



Legislative Assembly Of Manitoba

DEBATES and PROCEEDINGS

Speaker

The Honourable A. W. Harrison



Vol. VII No. 78 8:00 p.m. Tuesday, April 24, 1962.

5th Session, 26th Legislature

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA
8:00 o'clock, Tuesday, April 24th, 1962.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Department XV, Resolution 88.

MR. GROVES: Mr. Chairman, I was in the middle of a statement when the bell rang at 5:30. I was just wondering whether I should start all over again, or start where I left off. I had mentioned, Mr. Speaker, that some 20,410 people had patronized these establishments since the legislation was passed prohibiting them, and I would like to say that when I first got these figures, they were challenged. Somebody got the bright idea of dividing 20,410 by 14, which is the number of labs concerned, and saying that this was a ridiculous figure because it meant so many pairs of teeth per day and that these 14 labs couldn't produce that many. Well I had these figures re-checked -- and the books are available. They were taken from the books of these laboratories and they maintain that they are correct. We have to keep in mind that at least one that I know of, and another that I don't know of personally, is a fairly large establishment. They have quite a number of employees and they can deal with a lot of these people in the course of a day.

Now I had expressed the fear that the Dental Association was going to close up these places of business some time after this House rose and that these people would then have no place to go except to the clinic which the dental profession has established and to the dental offices themselves which, because of the shortage of dentists and the limited facilities at the clinic, would not be able to handle this increased volume of business. Now the Legislature is in a position to cause this not to happen in one of three ways. First of all, by passing a bill similar to the one that was before us two years ago incorporating the technicians and allowing them, under the restrictions which they requested themselves to practice directly to the public. We could pass a resolution requesting that a committee of this House be set up to review this situation and to report to the next session of the Legislature. We could amend The Dental Act and remove the section that was put in three years ago which allows the Dental Association to do what they're doing today. We have to remember, Mr. Chairman, that when we are considering this, that the House was fairly evenly divided on this matter two years ago, and that many of the residents -- many hundreds -- many thousands of the residents of our province are still patronizing these establishments and will continue to do so, and in my opinion will continue to do so in ever-increasing numbers. And at least until next year when the Denture Bill will be presented again to this House, I hope that the government and the Dental profession would get together and be reasonable about this matter in view of the large numbers of people that are involved.

Referring back to the article that I quoted from dealing with the private detectives, the Dental profession now has two full-time private detectives on their payroll doing this work and reporting to their solicitor. Since the bill we passed two years ago they have had, if I can remember correctly, three or four convictions. These convictions were for these laboratories having dental plates on their premises without a prescription from a dentist. About two weeks after the House convened this year, I was informed that these two men were making the rounds of these establishments, warning the technicians that within a very short time, presumably -- and this was the impression that was left with those that they visited -- after this House rose, that a drive would be put on to close all of these establishments and to close them up fairly quickly. This prompted the events which led up to my having a discussion with the Minister of Welfare and representatives of the Dental profession. They advised us at that meeting that no special drive was contemplated to put these establishments out of business that quickly, but that the two men that were in their employ would continue to be employed and as they found evidence they would prosecute.

Now, we then have two points of view. We have the investigators visiting the laboratories, telling them that there would be a drive put on to close them up; and we have the point of view of the dentists themselves, who say that no specific drive would be put on to close these establishments but that they will carry on their efforts to keep these two men in their employ and, as they found evidence to prosecute, they would prosecute. These two points of view mean the same thing, Mr. Chairman, because the evidence that is needed to prosecute is easily obtained, and it's easily obtained on practically a daily basis because these people are not yet

(Mr. Groves, cont'd)operating underground. They're operating in the open; they're operating cautiously, of course; but they're still operating in the open. They openly admit it and they make no effort to hide it, even from the private detectives that have been hired by the Dental Society. People continue to demand their services and they continue to serve them. So it's possible, Mr. Speaker, for these two people, by raiding these establishments daily, or even weekly, to get the evidence that they need without any difficulty; to prosecute; and to eventually fine these people out of business. Either fine them out of business or fine them underground, or force them to hire dentists to act as fronts for their operation.

Time, I think Mr. Chairman, will solve the problems that we have in this field and, by rushing it I feel that we can only do harm by forcing this issue at a time when these establishments are being patronized by so many thousands of people in our province. It appears that it will be rushed, and rushing it in my opinion will only stir up strenuous opposition on the part of the people whose livelihood is going to be taken away from them, and I might point out that this has been going on now for some 16 years and there are many in this field that have been carrying on this type of establishment for 16 years, and some longer. By rushing it, it will also stir up a storm of protest from the people that are patronizing these establishments and finding them satisfactory for their needs. I would regret that this should be necessary.

The issue, as I said, Mr. Chairman, is not dead. It will be back for the consideration of this House and, in the meantime, I appeal to the government and to the Dental profession not to let this thing blow up into a war, as all indications are it will do; for if this happens, not only the technicians but the Dental profession, the dentists and the public will all suffer. I do hope that the Minister of Welfare, as he is the one who has kept most closely in touch with this situation, will endeavour to arrange something with the Dental profession to allow this thing to not blow up into open war until such time as we have had a chance in this House to re-examine the whole situation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (a) -- pass?

MR. SHOEMAKER: Mr. Chairman, I have one more question on social allowances. I understand that presently if a single applicant has more than \$499 in cash or liquid assets, or a married couple has more than \$999 in liquid assets, that they do not qualify for social allowance until it has been reduced to that amount. The question, Mr. Chairman, is: has there been any changes in that regard?

