

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Monday, November 20, 1989.

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

PRAYERS

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

BILL NO. 87—THE EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS AMENDMENT ACT (2)

Hon. Gerrie Hammond (Minister of Labour) introduced, by leave, Bill No. 87, The Employment Standards Amendment Act (2); Loi no 2 modifiant la Loi sur les normes d'emploi.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mr. Speaker: Prior to Oral Questions, may I direct Honourable Members' attention to the gallery where we have from the Pinawa Secondary School twenty-six Grade 12 students. They are under the direction of Mike Bigelow and George Turner. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Lac Du Bonnet (Mr. Praznik).

Also this afternoon we have twenty students from the Polyvalente Tournesol School in Windsor, Quebec. They are under the direction of Mr. and Mrs. Mastine.

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

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

Karen Ridd
Arrest - El Salvador

Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition): My question is to the Deputy Premier (Mr. Cummings). Mr. Deputy Premier, this morning we learned that a Manitoban, Karen Ridd, a social service worker, has been arrested in El Salvador. Karen is the daughter of Carl Ridd whom many of us know through associations here in the Legislature.

Can the Deputy Premier tell us if his Government has been in touch with the Department of External Affairs or will they get in touch, so that we can facilitate the return of Miss Ridd to her family as soon as possible?

Hon. Glen Cummings (Minister of Environment): Mr. Speaker, I certainly want to extend the concern of all people in Manitoba for what has happened, and I want to assure them, assure the family and assure the Opposition that we will be making that contact, because certainly we hope that Manitobans, no matter where they go to work, can expect the support of the people back home for what they are doing.

Mrs. Carstairs: Mr. Speaker, I thank the Deputy Premier, and we hope that he will be able to facilitate her immediate return to our province.

Free Trade Agreement Subsidy Negotiations

Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition): With a new question, Mr. Speaker, my question is again to the Deputy Premier. Those of us who watched Venture last evening were extremely disturbed by an account of Canadian business closings, their operations in Canada, and some who are expanding but who are doing all of that expanding south of the border and not in Canada.

* (1335)

It is a particular concern when the subsidy negotiations are beginning next month in Ottawa, and provincial and federal economic and social assistance programs will be under review to determine whether they comply with the Free Trade Agreement. Because the Free Trade Agreement is so broad, there is no legal obligation to consult with the provinces to discuss provincial programs which may be on the chopping block.

Can the Deputy Premier, or perhaps the Premier himself, tell the House today what programs have been identified in Manitoba as to be potentially negotiated?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): I am not aware of any programs such as the Leader of the Opposition has referred to.

Mrs. Carstairs: The Americans have clearly indicated that they believe all of our programs in social service areas, from the Medicare Program right through to agricultural programs and the Wheat Board, are in fact subsidy programs, and they want those programs on the negotiating table.

Can the First Minister tell the House today if the issue of subsidy negotiations was raised at the First Ministers' meeting last week, and what was the response to those questions raised?

Mr. Filmon: For more than two years, since the Free Trade Agreement has been an issue in Canada, Members of the Opposition, Liberals and New Democrats, have suggested that our social programs and medical programs were somehow at risk. Mr. Speaker, there has been no evidence whatsoever that any of those programs are at risk.

Would the Americans do it? Would the Americans bring that up as an issue? Of course, they would bring it up as an issue. Does the agreement give them any more ability to make this an issue in terms of our trade agreement? No, it does not. It did not prior to the Free Trade Agreement, and it will not as a result of the Free Trade Agreement.

Beyond that of course we have a dispute settlement mechanism which will, if they raise the issue, have it

before a tribunal that will ensure the letter of that agreement is carried out, not the wishes of some politician who is in Washington and who the Member for Transcona (Mr. Kozak) spoke to last week when he was there. It has absolutely nothing to do with it. Those programs are not in any way affected by the Free Trade Agreement despite what the Leader of the Opposition says.

Mrs. Carstairs: Mr. Speaker, the First Minister is being ostrich-like. We have watched over the past year the dismantling of UIC and the lowering of benefits, particularly affecting this province to the greatest extent in the entire country.

We have watched the Wheat Board be eroded with the contribution coming from our Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Findlay). Can the First Minister tell the House, are there procedures—(interjection)—

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Order. The Honourable Leader of the First Opposition.

Mrs. Carstairs: The question is, are there procedures to involve the provinces, since the Free Trade Agreement is strictly between the federal Government and the Government of the United States? Are there procedures so we will be instantly informed as to what programs in this province may well be affected by subsidy negotiations?

Mr. Filmon: The Leader of the Opposition is being Chicken-Little-like. There is nothing within the Free Trade Agreement that puts at risk any of our social or medical programs, not at the federal level, not at the provincial level. So it is not a question of being informed, it is question of her being informed about what the agreement states, and it is not in the Free Trade Agreement.

* (1340)

Mrs. Carstairs: Mr. Speaker, what is in the Free Trade Agreement is a decision on both parties to discuss subsidies. That is in the Free Trade Agreement.

Can the First Minister of this province tell us what input the provinces, and particularly this province, are going to have in those subsidy negotiations, because we have no faith in the federal Government in not negotiating all of our programs away? That is exactly what they did under FTA.

Mr. Filmon: Social and medical programs were not bargained away under FTA. Let the Leader of the Opposition not put that kind of foolish, irresponsible statement on the record. She continually makes those kinds of blanket, irresponsible statements that are designed to stir fear in the hearts of people. They are absolutely what they are intended to be; that is fearmongering. That kind of irresponsibility has no place in this Legislature.

Mrs. Carstairs: The question is very simple. Does this Government have sufficient concern about programs

available to Manitoba citizens that it will demand a say in the subsidy negotiations, which begin almost immediately between Ottawa and Washington?

Mr. Filmon: Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition may be a little behind in her reading. I can tell her that at the Premiers' Conference in August, in Quebec City, that was one of the communiques, that the First Ministers demanded an assurance that they would be involved in the ongoing implementation of the Free Trade Agreement, as they were involved in the discussions that led up to the Free Trade Agreement.

Karen Ridd Arrest - El Salvador

Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Second Opposition): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Premier. It follows the first question that was raised to the Deputy Premier dealing with the imprisonment today of Karen Ridd, an imprisonment in a treasury police prison that took place today. She was arrested with other refugees at the Episcopal church. I talked to Mrs. Ridd this morning about this arrest.

I would ask the Premier, in terms of the provincial Government, have we sent yet a strong communication to the External Affairs Department, the Honourable Joe Clark and his department?—because in answers in the questions about Karen Ridd in the House of Commons this afternoon posed by Ed Broadbent there was very little commitment from the federal Government to condemn the Government of El Salvador for the arrest of Karen Ridd.

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): The Leader of the New Democratic Party may be aware that I know the Ridd family personally. I have been tied up in meetings all morning with the Canadian Manufacturers' Association so I have not been informed of the details of the news reports. I would certainly ensure that a communication was sent to Ottawa to insist that the imprisonment of Karen Ridd is protested in the strongest possible diplomatic terms.

El Salvador External Affairs Intervention

Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Second Opposition): Mr. Speaker, the Government of El Salvador is engaging itself in a systematic removal of international witnesses, whether it is through alleged assassinations that took place last week with Jesuit priests or the elimination of people by kicking them out of the country and having further atrocities take place in that country.

I would ask the First Minister, has he expressed any opinion to the External Affairs Department in terms of the \$8 million in aid from Canada going to the Government of El Salvador, which many of us believe is being used for a terrorist and extreme government on the citizens of El Salvador?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): Mr. Speaker, I have not been in contact with the Department of External Affairs

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on the matter. Obviously the events unfolding in El Salvador since last Friday have been a tremendous concern to all of us and I will certainly be in contact with External Affairs expressing our concerns about Karen Ridd and the events that are taking place there.

*(1345)

Government Condemnation

Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Second Opposition): Mr. Speaker, last week Joe Clark, according to Mrs. Ridd, called the Government of El Salvador a moderate government, and she has great concern, as many Manitobans do, that we are continuing on with more of an American approach to El Salvador rather than an independent Canadian approach to the atrocities that are taking place in that country. Will the First Minister outline not only our condemnation for the arrest of Karen Ridd and her imprisonment but also recommend to the Canadian Government that there be strong and independent condemnation of the El Salvador Government and there be condemnation of the granting of funds by the U.S. Government to this regime, which on Saturday kicked out a Lutheran minister from Canada and on Sunday three members from the Lutheran congregation have gone missing. Will he in strong terms express his condemnation on behalf of the people of Manitoba and peace-loving people everywhere?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): Mr. Speaker, I will ensure that we express to Minister Clark our extreme concern about this and our desire that the federal Government take an independent position and evaluate the concerns and the actions of the Government of El Salvador to ensure that we are doing whatever we can to protect not only the innocent Canadians who may be involved in the struggle, but that we evaluate the position of the Government of El Salvador with respect to our involvement.

Canada-U.S.S.R. Trade Port of Churchill Usage

Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Second Opposition): I have a final supplementary on another international but very important matter to Manitobans, Mr. Speaker. The Prime Minister of the country is in the Soviet Union conducting negotiations that are alleged to have a potential \$1 billion in trade benefit to Canada.

I notice in the First Minister's statement to the Prime Minister in the First Ministers' meeting there was not a mention of the Port of Churchill. I would ask the First Minister whether in the material going to the Prime Minister in negotiations with the Soviet Government and the President of the Soviet Union whether we have in fact asked for and proposed in those trade negotiations a strong transportation linkage with the Arctic port, the Port Churchill, which is so vital to Manitobans and northern Manitobans?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): Mr. Speaker, the Member knows full well that we have consistently supported the

ongoing use of the Port of Churchill, ensuring that all of the economic activities in Churchill and surrounding areas be strongly supported by not only this provincial Government, but by the federal Government. We have been involved with them on matters of tourism, the rocket range, the proposed national park and many other issues, including the transportation of grain that the Minister of Highways and Transportation (Mr. Albert Driedger) has successfully pursued. We will continue to be in contact with the federal Government to ensure that where there is a place, a viable place, for the Port of Churchill to be involved in any dealings, nationally or internationally, that that consideration will be given.

Antonio Ferreira Deportation

Mrs. Gwen Charles (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the First Minister. Our nation, like others, will be judged on the treatment of its citizens as well as the treatment of those wishing to be citizens.

The federal Immigration Department, however, is today forcing the deportation of Portuguese construction worker Antonio Ferreira. Mr. Ferreira has shown his commitment to his wife through a three-year common-law marriage leading up to his recent formal marriage to his Canadian wife, and they are expecting another child as well as that they are proud parents of a two-year-old girl. He has bought his home and proven he can work to support a family. Has the First Minister been informed of why Immigration now wishes to deport this Manitoba resident?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): No, I have not, Mr. Speaker.

Family Services Involvement

Mrs. Gwen Charles (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Family Services (Mrs. Oleson). There have been allegations that her social assistance staff has interfered in the reporting about this resident. Can the Minister give us a result of the investigation her department has undertaken to determine what influence her staff has had on the effect of Mr. Ferreira's residency?

Hon. Charlotte Oleson (Minister of Family Services): I am informed that the staff have been following this case and have dealt with it appropriately.

* (1350)

Antonio Ferreira Government Intervention

Mrs. Gwen Charles (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, because the federal Department of Immigration has once again shown its determination to move out residents of Manitoba and have them deported from Canada, will this Government intervene on behalf of Mr. Ferreira to make sure he has had a fair and just hearing?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): Mr. Speaker, I will take the question as notice and get the information on the details of the case prior to giving a response to the Member for Selkirk.

Speech Therapist Shortages Government Initiatives

Mrs. Iva Yeo (Sturgeon Creek): Questions have been asked repeatedly by our own Health Critic regarding the lack of speech pathologists for preschoolers. The long wait for assessment causes delays and increased cost of therapy for those children and their families. We are continuing to hear that the same problems occur in the schools.

The Flin Flon School Division has been without services of a speech pathologist since last summer. They state in their letter that this particular problem is true for six other positions in this branch. Some areas have been without services for two years. To the Minister of Education, what steps are this Minister taking to correct these problems with these much needed services in all of our province, but more particularly in our northern part of the province?

Hon. Leonard Derkach (Minister of Education and Training): It is true that we do have some shortages in regard to professional people in the hearing and speech pathology area.

Mr. Speaker, I can tell you that we have arrangements with our neighbouring states to the south with regard to exchange programs, and in fact earlier this year the First Minister signed an agreement with Minnesota whereby students from Manitoba would be able to access the universities in Minnesota at no differential tuition fee and vice versa, it is true. For that reason we are able then to send our students south of the border to take advantage of the programs which are offered there.

Additionally, Mr. Speaker, every year I send staff from my department to recruit graduates from the universities who graduate speech pathologists. It is no different this year. We will be spending considerable sums of money to ensure that we can recruit as many people as we possibly can into this whole area. It is true that there is a lack of people, trained professionals, in that profession.

Recruitment

Mrs. Iva Yeo (Sturgeon Creek): This letter states in very severe terms the difficulties that they are having up in the North, up in Flin Flon. What more aggressive steps will you be taking to try and recruit, to lure some of these people from other jurisdictions?

Hon. Leonard Derkach (Minister of Education and Training): Mr. Speaker, we are using every possible means that we can. There is indeed a salary scale in place whereby we try to attract people of that profession into our province. We work together with school boards to ensure that we can offer a very positive kind of environment to those people to attract them to the various communities. We indeed do a fairly significant marketing program to ensure that we can attract every possible individual into this province, because we know that there indeed is a shortage throughout the province in that area.

Policy Statement

Mrs. Iva Yeo (Sturgeon Creek): I wish the word "ensure" would also include the area up in Flin Flon. Will the Minister endeavour to live up to the statement that is in the August 1989 Special Education Report that says that it is the policy of Manitoba Education and Training to provide for all children in Manitoba access to learning opportunities which are commensurate with their needs and abilities? Will the Minister endeavour to live up to that particular statement?

Hon. Leonard Derkach (Minister of Education and Training): Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Goods and Services Tax Impact Aboriginal People

Mr. Elijah Harper (Rupertsland): My question is for the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness). Last week, the Minister and also the Liberal House Leader both said they opposed only details of the GST as being flawed, and not the principle. Would the Minister release today the provincial study of how the GST will impact aboriginal people living on reserves in Manitoba, as the Minister should be aware of the GST technical paper released by Michael Wilson? The paper admits that the federal Government has not done any consultation or analysis of how the GST would impact the reserves.

* (1355)

Hon. Clayton Manness (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I do not have the report with me to release, but let me indicate to the Member that certainly there is an awful lot of uncertainty associated with how it is that the federal Government is going to apply the GST to reserves in Manitoba, indeed throughout Canada. We have tried to ascertain the impact and how the GST would be implemented and applied. To date we have not received full clarification as to the implementation of the GST.

Mr. Harper: My supplementary to the Minister is: will the Minister consider doing an impact review of the GST on Indian reserves and aboriginal communities? Since there are clearly tax exemptions for Indian people, will the Minister consult with the aboriginal people on this outrageous tax?

Mr. Manness: Mr. Speaker, probably it will come as not news at all that the provincial Government is looking at all taxation as it applies to reserves, giving some of the decisions that have been reached by courts in other parts of the country. I believe our Assembly of Chiefs is also looking at the total impact of taxation, and certainly the goods and services tax is a very critical and relevant aspect to that whole consideration.

Goods and Services Tax Government Position

Mr. Elijah Harper (Rupertsland): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is to the First Minister. Since

the First Minister failed to raise the cuts in post-secondary education, will he now state to this province that he will not accept the GST regardless of changes to the current proposals, since a tax by definition hurts Northerners and reserves rather than urban centres and constitutionally is invalid according to Section 87 of the Indian Act?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): Mr. Speaker, I will repeat for the benefit of the Member for Rupertsland that we have gone on record publicly as saying that the tax is unacceptable and that we believe the proposal ought to be withdrawn. That is the position not only of this Government but of all the provinces in the country, who together at the Premiers' Conference in Quebec City signed a communique. If he had listened to the presentations in Ottawa last week, every single provincial Premier indicated that it was unacceptable and the proposal ought to be withdrawn.

Drought Assistance Acreage Involved

Mr. Laurie Evans (Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, the widespread drought in 1988 of course devastated much of western Canada and was very well-publicized. I think everyone recognized it, including the two levels of Government, but this year, because the average yields are much higher there is a tendency to ignore the fact that there was considerable drought in 1989. In fact the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities has indicated that one-third of the farmers in Saskatchewan actually had yields lower in 1989 than they did in 1988. Can the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Findlay) give us figures as to the extent of the drought that occurred in southern Manitoba in 1989?

Hon. Glen Findlay (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I think it is fair to say that about one-third of the cultivated acreage in Manitoba suffered from some element of drought this year, either from lack of moisture or from heat or the combination of the two.

In 1988, over the entire Province of Manitoba where the drought impacted, we paid \$130 million on crop insurance. This present year, 1989, right now our indemnities that we have paid out in crop insurance exceed \$80 million and we expect the final tally when all the claims are in to be \$120 million, \$130 million, maybe as high as \$140 million of payout to farmers in the drought-affected area of the Province of Manitoba. For this year, the level of coverage on a province-wide basis is almost double on a per-acre basis than what it was in 1988, giving rise to the significant increase of payments in a much smaller area of the province.

* (1400)

Crop Insurance Level of Coverage

Mr. Laurie Evans (Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, was the level of coverage in crop insurance in 1989 sufficient to eliminate the need for any drought-assistance package being considered for Manitoba farmers this year?

Hon. Glen Findlay (Minister of Agriculture): Last year, about this time, I went around to a number of public meetings and I was repeatedly told the crop insurance at an average coverage of \$65 an acre was not adequate. I agreed with them because I know the cost of farming. I asked repeatedly, what level of coverage do you think is adequate? Cover our costs of production; they said, \$80, \$90, \$100, maybe up to \$110 an acre was the coverage they wanted.

We made some program changes this year that gave farmers an average coverage in wheat across the Province of Manitoba of \$112 an acre. All crops averaged right across the province \$101 an acre. So we achieved the level of coverage that the farmers asked for, but I know there is still economic hurt in the farm community and in all the agribusiness of those communities where the drought impacted this year. We will analyze whether there are crops in regions for which there was not adequate coverage, and if we can make an adequate, well-documented case to the federal Government for drought support we will do it.

Drought Assistance Federal Package

Mr. Laurie Evans (Fort Garry): Well, Mr. Speaker, the Minister is indicating that he is at least willing to reconsider this. On Saturday the spokesperson for Charlie Mayer's office said that at that point his office had not been contacted by the Manitoba Government requesting any assistance for a drought-aid package.

Can the Minister then confirm today that contact has been made and that a drought package for southern Manitoba is in fact being considered?

Hon. Glen Findlay (Minister of Agriculture): In terms of making a decision as to whether a drought-aid package will be requested, there has been an ongoing discussion with myself and farm organizations in terms of trying to develop any information. Certainly farm organizations and I have had contact with federal offices to indicate there is a concern out here and there is some need to analyze whether there is need for a drought payment.

That is the process we are in. Those contacts are ongoing, maybe not in written form, but they are ongoing in a verbal sense. I will be talking to that Minister tomorrow in Ottawa.

Farming Industry Minister's Statement

Mr. John Plohman (Dauphin): Mr. Speaker, the issue of drought is only one aspect of the difficulty farmers are facing at the present time. I was very disappointed to read recently that the Minister, in speaking at the Manitoba Pool Annual Meeting, indicated that Manitoba's farming industry has emerged from the 1980s competitive and solvent. He said the overall farm debt picture is much better than many people think.

I ask this Minister, with farmers facing high interest rates, two drought years in a row as we have heard

and we have discussed here in the House today, rail line abandonment that is growing in many areas of this province and low commodity prices that they have suffered for a number of years, how can this Minister make those kinds of ridiculous statements to the farmers of Manitoba?

Hon. Glen Findlay (Minister of Agriculture): The Member for Dauphin (Mr. Plohman) finally asked the appropriate question, where are the facts. I will put the facts on the table right now.

Farmers own 80 percent of their equity and that has been a consistent basis. We have 25,000 farmers in rural Manitoba and only 300 cases per year coming to the Mediation Board. So that does not give rise to the laughable comment that the Member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie) just put on the record when the Member for Dauphin (Mr. Plohman) predicted gloom and doom.

The farm community is optimistic. They meet their challenges, and they have done it consistently throughout the 1980s, where we have had high interest rates, low commodity prices, trade wars and drought. They have met those challenges well, and they will continue to meet them well regardless of the ridiculous comments from the Member for Dauphin.

Government Initiatives

An Honourable Member: Happy days are here again.

Mr. John Plohman (Dauphin): Obviously, Mr. Speaker, for those 300 farmers before the Mediation Board. In view of the fact that farmers in Souris see things quite differently—as a matter of fact, Wayne Finlay, who happens to have a name very similar to this Minister's, said they are in for massive foreclosures in that area in the coming year. I would like to know which Findlay/Finlay knows what he is talking about. I would say it is the Finlay from Souris, not this Minister.

I ask this Minister, in view of the fact that he refuses to assist the farmers in making their case, he said they have to make their case to Ottawa. I ask him, what action is he prepared to take? Is he prepared to get off his hands, prepared to put forward a strong case and develop that case on behalf of those farmers so they can receive the assistance that they should because of the difficulties they have been facing?

Hon. Glen Findlay (Minister of Agriculture): As usual the Member for Dauphin does not pay any attention, even to a person's name. The person's name is Walter Finlay, not Wayne, and we had a major discussion in Souris, back and forth between the farmers and myself, and I said I was prepared to, if they could put the facts in front of us plus the facts that we can develop through crop insurance, put the case together to determine if there is a need in certain regions of the province, take that case to Ottawa.

That is the nature of the discussion that has been ongoing with the farmers and the farm organizations in rural Manitoba. It is not their negativism that the Member for Dauphin always wants to put on the record. The farmers of Souris and area are very responsible

kinds of individuals and they know that they will not get support unless they can develop an adequate case. We will work with them to achieve that.

Mr. Plohman: The Minister does not listen to what they say but he gets their names right. I guess that is what is important for him. He said in his statement to Manitoba Pool that we need to develop programs and policies.

I ask this Minister, what policies and what programs is he bringing forward since his Rural Development colleague Minister (Mr. Penner) has not brought forward any policies to assist rural areas, the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Albert Driedger) has not brought forward any policies and programs to assist those facing rail line abandonment? I ask him, what programs and policies is he developing to assist farmers facing the impacts of free trade, low commodity prices, high interest rates, and rail line abandonment in the rural communities?

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Findlay: We have done a number of things in the past, whether it is reduction of education tax or drought programs in the past, the kind of things that are helpful to the farm community, plus crop insurance programs, plus risk protection programs of tripartite stabilization. Those programs are only stopgap to the major difficulties the farm community faces in terms of the high interest rates, the low commodity prices, drought and trade problems.

Our agriculture in this country and this province is geared to export markets and they must be able to competitively access those export markets or they are not going to be able to survive in the future and those are the kind of program policies that we will be looking at with a futuristic approach rather than the hindsight approach.

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

St. Charles West Land Sale

Mr. Speaker: Order. Order, please. The Honourable Member for Assiniboia. Order. Order, please. The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

Mr. Ed Mandrake (Assiniboia): I have a question for the Minister of Highways and Transportation (Mr. Albert Driedger). I am sure the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) has informed him of a noise complaint from one of my constituents on Optimist Way when he was doing door knocking.

Incidentally, Mr. Speaker, he provided my constituent with no answer. My question to the Minister is—

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

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Mr. Speaker: Order, please; order, please. The Honourable Minister of Finance, on a point of order.

Hon. Clayton Manness (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I have a very important point of order. As a matter of fact, I did provide an answer, and that was to remove themselves of their sitting MLA. That was the answer I provided.

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

Mr. Speaker: Order. Order, please. The Honourable Member for Assiniboia was just about to pose his question.

Mr. Mandrake: Why did the Minister authorize a sale in St. Charles West to a private developer of two lots for \$3,895 per lot, which violates his own guidelines of 1,500 feet setback from a major highway?

* (1410)

Mr. Speaker: Honourable Minister of Highways and Transportation—order, please. I am sure the Honourable Member for Assiniboia would like to hear the answer to his question. Order. The Honourable Minister of Highways and Transportation.

Mr. Driedger: Mr. Speaker, I will take that question as notice.

Mr. Mandrake: Mr. Speaker, my first supplementary to the Minister is, I would have hoped that he would have had an answer, because I asked the same question in Estimates.

Mr. Speaker, these two lots are—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Honourable Government House Leader, on a point of order.

Hon. James McCrae (Government House Leader): Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, the Honourable Member has been around here long enough to know that you do not have to have a preamble for a supplementary question. Before he embarks on a lengthy preamble he might keep that in mind.

Mr. Speaker: I would like to thank the Honourable Government House Leader. Order, please.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia, kindly put your question now.

Mr. Mandrake: Mr. Speaker, these two lots are exactly 85 feet from the Perimeter Highway. Why do we have regulations when this Minister disregards them?

Hon. Albert Driedger (Minister of Highways and Transportation): Mr. Speaker, the Member has indicated that he raised the question in Estimates. I have to indicate that during the Estimates process, in the rush to get through my Estimates, he put so many questions on the record and we have been trying to follow through. I have been trying to get a whole bunch of the answers back and reams of stuff that I have basically brought to him. I apologize that I have not addressed this one, and I can indicate to him I will have an answer for him by tomorrow.

Mr. Mandrake: Mr. Speaker, I will table this letter for the Minister dated September 27, 1989, whereby he provided me with the answer. I will have to give you a copy of this—

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Order.

Mr. Mandrake: My final supplementary, Mr. Speaker, is, this Minister authorized a land transfer of 3.351 acres in exchange for .709 acres from the developer.

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

Mr. Mandrake: The Minister of Health thinks it is very, very coy to have been a paratrooper. Well, I am a proud paratrooper, not like him. He is sitting here all this time—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Order.

Mr. Mandrake: And he is—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Order. I would like to remind the Honourable Member for Assiniboia this is not a time for debate, this is Question Period. The Honourable Member for Assiniboia, kindly put your final supplementary question now, please.

Mr. Mandrake: This Minister, Sir, authorized a land transfer of 3.351 acres in exchange for .709 acres from the developer. Would he tell us what was the actual cost to the developer for this land, and was this a fair market value for the land?

Mr. Albert Driedger: Mr. Speaker, I will check. Maybe I have answered that one as well.

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The time for Oral Questions has expired.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Hon. James McCrae (Government House Leader): Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable 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 Member for Burrows (Mr. Chornopyski) in the Chair for the Department of Co-operative, Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

CONCURRENT COMMITTEES OF SUPPLY SUPPLY—HEALTH

Mr. Chairman (Harold Gilleshammer): If you take your place we will call this meeting to order to consider the Estimates of the Department of Health.

When last we met we were dealing with item 4.(b) the Chief Provincial Psychiatrist: 4.(b)(1) Salaries, \$142,100—the Honourable Minister.

Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health): Mr. Chairman, before we carry on with debate in Mental Health Estimates, I have one question that was taken regarding nursing vacancies.

A nursing vacancy survey by the Manitoba Health Services Commission, in co-operation with Manitoba Health, the Manitoba Association of Registered Nurses and Manitoba Education, is conducted on a monthly basis. All facilities over 50 beds, the Department of Health, Health and Welfare Canada, schools of nursing, and the Mental Health centres are included in the survey.

* (1430)

This survey provides information on the number of EFT positions; the number of vacant positions and vacancy rate by facility, by bed size and by region; the number of EFT positions and the number of vacancies by type of position, by region, by type of position, by facility; the number of EFT positions and number of vacancies by type of position, by facility; and the number of same vacancies as previous month by facility.

A substantial amount of staff time is required for follow-up in order to obtain information from all the facilities. Therefore the survey results tend to be delayed by three to six months. The most recent available results are for March, 1989. More recent results will be available in approximately three weeks.

The present nursing vacancy rates by nursing category March 31, 1989, are, in terms of the category of administration, 3.8 percent; general duty RN, 3.2 percent; general duty RPN, .3 percent; general duty LPN, 1.2 percent, for a total vacancy rate of 2.8 percent across the system.

Mr. Gulzar Cheema (Kildonan): Last week when we were discussing that, I think we were at Mental Health Clinical. Now does the Minister wish to go back to Chief Provincial Psychiatrist so we could ask him some specific questions?

Mr. Orchard: I believe we are on that item right now, Chief Provincial Psychiatrist, so questions would be most appropriate.

Mr. Chairman: We are on item 4.(b)(1).

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Chairperson, can the Minister of Health tell us, and maybe he could ask the Chief Provincial Psychiatrist, what specific recruitment measures have they taken? Since we do not have many psychiatrists in Canada who are willing to come to Manitoba, what have they done to recruit people outside this country, and what is the rate of their success, and can he table that?

Mr. Orchard: Well, we have discussed this, in part or in full, over the past number of days that we have debated Health Estimates. We have discussed it to some degree in Research and Planning when we were dealing with that at the start of the Estimates, more recently, in terms of this specific section of the Estimates.

Manitoba, I believe, has led in the federal-provincial committee to develop strategies to overcome the psychiatrist shortage. That is an initiative that Manitoba has put before our federal-provincial conferees. I believe the officials committee is to report to the Deputy Ministers by December of this year.

