area and will work with the Minister in hoping to make sure that Manitoba always

remembers where it has been so we can go further into the future.

Ms. Hemphill: Mr. Chairman, just a question to the Minister, I think some time ago I had an opportunity of meeting with Members of the Manitoba Heritage Federation. I know at that time they had indicated some concerns that related to consultation or involvement in some of the changes that were being made and some concern about the role that they were to play, or expected to play, and the question of whether volunteers could keep up the kind of activity that was being required of them.

Just a general question, but does the Minister feel that the relationship between her department and the Manitoba Heritage people is a co-operative productive one, and that any problems that had arisen sometime before have been sorted out?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Chairman, I met with the Heritage Federation. I cannot recall how long ago, but in the last few months I guess it was, two to three months, and it was after they had changed executives and had a very productive meeting with the Heritage Federation. I think that relationships will be good. I know there was a real fear throughout all of the volunteer community when the Needs Assessment was going on, and that they were going to have money taken away and were going to be penalized in some way, or were not doing a good job and, in fact, that is not the case. They did receive a 3 percent increase. There is always, of course, a demand for more.

There are some challenges ahead in this branch of my department because I feel that there is a major contribution to be made by those, and a lot of volunteer components in a lot of areas that do commit and dedicate a lot of their time. I guess the more I learn and understand and know about the province's history and heritage, the more exciting it becomes to me, and the more I want to be able to work very closely with this community. I have said often in public, and I will repeat for the record here today, that probably in my next life when am finished working, I will become in a volunteer way with the history and heritage of our province, because I find it very rewarding and very, very exciting.

I am committed to look to work to see whether there are improvements that we can make. I know, as I have visited some of the museums in rural Manitoba, that there are many volunteers that give so very much of their time and ask so very little in return because they have a real commitment and a dedication. I will be very brief, but I do want to indicate, too, that when you travel around the province and you meet someone that maybe homesteaded or knows the history of a certain community, a certain area, and when they can relate first hand their experiences, it makes it so very interesting and exciting.

* (1650)

I have some concern about how our children and our grandchildren are going to be able to relate when those people have gone and they cannot relate first

hand. There is a challenge there for us to attract our youth and keep them interested in the history of our province. So there are many things that need to happen in the future to provide that venue for education and interest by our children.

Mrs. Charles: Just as the Minister spoke reminded of two pieces of information I just wanted to impart to the Minister in that I feel that, as she has recognized now, the Dugald Costume Museum is a world class museum and should be funded as world class just as the Manitoba Man and Nature Museum, and that we should work towards getting out of the idea that everything first class has to be in the City of Winnipeg, that first class historical events and museums can be held and are held outside and seen outside the City of Winnipeg. I would put a plug in for my own area, for the Marine Museum as well; that it is a world class museum. Certainly, of the plains of North America, none is to be found in that calibre.

As well, I would like to put in a little plug for an idea that the archivists gave me, although I know it is under another area, but that we should always remember that our multicultural people coming over, whether they are refugees, or immigrants, or maybe even if they have been here for a generation or two, that we must remember that their heritage is new and wondrous to our province, and start immediately to preserve and protect their heritage as well, that perhaps a multiculturalism museum should be begun now, that we should look at what we can do to maintain their heritage so we do not lose that uniqueness they come over with and lose the growth we can see, and the change as they come about. We certainly have protected our Ukrainian, Polish, British, and German backgrounds, let us not forget as well all those other wonderful peoples who have come into our province—and would like to see next year, perhaps, a particular item on that in this area, if you are still here.

Mr. Chairman: Item 2.(e)(1)—pass; item 2.(e)(2)—pass.

2.(f) Recreation—the Honourable Member for Selkirk.

Mrs. Charles: Yes, as the time gets very close to five o'clock, I would just like to put in here that I believe it is very easy to be very narrow of focus on what recreation is. Especially in this day and age, as our age group gets older and older all the time, that recreation as we know it does not always have to be physical recreation and if it is, perhaps it should be recognized as physical recreation. There are many, as the Minister just said, involved in historical groups, archives, looking into your background and roots. There are many recreational activities that do not have to be physical, and we cannot overlook the need for all ages, and stages, and abilities of people to be able to keep their mind alert and going, and to be involved in some recreation, whether it is a mental recreation or a physical recreation.

In passing this, I just wanted to point that out, so that perhaps you can think over that, that it is not just physical recreation that we should be involved in, especially in this department. Physical recreation, I

believe, is more appropriate under Sports. We should be looking at cultural and heritage recreation and what that can mean to our province under this item.

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Chairman, we have committed of course to coming out with a policy statement on recreation fairly soon. I think the Member for Selkirk would be pleased to know that she is on the same wavelength as I am, really, with recreation. I believe that it is mental and physical well-being and it goes all the way from our seniors who cannot sometimes actively participate in sport-type recreation or active recreation, but they need to be kept mentally alert and fit. There is a real need to ensure that those kinds of activities are developed all the way from the very old to the very young, and all those in between. It is a state of both mental and physical well-being that we contemplate recreation, and that goes right back to the arts, to crafts, and to our museums. Our libraries, too, are a form of recreation; reading is a form of recreation for many. I think you will be pleased when we come out with a recreation policy in the near future.

Ms. Hemphill: Just to show the occasions when we are all in complete agreement, I want to add that I feel exactly the same way about the definition of recreation. The strong feelings that are out there that I know will come through in the review from people in rural communities, people in northern communities, elderly, disabled, they just do not have access to recreational programs in their community or to recreation funds. I will just end on the positive note by commending the Minister for additional recreational people in the northern communities. I think there were eight that she mentioned in her opening statement and their intention that they try to hire representatives of the Native community. I think when we have all been up there we have recognized how terribly, terribly important that is, and that we need to improve educational facilities, recreational facilities, so the young people, particularly, are not having the difficulties because there is nothing else for them to do. A salute for that improvement.

Mr. Chairman: Item 2.(f)2—pass; Regional Services: 2.(g)(1)—pass; 2.(g)2—pass.

The Honourable Member for Selkirk.

Mrs. Charles: Mr. Speaker, could we call it five o'clock and leave this item open briefly on Monday afternoon?

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

Committee rise. Call in the Speaker.

IN SESSION

Mr. Speaker: The hour being 5 p.m., time for Private Members' Hour. The Honourable Acting Government House Leader.

* (1700)

Hon. James Downey (Minister of Northern and Native Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I believe there is a consensus

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of the House of the three Parties that are here to call it six o'clock.

COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. William Chornopyski (Chairman of Committees): Mr. Speaker, the Committee of Supply has considered certain resolutions, directs me to report progress and asks leave to sit again.

I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for St. Vital (Mr. Rose), that the report of the committee be received.

MOTION presented and carried.

Mr. Speaker: Is it the will of the House to call it six o'clock? (Agreed)

The hour being 6 p.m., this House now adjourns and stands adjourned until Monday, November 13, 1989, at 1:30 p.m.