MR. CHRISTIANSON: In answer to the question by the Honourable Member from Gladstone, the liquid assets are \$200 per recipient up to a maximum of \$1,000 per family. Now I don't know -- there hasn't been any change. That was the original stipulation that was laid down. However, I don't think it's quite right to just interpret it on that basis, because if a person has more than the minimum laid down, they are entitled to some assistance; but the amount they have in excess of the minimum reflects back on the amount of assistance -- if you follow me. In other words, it isn't a flat figure that if they have this, they're not entitled to anything at all; but if they have more than this, the amount of the social allowances is reduced to compensate for their excess of capital, whatever it may be.

There was one question I forgot to mention. The honourable member was suggesting when he was talking this afternoon that, because of the increase in pensions, the net cost to the Province of Manitoba was reduced. I was talking about the cash allowances averaging \$20 per person, but I forgot to mention that the net cost to the Province of Manitoba by the change in the pension from 55 to 65 is in excess of \$200,000 per year, because we pay more out in our half of the disability allowances and the old age assistance than we recover under our Social Allowances Act -- far more.

Now I'd just like to speak for a moment about the situation brought up by the Honourable Member for St. Vital. This clinic which he refers to, and is operated by the Dental Association, has been doing an excellent job in the past year and some that they have been in operation, and I think his figures on the number of people who have been referred there are fairly accurate. However, I would point out that the Dental profession is quite prepared to stock this clinic to whatever level is required to handle the number of people that come to them for assistance and if they require five dentists -- they presently have only one -- if they require five dentists to handle the work that is brought to them, they're quite prepared to do this. They are charging \$85.00 a set -- a complete set -- for dentures, and these are fitted by a dentist and manufactured

(Mr. Christianson, cont'd) in the laboratories of the persons who were licensed to manufacture dentures by this Legislature. The quality and the workmanship is of the highest and there is no stinting of quality in order to make the price at \$85.00.

Now I'm told, and I have every reason to believe that it's true, that this price is at or below that presently charged by the majority of the dental mechanics who are working illegally and have been working illegally for some number of years, as the honourable member was good enough to point out. This clinic is an effort by the Dental profession to meet a need in the community and I would like to commend them very highly for the effort they are making in this regard, because it is a non-profit clinic and it has, in fact, been set up by them at considerable expense and is providing a very good service. The availability is universal -- anybody can go and get this service; so if there are people who do not know of this service and are for this reason using other services, I can only say that this service is available and that the dentists are prepared to expand it to whatever degree is necessary to meet the needs in the community; and we will be meeting with them immediately after this session to discuss the expansion of this service to the rural parts of the province. I wanted the Committee to have that information, Mr. Chairman.

MR. J. M. FROESE (Rhineland): Mr. Chairman, I have a few thoughts that I would like to utter and also to leave with the Minister. First of all, as most of the members will know, a new Home for the Aged is being constructed in Altona. It is nearing completion and they have received assistance from the government in the construction of the Home and, if I'm right, they are having open house this week for the general public to inspect and to view the Home for the Aged. This Home is definitely an asset and a credit to the community, as such, and I'm sure the older people who will reside in the Home will be very appreciative of the surroundings that they will have in their new quarters; and I wish to thank the government for assisting in this matter.

I have also a few other things that I thought I should bring up at this time. We notice from the estimates that the amount that is going to be spent on welfare and on social allowances is being increased from \$6,654,000 to \$8,231,000, which represents approximately a 25% increase. Likewise, the assistance for municipal aid expenditures is being increased from \$1,468,000 to \$1,800,000, also approximately between 24% and 25% increase. I would just like to know from the Minister how long can we go at this rate, increasing welfare and social allowances and still meet other needs as well.

Secondly, it seems to me that we are centralizing our welfare efforts too much. Almost all of the welfare has been taken away from the municipalities for which they were formerly responsible for. People in the local municipalities knew of the conditions that existed, they knew them first-hand, and I always felt that that was the place the assistance should come from; and I would prefer seeing a program where the municipalities would receive more aid and that welfare would come through the local government rather than from the provincial. This necessarily doesn't mean that we have to have as many different types of standard as we have municipalities. I still think that the government could set the standard that they wished to be in effect and the municipal authorities could then carry them out. It seems to me that the municipalities are playing an ever-decreasing role, or a minor role in the affairs of the local community, and I think this should be arrested and that more be given to them so that they could play a more important part in this matter.

MR. SHOEMAKER: Mr. Chairman, did I understand the Minister correctly when he said that, by reason of the recent increase in total disability pensions, blind persons pensions and so on, that it would cost the Manitoba Government \$200,000 a year annually -- that would be Manitoba's share of the increase. My point was that if this article is correct, and if averaging the pensions at \$10.00, that the province should be saving \$45,000 a month on their social allowances program or \$540,000 per year, so that if the figure that the Minister gave us a few moments ago of \$200,000 is correct, well then my point is that there is still a saving of somewhere around a quarter of a million dollars.

MR. MORRIS A. GRAY (Inkster): Mr. Chairman, the last thing I would do is defend the Minister of the administration, but I'm afraid I am compelled to in connection with the remarks made by the Honourable Member for Rhineland. God help the recipient if he has to go to his own municipality and ask for help. He knows the people; he's ashamed to go down there; they

(Mr. Gray, cont'd) know him. I think it's bad enough for the provincial government to handle it and not to hand over to the municipalities to do it. Another one I'm very sorry to defend the Minister is on the remarks made by the Honourable Member from St. James in connection with the Dental mechanics

MR. HILLHOUSE: St. Vital.