As I mentioned earlier on, the Canadian Psychiatric Association annual national convention was in Newfoundland and for the first time the province and the association hosted a short reception. During that reception aspects of career practice in Manitoba were discussed, as one could understand, with a number of Canadian and even American psychiatrists who were present at the convention. That initiative alone has led to discussions on a fairly serious basis with one individual.

We recently, within the last number of months, interviewed all of Saskatchewan's psychiatric residents in an effort to present to them opportunities in psychiatry in Manitoba. A specific selling point there of course was entry into or description of our Career Residency Program to possibly encourage some interest from current psychiatric residents in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Chairman, that is some of the initiatives that we have undertaken in the last little while.

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Chairperson, as the Chief Provincial Psychiatrist is responsible for co-ordinating the head of the psychiatry units both in the City of Winnipeg and the rural centres, can the Minister indicate to us what specific measures are being taken?

This is not an uncommon situation to have over the weekend when you cannot have an acute-care bed, and at times the patients have to stay in the observation unit even when they need an acute-care bed. In many cases the patient may have to transfer from one place to another and that is not only causing substantial stress to the patient and the families, but I think it is draining the tax dollars. The assessments are being duplicated, because when one patient is transferred to the other hospital at the time the assessment is made again, and

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there is involvement of the time factor, the emergency departments of two hospitals are innovatively involved.

What specific initiatives have been taken in the past one and a half years to make sure that there is uniformity and the availability of the vacancy of the beds in a central system where the residents on call or the psychiatrist on call can phone in and find it out so that the time can be saved?

This is my second question. At times the patients are brought into the emergency rooms on a warrant by the police. At times the police do not phone the hospital units and they bring those patients, and that is again causing this same situation. What is being done or what will be done to make sure that the police are also informed almost on a daily basis about the bed vacancy in various hospitals, so that there is not a duplication of services, No. 2, there is not stress to the patient, and No. 3, that the care can be given at the earliest time possible?

Mr. Orchard: Specifically in terms of the availability of acute treatment beds, Dr. Wightman, at the Health Sciences Centre, has recently accepted the role of co-ordinating the psychiatric bed situation each day so that we attempt to avoid the type of circumstances that my honourable friend has just described. Mr. Chairman, that of course was part of the reason for the initiative with the Salvation Army in the establishment of the eight-bed crisis stabilization unit at the Salvation Army. That is an intermediate care facility, intermediate level care facility which we hope will reduce the demand on the acute-care facilities. In addition to that, some initiatives in terms of the reform of the Mental Health system have concentrated on a more enhanced level of capability within the community.

Some of the initiatives that emanated from the reform of the Mental Health Division within the department and the commission in the subsequent \$900-plus thousand that was dedicated to six community based projects. In part, some of those are designed particularly in the City of Winnipeg to provide additional support and early intervention in the community. Some of the earlier identification of problems and some of the earlier, if you will, community-based resolution of those problems will, we fully expect, reduce maybe attempt of admission to an acute care bed at some two or three weeks down the road should the individual's difficulty be essentially unintended.

Mr. Chairman, I say to my honourable friend that a number of initiatives are under way. In terms of the recruitment effort, let us not forget about the attempt at salary enhancement that was made, and I think with some success.

We have, I believe, the latest number of increased psychiatrists who are now practising in the Province of Manitoba. To some degree that has been stimulated, I think, by an overall activity that it is a balance of an obvious desire to reform the system, that Mental Health is a priority of Government, it is a recognition in part of the need for competitive salaries which the \$10,000 annual would allow us to reflect in terms of our recruitment efforts.

I think we are seeing some reasonably positive signs. We have increased the number of actively practising psychiatrists in the last two years, primarily in the last 18 months by 15. It is starting to show some effects, but I simply say to my honourable friend, there is no overnight and easy solution. We are working on it in a number of fronts, inclusive of focusing the issue of recruitment and training at the national level in terms of us leading the committee which will report to the Deputys this December.

* (1440)

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Chairperson, the Minister has not responded to my second major question in regard to when the patients are brought by warrant by the police. They are brought to the various emergency rooms and when they come there, most of the time if their bed is not available they have to be transferred to another unit. I think that is unfair to the police and unfair to the staff because assessments will be made on a repetitive basis. What is being done to make sure that the police have knowledge of where the beds are available in the city?

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Chairman, that is exactly the kind of function that is envisioned with Dr. Wightman's involvement from the HSC to co-ordinate where acute treatment beds are available for such emergency requests for admission. Hopefully that will identify the kind of difficulties that my honourable friend has identified.

Mr. Cheema: Those difficulties are well-known to, I am sure, Dr. Wightman and also to the head of the emergency department and to the Chief Provincial Psychiatrist. What I am saying is we are dealing with one side of the clinical people who are involved with the patients, and secondly, the police force who bring these patients on a warrant signed by either the family physician or by a psychiatrist. They bring these patients to the emergency rooms and at times we do not have a bed available. So in that way I think it will be an excellent idea to have communication from Dr. Wightman's office to the police force and set up a committee so that the duplication of services can be avoided, and also the patients are given the best possible treatment as early as possible. That is not being done at present.

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Chairman, to correct my honourable friend, that is the purpose of Dr. Wightman's involvement and there is communication twice daily to the City of Winnipeg police to indicate where there are acute care beds available but that does not prevent people coming in on their own as well as the occasional instance where the police have brought an individual to a hospital where the communication was there would not be a bed available. But that is exactly the direction that we are attempting to achieve with Dr. Wightman's committee, inclusive of communication as to where beds are available.

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Chairperson, not only the police force and the psychiatrists are probably not aware of this

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committee. I think the primary care physician and some of the social workers and also the mental health worker are not aware of this committee. I think there has to be some communication developed to let them know that we have a committee where the information can be provided so that the patient can be sent to the institution where they have an acute care bed available. Can the Minister confirm that?

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Chairman, beds are very highly protected by all of the institutions and this is a fairly innovative first step to have Dr. Wightman co-ordinate the availability of supplies for all of the hospitals across the system. I think it is a pretty significant indication of the kind of atmosphere of co-operation that is out there between the facilities.

As my honourable friend knows, having direct involvement in the system from time to time, those available beds are a very precious guarded commodity at each institution but this is a very real and I think a very positive step toward bringing some co-ordination of the system together with Dr. Wightman being, as I say, in daily communication with her confreres throughout the system as heads of psychiatry at the various hospitals.

All I can say to my honourable friend is the observations he is making today have been recognized and this is a very significant remedial action that is being undertaken with Dr. Wightman and in co-operation with Dr. Rodgers, the Chief Provincial Psychiatrist, in the Mental Health Division.

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Chairperson, one very practical difficulty and I am sure in one hospital, and maybe in other hospitals, is that the observation units do not keep patients who are either suicidal or on a suicidal observation, and that poses a lot of difficulty for the emergency staff and that is true for Seven Oaks Hospital. I am sure the Chief Provincial Psychiatrist is aware of that. In that situation, if the patient has to be kept in an emergency room for six to eight or one day it is very difficult.

So can the Minister find an alternate solution to this problem because there should be some mechanism to accommodate these patients? For example, if we do not have a bed in the whole city and there are no other alternatives available, to send some patients home or dislocate one patient from one unit to another which is not uncommon but at times when we have no such alternatives the patients are kept in the emergency rooms and that causes a lot of difficulty for the emergency staff.

So what will be done from this Minister's office to ensure the adequate protection to these patients and to the emergency staff or the reallocation of some of the extra resources, if need be, are given to those institutions?

Mr. Orchard: My honourable friend again is identifying a problem within the mental health system. That is probably one of the easiest jobs of a critic. There are difficulties that are in the system and will continue to be in the system. However, those difficulties are

recognized and they are being addressed on almost all fronts of difficulties in terms of psychiatric and mental health services.

The issue of suicide was very specifically addressed in terms of the Suicide Information Centre. The focus group there has tended to be youth, but suicide information is valuable to all care givers, and that was a significant recognition of suicide as a growing social problem that the Mental Health Division ought to and Government ought to address.

Mr. Chairman, we are simply not going to resolve all of those difficulties overnight, but we are taking significant steps, significant strides. I point out to my honourable friend, the last time we met and discussed Estimates was Thursday of last week.

That was the first day of a kickoff of a three-day seminar, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, with among the major focuses being suicide, mental health problems, suicide amongst Natives, adolescent Natives, a very significant first step in terms of creating a cultural awareness of what may be underlying these problems and driving people to the decision of taking their own lives as adolescents in the Native Community.

I simply say to my honourable friend the problem is recognized, and the problem is one of many that we are moving on, not only in terms of active recruitment of staff when resources are available as well as proactively investigating whether there are better ways that we can approach the issue in terms of the utilization of the resource.

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Chairperson, I would agree with the Minister that a definite number of initiatives have been taken, but my question is very specific. When one patient is certified, if that individual is suicidal and if we do not have a bed in the whole city and we do not have another alternate facility, that patient—in certain situations like Seven Oaks Hospital you cannot keep that patient in the observation unit. That is their regulation, so in that situation it causes a problem not only for the patient but for the observation staff, and each staff gives their own reasons.

What specific steps can be taken or will the Minister take to ensure that the adequate resources are available to handle such situations?

Mr. Orchard: My honourable friend, I recognize, understands the problem. The problem did not just pop up like a mushroom overnight, and some of the things that we are doing are inclusive of earlier intervention in the community which is a positive step, because then hopefully the person never gets to the emergency ward and never needs a bed in a facility.

We are working with the development of intermediate placement opportunities like the Salvation Army, which could include someone with suicidal tendencies in the hospitals as an intermediate step, because all of these approaches I believe over the longer haul ought to result in a lesser demand of acute care facilities.

In the meantime until they are effective and doing their job, We have from time to time, not all the time

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but from time to time with individuals, a circumstance where they are in an observation ward suicidally inclined and do not have the opportunity for placement.

* (1450)

In circumstances like that, some hospitals have chosen to provide direct staff support to the individuals so that they do not have the opportunity to be left alone to further contemplate suicide. That appears to be quite helpful in replacing the bed, and maybe that is more light at the end of a tunnel than making beds available, but making people available.

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Chairperson, as long as the Minister is aware of the problem and they will address this specific issue, I am satisfied. I do understand the problems. Most of them are not going to disappear overnight. I think some of them have to have immediate attention, because it will just take one person. That actually happened a few years ago out of one hospital, and that is why that hospital refused to keep a patient who was suicidal in the observation unit. That would be disastrous. I am just questioning the Minister.

Mr. Chairperson, my next question is about the Mental Health subcommittee of the Health Network. The question is: when will the Mental Health subcommittee to the Health Advisory Committee be established, and who will be the members chosen on that committee? I apologize if that information has already been given. Maybe I did not read that.

Mr. Orchard: It is in the process of being established, and to date I have not been advised of the make-up and who will be on the subcommittee, but that will be publicly announced when established. We intend to have some quite broad representation again, not only of professionals but of the various agencies and service delivery consumers.

We certainly want to try to balance urban and rural representation on the committee, because the issues are approached substantially different and resourced substantially different, rural versus urban, particularly the City of Winnipeg urban. We also want to attempt to have some representation from the ethnic and multicultural groups on the subcommittee. That is in the process of being formed, and I will report to my honourable friend directly when the subcommittee is established.

Mr. Cheema: We are definitely satisfied with that answer, because it is extremely important to have the consumer groups, the family groups and representation from the broad section of the community rather than one or two groups. Certainly there has to be representation from the rural community as well as northern and Native communities. I think it is extremely important for the delivery of mental health care to have input from each and every group, because mental health crosses all the barriers. I think it is crucial for us to have representation from each and every group. Can the Minister of Health tell us how the regional and provincial advisory committee on Mental Health will be laid, and how will they actively be co-ordinated?

Mr. Orchard: My honourable friend is referring to the recently set up regional councils. They are quite new, I think it is fair to say, quite excited about the prospects, because they have never before had the opportunity to participate in a cross section of membership such as currently is on the regional councils. The membership has not been chosen by Government. Membership has been chosen basically by the mental health community itself, which is I think a significant initiative and a significant step on the "empowerment" of the community in terms of addressing their own needs. The regional, and my understanding is the provincial committee will report to the ADM's office and receive substantial co-ordination and guidance through the executive director of programs.

Mr. Chairman: Shall the item pass—pass; item 4.(b)(2) Other Expenditures \$39,700.00—pass.

Item 4.(c) Mental Health Programs: Provides for the planning and development of a comprehensive, balanced and integrated provincial mental health program with emphasis on Prevention, Clinical and Rehabilitation. Provides for standards and evaluation techniques within the mental health system.

Item 4.(c)(1) Salaries, \$68,000.00—the Member for Kildonan.

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Chairperson, can the Minister of Health give us the name of the external agencies funded under mental health programs?

Mr. Orchard: Saved by the person with all the answers. The Canadian Mental Health Association, Manitoba Division—do you want the 1989-90 requests? Canadian Mental Health Association, Manitoba Division last year received \$55,000 and this year have requested \$69,500.00. Manitoba Mental Health Research Foundation received I think \$15,000 last year—no, the money did not flow last year, did it—oh, it did, okay—and will receive 15,000 again this year. The Society of Self-help Incorporated will receive \$25,000 this year.

Again, I just want to tell my honourable friend that this is a maximum budgetary allowance, and they have to indicate to qualify for the maximum amount that they have spent the monies in accordance with their projections and their plans during the past year.

Sara Riel Incorporated \$481,000, a fairly significant increase in the request here, because last year's was just under \$390,000; Manitoba Friends of Schizophrenics Incorporated \$161,600 this year, up from 154,600 last year; Eden Residential Care Services Incorporated 147,100 request this year, \$140,800 last year; the Canadian Mental Health Association Westman Region 440 House will receive \$132,300, up from \$126,600 last year; and the CMHA Winnipeg Region will receive \$215,600, up from \$193,900 last year.

Community Housing Alternatives will receive \$77,000, and I do not have a final actual figure, but that was the adjusted vote that they had last year. Residence Langevin Incorporated will receive \$23,700, a thousand dollars more than last year; and the YMHA Jewish Community Centre of Winnipeg will receive \$36,600

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compared to \$35,000 last year. The North YM-YWCA will receive \$84,200 in terms of their request this year, whereas last year they received \$80,600.00. Community Therapy Services \$116,000 of their request this year compared to \$111,000 for last year, and the Salvation Army, The Haven, \$108,800 compared to \$104,100.00. In terms of the Manitoba Mental Health Research Foundation, I was correct. Last year there was an appropriation which did not flow of \$15,000 and the same amount of money is being made available this year.

* (1500)

Then there are some additional monies that have been approved since the preparation of this grant list and that is an additional \$60,000 to the Canadian Mental Health Association, Manitoba Division, in terms of their activities in developing the alternatives program. So that is an additional \$60,000 to the CMHA, Manitoba Division. The CMHA, Winnipeg Division, received \$8,500 in terms of support for their development of the Network Committee on Mental Health and for the first time—and that is a new support funding to the CMHA, Winnipeg Division. Also new is a \$12,500 education support funding grant for the first time to the Society for Depression and Manic Depression in Manitoba.

Also, we have provided \$6,000 to the Canadian Mental Health Association, Manitoba Division, in terms of to help them have more ability to encourage citizen, consumer participation on the empowerment of the individual support of \$6,000 to help them encourage that initiative which we think is a valuable long-term initiative.

Mr. Cheema: Can the Minister supply us with a photocopy, if it is possible now, for the various agencies so that we may have some questions on it?

Mr. Orchard: Yes. I think that was page XYZ of the large sheet of external agencies.

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Chairperson, I wanted to ask a question of the Minister. There is one group called the Winnipeg Chapter of Compassionate Friends Incorporated. This special group deals with parents and families of those who have lost children in recent times. This is a self-help organization which has been in Winnipeg for the last 12 years and has seen a tremendous growth and had a number of volunteers and people who are putting in their time, but this particular organization had difficulty having access to any of the external agencies fund.

I have given in information, and I will share with the Minister that they have gone to the City of Winnipeg, they have gone through Community Services and also from the Minister of Family Services but, unfortunately, they are not getting anywhere. I think if you look at their whole structure and how they provide services to a number of individuals in a time of grief and how they share with each other, and not only are they giving the families support but also saving tax dollars because if they do not provide them services people will end up in the hospital and in the doctors' offices which will have a tremendous amount of cost to taxpayers.

I would give the Minister of Health the information provided to me by the chairperson of the organization and I will ask him to review it and make a decision. I think it will be worthwhile to help these individuals. It is not advocating for a special group. We are asking to help these individuals who have gone through grief and unfortunate circumstances with no fault of their own, but they need some help and I think they are doing tremendous work.

Mr. Orchard: I accept my honourable friend's comments because I am acquainted with—now I do not know whether it is members of the specific group that my honourable friend has just indicated, but certainly parents who are grieving from loss, particularly of children. Certainly by their very existence they offer incredible support to bereaved parents particularly.

Mr. Chairman, I have nothing but praise and accolades for people who lead organizations like this. They provide to the community a needed service, they are very, very supportive and they know how to provide that kind of support because with few exceptions, each person involved has gone through the bereavement of a family member, a child. They can lead the newly bereaved parents almost step by step through the various reactions and emotional reactions to the unfortunate circumstances that the family faces; and from that standpoint, probably are as helpful as any group can be to parents outside of the formal health care system and formal and professional help.

In a lot of ways the support they can offer is so touchingly unique because of the experience they have faced themselves that in some ways they provide support that cannot be provided by Government, hence I think it is fair to say, the existence of the group.

Mr. Chairman, we have, as my honourable friend might well appreciate, a number of requests from self-help groups who wish to access themselves of financial support from Government, primarily just to undertake a central office function. Those requests are given quite serious consideration and of course have led us to some positive decisions in that regard with some of the operational programs that I just mentioned to my honourable friend, \$60,000 to the Canadian Mental Health Association, the Friends of Depression and Manic Depression, et cetera.

We have not made any decision or no decision has been recommended to me on this organization's request. I cannot indicate to my honourable friend even the status of whether there is a formal request before us at this stage of the game. I will just simply say to my honourable friend, I guess past demonstration is an indication of the future. We have seriously considered some modest funding support to these types of groups and will consider seriously future requests.

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Chairperson, I thank the Minister for the answer. This issue was brought to my attention about four to five weeks ago and they have given me their whole file which indicates they have approached the City of Winnipeg, they have talked to some of their local M.P.s and they have talked to the Minister of Family Services (Mrs. Oleson).

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Their request is very reasonable and I will provide a copy to the Minister. If you go through the whole file, it is self-explanatory and the amount of work they are doing and the amount of money they are asking for in no way even matches that. I think we will save more tax dollars by providing this association funds. I have no doubt in my mind that will be a very valuable service. Certainly we could have raised this issue in a different way but I thought probably the best way was to go through Estimates and convince the Minister of Health and certainly request him to at least communicate with these people. I do not think they have received any communication through the Minister of Health yet, but certainly I think they will be very pleased to have any positive response or any consideration for the future. I will certainly convey to them that we have discussed this issue and I will send them the copies of the Hansards so that they know exactly what happened.

* (1510)

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Chairman, that is an entirely reasonable approach that my honourable friend has taken and befitting of his role as critic.

As I say, we have discussed within the ministry and with the Mental Health Division support to a number of groups, self-help groups, and as we can we have provided some modest assistance from Government. That is certainly an action in the past as an indication to the future.

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Chairperson, can the Minister of Health tell us how many new program initiatives have been put in place for the last 18 months under the Mental Health Promotion Branch?

Mr. Orchard: Are we finished with the Mental Health programs then?

Mr. Chairman: Item 4.(c)(1) Salaries—pass; (c)(2) Other Expenditures \$129,500—pass; (c)(3) External Agencies \$1,693,400—pass.

Item 4.(d) Mental Health Promotion: Provides for public education and preventive programs in mental health in co-operation with external agencies and community groups to promote a healthy emotional/psycho-social lifestyle; 4.(d)(1) Salaries \$207,100—the Member for Kildonan.

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Chairperson, can the Minister provide me the answer I asked in the previous section, now?

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Chairman, some of the initiatives in the new direction were in part answered yesterday, or not yesterday but, pardon me, Thursday, last day we sat.

One of the initiatives that I find to be a most exciting initiative, and I think over the long run may well tell us how we can very effectively utilize not unlimited resources one can expect of personnel and service delivery people within the regions as well as within the Mental Health Division, and I alluded to it briefly, I believe it was on Thursday of last week, about the unfortunate murder-suicide, the father and his family.

The Mental Health Division undertook an initiative that I thought was very, very progressive in terms of its approach to community assistance. As I understand the background, they sought advice from Edmonton for instance, from their confreres in Edmonton, as to how the community there had reacted to the devastating tornado. They found that there was a lot of trauma that needed counselling, intervention, advice, et cetera.

On the basis of that experience the division took a pro-active program to the community, to the schools, to help children of the same age group as the children whose lives were lost, and parents, teachers, counsellors in the school system, so that the community could talk about the tragedy and come to grips with why it happened, and to have maybe a better understanding, No. 1, but certainly no pent-up feelings and frustrations that could lead to anxieties, stress and problems down the road. That was, I think, a most pro-active and progressive intervention on the preventative side. In other words, on the Mental Health Promotion side, that similar activity has lead up to some interesting initiatives just recently and I will deal first of all in two areas primarily.

One of them is the forest fire initiative, or post-forest fire initiative, but one is very much ongoing right now in terms of assistance to the residents of Lynn Lake. Lynn Lake is facing a community crisis in terms of the potential closure—well, and I believe in fact, closure of the mine and that being the main economic engine in the community has a devastating effect on the community. As a result, we have people from both Selkirk and in Brandon in Lynn Lake. They have been in there since November 3 of this year and have provided 24-hour service. There are five people involved, three adult, and two child and adolescent mental health clinicians. Their services are being provided to Lynn Lake as part of Government's response to help the community adjust to a very stressful and anxious period of time, probably one of the more anxious periods of time that a number of the residents of that community will go through.

Now I think that is again a most pro-active and progressive approach to prevention, to the promotion of wellness in mental health. Again, and this is where I got into the discussion with my honourable friend the other day when we talked about the psychiatrists in Selkirk, all we asked of the psychiatrists was to assist us for three months in Brandon as civil servants, as employed staff, and they chose to put conditions to Government that we could not live with to accede to that request.

Now, had we followed my honourable friend's advice we would have caved in and it would have set an incredibly bad precedent because the individuals who are participating at Lynn Lake right now are doing so as employees of Government. It is part of their obligations that their jobs entail and they are doing it as professionals, as professionals in the Civil Service. They are not asking for an arm and a leg to do it, nor do they believe they should.

That is why I said to my honourable friend last week, if he knew the circumstances he would not be an advocate, as he and his Party have been in terms of

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the Selkirk situation because today we have, as I say, five workers at any particular time from the department in Lynn Lake. They are away from their family, they are away from their homes, they are away from their children, they are away from their routine jobs and there is no question their regular job commitments and assignments are being left unattended in part while they are there, but Government considered that was a priority to provide that assistance and the staff has done that willingly and very effectively. I simply say that is a new direction we are taking that we think is most effective.

* (1520)

In addition, we have a number of other areas but possibly my honourable friend might want to pose some more questions because I am not sure I am touching the kind of new initiatives that he wants to discuss.

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Chairperson, I think we did discuss some of the initiatives that will be involving the elderly, Natives and immigrant refugees. That was discussed on Thursday and I thought that was the place we would ask those questions.

Can the Minister of Health tell us, and particularly, what this Government is doing to remove the stigma attached with mental health illness? As we have seen recently, there was a cartoon in the Free Press and there was a much publicized case out of Newfoundland when the girl landed over there and there was a tremendous amount of cry from the mental health groups and that is right. There should not be any jokes or any kind of stigma attached to mental illness. That can only be done if the public is being educated about such illness. I am sure 25 to 30 percent of Manitobans do go through some kind of anxiety or stress at one time or other in their life. This is not uncommon and many people are afraid to admit they have a mental illness or they have difficulty in coping. What is this Government doing to remove that kind of stigma and to promote that you do not have to worry, you can discuss your problem and come forward?

Mr. Orchard: I would venture to say that has been the end goal of almost every initiative that we have undertaken in the last 18 months. The Canadian Mental Health Association, Manitoba Division, although I am unaware, I would assume that this is part of the national campaign that the Canadian Mental Health Association has, is Stop Stigma. The president, Bill Martin, provided me with probably one of the first posters of Stop Stigma, it is just coincidental we happened to be either meeting or I was down at their facility. That poster hung for many, many months, and I believe it is still in my office. It is highly visible to anyone who walks in the door. I mean, it is there.

In terms of the Stop the Stigma campaign, let us deal with some of the opportunities we have tried to create for greater understanding in the community. I think we have taken and essentially opened up the planning process of mental health significantly.

As we discussed earlier today, a subcommittee of the Health Advisory Network involving individuals who

are professionals, consumers, workers, volunteers right throughout the system will be part of that subcommittee. That builds upon a very direct initiative that we started in Dauphin as our first—I flew to Dauphin to make the announcement, I thought it was such a significant announcement. To me in many ways it was symbolic, because it built upon a direction that I suggested in these very committees when I was Opposition Critic, of how we bring mental health services more to the community.

I use specifically the example of Dauphin as an area that we could undertake community based projects, the multidisciplinary team approach and enhancement of that level of service.

It was only fitting that when we announced the enhancement project that was part of the six projects under the reorganization, the monies freed up through reorganization, we also announced and had lunch with the first regional mental health council in the history of the province. A council as I say to my honourable friend was not hand picked by the Minister, it was chosen in the Parklands region through substantive discussion and has individuals as members of that committee that are both consumers and professional service deliverers.

We talked about this last week on Thursday. There is always risk to empowerment of the individuals. I am willing to take that risk, because as I have said before, I sincerely believe that individuals who I have had discussions with over a four- to five-year period of time are not understating the situation where they sincerely believe there is a better way for Government to approach. They are not saying spend more resource, pour more money into the system. They are saying use your money more appropriately. I sincerely believe that they can guide us as we reform the mental health system in Manitoba.

The regional Mental Health councils, I think, offer a vehicle of pretty reasonable input to that whole reform process, because all of them understand there is not a spending power involved and they are not there to be advocates of more spending in their region, but rather more intelligent resource allocation throughout the system.

Almost every initiative we have taken in Mental Health is to bring mental health up into the forefront as a health issue of one we are serious about attempting to bring a better level of service, a greater involvement of community and professional and consumer alike in terms of the decision making.

All of it is focused around that it is not to be hidden, that one may have either a chronic or indeed a temporary relapsing mental illness problem that needs assistance, maybe from the community in some instances, and maybe inclusive of assistance from some formal support or administered program of Government, that mental illness is yet another challenge to the health care system.

We are prepared to address that challenge and to make people comfortable with talking about mental illness as an issue. We are not, by any means, leaders

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in that as Government, because I think the Canadian Mental Health Association, this has been their primary role and focus for all the years I have had anything to do with them. We are really building upon their years of work and initiative.

To indicate to my honourable friend yet another initiative in terms of removing the stigma—I think my honourable friend would have received, and if he has not he will very shortly, an invitation, which I have sent to all Members of the Legislature inviting them to a play that I am hosting in the Legislature here on December 15, I believe. Well, it is after the Session is up.

The play is called "There is No Shame." It is sponsored primarily by the Manitoba Division, Canadian Mental Health Association. There are a number of diverse actors and professionals involved in the production of that. Its sole focus is to remove the stigma.

I hope my honourable friend can attend and as many of his caucus Members as well, because I think it would be most enlightening for all of us to enjoy the production first off, but more importantly to understand the meaning behind the production and to receive a greater level of awareness and personal knowledge. I would encourage honourable friends' participation.

Mrs. Gwen Charles (Selkirk): Mr. Chairperson, because of the importance of this area I would like to add some comments on the record. The Minister last week was trying to explain how important the \$12,000 was that his department had handed over to the society depression and manic depressives.

I appreciate the Minister's difficulty in trying to define how much that little bit was and certainly support his dedication to making Mental Health an issue in this Government.

I would like to—as a past depressive in my teenage years was severely depressed and now am speaking at many of the meetings on depression and supporting various self-help groups on depression—I would like to encourage the Minister and his department to do all they can to focus in on mental health awareness.

I guess the comment that was just made, that in essence handing over a lot of the responsibilities to Canadian Mental Health Association, I would like the Minister to elaborate upon that, because I feel it will always take the leaders in the community to bring awareness to any program.

Perhaps self-help groups are not the best ones to always come out in an awareness campaign, and the general public tends to write them off as a self-interest group, but when someone from outside of the interest area says this is important and points out how much money can be saved, in the very tangible terms of what can be saved financially—and that is not speaking even of how many lives are saved or how much a person's competence can be saved and keeping people in the work force—could the Minister elaborate on where Government can perhaps take more, and will take more, of a role in making awareness, and not, as I am sure he was saying, leaving it completely up to CMHA but perhaps where their partnership will come into play.

* (1530)

Mr. Orchard: Well, I guess it is by demonstration as much as anything, because I have on several occasions, in terms of media interviews for instance if you will, stolen the theme of "stop the stigma," because I think it—and they are not my words, it is not my original coining of a saying—but it addresses, in much more understandable and lucid terms, what we are trying to do as Government.