MR. GRAY: St. Vital, I'm sorry -- because we have threshed it out a year or two years ago for several years. No one stops them from preparing and doing their work in the lab, but I would not like to see that they go in to a patient's mouth without having a dental degree.

MR. HILLHOUSE: Or washing their hands.

MR. GRAY: Well they could wash their hands, but that doesn't mean anything. We have dentists and this government, and by the way the request of our group for years, have established a Dental College here. Dentistry in the Province of Manitoba -- there is still a shortage of it, and I think that we should encourage them in every way possible. But above everything else, I'm not calling a plumber if I have appendicitis, I call a doctor. They are maybe specialists in their own field, and this is preparing the teeth in the lab that they are working in, but I would not like to see an untrained, unqualified, a non-degree man to go and fit the teeth in a person's mouth, although it may be less money I don't know, but the health of the patient is more important. I apologize, Mr. Minister, for defending you.

MR. CHRISTIANSON: I'd like to thank the Honourable Member from Inkster for coming to my assistance. I would like to, however, join with the Member from Rhineland in commending the group in Altona who have been instrumental in building their very fine Ebenezer Home. It's a tremendous institution; it's a wonderful place; and I know that the people of Altona will give it the care and the attention that is required in order that it shall remain a very fine home for their elder citizens.

The Honourable Member from Gladstone has raised this question again. I would point out once more that the total increase in pensions occasioned by the increase from \$55.00 to \$65.00 is on the order of \$450,000.00. However, the net saving under our social allowances grants -- cash allowances -- is only about \$250,000; so the net cost, when it's all added up, comes out at about \$200,000.00. Now this is because not all of the people who are getting the extra \$10.00 in old age assistance or disability allowance were receiving \$10.00 under social allowances. Only some of those were, but they all received the increased pension -- every last one of them. In fact, the average pension increase was greater than \$10.00 because with the calculations that are involved in setting the amounts of pension, if they have income slightly in excess, or assets slightly in excess of the maximum, the pension is reduced a little below the \$55.00 level. In fact in the old age assistance, the average pension was something like, if I remember correctly, \$52.00; and the average increase in pension is on the order of \$11.00 rather than \$10.00 in that particular case. So you'll just have to believe me when I say that the net effect has been an increase in cost to the Province of Manitoba of something in excess of \$200,000.00. If this explanation hasn't been clear enough, I'd be glad to go into it again in my office at a later date.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Chairman, before we pass the Minister's salary, this afternoon I raised the question of Medicare cards and exemptions from hospital premiums. I contended in my remarks that if a person was exempted from paying hospital premiums, then automatically, that person should be entitled to a Medicare card. The Minister pointed out that such was not the case. He pointed out that in respect of old age security, a person becoming 65 under a means test, there were certain financial conditions to be met before the old age assistance pension was met. Now I would like to know from the Minister where the line is drawn between that person who is entitled to become a recipient of a Medicare card as between that of a person who is only entitled to a hospital premium exemption. Where is the line drawn? My honourable friend said this afternoon if he is a recipient of social allowances, then he automatically becomes entitled then, as I understood the Minister, to a Medicare card. Where is the line, and is there any specific amounts of money that the person concerned has, as income over and above the allowable allowance under old age assistance, which is taken into consideration before a person is granted a Medicare card. It seems to me, Mr. Chairman, that there is insufficient information as to where one starts -- or as to how one qualifies for a Medicare card. My colleagues have raised this point too. I don't know if there is any such a leaflet or document

(Mr. Paulley, cont'd) available that one might use -- I haven't seen any advertisements from the department where this line of demarcation is, that a person must come under in order to receive a Medicare card, and I'd like to hear fully from the Minister in respect to this question.

MR. LAURENT DESJARDINS (St. Boniface): Mr. Chairman, I'm sorry I missed part of the speech of the Honourable Member from St. Vital, and I'd just like to ask one question and make it clear before we pass this item. Is the member actually suggesting that a certain group of people should be encouraged, or at least allowed to break the law? I didn't quite get that. I got the answer from the Honourable Minister and he did mention that the Member from St. Vital had suggested that they were breaking the law. Now was that the nature of the speech of my honourable friend from St. Vital, that a certain group of people should be encouraged or at least allowed to break the law at the moment.

MR. GROVES: Mr. Chairman, the answer to that is that this has been going on for 16 years and it's been getting bigger every year, and up until two years ago -- by the bill that was passed in this House, we gave the Dental Association the responsibility for upholding the law -- nothing was done.

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, I would still like to have an answer. This does not give me an answer -- what happened 17 years ago. It is true that two years ago there was some change made and apparently both sides agreed to the change, and I'm wondering if he's suggesting now that we should allow -- or close our eyes on a certain group of people breaking the laws of this province.

MR. CHRISTIANSON: Mr. Chairman, I'd just like to correct one minor omission that the Honourable Member for St. Vital made. I don't want to get into the middle of this fight at all, but the Dental Association has always had the responsibility for policing their act, as has always had all the other professional associations including the doctors and the lawyers and all the rest of them. Each of the professional associations polices their own profession. This has always been the case and it has been the case for the last 16 years that I know of in Manitoba.

The Honourable Leader of the NDP is still trying to equate our Social Allowances Act with the classic impression of a means test. Well I don't know how many times we have to tell him that there is no line of demarcation -- there is no line of demarcation -- there is no rigid inflexible limit of income, high or low, against which a person is measured before he is eligible for social allowance. The only criterion is need. Now a person living in Winnipeg who has absolutely no resources, who is living in rented accommodation, has one level at which their income must be in order for them to maintain the basic necessities of life. Now a chap living in the Village of MacGregor, for instance, who owns a small piece of property, who owns his own home, has another level of income that he requires to sustain himself in the basic necessities of life. Conversely, a mother with four children needs one level of income and a mother of eight children needs another level of income to sustain themselves in the basic necessities. This is the only criterion -- the need that exists in the particular case. There is no inflexible or rigid limit.

Now the federal government has said that if you have an income qualification for a single person of \$1,140, you automatically are entitled to a MHP hospital premium exemption. That doesn't mean that the person is in need necessarily, because if they have some resources in the way of living accommodations or what-not, they clearly have their basic needs met. Now I can't disagree that a person who has been accustomed to a fairly high standard of living or even a slightly more than modest standard of living in their lifetime and then has to find themselves, through their own lack of foresight in providing for their old-age, or through misfortune dependent upon the state to maintain them, that they're going to be completely satisfied with the level that we have set. But, Mr. Chairman, we must have full regard for the resources that we have available to meet these people's needs, and the Honourable Member for Rhineland pointed out that the increase is pretty substantial.

Now we feel -- and it was mentioned this afternoon that some of our regulations had been changed and they have been. They were changed, and were in the process of being changed, prior to the change in the pensions. We changed the comforts allowance for people who were not living in the homes of relatives or in institutions, because we felt that this was a clear case

(Mr. Christianson, cont'd) of special need. We changed the rent allowances for people who are living in heated accommodations because, here again, these people were not having their needs met. Since the change in pensions, we have instituted further a pretty thorough study of our calculations -- the calculations that were used in arriving at the basic allowances for food, for clothing and for shelter, in conjunction with the Department of Health, and we will be reviewing the other aspects of that as soon as this study has been completed.

But the honourable members have got to understand that we don't have a rigid inflexible income limit against which a person is measured before they can be classified as in need or entitled to social allowance. We meet the need as we find it, and in many cases people have Medicare cards and their incomes may be considerably in excess of the disability or the old age assistance income limitations set by the federal government, I say again, Mr. Chairman, it is dealt with on an individual basis because this is the most economical way it can be done and this is the only way it can be done to maintain the dignity and the pride of the individual applicant.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Chairman, my honourable friend -- I don't know whether I'll have to write him a letter or whether he'll have to write me one. The previous Minister of Health and Welfare and myself used to have considerable arguments in this House on the terminology "means test" or "needs test." The previous Minister of Welfare used to tackle me because I referred to this problem as that of a means test and used to tell me, figuratively speaking, that I was all wet; that you don't apply a means test at all, it's simply a needs test. And now my honourable friend rambles off into the realm of social allowances every time I've raised this particular point today. Now I want to read for his edification his own report, on Page 22, which deals with the question of the payment of assistance to persons in the age group 65 to 69 on a means test basis.

MR. CHRISTIANSON: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, privilege or something -- isn't that the report of the Pensions Branch, Mr. Chairman?

MR. PAULLEY: This is the report, Mr. Chairman, the Annual Report of the Department of Welfare and it is the report of the Old Age Assistance and Blind Allowances in the report.

MR. CHRISTIANSON: Exactly, Mr. Chairman. Now before he gets carried away, I would like to point out

MR. PAULLEY: I'm not going to get carried away.

MR. CHRISTIANSON: that this is the section of the Welfare Department that is administered in accordance with the regulations laid down by the federal government and this is the area that covers the MHSP exemptions -- you see? Now Medicare is not a federal instrument. Medicare is a provincial instrument and it comes under The Social Allowances Act -- you see? There's two little bits of pieces there.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Chairman, I'm perfectly aware of all the points raised by my honourable friend. I'm arguing this, and I would suggest this, that our federal authorities are not the over-generous authority and they have applied -- they have applied in respect of people between the ages of 65 and 70, a means test to establish as to whether or not they should be entitled to a pension prior to receiving the social security pension at the age of 70. They have said that a person who is in receipt of this old age assistance, as they call it, between the ages of 65 and 69 inclusive, that because of their need or their lack of need, they therefore become entitled to receive free hospital premiums because they haven't got the income, at least in theory, to pay hospital premiums.

Now then, let my honourable friend have that firmly in his mind first, that on the basis of a means test an investigation is made into the financial circumstances of these people and, after that investigation has been made on the awarding of a pension, the people are granted exemption from the payment of hospitalization premiums. True, the regulations are those of the federal government and the cost of this is paid jointly on a 50-50 basis between the provincial authority and that of the federal authority. Now my contention is, notwithstanding that, Mr. Chairman, that after these people have once gone through a means test insofar as their finances are concerned in respect of hospitalization premiums, they should not then have to undergo -- and to use, so that I don't get into difficulties with my honourable friend the Minister of Health -- undergo a needs test to ascertain as to whether or not they should receive Medicare, because

(Mr. Paulley, cont'd) to use a phraseology that my honourable friend's report states, that it is at this age that the requirement for medical care is increased. Let me repeat that phrase once again that is used in this in respect of medical care so that the words are not mine. "The Medicare aspect" -- and this is the phrase in my honourable friend's report -- "the medicare aspect of the social allowances program continued to be the most significant part of the services. Especially among the aged is this noted. Elderly people value highly the medicare card which relieves them of the continuing anxiety of existing or feared medical, optical, dental and drug costs." Again, so that there's no misunderstanding, "First of all, the people in the age group between 65 and 69 go under a means test to establish whether or not they're entitled to receive a pension under The Old Age Assistance Allowances Act" -- and then my honourable friend says, and he agrees with me -- "and then they are in receipt of an exemption for hospitalization premiums."