I want to tell my honourable friend I appreciate the support that she has indicated, because Mental Health is one of the most difficult of the Health issues to come around. It used to be that you simply did not talk about it if someone in the family maybe had some difficulties, and you sort of hoped it would go away. I do not know what the circumstances were. We used certainly descriptive language that simply would not be used today, even 15 or 20 years ago.

We openly discuss and talk about the issue. I think that is all very, very healthy and very, very helpful in terms of assistance, because one of the greatest, I think—and I speak from naivety here more than anything—one of the greatest assets toward support of people with mental illness is just simply understanding, not ostracization, or whatever that word is, but simply understanding and even a friendly approach to the individual in a formal or informal circumstance. That probably was not possible even a decade ago, or was not considered to be a normal approach. That is not the case today.

If we can do anything as Government—and I guess this is why I have made the commitment not only in Opposition but also in Government to try and provide some small amount of assistance and leadership in terms of echoing the message that the Canadian Mental Health Association has brought forward, in terms of their approach to community involvement and community understanding of the issues of mental health, because they are very complex issues.

I think Government has been a partner—well, formally or informally, it does not have to be a written agreement by any means—with the Canadian Mental Health Association in attempting to further the removal of barriers and stigma and to increase the understanding.

Now, I have to tell you—and I am speaking personally here—that in the last four to five years I have found members of the Canadian Mental Health Association, Manitoba Division, to be most helpful. They are willing to take time out almost any time to discuss the issues, to discuss approach, and it is not always—you know there are times when we each play devil's advocate with each other to test out ideas and to test out approach in what will work and will not work.

I think it is fair to say that in the past year, year and a half, that we have had a very, very good working relationship with the Canadian Mental Health Association, Manitoba division, at the departmental level. I think it is fair to say, and maybe I am being overly optimistic, but I think there has been more open and more direct and more valued communication and consultation between my department and the Canadian

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Mental Health Association in the last year to year and a half than ever before. I think that is healthy. It helps us each to achieve our respective goals which are in many, many, many cases exactly the same.

Although we do not have a campaign that the Canadian Mental Health Association has, we certainly do have the support that we provide for them in terms of their initiatives and their direction in terms of removing the stigma from the issue of mental health.

Mrs. Charles: Could the Minister indicate whether his department is working with other departments, in particular the Department of Education, to make Mental Health awareness a discussion topic in the schools so that children and teenagers and even adult school attendees will have the opportunity to realize that they have as much right to mental health as they do to physical health?

Mr. Orchard: I have to apologize to my honourable friend, I was back and forth with the executive director. I am sorry, I missed the question.

Mrs. Charles: Basically it was, is this department, in consultation with any other departments, especially the Department of Education, in making the topic of Mental Health awareness part of the program for the students themselves, not just for the caregivers, as I was saying, making it very obvious to everyone that mental health is as much a right as physical well-being?

Mr. Orchard: Yes, we have an interdepartmental committee for instance with both Education and Family Services to help develop several aspects of program. One, for instance, is a treatment education program for six- to 10-year-old children with a tendency to occasional violent behaviour, to try to understand that phenomenon and try to provide educators and guidance counsellors with some better methods of assisting those children and understanding the uniqueness of their problems.

We have specific consultation with Seven Oaks School Division and Child and Family Services Northwest in the development of a suicide protocol. That is part of the suicide prevention initiatives that we started about six or eight months ago.

If I can follow up on that, that is with Seven Oaks in particular, but we have consultation with Winnipeg School Divisions on what might be an appropriate model or what might be an appropriate make-up of a crisis response program for adolescent suicide as well as other situations of trauma. We have ongoing consultation with Winnipeg School Division No. 1 specifically for the development of crisis teams for all the schools in Winnipeg 1 and the training of the team members.

Let me follow up with a little more information in terms of the Suicide Prevention Intervention Network, that is SPIN, acronym SPIN. Again, it is a volunteer organization made up of representatives from our division, from Winnipeg School Division No. 1, and U of M, Grace, Department of Education, MATC, and Health Sciences Centre. Basically SPIN is providing

increased professional and public knowledge of the circumstances around youth suicide and the issues involved in youth suicides. They have undertaken a number of presentations to both school staff and students, the school staff being not only the teaching staff but of course, as one would expect, counsellors and other guidance individuals, and have conducted two-day workshops on youth suicide prevention, intervention and postvention. Then of course as I mentioned just Thursday, Friday, Saturday of this past week, the two-and-a-half-day workshop on Native youth suicide prevention, because as we discussed Thursday of last week, Native adolescent suicide rates are significantly a multiple higher than what they are for any other group of Manitobans and we put some specific focus there.

That is our co-ordination with SPIN, but the Youth Suicide Information Centre was one of the six pilot projects that we announced last fall with the reorganization and reform of the Mental Health Division. It is now up and running. Again, we are providing public and professional education to the schools, to students, the general public, on how to recognize and deal with youth suicide.

We have undertaken several initiatives all aimed hopefully at addressing in a pro-active way the issue of youth suicide. We are doing it in partnership, if you will, with a number of organizations and with particular emphasis on direct and close work with the Department of Education and a number of the school divisions and the professionals involved in the education system.

* (1540)

Mr. Steve Ashton (Thompson): I did want to make a few comments in this very important area. I echo the comments in terms of awareness because I think the key to success of any community-based effort in the mental health field is going to be not just putting programs into place, not even just having the advisory committees in place, but is community support. I do believe that there has been an improvement in recent years in this particular field, and it is because of the activities of the CMHA and other organizations in promoting awareness.

I would want to stress that I do see a bit of a dilemma in this particular area in that in other areas of health we have moved to a significant increase in health promotion. I realize there are other functions of this particular department that will deal with that and the outside funded organizations are very involved with that. I do believe that promotion in this area is key. It is key in an institutional sense.

There is a tie-in in terms of the level of institutionalization in my opinion with the fact that until recently the stigma has been there. There have been very few promotional programs in place, very few community-based alternatives. As much as there has been a shift to the community-based system in recent years, I do believe that institutional dynamic is still very much there. I do believe it will remain that way until there is a greater level of community support. I believe it is building.

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I note in conversations that people have been involved in the regional area. They do notice a significant difference. I do not think we can underestimate the existing stigma that is out there in terms of society as a whole in terms of mental illness. It is imbedded right into our language. You just have to listen to kids in school. Some of the worst insults that can be thrown at individuals are of this particular nature. It is something that is ingrained in our upbringing.

I noted for example in the last committee hearings the Member for The Pas (Mr. Harapiak) asked questions in terms of youth and Native youth and programs in that particular area. That is where I have seen perhaps some of the greatest frustration as a Member of the Legislature, as a public official talking to people in communities that have been devastated by youth suicide.

The sad part is as much as we often like to think that if it could only be identified before and treatment could be put into place, that is not effective in that situation because many of the young people who committed suicide, many of the Native people in particular, were in fact opposite to the kind of character profile people would expect. It is always the quiet ones, that is the comment that I have heard time and time again from people in the Native communities that I visited, the elders who I have talked to and that is what is so devastating. It is always the quiet ones.

In fact, it is often not the kids who are in trouble the most because in an ironic way the kids who are in trouble for other reasons do have at least some access to some supports that do exist within the system. I think one of the biggest problems in particular in terms of Native youth is the stigma, the internalized stigma that exists. The people who do have problems in the mental illness area first of all do not recognize it and even if they do recognize it they are essentially brought up as part of their society to deny that there is a problem. To admit that there is a mental illness problem is just absolutely beyond many of the people in the communities in general, in society. It is more concentrated particularly in some of the outlying communities, and that has to be devastating.

I believe that once again we end up back into the situation where even if we have a more community-based system in terms of treatment, identification of problems, et cetera, we still are not going to be able to deal with the situation facing many youngsters in the community generally, and particularly in the Native communities because they do not have readily identifiable symptoms.

I have talked to teachers who have taught students who have committed suicide and that is the one thing they have said, there was virtually no indication prior to what happened that there was even a problem. Often the case is that the problem itself would be—the alleged reason behind the suicide would be almost minor to an outside individual. It is not an event triggered situation which to my mind indicates there was a deeper-seeded problem, a much deeper-seeded problem.

I do believe that is where, when we are talking about Health Care Promotion, that we do need to pay a

significant amount of attention to as well, and that is in the mental health care field. I am not trying to take away in any way, shape, or form from the work that is done by outside organizations or the work that is done with this particular section of the department. I do believe if we are going to get to the root of some very specific problems, the more general problem being the stigma, the Minister I think quite eloquently outlined in his comments, I think it is going to require a significant increase in terms of promotion starting right in the schools.

I do not believe that there is a promotion of mental health issues and concerns in the schools to the extent that there should be. I believe one only has to talk, in fact, I know one only has to talk to kids of whatever age to see that is exactly what is happening in the school system. I do not really notice much difference amongst the kids anyway in terms of their perception of what a mental illness is than when I was in school. I am sure it is the case for other Members of this committee in terms of when they were in school.

I do believe we should be—perhaps not directly through this department but through the Department of Education and some of its functions and through the individual school boards, in the schools promoting an awareness of mental health care issues. I would like to ask the Minister to the extent to which there is any liaison with other departments in particular the Department of Education in terms of mental health care issues.

I do know we are getting into the Department of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services in a few minutes, or a few hours I guess, whenever we do get to the next section. I am particularly interested in the tie-in with the schools in terms of the promotional side and particularly given not just some of the issues I have touched on but also the very real and growing recognition of problems in terms of child abuse, which does have very significant mental health ramifications.

I would like to ask the Minister what liaison there is with the Department of Education in terms of mental health promotion in the schools and in particular in terms of child abuse.

* (1550)

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Chairman, our co-ordination with the Department of Education is, as I indicated in my last answer to I believe the Member for Selkirk (Mrs. Charles), in terms of working with education and working with school divisions. Primarily the emphasis often there is on the suicide issue as a specific, narrow and more focused issue but there is a significant portion of activity.

Let me offer my honourable friend a couple of more things because he mentioned the Native mental health issues in suicide. I only had one copy of the recently developed activity book and I would like to give copies, we have got enough copies for every MLA that is here today. This to me is an ideal use of resource in terms of dealing in a very, very direct and understandable way with a traumatic issue like the forest fires were to northern Manitoba.

It starts out by talking about how fires are good and you have a youngster out in front of a little wee bonfire warming his hands, or her hands, I do not know which. Then you have a candle showing some light, et cetera, and then there are four more opportunities to show, by drawing your own circumstances, where fires are good. Then it talks about when fires are sometimes bad and they can harm people, homes and forests and asks if you can think of other ways in which fires are harmful.

You know a Native youngster might be pretty upset because his father's trapline has been essentially destroyed, or the moose habitat is gone and the game is gone so they have to go quite a bit further, or a particular fishing spot may not be good for a year or two. The opportunity is there to express those sorts of feelings.

The pamphlet takes off through and then ends up with a large return fold-out section where individuals can create their own headline for their own thoughts and ideas on what that forest fire situation meant to them. Those are going to be subject to a return, a contest, and a use in terms of a display at a later date when they are returned.

The one thing I was particularly intrigued with was the effort of dealing directly with the evacuation efforts. They have an armed forces aircraft and a bus, and they have got great big window opportunities so children can draw either happy or sad faces depending on what their feelings were, in those windows. This is an excellent way to put to paper what your thoughts are and allow professionals to identify what some of the difficulties may be so that they can be dealt with in a professional way.

We are deemed, because of the work of Dr. Rodgers, to be one of the national leaders in terms of issues specific to Native mental health policy and programming. I think that is something that we all too often do not take, understand and give credit to individuals like Dr. Rodgers for their contribution nationally in that regard.

We have undertaken and had significant requests for specialized training packages from workers with a number of the band councils. The training package is designed really to introduce awareness, education, and support methodologies to many of these workers. Eighty-three of them in total have asked for and in part or whole received some specialized training on mental health as a specific issue affecting Natives, both northern and remote. We are undertaking a number of initiatives that I think are pro-active and very positive and I think will yield results over the longer haul.

Mr. Ashton: I am just wondering in terms of the child abuse area, what the activities are of the department. I realize it is an issue that cuts across various departments, obviously the Attorney General's Department in terms of the legal aspect, and obviously the Department of Education in terms of identification of suspected child abuse in the school system.

I am wondering if the department has any activities whatsoever in terms of child abuse particularly on the

promotional side. When I say promotional, I mean the education of children in terms of what child abuse is obviously, and the reporting of child abuse. Does the department have any role in this particular area?

Mr. Orchard: In terms of abuse as the specific issue, the role northern children's Mental Health workers are currently providing is assessment and treatment for both abuse victims, families and the offenders. They are providing consultation to other systems regarding mental health treatment and abuse, with school systems being an important component. Our staff are participating in child abuse teams, that is rural and northern initiatives and efforts.

In terms of Winnipeg we have an acute treatment and consultation team to provide assessment and brief treatment for abuse victims, families, and for the offenders again. There is the same kind of consultation services to other systems.

In the Mental Health Division we provide mental health input to the provincial Advisory Committee on Abuse. We serve as the resource centre in many ways to answer requests for information regarding abuse and mental health treatment.

At the regional co-ordinators' meeting this year, one of the issues that emerged was the desire by the regional co-ordinators to undertake a more leadership role, if you will, in the child abuse issue from the Mental Health Division. That was an issue brought forward by all co-ordinators in all regions and one being explored I think now. Obviously we cannot do it in isolation, we would provide that greater support and co-operation with the school system and family services.

Mr. Ashton: I would encourage that greater role because I do believe we have to move beyond identification and treatment into really promoting awareness in this particular area.

Just one final question and that is, the Minister outlined the provincial Advisory Committee on Abuse, I was wondering if he could perhaps, not necessarily now, but at some point in time provide a list of the individuals on that committee.

Mr. Orchard: Yes, can do.

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

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Chairperson, according to the 1987 Chief Medical Examiner's report, we have the third highest suicide rate in Canada. Can the Minister of Health tell us that in order to tackle the problem what evaluation study he has put in place or he will put in place to see which age group is most vulnerable for a suicide rate in Manitoba and each region? How are they going to start a special program to deal with that problem?

* (1600)

Mr. Orchard: That is a statistic we are well aware of. It is unfortunate that we achieved that third highest

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rating because as we discussed either last week, Thursday or Tuesday, Native suicides are significantly higher and drive our provincial average up to the third highest in Canada.

To attempt to come to grips with that issue, we have undertaken several initiatives. The first one of course was the Youth Suicide Information Centre as part of the six new community-based projects that were a part of the \$900-plus-\$1,000 freed up in the reorganization of the mental health system.

We are very pro-active in our support of SPIN as we have discussed earlier on and working with school divisions in terms of attempting to bring a greater level of awareness, identification and prevention activity to the school system as well. For many years the department has been involved with counselling bereaved family members in terms of a successful suicide so the department is not only attempting to provide assistance after the fact. Our efforts of recent, in the last 12 months in particular, have been very much focused on the prevention and education side so that if we could free up all of our staff from the post-suicide counselling role because there were no more suicides that would be ideal and have the efforts focused.

We are now focusing on education and prevention which of course is the goal, and very difficult to achieve I think my honourable friend would have to agree, but nevertheless a goal that I do not think anyone would disagree with in this House.

Mr. Cheema: According to the statistics here, the second highest rate for suicide is between the ages of 30 and 39. Can the Minister of Health tell us what special measures they have taken to reach that age group which is quite uncommon to have a suicide rate that high in that age group?

Mr. Orchard: If my honourable friend—and he has the information in front of him—will see that youth suicides are by far our greatest actual numbers of completions. A higher degree of attempt or discussion of suicide is probably amongst the youth.

Although the group that you have identified of 30 to 39 is an important group they are a more difficult group to reach because they are often independently functioning individuals who have some maturity and some skill in hiding the signs. Adolescents and youth are much more open and offer the signals much more readily.

Our focus in terms of suicide prevention is in creating an awareness of recognizing those signals when youth and adolescents are communicating them because I think—I do not know what the percent is but it is an extremely high percentage who communicate that, and in doing so are asking for help or asking for someone to reach out and touch them and give them the kind of support they want.

You are talking a very difficult phenomenon, 30 to 39, and I think again if there was a breakdown in terms of an identification of a specific group. Unfortunately I think our Native communities are quite a high percentage of that 30 to 39.

Mr. Cheema: The next group in the statistics is from age 50 to age 89 and different categories of 10 years. Total cases are: 14 from 50 to 59; nine from 60 to 69; eight cases from 70 to 79. That is about 24 cases with a very significant age group in the seniors. My question is, what specific programs, as far as the prevention is concerned, are put in place to deal with the seniors population that seems to be the next age group?

Mr. Orchard: I have to indicate that more emphasis to date has been specifically on the youth. If you can provide that support to a youth, the chances are very remote that they would be a suicidal 30- to 39-year-old or a suicidal senior. This is basing the program on those with the longest period of time in which they might consider such an act. Let us not overlook the fact that in terms of service delivery across the department in the regions and through our various institutions a significant amount of the multidisciplinary team approach and counselling to adults can provide education intervention and prevention programs.

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

I simply say to my honourable friend, I am not a practitioner. I am not a mental health expert or anything like that, but the signs are so much more difficult to identify amongst adult people because they are very much more difficult to detect. Hence, if they are more difficult to detect, they are certainly more difficult to provide preventive intervention.

Mr. Cheema: I think the Minister has not addressed the issue of the seniors here. From ages 50 to 89 there are about 24 deaths by suicide by a variety of reasons and this book does not really tell us whether those were because of overdose, hanging, strangulation, or use of other measures. I think this is a very significant area and it needs attention in terms of how the programs will be put in place to deal with the seniors population.

Mr. Orchard: I think my honourable friend was just making a comment.

Mr. Cheema: While we have this report on, last Friday I had a specific question for the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) during the Question Period that was in regard to the Brandon Mental Health Centre. After the inquest there were a few recommendations and one of the recommendations was that both front entrances of the centre should have panic bars and automatic buzzers which will activate the door when it is opened. One door had this kind of measure, but the other door did not have it and that was supposed to be put in place.

Can the Minister of Health tell us whether those—and there are two other recommendations: one also deals with them putting more observation during the off hours, and also providing an observation unit, observation place in the corridor while the patients are going out. Can the Minister confirm that those measures have been put in place or not?

Mr. Orchard: If the specific question is in terms of the security system on the front door, no, it has not been.

Mr. Cheema: I think it should be done as one of the recommendations. It does not really cost that much to

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put such a measure in place so a possible loss of life can be prevented. Can the Minister now direct his department to do that?

Mr. Orchard: I will even go you one better. We are currently undertaking a complete—a functional study they call it, of the Brandon Mental Health Centre. My honourable friend has been there, he will know that there has not been, for approximately 20 years, any new construction out there with the exception of this past summer.

I had the pleasure two weeks ago Friday to cut the ribbon on the new work activity area attached to the Brandon Mental Health Centre. That is the first new construction that has been undertaken in the centre for a number of years and is really an appropriate one in that it brings people in from the community who are placed in the community and gives them day work activity and training to lead, with some success already, to community employment. That is not the only issue, there is the security issue at Brandon Mental Health Centre but that is only one of several issues.

A number of the buildings need major repair, from repair of the roofs to fire code upgrading to air ventilation upgrading. As my honourable friend knows, those old buildings, some of them are dated circa 1900, are not centrally air-conditioned and in the summertime they are extremely hot.

In terms of reaction to that report though, rather than do the security aspect in terms of physical locks and other electronic wizardry, we have attempted to provide a greater supervisory ability there so the patients have more opportunity to be outside of the environment particularly in the summertime, outside the environment of the buildings with a greater degree of supervision so that hopefully we do not have circumstances such as what happened approximately three years ago.

* (16 10)

Without denigrating the issue at all to my honourable friend, it is a delicate balance in terms of allowing some patient freedom and movement. Again, you are not dealing with completely predictable reactions in those circumstances somewhere between absolute incarceration and complete freedom in the community. We try to walk that tightrope. In the majority it has been walked most successfully, but occasionally and unfortunately there is an incident that leads to renewed calls for security measures, et cetera.

Although appropriate, they may not always have prevented the incident that stimulated the report. That is an unfortunate reality of the institutional environment and the balance that you try to provide hopefully with some success. The functional study, to be kicked off, will certainly include the security aspect as one of the physical components of the facilities.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Helwer): The Member for Kildonan.

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Acting Chairperson, I certainly thank the Minister for that answer.

Out of a similar report there was one case, this was suicidal and this person was at Headingley Correctional Institute. There are four recommendations put forward by the Chief Medical Examiner and the second recommendation is the staff members at the correctional institutions should be certified in CPR.

Can the Minister tell us today, or maybe he can tell us tomorrow, whether that has been put in place? I think it is extremely important to have people trained in a basic life-supporting system, life-supporting skills, so that if there are any unfortunate circumstances the inmates can be helped.

Mr. Orchard: Well, Mr. Acting Chairman, we will get the specifics of the answer for my honourable friend. I know that there is a significant amount of staff at both centres, Brandon and Selkirk, who have that medical training and capability, but as to whether it extends to every member or not, I do not know. Were you talking Headingley there or not?

An Honourable Member: Headingley.

Mr. Orchard: Oh, I am sorry. I cannot answer for Headingley. Sorry.

Mr. Cheema: Then I think probably we will ask the question of the Minister of Justice (Mr. McCrae) then. I think that may be the right place then.

Mr. Orchard: No. Family Services.

Mr. Cheema: Family Services, okay.

Can the Minister of Health tell us where does he feel the role of psychologists are in the prevention of mental illness under this branch?

Mr. Orchard: I sense a trick question here from my honourable friend.

I want to tell my honourable friend that the services of psychologists in the mental health system are not only appreciated but highly valued and have been I think for some time.

There are a number of psychologists on staff throughout the institutions as well as the department. They provide us with excellent service and are an important part and component of what I have described. I would like to claim that it was a new idea of my own but it was not, but it is part of the multidisciplinary team approach to mental health issues wherein you encourage and utilize as appropriate the skills of various professionals trained in the issues of mental health. Psychologists certainly are utilized in that regard and valued in that regard by the ministry.

Mr. Cheema: We all know that the psychologists are providing excellent service, but my question is very specific now. What is being done to make sure that when we do not have the psychiatrists but a number of services can be provided by psychologists, in some cases maybe even better services can be provided by these individuals, what specific measures have been

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taken to make sure that their services are being used to the best possible? I know for sure that many people are not aware of their services, including the primary care physicians, even including some of the hospitals, some of the nursing staff, some of the social workers. What is this Government going to do, if they have not done so far, to make sure to communicate with all these individuals, to make sure that their services are being used to the best possible?

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Acting Chairman, I guess to put it bluntly, all of the positions we have available for psychologists in Government are filled. They are filled because we value the kind of services they provide. The difference—and I should not have to tell my honourable friend this, he knows this—in terms of psychiatrists/psychologists is that psychiatrists have the ability I believe to do medical intervention, be it administration and prescription of pharmaceuticals, whereas psychologists do not have that ability through their academic education.

Mr. Acting Chairman, we have had a number of discussions with the Manitoba Psychological Association, and they have been along the lines of their ability to provide greater participation within the health care system. I think it is fair to say that the ultimate goal that they envision would be having psychologists able to bill fee for service in terms of the services they provide.

We have not been able to favourably consider that goal of the Psychological Association for some very obvious reasons, the most pressing one being financial resource. Should my honourable friend occupy the chair, he will soon find out how many people want billing privileges, and they are substantial and everyone can make a very excellent case.

In terms of not making those services available, it is not a denigration of the professional contribution, it is unfortunately a reality of resource limitation. Until we get the health care system reformed and people healthier and taking more responsibility for their personal well being, and not relying automatically on the formal acute-care treatment system which is extremely expensive and in many ways highly concentrated at the physician level, we may on reform of that system find ourselves with resource available to support a number of groups who provide health promotion prevention to the system in a very, very effective and widespread means. I talked to my honourable friend today, that is not one of the current realities that I have to offer.

Mr. Cheema: This question I do not know whether it belongs to the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) or the Minister of Education (Mr. Derkach). It is regarding the certification procedure for the Manitoba psychologists. They have expressed concern in the past that the psychologists were providing service in the schools that some of them they do not have to be registered.

* (1620)

What is the Minister's view on that because the Minister of Education (Mr. Derkach) has reported in

the media two or three months ago saying that he is going to meet with the association and discuss the certification procedure, whether that should be regulated by one body or they want to keep the system as such? If the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) does not feel comfortable with that question, we can certainly ask the Minister of Education.

Mr. Orchard: Yes.

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Acting Chairperson, that is one of the easiest questions and some of the easiest answer. That is very good but certainly I think they have a very reasonable approach, and they have approached the Minister of Education. Hopefully that issue should be resolved because to have uniform services, you should have one regulating body that should be supervising the professional expertise of any group. I do not think Manitoba psychologists should be treated anything differently. Certainly when they are in favour of such a move, and it was supported by our Education Critic, the Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek, and certainly we believe it should be the way that they should come under one body and have uniform rules.

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Acting Chairman, when I answered "yes" to my honourable friend's trick question there, I never realized until this question how he was trying to rope me in and get me into a direct conflict with my honourable friend, the Minister of Education (Mr. Derkach).- (interjection)- He said it is all right then?

Mr. Acting Chairman, the issue of the professional certification is a real one. I just want to remind my honourable friend that there are circumstances North where we are always talking about professional recruitment difficulties that are quite adequately addressed by professionals who are doing an effective job of service delivery. That makes the issue a little more complex than a simple yes answer.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Helwer): We are dealing with Mental Health Promotion: 4.(d)(1) Salaries \$207,100—pass.

4.(d)(2) Other Expenditures \$26,000—the Member for Kildonan.

Mr. Cheema: Just one final question on the issue I forgot to ask. Are there any vacant positions in the department right now, in this branch?

Mr. Orchard: We are advertising for the director.

Mr. Cheema: In Manitoba Health?

Mr. Orchard: Yes. Where?

Mr. Cheema: Where we are now at 4.(d) under Mental Health Promotion.

Mr. Orchard: We are advertising for the director.

Mr. Cheema: Is this the same position we discussed earlier that was vacant?

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Helwer): Shall the item pass—pass for a total of \$233,100.00.

We go on to Mental Health Rehabilitation. The Mental Health Rehabilitation provides for the development of all psychosocial rehabilitative program needs in relation to proctor, day programs, recreational, prevocational, vocational employment and lifeskills training.

4.(e)(1) Salaries \$192,400—the Member for Kildonan.

Mr. Cheema: Is there any position vacant under the professional and administrative support staff?

Mr. Orchard: Again, we are advertising for the director.

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Acting Chairperson, the Minister is in a good mood. I do not want to annoy him but certainly since we started discussing the Mental Health reforms, we have pleased him. Repeatedly a number of positions have been vacant, and how can he justify implementing all the programs when he has so many positions vacant?

Mr. Orchard: All I can say to my honourable friend is just hang on to your hat when we get these positions filled. Look at what we have done with them vacant. This place really gets things done. There are staff that I have said earlier on that are just putting in countless hours delivering program service. They do not even have time to draft my press releases so I can tell people what good things they are doing. We have to solve that because we have to get the good news out.

Mr. Cheema: We know the Minister is a master of political words, but I did not know he had a sense of humour also. I think it is very good and we have come to know a very important aspect of his personality. As a professional, I rather appreciate that part which is humorous rather than competitive and sometimes on the arrogant side. I am very pleased with that.

Can the Minister of Health tell us under this branch for his specific target groups like patients who are released either from Selkirk or from Brandon, what special programs have they put in place to rehabilitate them or to involve them in a meaningful occupation in some cases?

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Acting Chairman, that in part was the focus in—I have got to say this critically, not of my honourable friend but of, well, I am really running a big risk here because we cut the ribbon as I said at the Brandon Mental Health Centre of a new workshop environment setting. I mean you tour the place and you see the people that are there that are living in the community coming there for training, for work support, for work activity. You see the kind of products they are turning out for the commercial market, from the novel licence plates that each community has, we have one: Deerwood Soil and Water, and we have another one: Miami Mule Derby, with a mule on it. It is nice, and many communities have got their own licence plates. Now those are in part—they are made there, silk screened, et cetera, et cetera.

Those kinds of activities are there to train people for job skills and they have. I am going off the top of

my head, in terms of memory, because I talked to the program directors and the CEO at Brandon, but it seems to me that out of 135 individuals that were through the program last year it seems to me that, it just sticks in my mind, about approximately 25 achieved employment in the community at large.

One of the directions that we have to get into, and again this fits the whole aspect of removing the stigma, because I am thoroughly and firmly convinced that there is a place in the community in a lot of businesses for placement for people who are post-mentally ill, who have problems of mental illness.

I say that for several reasons, but I will give you two of them as an example. We went through a construction project this summer at home and one of the suppliers, one of the lumberyards, that we dealt with for the materials has an individual that has worked there for a number of years.

He is a graduate of a sheltered workshop environment, where he has learned job skills, and the individual is just an incredibly accepted part of the employment team at this supply. I will tell you who it is. It is Parkside Lumber, they deserve the credit. Parkside Lumber in Winkler, and they had the individual there. He is probably the most uncomplaining and reliable employee they have because when they need this from the one shed, it is done.

* (1630)

The fellow knows, he believes sincerely that Parkside Lumber is his. I mean he is the reason that it exists and it has developed a sense of pride in him, a sense of worth, a sense of value, and it is real because he is a very real component of the organization. It is most impressive to go there and to see the dignity with which that individual is treated by the management and staff and by the customers. It is total acceptance.