I say it is an injustice to these people that, having once established their means under the means test that they should receive at this particular age a pension, that they should not have to undergo another needs test. Again, so I don't get into difficulty with the Honourable George Johnson, in order to receive a Medicare card, because if it is recognized under The Old Age Assistance Act which is federal, they should not have to further qualify for one of the most important aspects of health care, namely, the medical care under The Social Allowances Act of the Province of Manitoba. If your act was accomplishing what it should be accomplishing, then once a person is established as being exempt from the payment of hospital premiums, I suggest, Mr. Chairman, that they should automatically become entitled to a Medicare card. This is the point that I wish to establish.

MR. SHOEMAKER: Mr. Chairman, I think that it would be very helpful to the committee, and in particular to the Leader of the NDP, and it would answer his question, I suggest, if the Honourable Minister would tell us the maximum amount of cash assets you can have and qualify for Medicare; the maximum cash assets or liquid assets you can have at age 65 and still qualify for Old Age Security; and the maximum amount of cash or liquid assets you can have at age 70 and still qualify for premium exemptions. If we had an answer to those three, it would, to some degree, answer the question that has just been raised by the Leader of the NDP, because as I understand it now, in order to qualify for Social Allowance a recipient cannot have more than \$200 in liquid assets or \$1,000 for the entire family. I understand that it is quite possible for a married person to have liquid assets of at least \$5,000 at age 65 and still qualify for total disability pension if he has no other income. I understand that you can qualify for premium exemption at age 70 if you have no more than \$1,000 so the whole point is that there's three Means Tests. I'm not saying they are right but there are three, and I think if the Honourable Minister would admit that and tell us that in effect there are three different tests applied in the three different categories, that probably we wouldn't be satisfied but we would have the answer.

MR. FROESE: Mr. Chairman, I have a few more things that I wish to ask the Minister at this time. First of all, I would appreciate getting an Annual Report of the Department of Welfare. I notice the other leaders got one and I think I should be entitled to get the information as well. Secondly, does a case which is entitled to social allowances receive the same amount of allowance whether they are in the rural or an urban or city area if the need is the same -- if it's identical? Is there a discrepancy as between the amounts that they receive in social allowance whether they're rural or urban? I'd also like to ask the Member for St. Vital a question through the Chair, if I might, and that is whether the denture clinics are running ads advertising their services and their locations. I would like to know about it.

MR. CHRISTIANSON: Mr. Chairman, I'm sorry about this report business. I should have answered it this afternoon. There is no printed report of the Department of Welfare because we haven't been in business long enough as a separate department. The Department of Health will be printing the report as a part of their report for fiscal '61-62. We will be printing our own reports for fiscal '62-63. Now the reports that were tabled were for the calendar year and were summary reports -- a statistical report only. I'm sorry that the Honourable Member for Rhineland didn't get a copy and I hope to be able to give him one tomorrow. We tabled, I think, 4 copies and there should have been one for each leader of a Party.

Now I would just like to read a paragraph from the regulations for the Honourable Member from Gladstone. I'm sorry he's not in his seat but perhaps somebody could relay the

(Mr. Christianson, cont'd) message to him when he comes back in. Section 6 (1) of the regulations dealing with The Social Allowances Act: "In determining whether or not an applicant is eligible to receive social allowance the director shall take into account, according to the circumstances and needs of the applicant, the total cost of the basic necessities of the applicant and his dependents, from which he shall deduct the financial resources of the applicant and his dependents, and if the cost of the basic necessity is in excess of the financial resources, he may pay an allowance." Now I suggest that's perfectly clear.

To go back to the Honourable Leader of the NDP, what he says is quite true and I regret very much that it isn't possible to set up one department to administer all - in fact to do away with the old age assistance and blind pension and the disability pension and simply administer it all through The Social Allowances Act. If all the other provinces and Manitoba had a similar type of social allowances legislation with respect to what we have here in Manitoba, I think that it wouldn't be too hard to talk the federal government into doing this, because they know as well as we know that the most sensible way to handle welfare is the way it is being handled in Manitoba, on an individual needs basis. Now this has been the experience all through the United States. There are reams of statistical information available for the members of test cases that have been carried on in particularly depressed areas of the United States, and in every case where public welfare has been administered on an individual basis with trained people, the result has been a net decrease in the cost of the welfare burden.

Now the point that the honourable member is raising is certainly a valid one, but if you look at it from the other side for a moment, what he is saying in effect is that if a person has the income qualifications that entitles him to an old age assistance pension, then they should automatically be entitled to a medicare card. But what happens about the person whose basic needs are in excess -- are in excess of the income qualifications? Say they are \$1,142 a year. What happens to him? Does he not then get a social allowances card? In Manitoba he can not only get a social allowance, a medicare card, but he can also get a hospital premium exemption -- you see?

One other point -- and I really think that the argument of the honourable member is kind of a technical, semantic argument that in practice isn't really too valid, because if a person, when they are making application for disability pension -- and you must remember that these things are laws of the land that have been in force for many, many years and are fairly deeply ingrained in the people of the province -- these have been rights that they have come to know, as the Old Age Security Pension at age 70 is a right that everyone has come to know and accept as their dividend for reaching the age of 70. Our Social Allowances Act is relatively new and not all people are aware of it, although I must confess that most of the members of the House are very diligent in carrying the message to all corners of the province and I commend them for it. But the thing is, that a person who applies for a disability allowance -- their application, if they feel that the disability allowance, after talking to the pension investigator, the welfare worker in the pensions branch, that their disability pension will not be sufficient to meet their needs; that they require further help; all they have to do is indicate that they want their application considered as a social allowance application and it will be forwarded directly over to the Department of Welfare and will be dealt with in the normal fashion, and having once been interviewed by a worker and the form properly filled out, there is usually no problem in completing the application. Now the honourable member shakes his head, and I couldn't agree more that it is unfortunate -- it is unfortunate that we have these two categories, but until the recently announced program of the federal government in research and training starts to bear fruit and starts to make itself felt in all the areas across Canada, I really don't think it will be possible to meld these two programs together.

Now we hope and we believe that in the not too far distant future we may be able to work it all through one. We are presently, in fact, working it through the offices in the country; we hope in Winnipeg, too, to be able to work it all through one office; but really the accounting provisions that are required by the federal government in the report that we must make to them -- I was going to say onerous -- they are quite detailed and it's far and above what is required in the social allowances category so it hasn't been prudent -- I think is the proper word -- to meld the two programs together just yet. But we hope that we will be able to accomplish this, and when that day comes it's very probable that almost all of the people who qualify for a

(Mr. Christianson, cont'd) pension will qualify for Medicare, as they do nearly all now.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Chairman, my honourable friend keeps beclouding this issue. Why he brings in the question of if everybody else, if every other province had the same Social Allowances Act as we have, there would be no problem and then we would have a joint scheme. Heavens to Betsy, our particular party has been fighting for this for years and my honourable friend says that if we adopt the suggestions of the federal party of his, then we'll have this. I suggest, Mr. Chairman, if we have to wait as long with his party to bring this in as we did with the party to my right, the people are going to go without Medicare cards for a long time. But the point I want to raise, Mr. Chairman, is simply this, and this is where my honourable friend is beclouding the issue when he brings in the question of other provinces. The fact of the matter is, Mr. Chairman, that we've got here in Manitoba this Act which my honourable friend the former Minister of this Department, and also the present Minister, holds up to us as the model for all of Canada. He says it's the fact -- the back benchers -- particularly the whip over there says it's a fact. The fact of the matter still remains, Mr. Chairman, that despite the beclouding of my honourable friend the Minister, we have an Act in Manitoba that is supposed to provide Medicare cards for those over 65 and in need and we don't have to wait and we shouldn't have to wait if this legislation is a model for all of Canada -- for all the rest of Canada to adopt this model before the people who have already undergone a means test to receive Medicare cards. What about the people over 70 who are only in receipt of \$65.00 a month in respect of old age security pension who, on application, because of their lack of financial ability, simply make an application -- and it's almost as simple as that, I give to the credit of the government -- in respect of exemption for hospitalization premiums. I think I'm basically correct when I say it's almost a question of simply making an application, and the exemption for hospital premiums is granted recognizing, Mr. Chairman, the inability to pay a hospital premium of \$2.00 per month in respect of a single person, or \$4.00 in respect of a family. Now then I say that if they're entitled to receive that exemption it's an indication of their need for the foregoing of hospitalization premium and should therefore be automatically entitled to the other part of health care, namely a Medicare card, it's just as simple as that. We have got the Act. My honourable friends opposite say it's the model for Canada -- if not for the North American continent. I say put your model into actual effective use and grant to these people who have undergone these means tests -- all of them -- a Medicare card because they need that even more, in many cases, than they need hospitalization.

MR. CHRISTIANSON: If they need the Medicare card they get it.

. continued on next page

MR. GUTTORMSON: Mr. Chairman, a matter of considerable concern to me is the plight of the Metis and the Indian in my constituency and perhaps I should say throughout the whole province. I was very interested in the program that was undertaken at MacGregor last year where assistance was provided for some of the Metis people in that district. I'm just wondering what plans the government has to expand this program to the people in other areas of the province. I know some members of this House have probably visited the Metis in their homes and seen the conditions in which they live but I'm sure that some of the members have not, and it's a very depressing situation when you see -- go into homes with dirt floors, the wind whistling through the walls, no chairs, no tables, no beds for them to sleep on. These people are living under very extreme hardship. I know I feel very helpless when I go into these areas and talk to these people and if they seek help. I just wonder what encouragement the Minister can give me to offer these people when I see them again, in the way of assistance, because I think that the Minister is proud of what happened in MacGregor and I think that perhaps he's got good reason to be. Anything I've heard about this particular area has been very favourable. Now I understand from news reports that this is a program that is to be enlarged. I wonder if he could tell us tonight what he has in mind?