DeFehr is a major employer in the City of Winnipeg, employs a number of—I believe though that a lot of their employees are clients of the MR program, by and large, but I believe that there is an opportunity with training, skills enhancement, to offer employment opportunities to post-mentally ill people. It is not going to be an easy job because you have to overcome the stigma in many ways of not only the employer, in terms of taking the risk in the private sector employment, but in terms of how the reaction might be by the customers, but I just see it as an absolutely essential next step. That is why there was no hesitation in terms of a 600,000-plus upgrade of the workshop environment at the Brandon Mental Health Centre which we opened two weeks ago.

(Mr. Chairman in the Chair)

I think that with that enhanced space, better environment, better program that I think we may well see an opportunity for increased opportunity for post-mentally ill patients. If we do, I think that would be one of the finer contributions that we could make, as citizens in Government, to those lesser advantaged individuals.

So I have taken a long time to come around to an answer, but I just think that it is a most important

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initiative that is going to be a step-by-step slow process, because you have to create comfort with the system. You have to create opportunity within the system and Government cannot mandate it to be done. Government can only be a partner with the private sector and our training institutions to create the environment where people will be partners with the employment of trained post-mentally ill individuals.

I think there is a fairly significant future that lies in front of us if we can pro-actively pursue that. I see it as an opportunity to turn Manitoba further into a leader in this field if we work together on the issue with the private sector as potential employers, and certainly within Government to provide the best kind of training opportunities so that we can offer individuals with skills to the employment market.

Mr. Cheema: I think it is extremely important, and I think right now it is more important than ever before that you have these programs put in place to train these people when they are discharged, either from the hospital after a long-term stay, or they are discharged simply from the acute care hospital, or they are simply discharged from their primary care physicians or their psychologists, or whatever source of help they are getting.

For them to go back to the work force, because without going back to the work force to the possible—I think there is always a risk for them to end up either in the hospital system or in the social assistance line, which is either not right for the taxpayers, and it is not right for the individual families. I think this causes a lot of discomfort not to the individual but ultimately some of the marriages even break. The families get into more stress because we do not help these individuals who are not working.

As I said earlier, nothing comes free in this world, you have to pay for your things. When you have a young family to support and if some person is with a chronic disability who can have a meaningful way of life and can at least support his family to a partial extent, that will not only help their self-esteem and the family life, but also I think it will help tax dollars in the long run.

I think we should learn our lesson from Saskatchewan. They have a good program for rehabilitation. I think Saskatchewan right now is a leader in Canada and Dr. Sheila Cantor had in her mind to have such a program for a patient who has schizophrenia. Unfortunately she is not with us now, but I think we should look into the development of those programs now so that the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) can feel proud of himself in 10-years time and say: I started something and we had everything in place.

Mr. Orchard: Well, again I am just one step ahead of my honourable friend, because we are doing just that. Seriously, my honourable friends comments are legitimate, and they reflect many of the directions that we are developing that are part and parcel of the reorganization within Mental Health.

Mental Health Rehabilitation is a directorate that is newly created and we will focus on that. We are in the

final stages—well, the working group has been by and large struck to undertake a study or analysis of the spectrum of occupational resources for psychiatrically-disabled individuals in Manitoba.

This group, this working group will be responsible to Marge Watts, the Executive Director of Programs and are mandated to develop a proposal for a spectrum of occupational resources for children and adults with psychiatric disabilities and recommendations regarding prioritization of new occupational resources. We are on the way and we have very impressive membership on the working group. We have from our Mental Health Division, Kathy Love, who is chairing the working group; Catherine Medernach, from the consumers; and Mel Hornstein from Doray Enterprises; Kim Belfry from Community Mental Health Programs; Elspeth Reid from Community Health Programs and that is in Brandon; John Wiebe from the Eden Mental Health Centre, Trainex Division, or Trainex side of the operation; Liz Gibson, again from Brandon Mental Health Centre; Tej Bains from the Community Mental Health Programs in Winnipeg; Michael Klachesky, Vocational Rehab from Family Services; Carolyn Strutt and Bev Gutrey, both from the CMHA; and Gwen May from the Grace General Hospital. We will be placing a family member of a consumer on the organization as well. We are moving in that direction.

There are programs already in place and I guess one of the first roles is to identify, sort of do an inventory, build upon the strengths, build upon co-ordination, and build upon known successes so that we can create an environment for further success.

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Chairperson, for a short-term rehabilitation, to provide a short-term sport to develop skill, the self-help groups can be an excellent way. The number of self-help groups in Winnipeg and other communities are working very hard to achieve that goal. I think they need more support in terms of sometime resources to make sure they can deliver those services.

Certainly I think eventually they are saving tax dollars, because they are keeping those individuals who will definitely end up in the hospital system if they are not taken care of. I think all the self-help groups deserve applause from all Members of this House. As I said many times, health care is too important to risk for any political Party so everyone has to work together and especially these self-help groups when they have no interest in the organization. They are interested to help individuals and most of them have gone themselves through this situation, whether directly or through their families or their friends. I think that we should look at that avenue.

* (1640)

There was one incident at a Selkirk Avenue restaurant and that is a good example of him employing about 10 to 11 people who have been working as I am told and certainly there was some misunderstanding and that was cleared by the Minister of Health last Thursday.

Can the Minister of Health tell us the total number of clients who have been discharged out of the two

major hospitals and right now are employed, either on part-time or on a full-time basis? Have we got any statistics?

Mr. Orchard: We would have a great deal of difficulty giving my honourable friend that, not that we do not want to, just that we do not have it. Some people are there for a period of time and return to work and—

Mr. Cheema: I think it would again be very important to, and it will not be very difficult to follow that. When these patients are discharged and they certainly go back to their primary care givers and see how well they are managing their skills and how they are managing in their employment, that will give a definite boost to other individuals who would like to work. I think for any successful program a successful evaluation is important, and that will help in the long run to solve this major problem.

Mr. Orchard: We simply do not have all the statistics my honourable friend might want. What we can do is provide to my honourable friend those that we do have. I say “do have” from the standpoint that there are some individuals who do not want to be part of the Government’s tracking program, because they consider themselves to be quite independent and, thank you very much, I am independent. They are not part of any follow-up or any support programs. To the extent possible, we will give my honourable friend the information we do have.

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

Mr. Cheema: Can the Minister of Health maybe provide me a copy of the list of the agencies who are particularly involved in helping the rehabilitation programs?

Mr. Orchard: Yes, we can do that, but I think you will find them mostly in the—the ones we support are all part of the funded agencies. If there are ones outside that are not funded, we will give best effort for that.

Mr. Chairman: Pass. Item 4.(e)(2) Other Expenditures \$817,400—pass.

4.(f) Mental Health Clinical, provides for the assessment, development and evaluation of all clinical skill levels, therapies, intervention techniques and treatment modalities within the services provided, 4.(f)(1) Salaries \$345,700.00. Shall the item pass—the Member for Kildonan.

Mr. Cheema: I think we discussed a large portion of this section on Thursday, so I just have a few questions. Then maybe the Member for Thompson (Mr. Ashton), because he was not there, would like to start in this section. I will give him the opportunity to ask questions.

Mr. Orchard: He read all the questions that you asked on Thursday.

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

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Chairperson, there was certainly one question outstanding. The Minister said that there are 15 more practising psychiatrists, and I would like to have confirmation on that.

Mr. Orchard: Yes, we will give you the names of the individuals who work within the department. The other physician names—that information comes as a compilation from the College of Physicians and Surgeons. We will still attempt to obtain that information for my honourable friend. I hope I do not sense from my honourable friend’s tenor of his remarks that he doubts that there is an increase—

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Chairperson, I have no reason to doubt the Minister’s remarks, but for my own clarification I would need that list, because when we are confronted with a question from all sides, many people ask what is being done. Not only the Minister of Health has to answer to his own critics, but I think we have to answer to the public what we are doing and how much has been achieved. I think it is worthwhile to know the numbers. That was the only reason that I wanted to reconfirm today.

Mr. Orchard: Well, I am very anxious to get that information for my honourable friend so he can defend the record of the Government in psychiatric recruitment.

Mr. Ashton: I did have the opportunity to review Thursday’s Hansard, and if figures are identified, I am wondering if there are figures also available in terms of the future or improvement prospects in terms of the number of psychiatrists we have in the system. I understand there are a number of individuals who will be coming into the system within Manitoba over the next number of years.

I am wondering if the Minister could also provide those figures to the committee?

Mr. Orchard: I think we may be able to give you those in about three shuffles. Let us just deal with Brandon. At Brandon right now we have a full-time psychiatrist who has been there for about four months now on a full-time basis. Is that about right? We have a U.S.-trained psychiatrist who is there and going through the professional certification necessities, but is onsite.

We have a recruit from Saskatchewan coming to Brandon in January of 1990. We have completed the recruitment arrangements for that individual, so in January that will be the third psychiatrist on staff.

We are again—how am I going to put this without begging the question? Later on in the spring, if the recruitment efforts fail, you are going to call me a dismal failure, but we have another reasonable process. If it succeeds, I recruited him; if it did, not talk to Dr. Rodgers. Another psychiatrist to Brandon in July of 1990, a psychiatrist to Selkirk in January of ‘90, and we are interviewing, as a matter of fact next week, out of province, a psychiatrist next week and one this week. The recruitment activities are very, very active and that in no small part is the sustained efforts of Dr. Rodgers and others who have participated in the recruitment efforts for the province.

Mr. Ashton: The Member for Kildonan (Mr. Cheema) I think wants to continue the debate from last year. I remember reading through the past Hansards of the committee, the rather lively debate that took place in this particular area last year. I would just indicate, I realize it is a difficult area. There is a general shortage of psychiatrists, in fact people in this field generally across North America, and I realize it is difficult.

What I was wondering too is what the indications are in terms of the supply of individuals receiving training. Is there any indication whether there is an improvement in the potential supply?

I realize that is not a necessary gauge. Obviously people may be trained as psychiatrists, but there is no guarantee they will be in Manitoba. That should give us some idea what the long-term perspective is, and if the Minister has any figures or can provide them at a later point in time, it would be very useful I think to the committee.

Mr. Orchard: What I will do is provide the number of residents in psychiatry. We did reasonably well in retention in the last 12-month period of our Manitoba graduates, and that has helped to increase the supply.

One of the ongoing difficulties, this was in part addressed with the \$10,000 salary enhancement that was announced in—what?—September of last year. That has helped in our recruitment effort, but I do not think anyone would argue that we have an imbalance of opportunity, if I can put it that genteelly in that terminology in terms of the fee schedule and how it reflects on opportunities in private fee-for-service practice versus our institutional and acute care hospital psychiatric wing placement.

* (1650)

Clearly we are not playing with even hands in that circumstance, and that is one of the issues that we have under discussion and will continue to have under discussion in any fee schedule changes or negotiations with the MMA. I am not by any means saying that the \$10,000 enhancement for employed psychiatrists was the end-all and the be-all. It was a significant initiative and a significant commitment, which certainly signalled good faith, if you will, if not completely removing the financial disincentives, but it did not answer all the problems.

We have to undertake more discussions, over the next number of months, to see if we can provide more opportunity on the hospital and the institutional side of recruitment for psychiatrists.

Mr. Ashton: I realize that is one of the bottom-line problems, the financial situation. I know from discussions on Thursday that the issue came up in terms of the Selkirk Brandon transfer and the financial questions that arose there. Certainly I believe there will be continuing problems of this sort.

It does appear to me, from the information that I have, though that while the situation is anything but encouraging, in terms of the overall supply, there is the potential there in terms of Manitoba perhaps through

improvement in terms of fees and other particular ways of attracting psychiatrist. The supply is, I am certain, not getting any worse. It may not be getting dramatically better, but there are some marginal improvements from what I understand in terms of Manitoba.

So that is why I would appreciate those figures once again because I think that is one of the things obviously we have to be looking at engaging the success of any recruitment effort. That is looking not only at the number of psychiatrists recruited, but the actual supply to see if there is an improvement. I suspect that the prospects could potentially be somewhat better in the next period of time than they have been in the past. This is where the success or failure of discussions, in terms of fees or other matters I think, could be crucial.

I certainly wish the Minister luck in that particular area. It is a difficult area to deal with. It is a difficult area actually in terms of any specialty, the extent to which one uses financial incentives or does not, and what the limits are in terms of the provincial Treasury. I know that is something that every Government has had to deal with, and when you are dealing with an area with acute shortage and a supply that may be getting somewhat better but is not all that glutted, shall we say, certainly in this area there is no glut of trained individuals.

I wish the Minister luck, and if the Minister could provide that information, at some point in time during the proceedings of the committee, I think it would help the committee in terms of perhaps gauging the future, how successful the Minister was.

Mr. Orchard: We will attempt to get that information as committed last week.

Just to further indicate, the retention of our residents for the last two years. Graduation in what, May, June or whenever, we have retained all of the graduate residents in the province in the last two years. We have currently seven individuals in the Career Residency Program with return of service in Brandon, Selkirk, and does Eden have anyone? No, that is right. Seven in progress and three are waiting to enter the Career Residency Program. So there are really some bright spots, well, some light, at the end of the tunnel.

In attempting to be fair, the Career Residency Program was initiated by the previous administration, and I think has been a successful tool of recruitment into both Brandon and Selkirk. We have continued in—I think I had four individuals come into the program in the last number of months in return for service at Brandon, Selkirk. It is starting to work. Some of the initiatives are starting to prove fruitful.

Mrs. Charles: Due to other commitments, I will be unable to be here this evening for further discussion. I would like to, if I may, beg the patience of the Minister as one, which I believe will be a brief question, in that residents of the Selkirk Mental Health Centre, during the election campaign, continually asked me if their weekly allowance could be increased. I understand they receive some sort of support. I believe it is in the \$5 to \$7 range. I wonder if the Minister has looked into

whether that still is a suitable amount and perhaps give an indication whether today or at some other time written wise if that amount has been considered for upgrading?

Mr. Orchard: We are just in the process of seeking some advice from the director of nursing at Selkirk. I think we have an answer. This is rather a funny way of doing Estimates, is it not? It is personal spending money and is provided by income security and that is continuing.

Mrs. Charles: Could the Minister indicate the amount of that allowance and perhaps if not today if I could receive the answers on this, and if it is tied into inflation in that, as I understand, it was as I said before in the \$5 to \$7 range, which many people felt was not able to support their entertainment for the week. Whether it be going to a movie—you cannot go to a movie on that amount of money, you get a couple of ice cream cones, a package of cigarettes or whatever. They were quite concerned that this was not enough to allow them, who are outpatients during the day many of them, to receive even a minimal amount of support for coffee even during the week.

Mr. Orchard: When you posed the question, I looked at the back and no one had an answer but we will try to get one for you if we do not have one coming now.

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

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Chairperson, I have a final question on this Clinical section. As the Minister has indicated, the successes in terms of recruitment, but I think the problem—I was curious to listen at one problem but he has not brought that forward. The problem is the people who are practising within the hospital system, their number is not increasing as compared to the psychiatrists who are practising on outpatients and that way we have to address that issue. The time the psychiatrists who are in the hospital system spend and the amount of hours they have to put, amount of stress they go through, amount of time they spend just to relocate patients, that is a disincentive. Still they are paid at the same level as a psychiatrist who is working on the outpatient.

Certain circumstances—responsibility I think for the hospital psychiatrist is more, as compared to the non-hospital and Dr. Rodgers will agree with me on that.

I think that is one of the major problems right now, not only in Manitoba but throughout Canada. How do you retain the inpatient psychiatrists? I do not want to seem like advocating for a specific hospital, but they are given adequate resources to compensate for the time and the extra responsibility they take as compared to someone who is not practising inside the hospital system. I think that has to be looked at, and I think maybe the Minister should direct his ADM and Dr. Rodgers to come up with some kind of recommendation to the MMA, so that when they are negotiating for a fee schedule, the people who are practising, within the hospital system and especially who are on teaching

staff, should be compensated because they are doing as good a service as anyone else. They have more responsibility. They are responsible for future graduates. They are also responsible for the acute care, and as I said they should be compensated.

* (1700)

Mr. Orchard: I understand where my honourable friend is coming from. Since we are having such a convivial time here this afternoon, I might offer a reverse suggestion that in his role as a member of the MMA he might advocate for that from within.

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Chairperson, I think this issue is more important than my advocating to the MMA. Certainly the Minister knows very well that I do not have any specific connection with MMA or any other organization.

I am concerned about patient care and if we do not keep these psychiatrists within the hospital system, the patient care will suffer. I think that is my point. To achieve the best possible care, we need these individuals to keep them there we need to give them more incentives and that is not being done.

Mr. Orchard: I thank my honourable friend for telling me he is not a member of any organization. I thought you were the most popular guy in Opposition.

Mr. Chairman: The hour is now 5 p.m. I am interrupting the proceedings for Private Members' Hour. The committee will return at 8 p.m. this evening.

SUPPLY—CO-OPERATIVE, CONSUMER AND CORPORATE AFFAIRS

Mr. Chairman (William Chornopyski): Committee of Supply, come to order. The last time we sat we were dealing with item 4.(a)(1)—the Honourable Minister.

Hon. Edward Connery (Minister of Co-operative, Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Chairman, a few comments, the Member for Churchill (Mr. Cowan) put some comments on the record at the end that I think needs to be clarified.

He was saying, first of all—we were talking about employee co-ops, and he was quite critical of the federal Government. He said it was not a Liberal Government that stopped the co-ops from getting the funding, that it was the federal Government. It was what he was alluding to. Well, Mr. Chairman, I can tell you very clearly that Mr. Mayer, the Minister for Co-operatives federally, is quite receptive. The problem was having enough provinces joining in to be part of a program. I can tell you that it was Liberal provinces that were not supportive of it to go and have a federal-provincial program. Mr. Mayer is quite anxious to see a program in place on co-operatives, so the Member was wrong.

Mr. Chairman, the Member for Churchill (Mr. Cowan) goes on and on and says that conservatism and co-operativism is at opposite ends of the spectrum. He tries to put on the record that as Conservatives, we are not caring about people and have no concern. Well,

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I can tell you, and I will put the Liberals in with Conservatives in this case, that when you work in the community, it is the Liberals and Conservatives, unlike the NDP, who are the people that are working in the community, United Way, and you go through it all. Who is it that is doing the work? Who is contributing the money in a social conscious way for good programs for people?

I can tell you the NDP are not holding up their end. It was quite interesting when sometime ago, we were still in Opposition I believe, when somebody wanted to know what the various Leaders—they wanted their Income Tax form released so everybody could have a look at what they earned and all these sorts of things. It turned out we all earned about the same amount of money.

They compared donations, and it turned out that the Conservative Leader, the now Premier (Mr. Filmon), gave something like \$2,500 in donations that year. The Liberal Leader (Mrs. Carstairs) was very close behind in the \$2,200 or \$2,300 in donations. Howard Pawley, the illustrious Leader of the NDP, the social caring people, had donated something, I believe, \$160.00. So, Mr. Chairman, I really get upset when they try to portray themselves as the socially conscious person. I would hope that -(interjection)- Charlotte's, we did not disclose hers, but I am sure it would have been a lot more than any NDP would have done.

Mr. Chairman, he spoke about us going up to Lynn Lake and having a co-op, and he was critical of us not being pro-active up at Lynn Lake. As I said earlier, they were in the negotiating position and we should not have been there trying to talk to them about co-ops, although we are prepared now. At the same time at Sprague where the lumber mill was closing we were pro-active.

Mr. Chairman, unlike the Member for Churchill (Mr. Cowan) who tries to portray himself as being that great person, when he was Minister of Environment and also very friendly with the union people at Leaf Rapids, he did not know that there were any PCBs or could have been any PCBs in their garbage pile. Yet, when we were in Government and there was a fire up there, all of a sudden there were some PCBs. It is just typical of the Member for Churchill to try to mislead the people of Manitoba. He continuously misleads, puts on the record misinformation, and I think this is not the way it should be.

He talks about incorporations, and he talks about 1988 being down from 1987, where there were 61. The biggest drop in incorporations in 1988 was the first three months of the year when he was the Minister. The incorporations for the following three months were on a par with the previous year. I asked the department for a breakdown on incorporations, and they went through and they showed that over five-year averages and all of the others that we are on a par and in fact maybe a little ahead of what some of the times that they were doing. Mr. Chairman, I really believe that we are doing a good job in co-op development. We are pushing to have a lot of it done.

* (1430)

Mr. Chairman, the one area that the Member did not get into was loans and loans guarantees. I can understand full well why he did not get into that, because he would not want to talk about the Winnipeg Arts Council Co-op. The Winnipeg Arts Council Co-op, in 1984 I think it was or in that area, was given a guarantee of \$100,000 to develop an arts co-op which was then going to be located in 115 Bannatyne which was the centre of an investigation at that time, and also resulted in a Minister having to step down for some period of time until that investigation was through.

He would not want to get into that because members of the arts council were of the same family as who were shareholders, not shareholders necessarily but members of that 115 Bannatyne deal. Mr. Chairman, I can tell you right now that company has been in bankruptcy for some time, and the department is on the hook for something just under \$90,000 unless we can make some recovery. We hope we can. The department is working very vigorously. He does not want to talk about some of the incorporations that took place when he was the Minister.

He was the Minister right through the whole time, from the time it was incorporated, from the time it was sold to a numbered company, and they were also upset about numbered companies. I remember in debate that they would be all concerned that numbered companies was a means of hiding who the principals were which in effect is not, because you can find out the same information on a numbered company as you can on ABC company or whatever, and the guarantee went with the private company.

Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to put a few of those things on the record. I just glanced through what he had also said for one second. I wanted to put a couple more points on the record, because the Member was wrong when he said: but I can tell you that my Leader was a Member of a Government that made a very conscious decision to separate and keep separate the Department of Co-op Development. The separation came in around 1972 when it became a stand-alone department. The Member for Concordia (Mr. Doer) did not get into the Legislature until 1986.

This is typical of the comments that we hear on an ongoing basis from the Member for Churchill (Mr. Cowan), from the Member for Concordia (Mr. Doer), from the Member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie), misinformation that is on a continuous vein being brought to this Legislature. I do not think that is right. He says here the facts are in black and white about incorporations, and he says also somewhere that figures do not lie, but the Member for Churchill (Mr. Cowan) does a lot of figuring.

Mr. Chairman, the facts are when you analyze the figures accurately, we are doing as good a job in incorporating co-ops as has been in the past under their administration, and we hope that they continue. Our department is going to pursue very vigorously any avenue open to co-op development including employee co-ops. I wanted to just put a few of those on the record that we should not have so much misinformation without it being contradicted.

Mr. Chairman: Before I recognize any speaker, I wish to remind all Honourable Members that speeches in

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the Committee of Supply, according to Rule 64.(2), must be strictly relevant to the item or clause under discussion. The Honourable Member for Seven Oaks.

Mr. Mark Minenko (Seven Oaks): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the Minister a couple of short questions with the indulgence of other Members of the Chamber. With respect to a matter that I brought to his attention approximately 10 days ago or so where a constituent of mine provided me with a notice from a KT Enterprises, I believe it was out of Vancouver offering them all kinds of interesting prizes if they were to phone them back and to provide permission to the company that sent them the notice of that company being able to use their name on future endorsements and so on. I am just wondering if the Minister could apprise me of what the status is on that. Has his department had a chance to investigate that offer of riches?

Mr. Connery: Mr. Chairman, even though we have passed those Estimates, I am quite prepared to answer that question. Yes, I passed the information on to the department and they are in the process of investigating it. As I indicated to the Member when he gave it to me, and I thanked him, that we will be providing him with the information privately, or if he wants to ask for it in the House that is fine, but as soon as we have the information I will provide that to him.

Mr. Minenko: Just with a follow-up question then to the Minister. Does his department have in place a process by which his department monitors any of these types of offers that might come into the province, outside of people who may write to the Minister, or his office, saying that they are quite concerned about this matter, or this matter? Is there a process in place by which this type of mail is being monitored on a continuous basis by the Minister, because I know that other constituents have brought to my attention another type of thing that was simply dropped in their mailbox where people were again asked to pull off a blue tab in a corner kind of a thing and see if it matches with one of the prizes, or something along that line, again suggesting riches, fame and fortune to people. Does the Minister or his department have in place a process to monitor these things?

Mr. Connery: For the Member's information, we do have close contact with the police, the RCMP, other departments across Canada to see if some scam is going on. We have that exchange of information, watch the newspapers and, of course, watching as best we can. Now, to check mailboxes and to do all those other sorts of things would take a whole host of people. So we do rely somewhat upon people like yourself that will bring these things to our attention.

We are as pro-active as we can be in watching, but if you are somebody that is trying to pull a scam, you do not necessarily make it that all obvious to the department beforehand. Unless one is inadvertently dropped into one of our employee's mailboxes, then we bring it on to the appropriate department. Sometimes it does not get to us, so we do depend a lot on the people bringing it to our attention.

We have a volunteer group that goes out to talk to people, we have the seniors now, hopefully in a short period of time, where they will be passing on information to their seniors people in a voluntary way. We have a volunteers chairman, director of volunteers, and we utilize a lot of volunteer people to help us gather that information, at least tell people when you see something that is maybe irregular, as yourself or whoever passed that on to you. Then we take action.

Mr. Minenko: The Minister mentions a sort of seniors network. I am just wondering if he could explain exactly what that is. I do not recall a press release issuing from any department setting out any new initiatives with respect to the participation of seniors and I am just wondering if he could perhaps expand on that point.

Mr. Connery: Well, the Member says, why have we put a new release out? It is part of our volunteer and we do not always just blow our own horn for the sake of blowing. We try to do a good job and the seniors are part of our volunteer group, but we are asking them to become a little more pro-active with us. We will have our volunteer people train them as volunteers, we will also be going out, and I am going out to a meeting shortly. I do not remember—they have invited us to go to a provincial seminar, or whatever they are having, where I can talk to people from all over the province to encourage them to become part of the volunteer program.

The seniors by and large do collect or gather in centres where they can be entertained, or play games, or take courses, and this is really an easy opportunity for volunteers to explain to seniors some of the pitfalls of doing business with certain groups and where to call, call the bureau if they are not sure, to explain some of the legislation to them. So this is part of the volunteer program that we think will help seniors in the long run. In fact, not only seniors, but help all people in Manitoba to be aware of scams and how to protect themselves.

Mr. Minenko: So the program that the Minister is suggesting, is that program then an outlined program, a set program within his department, an organized program in the sense that age and opportunity centres across Manitoba would have received a notice asking them to participate in this, the network, has a notice then gone out in a formal fashion to any other seniors groups or is this strictly an ad hoc basis, and if it is an ad hoc basis is this then a new initiative that the Minister is looking at in his department to provide Consumer and Corporate Affairs with more information about what is happening in our community? If it is on an ad hoc basis now, is he looking to the future of developing this into a more set program?

* (1440)

Mr. Connery: Karen Gamey is our Director of Communications and under her she has the volunteer group and we have a director of volunteers. For the first time really, now we are bringing into Consumer and Corporate Affairs the seniors. They are a very major sector of our population and we are inviting them in

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to consult with them, not only on this sort of thing but when we are developing legislation. We have had them in to take a look at it before it was in Bill form but to discuss the general parameters of legislation and to ask for what other suggestions they would have, so we have been quite pro-active.

I have had many meetings in the six months or so that I have been Minister with the seniors and will continue to do so. At this point, it is not really in a formalized way but the department will be working with them to set it up. We have not got it formalized. Once the legislation of course is passed then we will be going to them and discussing the legislation and some of the key points. Maybe we will develop a brochure that they can hand out as to the phone numbers and what are the main parts of the legislation to make them pro-active, but it is just in the formulation stage. They are very keen on it, they are quite willing to go out and talk to seniors groups. I think this is the sort of thing, it is the self-help, they can be very active in the community and be doing something very worthwhile for their fellow seniors, and not only seniors, because once seniors become aware of some of these things they will pass it on to their families and the circle spreads an awful lot larger than just the seniors.

Mr. Minenko: Any new initiatives like this that the Minister is planning with seniors, has that gotten into the school system as well?

Mr. Connery: There is not a very extensive program that is being developed on a national scale to go into Grades 11 and 12 within the school systems in Manitoba to make them more aware of being a consumer, as to what they need to worry about, what to look for to protect themselves, legislation.

We hope that we will get on maybe in the next year. We have already sat down and talked to the Department of Education. They are quite keen on it and we are looking at some maybe pilot program in a district but it is not an active program, but hopefully it will be in short period of time.

It is fairly costly and fairly extensive but each province is putting together some of the modules that will go into the whole program and it is a pretty good program.

Mr. Minenko: The final question I would like to ask the Minister responsible for Consumer and Corporate Affairs is, what co-ordination has this sort of ad hoc program, I guess, that the Minister seems like he is experimenting with, exactly how he wants to use that? How much co-ordination has occurred through the Seniors Directorate and the Minister responsible for Seniors (Mr. Downey) and has that Minister had any impact or input into this program?

Mr. Connery: The Minister for Seniors and I get along quite well and we have a lot of discussions. In fact, we have had on occasion when we have had seniors in, if the Minister himself could not be there, we have had his SA to at least be aware of what we are doing and, of course, everybody is supportive of programs for seniors and to ensure that seniors do not get ripped off by some scam artist.

The Minister is very supportive of any program that is going to assist seniors. Also, his department has been involved in many different things and we as Ministers do not isolate ourselves when we get into different ventures. If something we are doing would have an impact on another department, we bring the Ministers in. We have had meetings in my office with four, five, maybe six different Ministers pertaining to a given subject to ensure that we cover all the bases. That is really quite important that all Ministers are involved where maybe it sounds like one simple little program but it could impact on many other ministries. We do bring other Ministers in.

Mr. Jim Maloway (Elmwood): Mr. Chairman, I just felt I had to rise at this point and make some comments, digress a moment, and make some comments on the comments that the Minister made a few minutes ago in dealing with contributions. He had made a suggestion that somehow people of the left political persuasion tend to give less money than people of the right wing and capitalist persuasions.

I found that a bit offensive because he uses an example, contributions from his Leader at the time, and the Leader of the Liberal Party and our former Leader, the former Premier, I do not know that he has researched that. I do not know that he really knows what he is talking about, as to the levels of those contributions, for him to suggest that hoof and mouth disease that he is demonstrating this afternoon, is indicative of why he was changed from the portfolios he was last year. He has been given time for good behaviour and now he is running right back into the same track that got him where he is right now. I wish the Minister would think before he starts ranting and raving about something that he really does not know anything about.

The fact of the matter is that if you go to a working class area of Winnipeg, for example, you will certainly find that people will make smaller contributions. That is simply because they live in poorer housing and they have less money. If you go to River Heights, you certainly are going to find people who contribute larger and larger sums of money. If I want to raise money, I will go to River Heights and pick up \$1,000 a door, whereas in my constituency in Elmwood, I am raising maybe \$30 and \$40 a door.

That is something the Minister should recognize, that all the people in this province are not necessarily as rich and privileged as he is, or his Leader is, and he should not be making comments of that type. I simply draw his attention to that, that he should think about these things before he makes those comments, that he should not cast negative thoughts towards people who, because of no fault of their own, do not earn large sums of money like other people in society and can only afford to perhaps give only \$10 to the Cancer Society and \$10 here and \$10 there.

Also to the Minister, I have spoken to many, many people over the years, and I can for every person that he can find who is a willing contributor on the right wing political spectrum, I can find him people who are equally concerned, who contribute to their churches,

the Heart Fund, and all sorts of different charities who are certainly not rich by any stretch. For him to be making comments like that I think are terrible. Also, he did address perhaps one of the tenets of our Party philosophy and that is the fact that we as a Party believe that taxpayers' money, through the Government, should be used for social services and not the old Conservative theory that has been propagated for the last few hundred years all over the world in fact that believes in the trickle-down theory as we have in Mexico and many, many other countries, where the rich have all the money and there is no middle class and the poor have very little and they are supposed to bow down and beg for a few handouts here and there. That is the kind of philosophy that has governed that Party.

* (1450)

I know that is changing to a certain extent over the years, but that is the type of philosophy that has governed that Party for the last hundred years. That trickle-down theory, trickle-down theory of economics, that you make some people at the top really rich and then let the people at the bottom rely on handouts. We as a Party have never subscribed to that view. That is one of the reasons for our Party, and we believe that it is the Government's responsibility to provide social services wherever necessary, Mr. Chairman.

He also made some comments about 115 Bannatyne and the Arts Co-op and other things. I know that there was a problem there and one can always find enterprises that have been unsuccessful. He need not go any further than his own personal experiences in the onion business. I will leave him to explain the onion business in further detail whenever he wants to get around to doing that.

Mr. Connery: It brought tears to my eyes, Jim.

Mr. Maloway: So he need not go about and pick up on one or two perceived improprieties here and there, and use that as some example of the evils of socialism as he is wont to do. So with that, I would let the debate proceed.

Mr. Chairman: Item 4.(a)(1)—pass; 4.(a)(2)—pass; 4.(b)(1)—pass; 4.(b)(2)—pass.

Resolution No. 23: RESOLVED that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$1,716,900 for Co-operative, Consumer and Corporate Affairs for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March 1990—pass.

The committee will now revert to item 1.(a)(1) Minister's Salary—the Honourable Member for Radisson.

Mr. Allan Patterson (Radisson): I just want to make a few remarks before we finish up here. They will be brief. I have complimented the Minister on some of the initiatives that have been taken in his department. There are a few other things I would like to point out though, Mr. Chairman, the matter of used car certification. This is something I think that should be paid serious attention to here in Manitoba. It exists in other provinces.

I recall over 20 years ago when I was in Ontario there was—and presumably still is of course—a law

regulating the sale of used motor vehicles to the effect that they had to be certified by a licensed mechanic before they could be sold. I recall a personal experience back in about 1971 when I was an impecunious graduate student at the University of Minnesota, and my father, who could no longer drive, was going to give me his 1965 Chevy Sedan—pretty low mileage on it at the time—so I had to pay a dollar for it though. I had to pay a dollar for it in Ontario and go through the inspection period to have it processed, to have it certified before the car could be re-registered. So this is a very useful type of legislation, Mr. Chairman, and one that I would commend to the Minister for the future.

Also, on the matter of gasoline prices, Mr. Chairman, this is something that, as Members, we have had a few calls on, particularly some of the recent discrepancies between gasoline prices in the city and out in the country, as much as four and five cents a litre less for gasoline in many country points and in Winnipeg, and this is just within the last few months.

The question of these car stickers' prices has been addressed at great length earlier, I will not go into that any further, Mr. Chairman, and the matter of the resolution of the Brick's Fine Furniture, I will leave to my honourable friend, the Member for Elmwood (Mr. Maloway), whose particular hobbyhorse it is we might say.

Finally, along the lines of what my colleague, the Honourable Member for—is it Seven Oaks, Mark?—Seven Oaks (Mark Minenko) has raised that it is very important the department continually expand as it is doing on its whole thrust on information and education, about getting information out to the public and various groups and also getting information back in. I again commend the Minister on the thrust that he is taking on those directions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman: Shall the item pass—the Honourable Member for Elmwood.

Mr. Maloway: Mr. Chairman, I certainly did not expect that we would be out of these Estimates this quick, but I do have a few comments to put on the record and also a number of questions that I want to address to the Minister this afternoon.

Initially, I did want to respond to something that my friend the Liberal Critic (Mr. Patterson) just mentioned in his summation that kind of illustrates in a way where the Liberal Caucus is in; its transition that it right now currently finds itself at. When I hear him talk about the Used Car Certification Program, I know from whence that comes. That comes from the Motor Dealers' Association that sat them down last year in their caucus and told them this is the way it is going to be, and they are toeing the line.

With all due respect to the Member, the fact of the matter is that the Used Car Certification Program was passed, and the Member for Lakeside (Mr. Enns) will know this very well, in legislation way back in the Sterling Lyon Government around 1980, I believe, but it was never proclaimed. There is always reasons why legislation is passed and not proclaimed. I can give

you lots of examples of other legislations that have had a similar fate.

In our years in Government, I can recall that caucus certainly dealt with this issue a couple of times, and it was a very narrow vote in these questions; but I know that the idea was rejected at the time and there were good arguments on both sides of the coin. But the fact of the matter is that the Liberal Member, if he is so concerned about this Used Car Certification Program, then why does he not simply introduce the legislation? Why is he asking the Minister to do it?

I will tell you why he is not doing it. He is not doing it because there is an election going to be coming up, and he is not going to want to go door to door in his constituency and try to defend legislation that requires every person in his constituency and when they want to divest themselves of a car to spend money on a safe certificate. So he wants the Minister to do this and—I do not know the Minister well.

My personal view is that this certification program is a good idea. Let us have the Liberal Party, if they are so concerned about this issue, let us have them bring it up in formal legislation. Let us look at the legislation rather than bringing in Bills about clean licence plates and stuff like that. Why do you not come up with something decent in terms of a Bill similar to the one that the Conservatives passed in 1980 or similar to ones that are in other provinces? I believe, Nova Scotia has a program and some other jurisdictions have a program. Introduce the legislation, then we will take it from there. I also note that the Liberal Party's position is to support this particular idea which many will argue is a good idea but is one that is advanced by the Motor Dealers' Association.

On the other side of the coin, they fall into line with the Manitoba Motor Dealers' Association on the issue of the car sticker prices. This is essentially a no-cost issue for the Government and something that is potentially very popular, and the Minister knows full well that he has received letters on this subject. I have certainly received letters and copies to my Leader and his Leader from different people who have gone to Ontario, who have noted in Ontario that the manufacturer's suggested retail price, by law—and almost every United States state I believe has similar legislation, I believe it is the Munnery laws passed in the 1950s, I could be wrong about that, but I think that is the laws that we are talking about in the United States—requires that the manufacturers leave the stickers on the windshields.

* (1500)

The fact of the matter is that if you want to spend a few minutes and go out and take a look at the back car lots in town here, or if you want to see the cars when they come off the trains or the trucks, when they are unloaded in Manitoba, the fact of the matter is that the local dealerships actually pay somebody to scrap the stickers off. Why do they do that? Well, they do that so that they can affix their own sticker, and their own sticker is not less. Their own sticker is approximately \$2,000 more, at least in the cases that we have looked at.

The Motor Dealers' Association, who are the friends of the Liberal Caucus, argue that the reason they do this is to allow people adequate money for a trade-in. Their argument is that we have less hassle than the dealers in Ontario, in Kenora, in concluding a deal because when a person comes into the showroom, the Manitoba dealer is already \$2,000 higher than the manufacturer's suggested retail price sticker would indicate. So he is \$2,000 higher than Kenora and he/she can afford to give the customer a discount. Even if they give the customer \$1,000 discount, the customer is still paying more, \$1,000 more, than the full sticker price in Ontario.

That is something that the Liberal Caucus has to think about, and you all know how complicated it is to buy cars. I mean, those of us who know a little about it have great difficulty sorting things out at car dealerships, but for the unsuspecting public who are not used to buying cars, going in once every two or three years to shop, it becomes a nightmare. Not everybody subscribes to Lemonade by Phil Edmondston, or the consumer books in the United States where, for a fee, you can actually order the manufacturer's suggested retail price for the particular car you are interested in. If you want to take a long time to buy the car, if you want to shop around and stuff like that, you can do that and then you have an idea where to negotiate from.

So this is a suggestion that we in our caucus feel was a very, very good idea, really a low-cost or no-cost idea and something that is in widespread use in our biggest most populous province, Ontario, where probably most of the cars in Canada are sold, all through the United States. Why would the Liberal Caucus side—I can understand the Conservatives, that makes sense—with 32 or 40 Manitoba motor dealers. I mean, that is just beyond me. Then they use red herrings, such as, the clause in the Bill that allows people to take back the car in the first month if the sticker is not on and stuff like that. Well, the fact of the matter is that the law is that the sticker is supposed to be there, and if the sticker is not there then the person has the right to bring back the car.

An Honourable Member: How are you going to prove it?

Mr. Maloway: The Minister wants to know how are you going to prove it? Well, check with your Ontario Government. Why do I have to run around looking at every jurisdiction in the world almost for legislative ideas just to have the Minister come up with all these objections? I mean, he should take a pro-active approach for once and accept the fact that certain legislation works well in other jurisdictions and that he should perhaps entertain it.

Now, Mr. Chairman, he has a Bill before the House, a little Bill, a tiny, tiny Bill, a couple of minor changes to The Consumer Protection Act which we support, which are actually in one of our Bills. It is the same Bill as ours except he takes out the car sticker prices, that is all he has done. There are three parts to the Bill and he has extended the cooling-off period on direct sales from four to 10 days, such as, they have in

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Saskatchewan, and we applaud that. He has also taken on personal service contracts, which we see problems with all the time, lifetime dance lessons and lifetime karate lessons and what not. Recently, the European Health Spa provided the Liberal Member for Seven Oaks (Mr. Minenko) with a question to the Minister about why he was not doing something about it and in fact he has. He has brought forward his little amendment, two-thirds of our Bill, and the Liberal critic, I believe, has not even responded to it.

The Minister introduced it, I, as the critic for our caucus, made an immediate response of which the Minister did not necessarily approve of all of it and the Liberal Critic—and that is a week ago—still has not responded so I am hoping the Liberal Party—

An Honourable Member: Oh, oh!

Mr. Maloway: Well, it is the Government's fault. I am just dealing with the Liberal Caucus now, I will get to the Government after, but the Liberal Whip is quite correct. It is the Government's prerogative to call the Bill and they of course should do that and I hope that they will. It is one thing for them to call the Bill, the Liberal Opposition has to speak to it and tell us which way they are going on this one. You know, where are they going on the personal service contract changes? What we are hoping will happen is as soon as we get this Bill into committee, at that point we will be able to make our amendment concerning the sticker price question. When we make our amendment at that point, then once again we will see which side the Liberals will come down on and, of course, we will see where the Conservative Government comes down on.

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Maloway: I do not know, quite frankly, where the Conservatives will come down on this. I know that they have used another red herring in dealing with sticker prices on car windshields and say, well, it has to apply to everything else, appliances and furniture and stuff like that.

I know of no other commodity that is sold in our society that has this problem with retail sticker prices being higher than the manufacturer's suggested retail prices. I mean, most electronics—I am sorry—most electronics' places and so on have a manufacturer's suggested retail price and then they always sell, it is commonly known that they sell for less than that. Nevertheless I told the previous Minister, who was more of a do-nothing Minister than this one, and he suggested that in fact they would look at it. They thought that this was a reasonable idea and that if they could extend it to include all areas, then they would perhaps look at that and I agree. I do not see any problem with that because once again the Motor Dealers Association wants it that way.

They have said on CBC and other reports they would even support the sticker prices. They would support it if the Government expanded this to other areas and that is the kind of back peddling that they are trying to do to get out of this situation.

Time will tell where all these birds finally light and I am quite anxious to get to that stage and get this Bill in committee so we can make the amendments. I am sure that perhaps the Liberal Party will have some amendments of its own that maybe we can support. I do not have a problem with that. Perhaps the Government themselves will acquiesce to other amendments.

Now, just so I do not run out of time, I do want to get on to some other areas that I want the Minister to hear about because I have missed him for the last couple of days. I am sure that he missed my presence here too, in spite of the fact that I have a bit of a cold and a sore throat and that, the fact of the matter is to the Minister, I got my cold just yesterday when I already had been at home.

The Member for Seven Oaks (Mr. Minenko) asked the Minister questions about companies who operate in Manitoba without being properly registered and he was talking about a company called KT Enterprises out of Vancouver. As a company, I am not certain what they were selling but they were in here operating. I have another one, there are many of these companies and this is similar to—every so often you read about them in the paper.

This is a case of a company from Florida selling cruise vacations. They mail a personalized letter to the person, in this case this is someone on Valewood Crescent here in Winnipeg, and they allow—I guess one sees a Panama address on it so that should tip you off right there. The person who got this sent it on to me and asked if I would look into it for him.

* (15 10)

I phoned them because you are allowed, so they say, one call at your expense. They do not allow a toll-free line because I guess that would allow people to ask too many questions. The theory is that if you are in fact paying for the call, you are going to be a little quicker. They put you through a rather high pressure series of questions, and as one who has taken, in my experience as a salesperson over the last 12 years, training from about three different life insurance companies—the Minister did not know this, he is making aspersions about Autopac agents not being salespeople. He has got one sitting right behind him who I am sure will have something to say to him later on. Needless to say I have taken a lot of sales courses and three of them were with different life insurance companies.

You do learn after a while that there are certain procedures to follow in concluding a sale. There are quite a few techniques that have been proven over the years that motivational analysts write about in great detail and actually make fortunes selling books. I cannot go to an insurance convention or a real estate convention or a travel convention without having a motivational speaker being brought in at fairly high expense to entertain the crowd. More often than not they are failed experts at what they were doing previously, failed real estate agents who have gone into motivational speaking, or what have you. Nevertheless,

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they are very entertaining and they do help pass the time at the convention.

The fact of the matter is you do learn and these people are trained to ask certain questions and to close the sale. What they are selling is—the normal price of this vacation is \$1000, I believe it is \$899 U.S., and it is to Fort Lauderdale and back, and get this, they even put in I think a four-day cruise to boot to the Bahama Islands. Your sightseeing is extra.

This is normally \$899 U.S. now, so it is about \$1,100-\$1,200, or for two people about \$2,400.00. They are giving this all to you for, I believe it is \$300 for two people. I cannot believe that anybody would fall for this, but evidently they are quite good at getting people to fall for this or else they would not be sending out these cards to thousands and thousands of people. Needless to say, I spent a fair amount of time quizzing the person on the phone about this and I think if she did not quit the company immediately after my phone call she probably has by now.

The problem is, what can you as a Government, we as a future Government, do about something like this? I would like some comments from the Minister on that whole area if he could just sort of detail for me what kind of involvement his department has in these kinds of enterprises. How many complaints have they had and what are the nature of the complaints? He can certainly take as long as he wishes to explain that to us.

Mr. Connerly: The department does an awful lot of work and if he looks in the annual report he will see the numbers of complaints and the nature of them.

Only one comment I will make because it was kind of a long, well, I do not know how you would describe the Member for Elmwood's speech—oh, it will be nice, but he talks about money and things trickling down.

An Honourable Member: Our manual says be nice to those guys on our side.

Mr. Connerly: They are supposed to be our buddies? I thought we broke that pact to the buddy system?

The answers the Member asked for are in the annual report, so if he wants to know numbers of what, in pertaining to what department, they will be there.

The Member just made mention of things trickling down under the Conservatives and I guess he would put the Liberals in the same boat. Indeed, the things in the NDP trickle up because the Member for Concordia (Mr. Doer) had his now wife hired by the NDP at \$22,000 and the money trickled up to become \$66,000, same as the Member for Churchill (Mr. Cowan). That is the difference between—while we look after the broad masses, they look after themselves.

Mr. Maloway: The Minister—you know I gave him certainly a very wide open question for him to tell me about experiences. Obviously he has not had any experience with this kind of problem when he goes on talking about my Leader's wife and other irrelevant areas. I asked him a question dealing with firms that

are not registered in Manitoba. Has he had any complaints recently about any enterprises such as this?

Mr. Connerly: It is unfortunate that the Member chose not to be here for the first two days of Estimates which were Tuesday of last week and also Thursday where we went through it all, and where we had all of the staff here with all of the fine detail to give the exact numbers of all of those things.

When we get into Minister's salaries, we are dealing more from the philosophical nature of things and detail like that. The Member should have been here. He was not sick. He was off on other things that he considered more important than the Estimates of the department he is critic of. I think that shows the concern that he and his Party show for Consumer Affairs and for the consumers of Manitoba.

I think that it really shows they are not concerned about people or the Member would have made this a priority. He never even asked if we would change the setting, which we did for the Member for Logan (Ms. Hemphill) who was the critic for Cultural Affairs and we changed the departments around to accommodate that. We have done it in the past. When we were in Opposition we accommodated other Ministers who had to be away and that is part of the process.

If the Member really had something that was that important to do, all he had to do was speak to the House Leader and we would have accommodated. Obviously, or it is quite obvious that he does not consider the Estimates process important and that he does not consider the Consumer and Corporate Affairs Department an important department or he would have been here with voluntary information and talking and questioning, getting the answers that he wants in detail. He would have been here.

I can tell the Member that we do not have a lot of complaints. The only one that comes to mind is the Brick Warehouse. But we have had a concern raised by the Chamber of Commerce on the overall effect of the federal legislation and the federal trademarks having jurisdiction over provincial incorporations and the Chamber of Commerce, and rightly so, as I am the Minister and our department, that these trademarks when they are registered have precedence over provincial incorporations.

In the case of the Brick's Fine Furniture versus Brick Warehouse, we are referring the matters on, there is a process that is in place. He talks about the provincial incorporation and what are we doing. There are things in process to see what can be done in that instance. We do know the fact that a company finding out that they cannot register provincially, or are not accepted goes to Ottawa and registers their name as a trademark.

The name is then put in the gazette but if the individual who is involved does not notice it in the gazette—and how many people read the gazette—then of course they do not see it and they have five years to object. In the case of the Brick Warehouse, after five years they came back and said that this was their name.

* (1520)

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We are, as the Minister and a Government, very supportive of Brick's Fine Furniture and we are doing whatever we can to resolve this matter from Brick's Fine Furniture's position, and secondly, to resolve it in the global nature of not having other companies get impacted in the same way. To that extent the last time we met with the various Ministers and the federal Government, this matter was referred to a committee to see what could be done. We did not get a lot of sympathetic response from the federal Minister, but we did get the support of New Brunswick and I appreciate the Honourable Jim Lockyer's support that he gave to Manitoba. He saw the long-term implications of not having some better control over federal incorporations and registrations over provincial jurisdiction.

Mr. Maloway: The Minister is using, as an excuse, the fact that staff is not here, hiding behind that issue, and suggesting that I was not here earlier on, and I guess he can make comments such as that.

I do not believe that had I asked for accommodation that one would have been made, but putting that aside, it really does not matter because this Party, our Party, was quite ably represented by our deputy critics who were certainly here and spent I believe a fair amount of time, actually I believe more time than was originally allotted to the entire Estimates with the Member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie) and the Member for Churchill (Mr. Cowan) and my Leader (Mr. Doer) and the Member for The Pas (Mr. Harapiak), so there have been four very able questioners in this section of the Estimates.

The Minister need not hide among frivolous answers. The fact of the matter is that he just cannot remember that far back. He cannot remember what happened this morning, let alone last Friday. But I will defer to him and try not to ask him too many pointed questions. I will try to keep them in more of a general type nature.

The Member for Lakeside (Mr. Enns) and I spoke some two years ago about how in the old days, in the '50s, I believe, the Ministers did not have the benefit of a bevy of staff being pulled in here to protect their backsides when they got into trouble. The Minister, who knows absolutely nothing, can survive in this environment. As long as the person is physically alive, they can survive in here because they have staff to answer all their questions for them. As a matter of fact, the staff should be answering the questions directly, but it is our parliamentary system that dictates that it goes through the Minister.

But the old days, if that is the way it truly was as the Member for Lakeside has indicated, was probably a more exciting type of atmosphere where the Estimates would be dealt with on a philosophical basis as opposed to spending the time the Liberal Critics—and they are new—spend here talking about, asking questions about every little nitpicky detail about each line of the Estimates when in fact the true reason for the Estimates is to get into a philosophical discussion about the areas in which the Government is, or is not, acting, or where it is going.

The Member for Lakeside (Mr. Enns) rightly pointed out that in the old days there was none of this business

where the staff was here to mollycoddle the Minister, where the Minister had to stand on his/her own and answer the questions as best they could. If they could not just say so, but do not go hide and come up with all kinds of other extraneous reasons why you cannot answer my question. Do not run and say, well, I did not ask for accommodation, and I was not here, and I did not do this, and I did not do that. Just simply say, I do not know, or answer it in another appropriate manner.

I think we can move on at this point to my next issue that I wanted to spend some time discussing today and the Minister himself alluded to it. I notice the Minister and I must think alike, at least on some traits and names because in fact he got into Brick's Warehouse and I was—

Mr. Chairman: Order, please.

Mr. Connery: Let it never be on the record that the Member for Elmwood (Mr. Maloway) and I think alike.

Mr. Chairman: The Honourable Member does not have a point of order. The Honourable Member for Elmwood.

Mr. Maloway: The Minister was so upset when I spent 20 minutes discussing his lack of legislative content in his Bills, not the fact that he had brought the Bill forward, but the fact that he did not have sufficient content in it. He spent most of the time himself leading me on into different areas that I felt compelled to deal with, not that I had necessarily planned to deal with. The fact of the matter was that I did not get finished the comments that I was planning to make because I got off on so many side issues that the Minister led me through. I do not mind that because we had an entertaining time here the other day, the Minister and I— (interjection)—

The Minister wants to mail it out to my constituents and I would welcome him to do that. As a matter of fact, I do not know that he is part of the team that is canvassing out with the Premier. I do not think that the Premier would take him out with him. If he is, I want to invite him or at least invite the Premier into my constituency. He is certainly welcome to come in there and test the waters, and see how things are. I do not think he will find that great reservoir of support that he finds out in Assiniboia.

Assiniboia is an area, of course, that the Government is hoping to recapture. Elmwood, I do not think is that high on their priorities. At least, well—

An Honourable Member: It is high on my list, too.

Mr. Maloway: My Liberal colleague says that my constituency is fairly high on his list. At this point if we had an election, they would be lucky to keep the half a dozen to a dozen of their own seats, so they ought not to be looking at too much expansion in the current environment. I would be worried about his own seat rather than chasing after me in my area. As a matter of fact, he might spend too much time in my area and manage to lose his own.

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I think that it is probably fair to say that any seat that the former Government held in the last election is fairly solid in terms of labour and NDP and socialist support.

Mr. Chairman: Order. Order, please.

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Chairman: Order, please. Order. I have endeavoured to be very lenient with the Honourable Member, but I should remind him that under our practices the Minister's salary is the opportunity to sum up and to comment generally on the department's performance. It is not appropriate to reopen discussions on specific resolutions which have been considered and passed. I would hope that the Honourable Member would take that into account.

Mr. Maloway: It is that performance, or lack thereof, that I am commenting on at this time, Mr. Chairman. If you want to look at irrelevancies, all you have to do is look at what the Minister put on the record in his last number of comments, where he wandered all over the pasture talking about the Member for Churchill's (Mr. Cowan) comments in past debates last week. He talked about the trickle down theory and the fact that he believed that socialists were not great contributors to charities, he talked about Howard Pawley and his donations, his own Leader and his donations, and the Liberal Leader. He talked about the 115 Bannatyne and the Arts Co-op. I mean talk about stuff that is totally irrelevant and has nothing to do with anything.

That is what the Minister has done not only today, but the other day in dealing with the Bill as well. He was all over the place. That is why after 40 minutes I was left with half my speech still waiting to be delivered because the Minister had taken me through all kinds of areas that I had no desire to deal with. Seeing him and listening to him prompts me into all these different areas. I am merely following him. I am taking his guidance and his direction. After all, he is the Minister and I am the critic for his department. I have to be able to criticize what it is that he is talking about. Sometimes I know it is very hard to follow, but I do my best and try to follow him wherever his comments might take him at that particular period.

I want to get back to my second point. That is—the Minister got to it before I did, but that is the whole area of The Brick Warehouse. For the last 16 months now, this Government has refused to press charges against this company The Brick Warehouse of Calgary for failing to register their name under The Business Names Registration Act. This is after, and he knows full well that corporations in Manitoba must register their name within 30 days of opening their doors. In fact, he should be aware—and I am going to ask the Minister a question or a few about this—but is the Minister aware that there is a 30-day rule under The Business Names Registration Act for companies to register?

* (1530)

Mr. Connery: I would just hope the Member would keep on; I am enjoying his diatribe.

Mr. Maloway: My purpose was to ask the Minister a question. I asked him the question and I would expect that he would provide me with an answer. He can take as long as he would like to do that.

Mr. Connery: I will take his question as notice.

Mr. Maloway: He is taking a very, very simple question as notice, one that is clearly in the Act and if he knows anything at all about The Corporations Act, The Business Names Registration Act, anything at all about The Brick Warehouse situation, he would know that the Act requires 30 days for a company to be registered in Manitoba.

I ask him a question as to whether or not he is aware of that 30-day period and he tells me he is not aware of that. Well, I have another question for him if he is going to take that one as notice and that is: does he know what the fine is for violating that provision and what the penalty would be by this time?

Mr. Connery: A whole lot.

Mr. Maloway: The fact of the matter is that currently the fines would amount to \$25,000 for every director and officer and every representative of that company. This Government is worrying about deficit reduction, and it worrying about revenue, it is worried about expenditures, and here it has a willing source of revenue—just wait, the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) is here—and this corporation could potentially give the treasury of Manitoba at this point \$25,000 for every director and officer for violating The Business Names Registration Act. Is it the Minister's intention to allow this situation to go on for yet another year or two so that the Minister of Finance can at that point collect even more revenue?

Mr. Connery: We are reviewing it very carefully.

Mr. Maloway: Mr. Chairman, for that enlightening answer that the Minister—he should have taken that one as notice, too—but the fact of the matter is that it is certainly evident to us on this side of the House that there is one law for Brick Warehouse and there is another law for everyone else. I asked you, why would anybody, why would any business—and there are people in this House who own businesses—go to a lawyer, spend money incorporating, go through the process to get a name when, they have a company like The Brick Warehouse of Calgary who have been operating outside of the law for 16 months? What kind of a signal does that give to other well-intentioned businesses who go through the process of employing lawyers and getting their incorporation put together the proper, legal way? I ask the Minister that.

Mr. Connery: I will just listen to the comments from the Member for Elmwood (Mr. Maloway). I do not want to lower myself to be answering some of the things that he wants. He could have been here in Estimates and had them, but just let him put his comments on the record that he wants and, when he is done, then we will go on to the next.

Mr. Maloway: I have a lot of time. It depends on how many answers I get from the Minister. If the Minister wants to sit here till ten o'clock tonight, I will stand here till ten o'clock tonight and ask him these questions.—(interjection)— Well, it is the Minister's choice. I am asking him simple questions. He does not seem to understand the questions. I feel that it is a terrible example and if the business community were aware that there is one law for The Brick Warehouse and another law for everybody else they would be at your doorstep, Mr. Minister. The fact of the matter is that the businesses have not really fully understood that.—(interjection)—

The Minister would have more than his doors blown off if the business community really got angry about this apparent double standard that he has applied in this situation.