MR. CHRISTIANSON: Mr. Chairman, the best encouragement that can be given to the Metis people of Manitoba is to support the community development program of this department, but the essential feature of this community development program is that the people themselves are the instrument by which their lot is improved. Too often in the past has a department of government gone out and said: "We're going to do this for you," and these people have not, in many cases, responded to this kind of treatment, because it's more in the nature of a gift and it requires no conscious effort on their part. Now I think this is not true so much of the Metis, because I think that nothing has been done for them in the past, but it is true of the Indians in the community. Now the important thing, before any housing project can be started, is that you must have the whole-hearted support of all the people in that particular community before it has any chance of success, because if they're not all in favour of it and not all willing to make the effort and the sacrifice that is required, it won't succeed -- it just won't succeed. This is a thing that has been demonstrated time and time again. These people in the situations that my honourable friend is talking about are at a very low cultural and social level. Things that we take for granted have to be, by them, learned and learned almost as you would learn a skill. It's difficult to believe but this, nevertheless, is true and until these people are willing to accept the fact that there's something -- I was going to say ennobling but that's not really the right word -- that it's better to live in a house with a wooden floor and to have chairs and tables and a bed to sleep in -- that this is a better way of life and that it's worth the effort that's required to be able to sustain this standard of living, there really isn't too much point in pouring money in. However, when people do come to this point, and we are working with a great many groups of the province -- the community development officer we have at Grand Rapids is working down through the Fairford area and will be working down through the Fairford area this summer -- Joe Dufore, stationed at Camperville, has been working mainly with the Camperville, Duck Bay and Pine Creek Indian Reserve -- but he will be working as far north as the Shoal River, Pelican Rapids area and down into the Ebb and Flow area. I think that this is bordering on the territory of my honourable friend. We also hope to -- well we have now a man in Winnipeg who is looking after MacGregor and making visits to other Metis communities within a radius of Winnipeg and, while we expect to transfer him out to another area, we will be bringing another man into Winnipeg and we hope to continue this particular program in the southern parts of the province as well.

But it isn't enough to just say, well we're going to do something in this community. The community first has to be prepared for it and it has to be willing to make the effort itself. Now this maybe sounds like a pretty altruistic and far-fetched approach but it's an educational process and it's not the ordinary type of education that the child learns in school. It's an education in learning how to live in the community that they're a part of. In MacGregor one of the problems has been that some of the fellows there still believe pretty strongly in the power of one man to cast a spell or a curse on another. One of the reasons they have lived in widely separated spots is because the cursing power varies inversely as the distance between them and, while this is difficult to believe in this day and age, it's nevertheless a fact. Now

(Mr. Christianson, cont'd.) . . . these people -- there have been a great many kids in MacGregor and yet they've been living not too far from school, who have never been to school -- children of 15 and 16 years of age that maybe got Grade 1, because they have never thought of it as important that the child should go to school regularly. It's a tremendous problem and the only way it can be done is through patient, diligent work in the area and with the particular group, and as soon as we are able to bring a group to the point where they will respond, where they will make an effort and we think there is a chance of success, why we are quite prepared to make whatever efforts are required, to put up whatever sums of money are required, to alleviate their lot, and in this connection I want to give full marks to the Department of Indian Affairs because they've been helping us 100% in this project and are sharing our program on a 50/50 basis right down the line.

MR. GUTTORMSON: Mr. Chairman, I realize this is a very difficult problem. I just wish that I was capable of giving the Minister a solution to end this problem, but I regret that I can't do this. But as I said before I'm very interested and I'd like to know -- if the Minister could tell me -- he mentioned that in order for such a program to succeed in an area, that the people themselves and the people in the area must make a contribution. What contribution did the people in MacGregor make in order to make that particular project a success?

MR. CHRISTIANSON: Well over quite a long period there were meetings between the community development officer and the group at MacGregor. There were two groups there. There was a group on No. 1 Highway, immediately north of MacGregor, and the group a mile east of MacGregor and some distance south of No. 1 Highway, and this was by way of a pilot project if you like. The actual contribution made by the people in that area was 150 hours of labour from each person. This was their actual contribution -- 150 hours of labour.

MR. GUTTORMSON: White people?

MR. CHRISTIANSON: No, no, the people for whom the houses were being built. The Town of MacGregor and the municipality bought the land that the project was built on and that was the contribution of the municipality and the village. The money was advanced by the provincial government, shared 50/50 with the Department of Indian Affairs and the recovery will be -- these people are being charged a rent of 10% of their income. Now this may seem like a nebulous sort of an arrangement but already we are having fairly good success. One of the men from that community has just two or three weeks ago gone up to Thompson and has secured work up there and three of them were working in Portage in the last little while, and two or three of the people who have resided in this community -- strangely as it may seem -- have had full-time occupation, full-time work in the Village of MacGregor. And this is another of the very difficult to understand facets of this whole program. So while this may not seem like a very large contribution on behalf of these people, we had first of all the willingness of the people to attempt the project and we had the odd backslider too as I mentioned before. But the majority of the people were willing to try it and they were willing to make the effort and to date our faith in them has been justified.

MR. GUTTORMSON: Mr. Chairman, as I understand the Minister then, the contribution of the people, that is the municipality of MacGregor, was the land acquired for the project. Is this correct? But I have a different problem in my area because where my Indian and Metis people are located in unorganized territory, and some of these areas -- there are very few white people around even to offer advice -- and I wonder if the Minister could assist me in how I could tell these people to get such a project in their own area started because we have no municipality to make any contribution at all. It would have to be forthcoming from the government.

And while I'm on my feet, before the Minister answers, I think it only fitting that we pay tribute to Jean Lagasse, the man who has been working with these people. I think he's done a terrific job in assisting these people and I'm sure it's been through his terrific interest and sincerity in this work that this program is taking effect. And I'd like to use the Fairford Reserve as an example. Would the Minister tell me how those people can get help in that particular area? As you know, they're an unorganized territory; there's no municipality to make any contribution. If anybody makes a contribution, I think it'll have to be the government itself because they own the land.