He is not the only Minister to blame. The real blame here lies with his House Leader, with the Member for Brandon West (Mr. McCrae). He is simply an appendage of the Member for Brandon West.

The Member for Brandon West is the person who is running this whole area, and the Minister was given Consumer and Corporate Affairs, I guess, as just something to keep him out of the limelight and away from all the trouble he was getting the Government into. They could see their potential for majority just evaporating when this Minister was in his heyday. It was almost every second day that he was leading them almost over the abyss, over the cliff and down the drain, and we thought only their Leader could do things like that.

This Minister was trying to compete directly with the Leader in that area. They shuffled him over here, found some room for him and that is fine. The Member for Brandon West is clearly still in charge of this whole issue, and contrary to what his Deputy Minister has recommended—his Deputy Minister was reported by Aldo Santin in, I believe the Free Press, certainly the paper that he writes for, this past summer—that the Deputy Minister, Mr. Don Zasada, had in fact recommended to the Minister that charges be pressed.

In fact Members of his own caucus, at various times, have advised him to do exactly that, but no, he will not back down, because he is basically supporting The Brick Warehouse of Calgary and their connections and alignments with the federal PC Party and the former Minister, Mr. Andre. I believe his constituency houses The Brick Warehouse out in Calgary, and obviously being a large retailer they have more influence with the political process. This is something that is to be expected I suppose.

An Honourable Member: But is that fair?

Mr. Maloway: Well it is not fair, but they have more influence with the Government than the little Brick of Winnipeg do. So the Minister must find it very frustrating when he does not have the ear of his federal Minister.

This Government has no credibility whatsoever in the eyes of the federal Government. On top of that, why would they listen to a local company that is having

problems with them? I can see where this Minister finds it frustrating, and the former Minister, in dealing with their federal counterparts in terms of trying to get quick action.

In fact, The Brick Warehouse of Calgary moved rather quickly to pacify the local Conservatives here by setting up a store in Brandon West right under the nose of the Attorney General. Right smack under the nose of the Attorney General the store was set up last August, and when I had spoken—

Mr. Chairman: Order, please; order please. I must again remind the Honourable Member that Minister's Salary is not the appropriate time for detailed questions on matters already dealt with by the committee. Therefore, I would ask him to conclude his remarks. The Honourable Minister.

Mr. Connery: There is a little prayer that I heard one day, and it is quite a good one and it goes this way, it says: Lord, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can and the wisdom to know the difference. Mr. Chairman, I cannot change the Member for Elmwood.

Mr. Maloway: I really do not see how my comments, in any way, can be construed as not dealing with the overall direction, or lack thereof, of this department.

* (1540)

The Brick Warehouse situation, dealing with The Business Names Registration Act, has everything to do with this Minister's Estimates. In a summing up sense, or in an introductory sense, I think it would be in order to make comments certainly on areas that the Minister did. Just minutes ago the Minister led us into this area about Brick Warehouse.

I was merely putting on comments about this Government's lack of action in an area that we found very important and trying to lay over some of the reasons why this Government appears to be—or why people might suggest that this Government might not want to act. It certainly had the legislative authority and certainly the support of our Party to the extent that we even brought in Bills to try to alleviate this situation.

So the fact of the matter is, Mr. Chairman, that one wonders why The Brick Warehouse of Calgary was allowed to go through the process, all these sixteen months, of defying the Government in terms of registering their name and operating.

Why could they not simply—when they realized that the company was not to be registered until this situation was resolved—why did they not cease and desist? Why did they not simply pull back on their leases, pull back on their activity in this province?

To allow them to come in and brutally take over this business with their saturation advertising and set up a store in the Minister's riding of Brandon West, right under his nose, and to have them basically take a hands-off attitude to this situation is certainly something this Government should be very embarrassed about doing.

I think some of them are not very happy about this Minister's lack of action in this whole area.

This case has been reported on in numerous journals, in national programs, and it is very clear that the former Minister has been stonewalling this question. I have asked him questions before, and he said, well you are simply trying to drive business out of Manitoba, red herrings again. This has nothing to do with the question. The question is: are some people above the law and others not? That is the question.

If someone is speeding down the highway, there are two people speeding, how would you feel if one of them was left to speed while the other one was caught? - (interjection)- That is right, that happens.

Here is a situation where these people are doing it blatantly. They are blatantly refusing to register their company—not necessarily refusing, the Government is refusing to allow them to register. While they are not registered they are operating their business. Why is the Manitoba Telephone System allowing them to place an ad in the phone book? Why are they allowing that? They should refuse to allow them to put the ad in the telephone book. They should refuse to allow them—there is something clearly wrong with the system - (interjection)-

Mr. Chairman: Order, please. Order. The Honourable Member for Radisson.

Mr. Patterson: Mr. Chairman, may we get on to the Minister's Salary?

Mr. Maloway: I think, if you check with any experts on the rules, and so on, you will find that Minister's Salary allows for the widest latitude of debate. The fact of the matter is that I should be allowed the widest latitude possible. Everything I have been saying and the questions I have been asking are in order, as it is the prerogative of the Minister to not answer them if he wishes not to do, and he has chosen not to.

He has taken a very simple question as notice. I cannot believe he does not know the answer to it. He has made a frivolous comment about another question that I have made, and I do not mind that. I just want to have my time to adequately express my concerns in these Estimates and to ask him as many questions as possible.

I suggested to him that if he would answer my questions we could finish sooner. I certainly suggested to him that I had enough questions to last until ten o'clock tonight, and I do not see going beyond that at all.

I certainly have comments and questions, and I know the Minister and the Members may not like to hear these things, or may not want to hear them, but if they do not wish to do it that is their prerogative. There are other things that they can do. There is a wide variety of areas we want to deal with, that our Party wants to deal with in the conclusion of these Estimates, and certainly I would appreciate the latitude to deal with them.

I would also appreciate the Minister paying some attention to my comments and certainly making an

attempt—the Deputy Premier is giving me the high sign I see, I feel that way sometimes myself. The fact of the matter is that I think it is only fair I have that opportunity.

If the Government would be a little more forthright and would simply lay its cards on the table and let us know what the answers are to our questions, then I think we would be more willing to let things be compressed a little bit more. If the Minister is going to simply stonewall and basically take simple questions as notice, and refuse to answer questions, then I think it is only fair that I be permitted to explain—(interjection)—and the Minister of Housing (Mr. Ducharme)—and we will certainly deal with him later on, because I have some questions for him, too and I would assume that he will deal with them at that time.

Brick Fine Furniture of Winnipeg has been sitting by, has been putting in a tremendous amount of their own money to try to fight this big company's illegal intrusion into this province, and where did it get support? It has got support from the New Democratic Party, that has been it. It has gotten some verbal support from Members of the front bench on the Government side, it has gotten some support from the Liberal Party, depending on which day of the week it is that they talked to them. One day they are onside with them on one point and the next day they are not. They never really know which way the Liberal Party is going on any issue and we never know either, Mr. Chairman.

When you are in a situation where you are fighting for your life against a company with unlimited money—I should not say unlimited money—unlimited credit, unlimited access, because in fact if you were to take a solvency test of both of the Bricks you might find out perhaps the net worth of the little guy is bigger than the huge corporation, for all we know, because I have read articles about the California chain that they bought and finally got rid of. Their debt load is enormously high, and all you need is a slight downturn in the economy, which even the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) knows is going to happen sooner or later if the Liberals get in a little faster.

These corporations, in a long-term sense—the big corporation may, in fact, become insolvent sooner than a little corporation, but the fact of the matter is that history would dictate otherwise. The little Brick Fine Furniture has basically been terrified by this intrusion of the big company, not having unlimited resources, not being able to afford three or four trademark lawyers—which is a very specialized area of law—into the courtrooms and not having the resources that a big company can bring to bear against them.

So all they get from the Government of this province is just verbal statements of support, well you know, hang on a little longer, that is the Attorney General (Mr. McCrae), hang on a little longer, that is what he tells them. He was hoping it would go away, put your head in the sand, do the ostrich act, put your head in the sand and hope the situation resolves itself, and that is his solution.

* (1550)

Mr. Chairman, I did want to make some more comments in this area. The Members of the front bench,

the Members of the Liberal Party, have been sympathetic at times to the Brick situation, but that has not helped them out too much.

The Minister, the former do-nothing Minister, has sat there and hoped and hoped that this situation would resolve itself. In fact, it has not happened, but still he is not prepared to do anything about it, and that is the sad part of this whole situation.

To have the Minister stand up in this House, try to rule me out of order, try to wind-up the Estimates so he can get on to other things—he wants to go on to Workplace Health and Safety yet this afternoon. That is where he wants to go. He is upset. He is refusing to answer my questions. He thinks that just because the Liberal Party rolls over and dies, just because the Liberal Party collapses in a heap after a three-four minute summation, that it is all supposed to end. Just because he has one Party under his thumb over there does not mean he has this Party under his thumb, and he should get to know it. He is very upset when he thinks that he might have to stay here until ten o'clock and listen to questions from our side.

When I asked him simple questions about whether or not he is aware of the 30-day rule, the fact that corporations have to register in Manitoba within 30 days under the Act, he takes it as notice, he does not know. This is the man who has been dealing with the Brick Warehouse situation for the last year and a half.

The crux of the situation is that this corporation, to even operate in Manitoba, has to be registered. The province refuses to register it, it had 30 days to do it. After the 30 days the fines started clicking in on a daily basis. Over \$25,000 is owed in fines by each member of this corporation. If the Minister would simply step in and do something about it, but he will not do it.

In fact, he has made comments about me not being here last week, and he is not here himself. He walks out on me. He is constantly walking around and doing other things, and that is why he cannot answer a simple question about the 30-day rule, that is why he takes as notice another simple question that I have asked him.

That is ridiculous, Mr. Chairman, that the Minister would take that kind of an attitude and think that somehow, once he got his reprieve from the gallows, from his Leader and Premier, and he got put into Consumer and Corporate Affairs, he could come in with one little Bill, copied from one of our Bills, take two-thirds of it and think he has made some big initiative. You would think he was at the Russian front and was attacking and spent years doing this.

How many consultations—he talks about consultations, that is the greatest one. He puts all these consultations into these Bills. How much consulting can you possibly do on extending the cooling-off period on direct sales from four days to 10? How many people do you have to talk to? At his rate of doing things they would not get anything done, they would be an absolute do-nothing Government.

They used to talk about the walking dead. They used to talk about the walking dead when we were in

Government. Well, it took us six years to get to that state. This Minister is a walking dead after only 16 months. That is a terrible record and a lack of action on the part of this Government, this Minister and the Minister before him, it is just appalling. Mr. Chairman, I think this Minister should start answering some of the questions that I have been asking him.

I am certainly going to give my Leader an opportunity now to ask some questions of the Minister, and then I will be right back in here to ask him some more questions.

Hon. Clayton Manness (Minister of Finance): I felt it was appropriate that some other Members rise at this time. I congratulate firstly the Minister—

An Honourable Member: You have been laughing at him for a year and a half.

Mr. Manness: I have never laughed at this Minister, indeed any Minister of this Government. Mr. Chairman, I congratulate the Minister for not rising to the banter or the taunting from the Member for Elmwood (Mr. Maloway).

What we have here at this time in this House is a situation where it is now November 20. We have approximately considered 120 hours of the 240 hours that has been allotted to the rightful and responsible role of the Opposition Parties to be directed towards considering the wise spending of \$4.6 billion of the people's money.

That is the purpose, and although I have not been active, and I have not been here often, with respect to the consideration of the Estimates of the Department of Consumer and Co-operative Affairs, let me say that I have been absolutely appalled at what I have heard over the last hour. Although I do acknowledge that it is a Member's right, when considering the Minister's salary, to engage in a wide ranging review of the department, indeed a wide ranging criticism if that is the wish of Members.

I say what I have heard over the last half hour and beyond that leads me to believe that certain Members of this House only are wanting to do one thing, taunting the Minister to try in some respects to come forward and not defend his record as the Minister in charge of this department but try and defend accusations and comments made many, many months, if not years, before.

I say that is an abuse of this period of time. That is an abuse of the responsibility of all our places and indeed why we are here. So I say if it is the will of particularly the NDP at this time to stretch out the Estimates within this department, obviously that is their right, but I think it is incumbent on all Members of this House to try and make their comments judicial and germane to the comments at hand. Certainly the Government will sit here and listen to them for however long it may take, but I say they are not serving the taxpayers of this province well.

Mr. Chairman: I thank the Honourable Minister for his advice and his remarks. The Honourable Member for Concordia.

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Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Second Opposition): I am finding it a bit strange to find the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) sounding like the Member for River Heights (Mrs. Carstairs) today; totally ill-advised, in terms of the responsibilities we have and the Rules. The Rules prescribe 240 hours for Estimates, and this morning I heard somebody on the radio, the Member for River Heights (Mrs. Carstairs) on the radio, go on about, well, because there are three Parties now in the House that means there is going to be a longer period of Estimates. Now the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) sounds the same way dealing with the Estimates of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

There is going to be a finite amount of hours. Those are the Rules.- (interjection)- Oh, well, maybe the Member for Inkster (Mr. Lamoureux) should tell his Leader what is in the Rules. Maybe we should have another orientation session for the Liberal Party.

Mr. Chairman, I do not know why there is a great big panic. I looked on Thursday, I have not looked today, but it seemed to me that there was about 126 hours left on Thursday. I suppose when we started today it was around 120.

The Chamber -(interjection)- well, Mr. Chairman, the Members know that there are 120 hours left and you know there are certain things the Government has the unilateral right to decide and I respect their right to decide it.

I have always respected the right of Government to make decisions and there are responsibilities and therefore decisions that the Opposition must make. One of those few areas of discretion that we have at our disposal is the ability to use the Rules of the House, and the hours are allotted in those Rules in specific Estimates for purposes of determining certain matters and putting on the record certain policy issues that we either agree with or disagree with the Government of the Day.

* (1600)

That is a right that we have in this House, and for the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) to suggest that we are, in his opinion, quote: somewhat untowards towards our democratic responsibilities because of it, I find quite frankly disappointing.

(Mr. Gilles Roch, Acting Chairman, in the Chair)

I can recall in a subjective way that I felt the Members opposite sometimes seem to me to be burning off time in a kind of whimsical way, but I respected their right to utilize their whimsy because I thought that they were carrying on their responsibilities in the way that they saw fit. When we raise and treat this department as a priority, I can assure you that it is a priority in our caucus.

The Leader of our Party was here for the Estimates. The Member for Lakeside (sic) was here in these Estimates. The Member for Elmwood (Mr. Maloway) is here in these Estimates. The Member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie) is here in these Estimates, and surely that should demonstrate that consumer and co-operative issues are important for us.

We feel it is an important issue. Now I am surprised at the lack of any staying power on the Members opposite. I do not know why they are panicking. There are 240 hours in Estimates. We have taken 120 hours, and I am getting a little worried about the Liberals and Conservatives who are obviously—I mean we are in our 16th week here and everybody is all of a sudden going a little stir-crazy. I do not feel any great pressure. There is a responsibility we have and we are—Well, I know the Liberals are sizing up their palm trees, in terms of their vacations, but quite frankly we take these Estimates very seriously.

You know the Liberals, I do not like some of the legislation that they have brought in. I do not like the fact their Leader runs around telling half-truths about the Estimate process. I heard her today say it was going to take longer because we have three Parties. It is 240 hours for three Parties or 10 Parties. Wait till the Reform Party comes in here, there will maybe be more people talking about Estimates and -(interjection)- I do not think that they will be running against us, my good friend from Arthur.

Maybe these whimpy Tory policies are going to leave yourself vulnerable for the new novel -(interjection)- There is a favourite country and western singer that we have a lot of respect for: "You have got to know when to hold them and you have got to know when to play them, and do not count your money till the days are done." I would suggest to you that maybe the New Democrats are listening to that wise old philosopher, Kenny Rogers, a little bit more than the Members opposite are as we proceed—

An Honourable Member: You will do like Hank Snow, you will be moving on.

Mr. Doer: I know the Member for Arthur (Mr. Downey) sings the other Hank Snow song: "Take this job," and whatever.

Now on to the Estimates, because that is your main floor of debate. Everyday we see more and more issues that worry us on consumer issues. It is the Drug Patent Law one day and the lack of the Government's ability to take a strong stand on behalf of the consumers. Next they support the drug companies and we know the present Consumer and Co-operative Affairs Minister was a Member of the Opposition. We saw which way he voted on the Drug Patent Law. He voted against the United Church, he voted against the seniors in Canada, he voted against the other consumer advocates in Canada and voted with the drug companies a couple of years ago when he was in the Opposition.

That is why when we get onto Brick's Fine Furniture and other consumer issues, we are worried about this Minister and that is why we have to go on in as much detail as possible. We think the Minister is a nice person but we are talking about the biases and prejudices that one must exercise in a subjective judgment area. We cannot understand, Mr. Acting Chairman, why the Minister has chosen to ignore the plight of small business with the Brick's Furniture situation.

We do not know why they are not taking an aggressive position on the Drug Patent Law as an intervener in

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the court case. We do not know why there is a measurable decrease in the support of Government for Co-operative Affairs. We were surprised that the Minister had not done any evaluation of the effect on consumers on the Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation.

If the one hand of Government is advocating the withdrawal of the public enterprise in the General Insurance area, we would think that the other hand of Government, that was agreed upon to be the independent evaluator of standards of insurance, would at least be conducting an impact study on the effect of that withdrawal from the marketplace.

How many small businesses will be affected by not having insurance? How many tourist operations will not have insurance when MPIC withdraws? How many examples have we had from the Member for Gladstone (Mrs. Oleson) where there are riding stables and other operations that will have to close down because there is no ability to have insurance. We were very, very disappointed with our answers from the Minister on those issues. We would think that in Cabinet there would be one advocate, you know, the kind of free enterprise advocate, get rid of that insurance company, notwithstanding the fact that we have left employees on the tenterhooks of an indecisive Government for 18 months.

On May 10 the Minister responsible for MPIC (Mr. Cummings) said in a big headline in the Free Press, oh, we are going to privatize MPIC General Insurance. Here you are, a family, a working person and a family, and you have been sitting with that situation for 18 months. It is almost worse than a minority Government, Mr. Acting Chairman. Families, these are not automatons that sit at home and read the newspaper, these are human beings. They have kids, they have relatives, they have to make plans.

If the Government was going to proceed, on the one hand we would believe that it would do its study and be decisive, and on the other hand we would believe that a Minister should be sitting in Cabinet saying, oh, by the way colleagues, this is what is going to happen when we withdraw from this field. These are the other ramifications of it. We have what looks to be a one-sided insurance debate in this province. The Minister is responsible for the operations of the Insurance Branch, and no study of it.

Mr. Acting Chairman, we also obtained the words of the Minister in Estimates that he has no problem with the Vancouver Stock Exchange. We will be watching that situation, the penny stocks. We have the words in Hansard. I read back the Hansard on the no problem in the Vancouver Stock Exchange. I am pleased that the Government and the Minister feel that there is no problem with the penny stock situation. I am sure Manitoba investors will be well informed to take the Minister's words, and hopefully he is correct, hopefully there is not another kind of withdrawal from the marketplace by many investors on the Vancouver Stock Exchange. I am pleased with his answer in the Chamber, and I am sure history will record it as correctly, or maybe history in the terms of investors will have a different opinion. We will see.

Mr. Acting Chairman, there are tremendous consumer issues ahead of us. The GST is a consumer issue, \$629 per family; on a consumer issue, \$629 more in consumption taxes with the GST. This is probably the most important department now before the Legislature, because this department is hopefully the leading advocate department in terms of the biggest insult to consumer taxpayers that I have ever seen. I hope the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs is putting out press releases saying tax back the \$28 billion in corporate taxes that was announced last week, get those 93,000 corporations.

One of the Ministers shrugs his shoulders, get those 93,000 corporations -(interjection)- Oh, okay, I am sorry, sometimes we try to use -(interjection)- oh, I did not know.- (interjection)- Well, if the Minister says he is shrugging his shoulders at the Member of Transportation rather than us, it will be the first time. He has been shrugging his shoulders at us for a year and a half, but I take him at his word. We have not always agreed, but usually I have always thought the Minister has been straight up with us. I have always felt the Member for Portage la Prairie is a straight up individual, and we have tried to act that same way in Portage la Prairie on Portage issues with the Minister.

As he knows with the base closings and everything else, we have tried to play it straight up. I know it is not his recommendation that the Mulroney Government savages his community in terms of the jobs and opportunities in his community. I would just like the Minister to act the same way with the people that work for General Insurance in Brandon as he feels for the people in his own community in terms of the savage affect on the families in Portage.

The individual sitting home at the kitchen table talking to their family and their kids, they do not know what school they are going to go to, they do not know whether to stay in the community or not, whether they are going to have to move or whether they have to go to another province to get a job if the company sold. Those are huge issues for families that are living on the edge, they are not just statistics that we raise in the House. It is not just disco politics. These are families that sit at home, and that is why I was a bit disappointed when the Minister had not done that impact study.

* (1610)

I think you can help us save MPIC General Insurance. I really believe you have a role to play and this department has a role to play. Moving back to the tax grab, Mr. Acting Chairman, the -(interjection)- I think the 2 percent—Quite frankly I believe that this country should have a reform of its tax system, and I personally was opposed to the 5 percent sales tax that Roblin put on. I was personally opposed to the sales tax that we added and the other tax.

Quite frankly, people, consumers, are -(interjection)- No, I am saying the problem is not the fact that we have taxes, you have to have taxes to support Government Services. The problem is that there is not a balance of taxation at the federal level, which allows the provinces to move in on page 1 of the income tax.

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I think we should get rid of the 2 percent tax. I think we should get rid of some of the sales tax, and the GST, with a minimum corporate tax in this country that gets that billions and billions of dollars. I think we have got a tax problem in this country, whether it is provincial or federal the taxes are too high on average families and not anything on average consumers.

So I think the Member is correct when he raises those points. All Governments have taxed too much, Liberals, Conservatives, New Democrats, because the federal Liberal and Conservative Governments have not taken on the loopholes in the taxes, particularly the loophole Liberals who created these loopholes. I cannot believe that they can even be talking about taxation when they created almost every loophole in the system that exists. You know that is one of the great myths of taxation. It is the Liberals that have created the loopholes.- (interjection)- Well, the public is soon going to see the tax tables from 1965 on and we can see every year the percentage has gone down.

Well, Mr. Acting Chairman, I know the critic wants to continue on in the Estimate process, but it is a very important department for us and we are trying to put some very important issues on the record. I am sorry if the Opposition does not share our priorities, and the Government does not share the priorities of it, but we will operate within the Rules of the House to finish all the business in the 120 hours we have allotted—

An Honourable Member: No, 240.

Mr. Doer: Yes, but there are 120 left. We will also be very co-operative with the Government on the financial Bills that have to pass by certain points in time. We have been very co-operative with the Government with City of Winnipeg Bills. We have come back twice on the drinking and driving Bill in a very expeditious way, and we will co-operate with the Government where co-operation is necessary for the citizens of Manitoba. We may disagree on how we slice the pie, it is a finite pie. We may disagree about how we slice it, but we do have the right to have some say on the slices of the pie. We have decided to have the slice with the Minister opposite, it is a little bigger because of the consumer priorities we have in the province than maybe we will have in other departments that formerly would have had more time.

That is our right as Opposition. That is our responsibility, and the fact that we have had a number of people in questioning the Minister should indicate to the Minister that we are all very interested in his department. Notwithstanding our affinity to the Minister's own personality, the subjects in his department are very important to us, and I hope he respects that in our deliberations here today. Thank you.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Roch): Before I recognize the Honourable Minister, I would like to remind all Honourable Members that speeches in Committee of Supply, according to Rule 64.(2), must be relevant to the item or clause under discussion. I would like to remind all Honourable Members that we are on Minister's Salary. The Honourable Minister.

Mr. Connery: Well, Mr. Acting Chairman, the Member for Concordia, the Leader of the Second Opposition Party, says that this is one of the most important departments that could be before the Legislature. When the department was formed and split off from the Department of Justice, it allowed for a lot more time for me as Minister to devote to consumer issues.

Yet when that was done the Member for Concordia (Mr. Doer) laughed and said it was a nothing department. All there is there is a desk and a plant, he said. That is all there is. He ridiculed the fact that Consumer and Corporate Affairs, Co-op Development and Workers Compensation were split off. He made fun of the fact there was not enough there to justify a Minister.

So I think that is a little bit—in fact, I kind of thought it was a funny commentary because his own Member for Churchill (Mr. Cowan) only had Co-op Development. Obviously if mine was not a worthwhile department to have, quite obviously the Member for Churchill really should have not got his pay, because after all there are three departments now and that splits the Minister's pay, so he should only have got about \$6,000 for his department.

Mr. Acting Chairman, they talk about an unimportant department, how important consumerism is, but they would not bring in any legislation. They just refuse to bring in legislation. The Business Practices Act that had been started in 1975 sat there through all of the NDP lean years, for six and a half years, refused to do anything or bring anything in.- (interjection)- I do not care what Sterling wanted to do with it. That is his business. We bring it in, and we brought it in. When we got into office we said, yes, this is important legislation and we are going to bring it in.

So let the Member for Concordia (Mr. Doer) prattle away as he will, but -(interjection)- Is the Member for Concordia finished? You are surprised, but what Sterling Lyon's Government did is what Sterling Lyon's Government did. We are bringing this in. I am quite proud of Sterling Lyon as a Leader and I supported him, and I think he was a gentleman who commands a lot of respect in this Legislature. Unfortunately, the Member for the NDP wants to deride that Honourable Member and I am ashamed of him, but I have a lot of respect for Sterling Lyon.

What each group does, that is up to them. You had your record. You had six and one-half years of your record, and the people said enough of that and threw you out, and I think rightfully so. Mr. Acting Chairman, we hear a lot of the diatribe of the Member for Concordia (Mr. Doer). We cannot put any credence in what that Member says. He says, what about those people who will not get insurance when the MPIC general part is sold? -(interjection)-

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Roch): Order, please. The Honourable Minister has the floor.

Mr. Connery: Mr. Acting Chairman, he says people will not get insurance.- (interjection)- I hear an echo. That is okay. I was at a motivational seminar all weekend and I feel quite happy and Members can carry on all they like, and life is wonderful.

The Member from Concordia said people will not get insurance after the General Insurance Division of MPIC is sold, and I would like to say to the Member for Concordia (Mr. Doer), while he was in office, while they had jurisdiction over MPIC, they would not give full coverage to an Indian reserve to cover their school and for their recreation complex. They would not give it to that Indian reserve. Now, he talks about if we sell it. They had it; they owned it. They had the right to do it and they said, no, we will not give you insurance. Those are the nonsense words of the Member for Concordia. We hear those kind of words coming from the Member for Concordia on an ongoing basis, and I think it is very cynical of them.

He tries to make light of the ozone layer, and he tries to make light of that I was not concerned about the ozone layer when it was the No. 1 -(interjection)- He will continue to make -(interjection)- We are talking about the factual -(interjection)-

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Roch): Order, please.

Mr. Connery: Anyway, Mr. Acting Chairman, I have listened to the Member for Concordia (Mr. Doer) for many a time in this Legislature. Sometimes he makes some sense, sometimes he just goes on, but he does attempt to mislead people and I find that a little bit discouraging for a Member who is supposed to be honourable. He said one time sitting from his chair, when Churchill was discussed, and he said, we quadrupled tourism in Churchill. The Member has a poor memory when he—because that is why, when you tell an inaccuracy, you should write it down so you can remember it—but he said that, and the facts are tourism dropped by over a third in that very period of time.

The Member for Concordia (Mr. Doer) was very critical of Gravure Graphics, you remember, and we cleaned it up. What about the Domtar site that he could not do, that his Government could not do? We got it fenced; they are cleaning it up, all of these things, so the Member for Concordia—I would wish we could get into dialogue that had some real honest debate, the diatribe that we have heard from the Member for Elmwood (Mr. Maloway), and I know what they are trying to do. They are trying to drag it on and that is fine. I got all the time in the world. I am here full time and I am here from first thing in the morning, last thing at night, Monday through Friday, come in Sunday night as a matter of fact to be sure that I am here in good time, so the longer they take—but I am just not going to answer ridiculous comments and diatribe that the Member for Elmwood wants to put on. I cannot stop him from doing it. He has all the right in the world. Let him go ahead and do it, but do not expect me to give any credibility to the goofy stuff that he says. I will just not respond to it.

* (1620)

I think that we do owe the people of Manitoba a little bit more than what they are getting this afternoon. There is a tremendous cost. You say, we have all the right to run this Legislature as long as we can, as you want. That is fine, you can do it. There is a tremendous

cost to the people of Manitoba by having ludicrous, stupid debate. You have frustrated the Estimates process by having grievances, emergency debate, you carry them on and you frustrate and lengthen out the whole process. I am not panicking, but I am saying that the people of Manitoba are paying the cost of this Legislature sitting. You say, yes, but what about hospital beds, what about that money going to day care? I think we should take a look at what the cost of running this Legislature is for one day? Is there any idea of what it costs to run this Legislature?

An Honourable Member: What do we get for rural Members being here?

Mr. Connery: Well, naturally, they do not want to close it down, because the rural Members, the Members of the NDP, most of them come from up North.

POINT OF ORDER

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Roch): The Honourable Member for Concordia, on a point of order.

Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Second Opposition): A point of order, Mr. Acting Chairman. I find the comments made by the Member offensive. To suggest that Members in this Chamber from outside of Winnipeg are prolonging the debates in this Chamber for their pecuniary gain, I would suggest to you, Mr. Acting Chairman, is absolutely, totally against the rules and I would ask the Member to withdraw that on behalf of any Member living outside of the City of Winnipeg. I find that personally offensive and it is anti-democratic. The reason why those fees were put in that I do not receive is for Members to participate fully and equally from inside Winnipeg and outside Winnipeg and I think the Member should withdraw, without any equivocation, those comments.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Roch): The Honourable Minister, on the same point of order.

Mr. Connery: No, not under this item.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Roch): Order, order please. I will take the Member for Concordia's (Mr. Doer) point of order under advisement. The Chair will report back at a later date. The Honourable Minister, to continue his remarks.

Mr. Connery: While he is offended by it, maybe he would be offended by my comment that the Member for The Pas (Mr. Harapiak) uses his cottage on Rocky Lake as his second residence and gets the full living allowance in Winnipeg. Now, if you want to consider that to be fair, you tell me whether a cottage on a lake is considered a second residence in order to get the full money, so we are looking at a lot of different things here.

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

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The Acting Chairman (Mr. Roch): Order, please. The Honourable Member for Elmwood.

Mr. Maloway: What we have just witnessed is just an example of why this Minister has dragged this Government down. In fact, they would have been in a position much earlier to go to the polls probably and win their majority, but with Ministers like him, just exact examples of why they are going to go down the drain. This Minister is absolutely reckless with facts and with malicious intent I believe too.

He started out this afternoon talking about the Member for Churchill's (Mr. Cowan) comments the other day and deriding them and talking about socialists not contributing as much to charities as capitalist oriented people and talking about our former Leader's contributions and the former—as opposed to his Leader and Liberal Leader, totally pieces of information that are probably not accurate. He talked about 115 Bannatyne and the Arts Co-op and a bunch of other things. It is just another example of the hoof and mouth disease that has plagued this Minister from the beginning. I am convinced that he would be right out of this Cabinet if the First Minister had had any brains. They shoved him out most of the way and he is still hanging in there. They put him into a lower profile portfolio to keep him out of trouble. That has not stopped him.—(interjection)—because of you.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Roch): Order. Order, please.

Mr. Maloway: That has not stopped racist comments which were reported in the Press. No matter how low profile they try to make this Minister, he still manages to skip out and keep making comments, he is just totally problem prone, it is amazing. If the Minister would simply directly answer some of the questions that I have asked him, he would certainly minimize his time here, but he need not worry about the time of the Estimates. My Leader has certainly made it clear a couple of times that we have a finite number of hours for Estimates. So what does it matter whether we are in his Estimates or whether we are in the Health Estimates, we still have only the same number of hours so why should he be concerned about getting out of here right away as he wanted to do and get on to Workplace Safety and Health Estimates before 5:30 p.m. today?

(Mr. Chairman in the Chair).

Mr. Maloway: Mr. Chairman, I did want to proceed and make some comments on some other areas. The Minister of Housing (Mr. Ducharme), when he was the critic of Consumer Affairs, talked about lemon law. He said if he ever made it into Government, a Conservative Government would bring in lemon law.

Forty-five states have lemon law, with Florida being the most recent state this past January bringing in the toughest laws which provide for people who buy brand new cars to get a refund of the full purchase price or have their car fixed and the manufacturer has three opportunities to fix the car. If they cannot fix it after three times they have to refund the purchase price or

give them a new car. Now, that is the intent of the lemon law.

Mr. Chairman, as I have mentioned, 45 states had such laws. When the Minister of Housing was in Opposition as the Consumer Critic, if you refer to his speeches, his three or four speeches as critic in the two years he was the critic, you will find that the only initiative that he referred to at that time was lemon law, the only one. He referred to the Ontario situation which is an arbitration panel which is sort of a half-baked approach towards lemon law. When they got in Government, have you heard any comments out of the Conservative Government about lemon law? Not one single comment. So those were their comments in Opposition. The reality, when they are in Government, is something totally different.

When they were in Opposition did they ever talk about an Unfair Business Practices Act? Did they ever request that one be brought in when seven out of 10 provinces have one? They stand here now and say, we are bringing one in. You did not do it when you were in Government all these years and Sterling Lyon did not do it when he was in Government. This law has been talked about for years and years and years. That is what the Minister was saying today and in fact that he somehow is bringing this law in.

The fact of the matter is that the critic, when they were in Opposition, never mentioned Unfair Business Practices Act one time in his two years and the only reason we have it now is because this caucus, the NDP Caucus introduced the Bill last year and this Minister has simply photocopied it, has simply xeroxed the Bill, gone out and done some consulting and brought it in to his credit as Bill No. 64, The Business Practices Act and we look forward to debating and passing that legislation.

RECESS

Mr. Maloway: As I had indicated, the Conservative Critic when he was in Opposition, the Minister of Housing (Mr. Ducharme) right now, talked about lemon law, the one issue that he as a critic talked about and they have forgotten about it. They have absolutely forgotten about that issue and we have heard no further talk about it. But I remember him being in the House here and bringing up lemon law in each of his speeches, in fact spending half the speech on lemon law itself. But he did not talk about the Unfair Business Practices. He did not talk about that Act at all, that comprehensive Act that we have had before this House now for 16 months and the Minister has simply copied and brought in.

* (1630)

We applaud him for having the foresight to take our initiative, xerox it if he had to, do some consulting and bring it in. We applaud him in that and we want to get that Act into committee as soon as possible, I would think, and get it passed into law. We did not hear the former critic talk about deposit legislation, which is an important consumer issue, when he was the critic; we did not hear him talk about that. We did not hear him

talk about the retail price stickers to be put on cars; he did not talk about that. He did not talk about personal service contracts which were certainly a problem back then, but it certainly was not a problem for that critic at that time. He did not suggest that personal service contracts should be limited to one year, that people should not be able to sign lifetime dance lesson contracts and lifetime spa contracts committing themselves to lifetime agreement; he did not talk about that.

It is only now, after this Party, our Party, has brought in a Bill last year to limit those contracts to one year and the payments of those contracts to be in at least two equal installments that the Minister has in fact copied that Bill and brought it back in. We applaud him for that, but he certainly should not be under any false assumption that somehow he has made some giant leap forward, that somehow he is now the leading edge of consumer legislation in Canada.

I mean, he has brought in two very, very minor, though important pieces of legislation in that one amendment to The Consumer Protection Act, but there was no talk from this current Government when they were in Opposition about this. There was no talk about the cooling-off period being extended on direct sales. That is an interest of theirs that is new-found. That is something that they had to do and they simply copied our Bill.

The Travel Industry Act is something that they did not deal with. They were not interested in it at that time. They were not interested in eliminating charges, for example, on social assistance cheques such as the case in Quebec. We never heard anything out of this former Government when they were in Opposition about that. We never heard anything about a franchise law which is the law in Alberta for a few years, a franchise Act being important to define the relationship between franchisees and franchiser; there was no talk about that. Even now the Minister is prepared to look at some law like this, but he is looking at a time frame of somewhere far into the future before he will consider something like that.

These are all issues that our Party has either brought up in Bill form, has contemplated in amendment form or has encouraged the Minister to take some action on, and we have certainly been willing to give the Minister credit where credit is due. We have been very fair that way, but we have asked some very serious questions and we expect answers. I do not believe the Minister is deliberately trying to avoid answering the questions. Either he just does not know what the answers are or he is being kept in the dark, and I think it is probably a combination of the two, that he is under the control, under the thumb of the Attorney General, and he has no real influence or power on his own. That is his major drawback, that baggage that he carries into the portfolio he is in right now.

With all the good intentions that he has, he is not really in a position to be able to take any giant leaps forward, because he is controlled and under the control of an Attorney General who, unless it makes him good, really does not want to be involved in it. He has handled his issues rather well from a personal point of view,

so if he is grooming himself for Leader of the Party, and I am sure that he is because even he has made comments along that vein, he has certainly done a very, very good job, but that does not mean that is beneficial to the people of Manitoba and the consumers of Manitoba. It feathers his nest and makes him look good.

He certainly has the Minister off on a side track, and they are allowing him a very, very short leash. We would like to encourage them to give him a little more leeway and to allow him to bring in more legislation that we on this side of the House support. We will see at that point whether or not we could encourage the Liberals to come onside, because I am sure that they would not be totally unreasonable in legislation.

I suppose if you can take them away from the Motor Dealers Association and the other interest groups that get to them now and again, I am sure they would be reasonable and prepared to take a somewhat more independent line when they have had a little more experience. I accept that as part of the process that they over there are going through in the maturation process. I am certain that over time they will become more amenable to supporting good legislation.

We never heard anything about a good chunk of good consumer legislation when that Government was in Opposition. They talked about mismanagement and they were chasing around after scandals and that seemed to be the buzz words that they were told by their pollsters that they needed to utter on a daily basis. So their priorities were not ones where they would actually offer any concrete suggestions other than as I said the lemon law, which they have now conveniently forgot.

If I could have the attention of the Minister for a couple of minutes, I did want to ask him some questions, just getting back to Brick's for a second. If I could have the Minister's attention, I would be pleased to ask him a question if he would like to have it at this time.

He is no doubt aware that on Order-in-Council, 1,200, passed on I believe October 11, '89, concerning the Brick's situation, it appears that the Government lawyers are taking a great amount of time to get ready for the reference. They are taking weeks to get back, evidently. They are having trouble even agreeing to any statement of facts and they are having even more trouble getting a date to meet the Chief Justice.

What I would like to ask the Minister is, why is it taking the Government so long for them to do this.

Mr. Connerly: Well, the Member can ask the lawyers why it is taking so long. We are waiting for them, it has been referred and when they get back to us then we will be taking the appropriate action.

Mr. Chairman, in some response to the Member and to the legislation that he has brought forth, I would just like to quote out of a letter that was written to the Member for Elmwood (Mr. Maloway), the NDP Consumer Critic. It was from an industry that was concerned, and this is typical of how he has acted with the client groups of all sides and how he just willy-nilly

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brought in legislation with no concern for how it affects businesses and how it is going to affect consumers. He just brings it in trying to look like he is a great consumer person and that their Party is concerned about consumers, which we know is not the fact. It is from a lawyer who is representing ACTA Manitoba Incorporated. It says: the board of directors wishes to express its concern regarding the presentation of a Private Member's Bill without any prior consultation with the industry. This is not a new issue and occupied the attention of the travel industry and the Government of Manitoba while your Party was in Government.

The board of directors of ACTA have offered assistance, guidance and co-operation to this and previous administrations for many years. There is a considerable body of knowledge that has been developed by our members and by Government, which should be revisited prior to any legislation being put forward particularly in the light of changes that have since taken place.

We have been asked to bring to your attention the disappointment of the members of the industry that your Bill would be brought forward without prior discussion. It is sent to the Member, Mr. Jim Maloway, MLA Consumer Critic, NDP Party, copied to Mr. Gary Filmon, Sharon Carstairs and to myself.

Mr. Chairman, this is just typical of how—

An Honourable Member: Who signed it?

Mr. Connery: The signature is by Joseph J. Wilder, Q.C. In many ways this is just indicative of how this Member has brought forward legislation not consulting with the various client groups, and if you are going to be responsible in Government or in Opposition you have to do those consultations.

* (1640)

We meet on a regular basis with both consumers, seniors, whatever client group we think has got any vested interest in it and from the business side we sit down and we meet with them and go over it, hear their representations and try to—the Member speaks about FOS but there is a large number of people in the labour movement that are opposed to FOS, as he well knows. CUPE is very upset, very upset, with this Member—

An Honourable Member: Twenty percent.

Mr. Connery: He says 20 percent. I do not care what group it is, every group deserves a hearing and we as Government then bring in what we consider to be appropriate legislation in the best interests of the consumers and the business, depending what the legislation is, and also to ensure that businesses have a level playing field, Mr. Chairman. It is as important to businesses to have good legislation as it is to protect the consumers because if it is not good legislation then some businesses are affected by it and that is not in the interests of anybody because we need businesses for consumers to buy from. If we were to -(interjection)- Pardon me. The NDP just try to drive business out of the province for votes, and you know what? They were

successful. They tried and it worked. They were successful in driving businesses out. Head offices went to Montreal, Toronto, Alberta, B.C.

They say they are for the people. The people are numbers and they say, one vote, two votes, trois vote, quatre vote, carry on and on. They are just like numbers and so this letter is just indicative of the Member for Elmwood (Mr. Maloway), the Critic for Consumer Affairs of the NDP and their Government. Whatever their Leader says, he has to approve of what that Member is saying, and if he approves what he is doing that is fine, it is on the record. Let it be on the record that the Member for Concordia (Mr. Doer), Leader of the NDP, says he approves of what the Member for Elmwood is doing. We can read Hansard sometime in the future. The Premier (Mr. Filmon) once said to us, once it is on record it is on record, you cannot remove it. The diatribe, and the wasted time, is on the record that this Member has done.

Anyway, Mr. Chairman, I just thought I would put that on the record for the Member.

Mr. Maloway: Mr. Chairman, as I indicated earlier, the Minister tends to sort of lead me into my next area that I want to speak about anyway, he did that with Brick's last week and again today and he has done it with the travel industry, as well.

You know the Minister refers to a letter that was sent from the Travel Agent's Association, and I would like to refer him to Friday's Free Press, October 6, page 3, in an article written by Patrick Flynn, and the headline is: "Connery contemplates legislating travel insurance." What is he quoted as saying in this article? It says: "Consumer Affairs Minister Ed Connery said . . . he is considering legislation to protect Manitobans when travel companies collapse." Well, that certainly must have got the interest of the ACTA travel industry rather quickly, I would think, on page 3 of the Free Press. I am sure they were beating down his door much the same that the Automobile Dealer's Association beat down the door of the Liberal Caucus last year to try to get the sticker price issue put to rest real quick.

"Connery said his department is consulting tour operators and travel agents about a system-wide insurance fund, which would be similar to one in Ontario, . . ." Well, heaven forbid, our Bill is patterned on the Bill from Ontario. In fact there are three jurisdictions in Canada with travel legislation, one is B.C., the other is Quebec, and the toughest one is Ontario. The Minister is talking about the one in Ontario. Coincidentally the same one that we are talking about.

Now he goes on to say that it would: "cover costs incurred when a travel company suspends operations." Here is what he says further: "Resistance to such legislation is likely, but it would become accepted as it has in Ontario," he said. In fact I was just reading a travel magazine today, just today, when the travel registrar in Ontario, in one little story, says that he is totally taken aback by how much support he is getting from the travel industry in Ontario in the last few weeks as a result of very tough, tough, tough, legislation, amendments to the Ontario legislation that were

brought in just last year, and the reason he is getting that support is because of competition in the Toronto market from a company called Sunfare, who is eliminating the travel agents completely and encouraging people to book direct.

So now the travel agents in Ontario have found the value of good travel legislation and are phoning the Ontario travel office and telling them, encouraging them, demanding of them, that they enforce the new tough Act. So these are pieces of information that I am certain the Minister, who is not aware of these things, would like to know.

He goes on to say, quote: "At first everybody gets excited, but once you do it people start to live with it." Well, does that sound like a guy who is into heavy duty consultations? It sounds to me like it is a guy who wants to bring in a copy of the Ontario Travel Act. I am sure he will wait until he gets our copy of it first so he can make a Xerox and he will have it all in order.

"Dennis Dempsey, president of the Tourism Industry Association of Manitoba, said those in the travel industry would rather set up their own travel insurance plan than have one imposed by legislation."

So what do we have here? What do we have? We have a Minister who wants to copy the Ontario Travel legislation, the toughest Act in the country, and we have an NDP Bill that is suggesting self-regulation, and you have an industry that is writing me letters. Mr. Chairman, there is something wrong here.

The Minister, if you can believe Patrick Flynn in the Free Press, is proposing a tougher medicine, is proposing the toughest medicine in all of Canada that the travel agents in Ontario, as of today and yesterday, are phoning to encourage the travel registrar to enforce.

He is worried about ACTA Manitoba writing me letters about a more palatable version, a self-regulated version. So I think perhaps the Minister should think before he jumps on a letter that he gets and without knowing any of the issues involved. "Dempsey said with a little encouragement through discussions with the Government, self-regulated insurance would probably come quickly."

The fact of the matter is, Mr. Chairman, that in this process that the Minister is talking about, a consultation, the fact of the matter was that I did talk to ACTA. This is where their letter is wrong. They hired a lawyer. They promised to meet with me and then rather than meet with me—I only mention this now since the Minister has brought out this letter—but they set up a date to meet with me and then did not follow through. The next thing I got was a letter a month later from a lawyer. They did not even write the letter themselves. They got a lawyer to do it, and what did the lawyer say? Well, that they were not properly consulted. How can you consult with somebody who invites you to a meeting one day and then uninvites you?

The Minister should also know that I have discussed this idea.—(interjection)—If the Housing Minister (Mr. Ducharme) would listen and pay attention, he will find out that I discussed this travel legislation with none other than the president of ACTA, none other than one

of the vice-presidents who is the son of a former Conservative MLA. I discussed it with this person, and I discussed it with the largest tour operator in Manitoba, Mr. Gavin Scott of PS Holidays, and I am sure that the Minister would have Mr. Scott on his consultation list as well, because he is a very well-informed and a very respected person. He is a person who has dealt with travel legislation, and said for the last 10 years he was part of a committee going back to 1980, on behalf of the Travel Agent's Association, who in fact was working on this very type of legislation.

* (1650)

So I must admit that after having spoken to the president of the association and the vice-president of the association, being invited to a meeting that did not happen, to talking to one of the largest tour operators, having seen major bankruptcies occurring recently which the Minister was not even aware of, I should like to take some time someday to just go over with him some of the major bankruptcies that we have had. For him to suggest that somehow we should acquiesce to the local ACTA organization, because they do not want a travel legislation or they do not want a travel pool because they do not want it, is tantamount to the Liberal Party buckling in to the Motor Dealers Association on the sticker prices. This Minister is telling us what, now? I mean on the one hand he is quoting the Free Press as saying he is interested in legislation. On the other hand, he is now telling us that he does not agree with legislation. Is that what he is saying?

I would like to know what this Minister is going to do when the economy does take a bit of a dip. When it does take a bit of a dip, and you start finding tour operators and travel operators going bankrupt this winter, what is he going to say then, Mr. Chairman? What is he going to say then?

When you have had major tour operators, one company doing something like \$70 million worth of business in the United States, closing its doors in the last couple of weeks, Lynn Blad (phonetic) Travel and Hemphill Harris and I could keep naming companies. He knows about Sunfare, the holiday situation, but he also knows about Holidayair and Western Sun in Alberta, which I brought to his attention. He did not even know what it was, until I asked the question about it.

There are many others that he will find out about when I ask him about them. I am not about to tell him about them right now, I am sure he can dig into that himself. If he thinks for a moment that he can avoid the inevitable, he had better start thinking because this Government is going to the end of this thing, hook, line and sinker by March of next year.

When travel companies start going down we are going to be able to say, look we took pro-active action, we took the initiative, we brought in a travel Act and the Minister is going to have to answer to all those consumers who are going to lose money, who are not covered by insurance and I am going to send them to his door. That is where they are going to go. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman: Item 1. Administration and Finance: (a) Minister's Salary—pass.

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Resolution No. 20: RESOLVED that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$899,600 for Co-operative, Consumer and Corporate Affairs, Administration and Finance for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1990—pass.

Is it the will of the committee to call it five o'clock now? We will recess until 5 p.m.

It is now time Private Members' Hour, I interrupt proceedings according to the rules of the House, and I shall return at 8 p.m.

IN SESSION PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS RES. NO. 21—WINNIPEG RIVERS BOATING SAFETY

Mr. Bob Rose (St. Vital): Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for St. Boniface (Mr. Gaudry),

WHEREAS dangerous conditions exist during the boating seasons on the Red and Assiniboine Rivers; and

WHEREAS on July 24, 1988, a serious boating accident occurred on the Red River in which one life was lost and several persons were hospitalized, and two other serious accidents during July resulted in injuries; and

WHEREAS there are no speed restrictions and no signs posted on Winnipeg's rivers, and imposition and enforcement of speed limits would increase boater safety; and

WHEREAS the control of boating traffic is within the jurisdiction of the federal Government and the law is set out in the Boating Restriction Regulations to The Shipping Act; and

WHEREAS speed restrictions can only be imposed by amending the Boating Restriction Regulations, and boating traffic signs can only be posted with the authority of the federal Minister of Transport in accordance with those regulations, and

WHEREAS the enforcement of the law on Winnipeg's rivers is within the jurisdiction of the Province of Manitoba and has been delegated to the City of Winnipeg.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba request the federal Government to impose appropriate speed restrictions on the Red and Assiniboine Rivers by amending the boating restriction regulations under the Shipping Act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Assembly request the federal Minister of Transport to approve the erection of signs on the banks of the Red and Assiniboine Rivers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Assembly urge the Government of Manitoba to consider making appropriate arrangements with the City of Winnipeg to erect and maintain appropriate signs.

MOTION presented.

Mr. Rose: Mr. Speaker, in introducing this resolution, a very important resolution, I might say that at times we thought that we might be able to save the debate on that and withdraw the Bill, but no Government action is forthcoming. Therefore it is necessary to introduce this which is a well thought out resolution. It is appropriate, drafted by senior legal people, lawyers in the Government, and I feel it appropriately formalizes what has to be done to be able to enforce the regulations as they exist under the federal Government at the present time.

Mr. Speaker, my interests in rivers, riverbanks and certainly the safety of our most valued recreational area, which is our rivers in Winnipeg, go back some years, having been a resident on the river for at least 25 years and seeing the conditions of our rivers eroding and seeing the safety factors out there which were lacking. On many, many occasions both as a boater and as a spectator from my own backyard and from various parks that dock the Red River, it was a place where accidents were just waiting to happen and serious accidents indeed.

Because of that and the interest in the rivers, I was at the founding meeting of the Riverbankers in 1985 which were riverbank residents from all across Winnipeg who banded together to principally look after the banks. They were not too concerned about safety at that time. They were landowners and concerned about erosion not only on their own banks but of city property and other private properties as well. I would say that it is a very consciousness group and meet on very many occasions to discuss riverbanks, and just of late they have become interested in safety brought about by the accidents that I have alluded to in this Bill here.

* (1710)

When I went to City Hall, one of my first concerns was that the city do something about our rivers and their safety. All I found when I got to City Hall were roadblocks and expressions like—I read from a September 1984 document talking about communicators. It says regardless of the responses from the Department of Justice, it is clear that the city has no present powers to deal with the complaints in question. As a new city councillor you have to take it at face value, especially when a prominent person, the chairperson at City Hall ridicules you in the newspaper when you introduce a motion to restrict speeds on the City of Winnipeg rivers, but of course that is the public perception that you cannot do certain things, and it sticks.

Of course those senior people have influence on other councillors, particularly when they are in certain groups. The paper headlines showing that my thrust into the safety on the Winnipeg rivers were ridiculed by a very prominent—unfortunately it was a Tory, by the way—

Tory who saw fit to just neglect the problems and make fun of somebody else on City Council. Well, events have proven that he is absolutely wrong and he got his comeuppance for that. The real pity, Mr. Speaker, is that the light was not seen at that time, and the accidents that we could have avoided and the confusion that could have been avoided, and indeed at least one life perhaps could have been saved if we had done what was appropriate and if we had followed that course.

As I have said, in July of last year the prophecies came true, and there were some very serious accidents. Luckily, we got out of it with only one fatal accident. This is what we had predicted would happen all the way along, and unfortunately it did come to pass.

Immediately we jumped on top of this to see if we could get action, particularly from the Legislature, and we asked questions, issued a press release. I recall that my Leader even asked some questions of the Premier, and the Government at that time virtually did nothing. They would not commit any money or advice to the City of Winnipeg, they just threw up their hands and said, well, we had a meeting and we wrote letters. It turned out they did not have such a meeting as the Premier said, and it turned that the Minister of Urban Affairs did not write such a letter, as he said on July 27, so the same old situation went along.

Mr. Speaker, we the Liberals continued to show the leadership which we have on many occasions. Often we have been pleased to see the Tories take up on our ideas and put leadership and say that leadership is their own and typically—

The public record will show that in regard to the drinking and driving legislation it was this side of the House that first brought that to the public attention, both in the newspapers and in the Legislature. We are pleased that the Minister of Justice (Mr. McCrae) took up on that and brought in the toughest legislation perhaps on the continent. We are very pleased with that, but we are not so pleased when we get a silly question from the back benches about it when it should be answered in a Ministerial Statement and taken as though there is 100 percent credit. I think that the record will show that we did have the first thrust on that Bill, and although we do not like them taking all the credit, we do welcome the Bill, naturally.

Mr. Speaker, we did look thoroughly into this rivers thing and we found out a number of things that could be done. We found a number of things that could be done in regards to controlling the river without even federal legislation. We found out, for instance, that under The Liquor Control Act you could seize intoxicating beverages as well as the boats for infractions. We found out that prosecutions indeed could lead to individuals losing their suspension of their drivers license or their automobiles and indeed all those measures.

We found out that under the Small Craft Regulations the Winnipeg Police or the Harbour Patrol could enforce a lot of laws which were underfunded. That is the initiative we had taken earlier, that was water skiing, life jackets, fire extinguisher, running lights. These were all being ignored and contributed to accidents, and nothing was done about it.

We also found that the Coast Guard in Manitoba had the authority to restrict any obstruction of any kind in the rivers, including ramps, buoys, docks and other immobile objects which we have been lead to believe by others was not possible. This is not just in the last while but was for years and years and years. We found out that there were wake and speed and other restrictions if they are desired, and that these are all powers that we already had in Manitoba within the police in Winnipeg. We found out what we thought and we recommended was expansion of patrols on the rivers to cover a longer period of the day and boater education, training and perhaps licensing, if all failed, but we thought that training most effective. We got the mid-Canada marine dealers and other interested parties to get together on about four occasions to meet and discuss these problems and present their findings both to the province and to the City of Winnipeg.

We were talking to the City of Winnipeg Police Commissioner, and he liked one of the ideas that we had, and that was to have regular police patrols go to all docking sites in Winnipeg and check boats coming in and out of the river. This was purposely for alcohol which was the chief cause of accidents on the river. At that time, we were pleased that the Manitoba Government in total did react and then they made, or are in the order of making peace officers of their department into park patrols to assist in the policing of Manitoba rivers—that is the officers and park patrols.

There were some things that were being done and things that could be done. I know that for years there had been a continuing safety problem in St. Vital about a ski ramp on the river that people had tried—federal Members, city councillors, and provincial Members—for years to get off there and have it moved and make it safer on the river. There was one time that I finally wrote a letter to the Chief of Police and outlined to him and the City of Winnipeg that they did have the jurisdiction to take it out of there and the next morning it was gone; an effort that took years, and years, and years.

What we found out, there were all these powers that people waited for Ottawa to act on and it was not necessary. As an outshoot of the publicity, we discovered to our surprise that the Winnipeg Police already had two extra boats. All they had to do was spend another \$100,000 on personnel to make them active. I think the result has been that we saw a year where boating has continued to grow on Winnipeg rivers. We saw a year to my knowledge anyway, and I talked not too long ago to the Harbour Master Joe Pietracci who does a really excellent job, where there were no major, or even minor incidents that were noteworthy on Winnipeg rivers this year.

I think this has all been accomplished without the legislation. What this legislation does is formalize what we have to do to make all this completely legal, particularly in the way of sign postings and the removal of abutments.

I think that would compensate for the slowness in this Bill going through and perhaps even for the tardiness of the Government in bringing in legislation. If they had brought in legislation, those factors which

the city has brought forward in regard to reduction of speed and signage and what have you could have been passed immediately by the provincial Government who would have got the powers from the federal Government. This way, Mr. Speaker, we are putting the cart before the horse.

I want to say before I close that I do not want to leave the impression that it is a nightmare out there on the rivers. It is cleaned up a lot. The vast majority of people who do use the rivers, boaters, are responsible citizens, responsible boaters, know what they are doing, but it is the irresponsible and untrained who cause the majority of the accidents particularly where it involves safety due to alcohol. What I would like to put on the record in regard to that is whereas boating is safe, it can always be made safer.

The incidents of accidents in Canada is only eight per 100,000 boats and improving all the time. A lot of this is done by regulation and by training. That eight per 100,000 boats puts it in a classification of being by statistics twice as safe as bicycling in Canada and, one of my favourite sports, six times as safe as skiing. I think that this Bill does the job.

As I said earlier, it was drafted with a great deal of care and concern by the lawyers for the province. We have studied all aspects of it very carefully to make sure that it did the job if and when the city came forward with regulations and by-laws that they wanted to expand on what was there presently. Therefore, I hope that we can get passage of this resolution through the House and I thank you very much.

Some Honourable Members: Hear, hear!

* (1720)

Mr. Doer: Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to speak on the resolution before the Chamber and certainly we support the resolution from the Member for St. Rose, or from St. Vital (Mr. Rose)—a Rose from St. Vital would be as sweet by any other name, I am sure. This is an issue that quite frankly should be treated in a non-partisan way. There have been Liberal federal Governments and Conservative federal Governments. There have been New Democratic and now Conservative Governments. We are into a Conservative Government with a federal Conservative Government. We have a City Hall that is probably more Liberal than anything else.

I think there is a plague on all our Houses. I think all of us have great intentions on this issue. I know that my predecessor the Honourable Larry Desjardins wrote about establishing a joint commission on the rivers of Manitoba because we have city jurisdictions, i.e., policings through the harbour patrol. We have provincial jurisdiction under The Rivers and Streams Act. We have federal jurisdiction under the Navigable Waters Act and also the Shipping Act which is referenced by the Member.

We believe, and it seems to me that it has been expressed by the Minister of Urban Affairs (Mr. Ducharme) and the Minister of the Environment (Mr.

Cummings) and the Liberals that the solution to this seems to be an authority that we have utilized before, for example, in the Core Area Agreement to co-ordinate all our legislative and enforcement efforts in the best interests of the public of Winnipeg and the public of Manitoba. I think if we looked at it we are failing. I have some knowledge of the Red River. I travel on the Red River from time to time. I believe that the speeds on that river—(interjection)—I have not travelled the new bridge but I do know it will reduce traffic on Henderson Highway by 18 percent. I know that is very popular in northeast Winnipeg.

An Honourable Member: It is safer, no traffic on it.

Mr. Doer: I do not know whether or not they are talking about the same bridge. I will get on to the topic, I know the mayor of Selkirk supports the bridge.

In dealing with speed on the Red River and the Assiniboine River there is no question in my mind that the resolution is accurate. There are absolutely no speed restrictions and signs on the river, so you have to rely on individual good will in terms of boating and boating safety. It is not working.

It is becoming a greater problem as the river becomes more populated with boats and it will become an even greater problem for congestion on the river with boats, as more amenities are developed on the river through the Art program which we were involved in and now through The Forks Development Corporation. Many more people are going to start using the river for recreation because of the opportunity to take a boat down to The Forks and go to have a Skinner's hot dog and something else. I do not want to give any commercials to anyone but good hot dogs are good hot dogs. I know people now that did not travel on the river before will be going down for a cold beverage and a hot dog on the river. There will be greater use of the river and more congestion. Therefore, the issue of speed becomes much more crucial as we move into the 1990s.

I believe there should be speed restrictions on the Red and the Assiniboine Rivers and I believe that the Shipping Act should be amended if that is appropriate and we will support the Minister on this endeavour. I am very surprised that the Honourable Jake Epp has so—

An Honourable Member: Who?

Mr. Doer: The Honourable Jake Epp, maybe, and I look at the Member for Charleswood (Mr. Ernst) with a little—maybe the Member for Charleswood should be sent into the room with the federal Minister for Steinbach because I know we got nowhere with the Honourable Minister. We did not get anywhere on the issue of boating restrictions and regulations. I think it is safe to say that.

We had to negotiate the last Core Area Agreement, we did not even want to put \$20 million in the capital program for The Forks project without putting any money into the riverbank. In fact, we had to hold out for \$5 million. I remember that was the last item on

the \$100 million negotiations. We had to hold out for that \$5 million for riverbank development.

Of course, Mayor Norrie announced it after he disagreed with it for a couple of months as he did with the arena the other day. I guess I was kind of curious to watch both leakers fighting over who leaked it first. Obviously, the Member for Charleswood (Mr. Ernst) was left in the terrible situation of adding up all the money with having no credit for the project. I can understand his pugnacious nature in terms of that issue. We thought that ourselves before, but we thought it just because we are New Democrats we found ourselves in that situation, not because this is the way they treat the provincial Government, in terms of dealing straight up.

We will support the Government and I know the federal Minister is very, very weak on riverbank development, very weak on river authorities, and very weak on the whole vision of our Red and Assiniboine Rivers. I find that absolutely abhorrent, Mr. Speaker, because our taxes are going into a major Halifax harbour clean-up. Our federal taxes are going into a clean-up of the St. Lawrence Seaway. Our taxes are now going into a clean-up of the Great Lakes, and I applaud all those efforts. Why can we not get any money or any support or any authorities, legislative authority, from the federal Government? It is a total disgrace.

When I mentioned it to the federal Minister, he just made some sort of cavalier comment, oh, maybe we should clean up the Steinbach river. Maybe we should, but it certainly does not negate the fact that the Red and Assiniboine are major problems for us. I think it is very unfortunate that we have had no action and co-ordinated action on the rivers in the City of Winnipeg dealing with the federal Government. It is a disgrace that we are dealing with other rivers to such a great extent. It is a disgrace that our taxes are going to clean up the St. Lawrence Freeway, we cannot have money to go to develop our own.- (interjection)- Beg your pardon?

An Honourable Member: You said St. Lawrence Freeway. It is called Seaway.

Mr. Doer: Seaway. Sorry, if I said that. Thank you, I stand corrected. We have the erection of signs on the banks of the Red and Assiniboine Rivers. I would want to see whether those signs are environmentally sound. I would want to look at that resolution a bit. I would not want to see Mayor Bill Norrie's signs all over the Red River with the little reference to the speed limit. I think we had more pamphlets on the quality of river water or quality of the river than we had action in terms of the environment. Of course, I would want a few judicious signs perhaps on the bridges, but not necessarily on the banks, and we would want to very careful about the signage.

Mr. Speaker, I think the real issue here, too, which is missing in the resolution, is the joint authority on the river. I really believe that we have to establish a tripartite tri-Government authority on the river. Now we asked the Honourable Desjardins and we could not get anywhere, when I had the job and I could not get anywhere. We tried to make it part of the Core Area

Agreement. We got the \$5 billion but we could not hold up the whole \$100 million Core Area Agreement obviously on a river authority because we would not want to be short.

There is a total lack of any vision now on the rivers. We were involved in a very, very successful program. The Art Program, Mr. Speaker, that had tremendous—you see The Forks Park on the river, the 10 acres, you see docks and docking facilities at Kildonan Park. St. Norbert has docking facilities, there are historic docking facilities. There are all kinds of new docking facilities that were developed under our previous Government with the federal Government, using both the Honourable Lloyd Axworthy and the Honourable Jake Epp.

I believe that our program should be renegotiated. I believe we should have a separate authority for rivers in enforcement of all the various Acts, because it is a "dog's breakfast" for a citizen. The police are under The City of Winnipeg Act, the harbour patrol. Putting up a building is under the provincial control, it is so close to the riverbank. It is a little bit further away, it is under the city administration. The bridges and speed limits, et cetera, are under the federal Government, and no wonder the citizens say, who is in charge here? Every time there is a tough decision to be made, they blame somebody else.

I believe in a joint authority. I did not agree with the City of Winnipeg's own rivers and streams report, because I thought it was a bit self-serving. I think all of us have to say that we have all collectively failed as political Parties and administrations. We continue to fail, I notice the Liberal from Sisler Heights was probably not taking the same position as the Liberal from Selkirk in this Chamber on cleaning up the hazardous waste sites. I am sure the Member from Selkirk (Mrs. Charles) must have gone apoplectic when she read her colleagues' comments at City Hall in terms of—

An Honourable Member: Sisler Heights is a slang.

* (1730)

Mr. Doer: No, it is a civic seat. I think we all have to work together in a non-partisan way. That is why we will support part of this resolution and hope that it goes much further because I think we are collectively failing the citizens of Winnipeg on our rivers and we have to collectively work together because it is not a partisan issue. These rivers will be here a lot longer than we are. I do not want to see the congestion on the rivers. As we develop the amenities on the rivers, the increased congestion dramatically increases the risks and the safety of boaters and the safety therefore of citizens of Winnipeg.

I applaud the speed limits on the Red and Assiniboine Rivers, and we look forward to other initiatives that we may hear today from the Minister or other Ministers of the Government. Hopefully, we will get our joint authority and we can get a new ARC program and we can follow through on some of the important enforcement measures in terms of boating safety on our collective riverways. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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Hon. Gerald Ducharme (Minister of Urban Affairs):

I would like, first of all, to thank the Honourable Member for St. Vital (Mr. Rose) for his proposed resolution on the Winnipeg Rivers Boating Safety. However, as time has gone by I felt that the Member for St. Vital should have probably withdrawn his resolution. I appreciate the opportunity of hearing the remarks by the Member for Concordia (Mr. Doer) and the Member for St. Vital, but safety for boaters on the Red River and the Assiniboine River is a major concern and priority of this Government and of this Minister.

I personally, like the Member for St. Vital have participated, and my family have participated on the river, and we have been very conscious about the much needed boat safety of those rivers. As the Opposition knows the mandate of this Government has been to make our rivers more accessible to the public. I think this commitment was originally apparent with the province's Conservative Government. I am talking about the previous Conservative Government signing with the Canada-Manitoba Agreement on Recreation and Conservation of the Red River Corridor known as the ARC Program.

It was under the Sterling Lyon administration and under the Minister, Mr. Mercier, at the time that proceeded with this ARC program which has proven to be a very, very successful program. It has been further evidenced with our present commitment to the Winnipeg Core Area Initiative and the Riverbank Enhancement Program that is now taking place under our administration.

However, Mr. Minister our commitment is now especially evident with our announcement to establish a permanent Riverbank Corporation. I will proceed to maybe explain when we get to that—which apparently there is a resolution on the floor, No. 28. I will take the time allotted to me in speaking in regard to our very, very heavy involvement and our legislation that we will be bringing forward, and also the hopeful co-operation of the City of Winnipeg and the federal Government at that time.

The Riverfront Corporation mandate will be to enhance the Winnipeg Regions River Corridors' natural and heritage resources and develop focal points for community activities and tourist attractions. By enhancing our river corridors, we will be providing greater access and more opportunities for the public to enjoy their rivers which we all wanted to do as children, and we want our children to do, and our grandchildren to do. As more Winnipeggers and Manitobans rediscover the rivers, especially after being neglected over so many years, to rediscover these rivers especially to enjoy the pleasure of boating, the safety will become an even more crucial issue, especially when you take a look at the docks along the rivers that have been coming forward at The Forks, and the docks at the city parks that have been coming forward. It enhances the opportunity of our people to enjoy these rivers.

(Mr. William Chornopyski, Deputy Speaker, in the Chair)

In dealing with boating safety, the legislation clearly articulates the roles of the three levels of Government.

Under the Canada Constitution Act, Section 91(10) navigation shipping is exclusively a federal responsibility. The province cannot, and let us get the record straight, cannot pass legislation that either directly or indirectly relates to navigation and shipping of the rivers. However, under the Canada Shipping Act, the federal Government has developed a boating restriction regulation which can be tailored to the specific requirements of communities like Winnipeg and to specifically handle the problems that we have along our rivers in Winnipeg.

The City of Winnipeg must first develop a boating restriction regulation proposal and forward it on to the province. The city then must request the Province of Manitoba to draft a regulation proposal in amendment form and apply to the federal Government to enact an Order-in-Council to have the boating restriction regulation apply to the city.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have proceeded with that regulation that we must follow. Once the requested amendments are approved by the Privy Council, the City of Winnipeg would have the opportunity to restrict urban boating activities such as speeds. I have had meetings with the boat people who represent many factors of the boating community. They talked to this Minister during their discussions with the city. I met with the riverbankers and there are problems. I know it has been addressed by the city dealing with the specific speeds that people on one side would like, and through discussions they found that between the two parties that have the concerns on both sides of the issue have come up with a recommendation.

Under the Act the city will also be legally responsible for the proper signage that will be required and we look forward to the city drafting and having their signage ready for the 1990 year.

In July of 1988, I am proud to say this Government showed the leadership in bringing in the need for a boating restriction regulation to the attention of the city. In September of '88 the province reaffirmed its commitment to improve boating safety by including boating restriction regulation in what we called our 10-point action plan to improve the regulation of Winnipeg's waterways.

The establishment of a 10-point action plan reflects this Government's recognition of the importance of Winnipeg's rivers and the safety and health of the public. This Government made it a goal to support and encourage the City of Winnipeg in drafting a boating restriction regulation. Holding true to its commitment between September '88 and March '89, the province pressed the city on numerous occasions to develop and forward a regulation proposal approved by City Council. For example, the province advised the city of the October 1, 1988, federal enactment deadline to ensure the regulation would be in place for the 1989 boating season. When the city was unable to meet the deadline, this Government arranged an extensive deadline in co-operation with the City Councils including the member, Mr. Gilroy, who informed us that he had a problem meeting that deadline. Unfortunately this deadline was also not met by the City of Winnipeg.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, when the proposed draft regulation was approved by the City of Winnipeg in

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March of '89, the province responded immediately by sending the corresponding draft regulation amendment to the federal Government for review and legal drafting. The federal Government returned the regulation in June of '89 requesting the original intent. It was the original intent and we had warned the city at the time a public consultation and the city's final approval must be required. In the original request we told the city that they should have public hearings.

The province again responded immediately by phoning their request again to the City of Winnipeg. On June 19, 1989, the city held the public hearing on the proposed regulation. At that time, 15 groups and individuals made submissions resulting in further revisions to the regulation.

So at the request and at the insistence of the provincial Government, these public hearings were held. As you can probably appreciate, there were problems in the two sides and because of there were no public hearings held we insisted that it be held. On June 21, 1989, City Council approved the revised regulation.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, could you tell me how much time I have left?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Honourable Minister has six minutes remaining.

Mr. Ducharme: As you can probably appreciate, maybe there was a misunderstanding on the city on that part to have public hearings; however, there was very much done to make sure that those public hearings were held. Upon receiving our request and upon receiving the request from the federal Government, the city did finally hold those public hearings.

* (1740)

However, our commitment did not end there. Manitoba Natural Resources, under the very capable Minister, is continuing to work with Transport Canada and the City of Winnipeg to ensure signage is developed, approved and ready for erection upon approval of the regulation amendments by the Privy Council. This is why I feel that this particular resolution should be withdrawn from the Legislature. The City of Winnipeg has acted, the provincial Government has acted, and we are waiting for the amendments by the federal Government. To make it quite clear to the Honourable Member for St. Vital (Mr. Rose), he now knows that those are regulations that cannot be imposed by the provincial Government. I tried to explain that to him in the short time we have during question-and-answer period.

Due to the persistence of this Government, it is anticipated that the boating restriction regulation will be enacted for Winnipeg and signage in place for the 1990 boating season. Rivers are a large part of what makes a community attractive to the people who live there because of this Government's involvement and establishment of the river program, such as the Riverfront Corporation.

Because of our development, and the implementation of my staff, and this particular Government of the 10-

point action plan that we sent to the city to improve the regulation and safety of Winnipeg waterways because of our persistence on the public hearings, it has now got to that stage. Because of our persistence and working towards having a boating restriction regulation enacted and signage in place for the 1990 boating season, I believe that not only ourselves in heavy consultation with the City of Winnipeg, people will continue to find the Winnipeg region an attractive and safe place to call home and a wonderful place to visit.

I felt it was an onus on my part to get the facts straight on the record, especially as a person who has worked in my previous role and been very concerned about the rivers. Both the Member for St. Vital (Mr. Rose) and I, our boundaries are covered by the rivers, mine being in Riel, which is bounded by one side of the Red River and the other side by the Seine River. Also, as one who enjoys the parks, I enjoy running in the St. Vital Park and enjoy running in the St. Vital area and I have often seen while running along in St. Vital Park the near disasters that have happened. It is a concern of myself personally and I must now congratulate the City of Winnipeg as I must say after very much persistence.

I must also put on record that the chairman of the committee, Mr. Gilroy—and I must compliment him on working together with the provincial Government and especially for him to realize that there would be—well, the Member from the other side, from Wolseley says, another good Liberal. Unlike the Member for Wolseley (Mr. Taylor), whenever I was on City Council I did not care whether the person was a Liberal or a Conservative or a New Democrat. I worked with the individuals to make sure that for the better of Winnipeg, unlike the Member for Wolseley (Mr. Taylor), at times would maybe have those certain restrictions. I was always willing to sit down with any Member from City Council. Unfortunately that Member, Mr. Gilroy, whether he is a Liberal or not, also will not step in any way that will help the City of Winnipeg and that is one good thing about that person and that councillor is that he has worked alongside his Conservative and his NDP colleagues and has the same desires.

In closing, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have enjoyed this brief couple of minutes. I look forward to talking about our Riverbank Corporation. Dealing with the resolution, I would suggest to the Member who has proposed that resolution he should maybe do some homework and study the Riverbank Corporation, and maybe at that time he will withdraw his Bill 28 before we get to that point in the discussions.

Mr. Harold Taylor (Wolseley): It is with great pleasure I rise to support this motion by the Member for St. Vital (Mr. Rose) on improving boating safety on the rivers here in the City of Winnipeg. I must start though before getting into the serious meat of the matter by observing that it is not only the fish in the Red River that sometimes jump for the bait.

This has been an issue that I have worked on over the years. It is one that does need a lot of work. It is one though that I think the citizens of Winnipeg have

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been looking for some action and have been looking for some leadership and I would suggest that the very start is there. I do not think that we have the solution and I feel nowhere near as confident as the Minister of Urban Affairs (Mr. Ducharme) that we have this whole thing in hand. I would like, if he will stick around for my comments, point that out to him where we need more work on the issues of boating safety.

We do have the start, I say the start on the matter of boating speeds. Boating speeds, however, were not helped by the Urban Affairs Department because we had an interesting situation, Mr. Deputy Speaker, where high speeds were proposed on the Assiniboine River both day and night. Anybody who knows that river knows very well that being a narrow river, only a quarter the size of the Red with many twists in it, with little lighting on it at night, and in fact in many cases blind corners, that the proposed speeds that were going to go ahead out of City Hall, with the concurrence of the Urban Affairs Department, were nothing short of ludicrous, hazardous and waiting for other serious accidents to happen on the Assiniboine, just as unfortunately they had been happening on the Red.

I spent time going down to City Hall, making representation to the Rivers Management Committee on this matter, and secondly, at City Council itself, and thank goodness we had a reasonable compromise come forward. I will give you an example: 37 k was proposed as the speed on the Assiniboine at night, day and night, albeit, but if you can imagine going down the Assiniboine River at night, with the hazards on that body of water, at 37 kilometres an hour, an absolute disastrous situation in the making.

Well, what the compromise was, after lobbying and after public representation, 10 kilometres an hour, pardon me, six miles per hour. I think something rather more prudent, but that is not what was coming out of the Urban Affairs Department as an advisory to the city. I would suggest the people who would be putting forward this matter to the federal Government, i.e., the Department of Transport, for amendment to the Canada Shipping Act regulations. Well, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it sort of belies the fact of where the advice was and where the solid representation was, out of Urban Affairs. It was not there at all because that was the sort of thing that was going to be allowed to happen, 37 k was going to be the recommended speed and going to nodded to by this department of our Government.

I think that is just ridiculous. I think, though, it also belies the fact that the sense is now out of Urban Affairs. We heard the words of the Minister of Urban Affairs (Mr. Ducharme) a few moments ago, everything is in hand with boating safety, would the Member for St. Vital (Mr. Rose) please withdraw this Private Members' resolution?

Well, my advice to the Member for St. Vital is do not withdraw it. In fact, I would like to see a companion resolution that would even go further because the matters of navigation, the navigation markers on those rivers within the City of Winnipeg are missing. When the Department of Transport, Marine Administration, is asked for further navigation markers, further navigation buoys on those rivers, you know it said, we

will gladly accede to your request, City of Winnipeg or Province of Manitoba, but tell us which other ones you would like removed because we only have so much budget, so you only get so many markers or you will only get so many buoys.

An Honourable Member: Omands Creek.

Mr. Taylor: Great way to deal with safety.

An Honourable Member: Boating speeds.

Mr. Taylor: Yes, we need boating speeds first, but we need proper navigation and we need water use on the lengths of the river no different than you do land use on the land. That is the sort of thing that is required. I would suggest, Mr. Deputy Speaker, when it comes to the matter of rivers, and I heard the Minister of Industry (Mr. Ernst) parroting across, Omands Creek, and he is right and I am going to bring that up right now.

This Government has not got its act together when it talks about rivers and rivers management and a proactive dealing with these resources, (1) to protect, (2) to make them safe, (3) to enhance them, and (4) to take economic advantage of them. They have not got their act together at all, and I will tell you why. We have seen the example of the Pines Project in St. James in which you have a multifaceted development going on on the banks of the river. We have a commercial development, we have a residential. We do not have to get into the fact that it is under the noise contours of the main runway for the airport, it does not give any respect and protection to the airport as an entity, and has a very significant economic factor in the economy of Manitoba, but let us get onto the rivers for a moment.

* (1750)

Where is the dedicated public access in that project? I will tell you where it is, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and to the Members of this House. It does not exist. Now, the City of Winnipeg has taken a policy that was there that said, over the last five years, any rezoning will require that there be a chunk of riverbank property available for public access. The answer back is, well, it is not that important a piece of river property and you will not be able to put enough in this, so I guess we will waive it. What hogwash. What balderdash. Where is the policy? Where is the policy of this Government regarding enhancing public access to the rivers? I would say it is not there. Ditto for Omands Creek. The province, rightfully so, has put investment into Blue Stem Nature Park, a little bit north of Portage Avenue, near the arena and the velodrome. I think that is good and my hat was off to them, and I complimented the Minister for that last year when he opened it. I think it was the right thing to do, and we have public investment there.

We also have public investment immediately south of Portage Avenue, and public investment by all three levels, because not only is that a city park with city investment, but there is Core Area money in there. That says provincial and that says federal monies. That is what went in there.

Now when the master plan for the development of a linear creek parkway was dusted off at the Parks Committee of City Hall some two and a half years ago, it made a lot of sense, to parks planners it made a lot of sense, to the politicians at City Hall, and it made a heck of a lot of sense to the public of the City of Winnipeg who are interested in having better access to their waterways and taking advantage of the beautiful and natural landscape that is there, that there be a linkage from the mouth of Omands up through the Hersalles (phonetic) property to the Blue Stem Park, beautiful as it is, and continue on the narrow or albeit narrower public right-of-way along that creek up to Westview Park, otherwise known as the Hill, and continuing on out through other public property that is available at Dominion Bridge, out to the Omand's Industrial Park and out to the outskirts of the city. What better way to have a nature path, a bike path, take advantage of that creek right-of-way, and let us have an enhancement of some of the natural things that unfortunately exist only in small amounts in this city. Instead what we have is a walking away from it.

I am not saying the province has to put all the money in and the province has to be looked upon to have all the solutions. I do not think that is realistic. I do not think that would be fair, but to have a washing of the hands as we have had on that one, I am not satisfied. I am not satisfied at all.

We also have the issue of rivers management here, Mr. Deputy Speaker. This came out of a city study that was dealt with in 1985 and '86 and passed by City of Winnipeg Council the last meeting in October '86, before the civic elections of that year. That is off our back. The city is on record as saying they want a corporation, but they want a corporation that is bipartite. They want a corporation that is municipal and provincial. What we have here is instead a presentation by the Minister of Urban Affairs (Mr. Ducharme) that we will instead have a corporation that is tripartite with the federal Government involved.

When one wants to deal with the federal Government, and one is talking about a project that will have a few years life, a five-year life, maybe 10 at most, you might find some interest on the part of the federal Government, but the federal Government stance at this time, the Mulroney Government, is cut the ties, no ongoing programs will we get involved with from now on, but that is exactly what this Minister of Urban Affairs (Mr. Ducharme) is proposing, an ongoing program arrangement. The federal Government will not buy into it and it is a weak attempt by this provincial Government to suck in more federal dollars. I would suggest the realism is not there.

Let us get a bipartite corporation, one that will be functional. It will work. The management decisions can be made here in Winnipeg. Let us not hang this thing up on the involvement and the supposed dream of federal dollars coming in en masse to bail out this corporation. Let us get it going here in Winnipeg dealing with matters on our rivers, and let us not have it hung up for years in trying to create something that is most likely to be stillborn, and that is a bipartite rivers management corporation for the City of Winnipeg. It

is unrealistic. It is going to be nothing less than a delay tactic by the Minister of Urban Affairs (Mr. Ducharme). He knows very well, as do the other Ministers in that Cabinet, the realism of dealing with the Mulroney Government today is hive off projects, cut down on the dollars available to the provinces, and so what does he do? He creates a tripartite program. That very approach was looked upon in 1986 by the City of Winnipeg, and as early as that they suggested it was not right, it was not going to work, it was not practical, but that is what he has bought into.

(Mr. Speaker in the Chair)

I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, when it comes to matters on the river, whether it is boating safety, whether it is other matters of safety, navigation, enhancement of the fishery, enhancement of the water quality and other important matter, protection of the banks, matters on the ice in the wintertime, snow dumping, you name it, whatever the issue is, this Government is all glitz and no substance, very little substance indeed. I do not find that acceptable and I was very, very surprised to unfortunately hear the Minister of Urban Affairs (Mr. Ducharme) just a little while ago suggesting the withdrawal of this resolution. Nothing could be further from the truth, nothing could be further from the needs of boaters and the general public who are interested in water safety matters, Mr. Speaker.

We have had serious accidents in the past. We have had some deaths unfortunately, and I do not think the withdrawal of this resolution will in any way enhance that situation. I would like this Minister to take note of my comments and those of other speakers and to look into very, very seriously the matters of designated water use along lengths of the Red and Assiniboine Rivers. Let us look at them and let us look at them very seriously. Let us have public involvement in the deliberations and the establishment of those water uses for the maximum safety and the maximum compatibility with other boating uses and with those who are on the adjacent land.

Let us look at special zoning on the land on those riverbanks and work with the city in the creation of that. Let us work with the city and particularly the marine administration of Transport Canada for the enhancement of the navigation situation on our rivers because, as we well know, the number of navigation markers and the number of navigation buoys out on the Red and Assiniboine Rivers do not do the job. Anybody will tell you that, let us put some pressure on this federal Government to play their role, not to suck them into some other corporation of which they have little interest and no dollars. Let us make them do the job that they do in other cities in Ontario, in Quebec, in B.C., and anywhere else where a provincial Government has lobbied the federal Government properly to get the job done. That is the sort of thing I would like to see, Mr. Speaker, and therefore we will continue on this side to lobby for and speak for and agitate for better boating safety. With this I would like to say I fully endorse the Member for St. Vital (Mr. Rose) in coming forward with this resolution and let us see more of the same and not a coping-out as we just did from the Minister of Urban Affairs (Mr. Ducharme). Thank you.

Hon. Jim Ernst (Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism): Mr. Speaker, I would like to join in the debate on this particular issue. Being a former member of the Winnipeg Rivers and Streams Committee, being a former chairman of that committee during my time at City Hall, I have some understanding and some appreciation for the rivers of this city in particular.-(interjection)- Well, that is true, Mr. Speaker, at that time there was precious little authority in terms of what the Rivers and Streams Committee could and could not do. It really looked at the riverbank itself and its stability and the impedance of flow of the river water down the river.

Mr. Speaker, at the same time I also operated a boat on the river for a number of years, so I have also an appreciation of that side of the operation. When I was a young man, prior to raising a family—-(interjection)- that is true—we operated an old fisheries inspection patrol boat on the river for several years and while not very fast, it certainly provided some interesting times going up and down the rivers, both the Assiniboine and the Red.

Mr. Speaker, interestingly enough we have now in Winnipeg a skyline. With the advent of new buildings constructed in downtown Winnipeg, we have a skyline. We have a view of that skyline across the river from some extensive developments that have taken place on our rivers over the past little while, particularly the park in St. Boniface, Promenade Tache, and also the new park constructed by the federal Government. We have to utilize both of the major rivers in our community and for that matter the creeks, as the Member for Woleseley (Mr. Taylor) also indicated.

During my time at City Hall I represented an area that was bordering on the banks of Sturgeon Creek and in fact lobbied quite extensively and worked very hard as the member of council for that area to see that development along Sturgeon Creek did exist there today. It is a show-piece in Winnipeg and Manitoba of what can be done with our natural environment and in particular in major streams such as that.

Mr. Speaker, we are also going to be looking at activities that take place on our rivers, utilization of those rivers by a wide variety of sports enthusiasts. For instance in the 1990 Manitoba Summer Games, we will be having on the Red River adjacent to The Forks the rowing and the canoeing venues for the 1990 Western Canada Games.

That will combine the use of the riverbanks with the use of the rivers. At the same time we need to have sufficient flexibility on those uses in order to accommodate those kinds of events. We have had an offer by a major group in Winnipeg, a non-profit corporation who are looking at providing a significant waterborne activity to take place in downtown Winnipeg as well, one I am sure that will drive the Member for St. Vital (Mr. Rose) right out of his mind, if it is not gone already, that will see major speedboat races take place on the Red River adjacent to downtown Winnipeg. That is another event that could utilize the river itself and provide entertainment and utilization value for the people of Winnipeg.

Mr. Speaker, we have a problem from time to time on the river. I know I have experienced that problem during the time that I have operated watercraft on the river. I have seen the kind of activity that takes place. People are uneducated in many cases in terms of how to properly and safely operate watercraft. Those are a major concern and unfortunately there is some education that is required in order to see it utilized properly.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hour being 6 p.m., I am interrupting the proceeding according to the Rules. When this motion is again before the House, the Honourable Minister will have 11 minutes remaining.

The hour being 6 p.m., I am leaving the chair with the understanding that the House will reconvene at 8 p.m. in Committee of Supply.