MR. CHRISTIANSON: Well in the case of MacGregor, of course, there was no

(Mr. Christianson, cont'd.) . . . unorganized or unowned land or provincial government land near enough to the school and this, of course, was the important thing that the community had to be built near enough so the people could go to school. And it required a fair amount of money to buy the land required to build these houses on. The Fairford people have already been in touch with the Department of Community Development and I think that this is a developing process. I understand that they have formed a committee in this area, a local committee, and are making the first efforts at self-improvement. And I'm sure that when they get to the point where we can feel that they are able to carry the project through, they will be able to be given every consideration, and in this case because there's no problem with land, as you point out, it's unorganized or Crown land. The financial considerations, if you like, won't be nearly as severe or as difficult as they were at MacGregor because it was a very difficult thing and this held the project at MacGregor up for some months -- the actual purchasing of the land. Several people didn't want to sell this land near enough to town. We had quite a battle and eventually they bought a piece of ground that was not as big as they would have liked to have had for the project. However, it seemed to be ample and events have since justified the decision.

I mentioned our Director, Jean Lagasse, this afternoon and I certainly concur and would go even further to say that we are very fortunate to have a man of his capabilities running this department. He is a leader in this field, I think I'm safe in saying, in North America, he's certainly a leader in this field in Canada, and we're very proud of his efforts and the efforts of all the people in his department, because he has done a wonderful job in training the men who are working for him.

MR. GUTTORMSON: Mr. Chairman, well then, do I understand correctly then that if the people of Fairford, we'll use them as a case in point for this discussion, show sufficient interest to start a project of their own, the government will provide the land and, as I understand, they will provide the material for the homes. Is this correct? And the people will be expected to pay 10% of their earnings back towards the government to pay back for the cost of the materials used in such a project. Could the Minister tell me, are they sort of bound, or any contract, or that they must pay this then over a period of years? What happens in periods of unemployment?

MR. CHRISTIANSON: Well the arrangement is that the 10% applies for five years after which they will receive title to their homes. In the case of MacGregor, half the people are treaty Indians, half are non-treaty and the federal government, in times of unemployment, will be paying their rent for them, and this will be one way that we will recover some of the costs. I wouldn't make any commitments as far as any other area goes. The decision in every case will be the director's. It is up to him to decide on the individual merit of the case -- what the possibilities are for the project being successful. Because in this kind of business, a failure in one area can be very, very disastrous. The essential thing is to build up the confidence of these people in their own ability to make the effort required, and if you move too precipitously, if you move too quickly, try to rush them along, you find that they won't go with you. They won't make that effort and then it's just money down the drain. Whether we agree with this at first hearing it -- I agree that it may seem like a pretty far-fetched sort of an idea -- but nevertheless this has been the experience; it's been the experience in Puerto Rico, in Africa, in many other areas -- South America, in many other areas of the world. And if the people ever start to move though, it moves at a pretty good rate.

I would point out the experience in Berens River. That started with a makeworth project last summer to clear some land for an emergency airstrip in an area where they could grow some grass or hay for their livestock. Following that, it was the organization of the Producers Co-Op. Now those fellows were out there chopping wood all winter long. Now it wasn't a very highly paying proposition because those fellows -- the economics of the thing and the best contract we could get for hauling the pulp out of that remote area by barge -- only left those people about \$5.50 a cord for cutting the wood. Now if a fellow can cut three cords of wood a day that's not too bad; he'll make \$15.00 a day -- \$16.50 a day. But the experience there has been that they are not able to cut that much wood. In fact, they were lucky if they got up as high as a cord a day so we had men out working in snow up to their thighs and putting in long hard days making \$5.50 a day. Now this is not a very princely wage, it's true. But they were making as much or more money as they had ever made in any similar occupation and the point was that

(Mr. Christianson, cont'd.) . . . they made the effort themselves. The committee of 12 that ran it -- they had \$500 that they collected amongst themselves, put it in a kitty. They bought six power saws. They decided who used the power saws; they decided on how the thing was going to be run themselves; we didn't. We helped and advised them but they did the work and they made the decisions. They made the hard decisions as well as the easy ones. Well the project has been successful and I think it has been an inspiration to a lot of other people around Lake Winnipeg.

MR. GUTTORMSON: Well, Mr. Chairman, one of the problems as the Minister knows, and as I say I'm dealing again with the Fairford area -- this is a case in point because I know this is typical of so many areas -- there is no employment and these people are at a loss to find work. When the officers of your department are assisting these leaders of these communities is this matter taken into consideration that they should maybe locate in an area where employment would be easier to obtain, because I know, and I'm not suggesting that these people move away from Fairford, but I do know this that employment isn't easy to obtain in that particular locale and I just wonder if this is one of the problems that we should consider when we're doing this.

MR. CHRISTIANSON: Yes. Well this is why I say that each one of these cases has to be on its individual merit. There's no point in building a village where there's no reason for a village being there. It certainly isn't going to do the people any good; it isn't going to do the program any good at all. You've got to try and set these people in an economic surrounding where they do have an opportunity to make a livelihood. Now at MacGregor, you see, they're on No. 1 Highway; there's a large farming community around there; there's a good demand for summer labour; there's a good demand for casual labour and it looked as if there was enough economic activities for them. This may not be the case at Fairford. It may be decided that they should move 10 or 15 miles or maybe even further. But this is the decision that all the people have to make and they have to come to the point where they're willing to make the decision on their own. You can't force a decision like this on anybody. The decision has to be made by the people themselves acting freely. So this is just one of the many ramifications that you get into when you start setting up one of these types of projects.

MR. JOHN P. TANCHAK (Emerson): Mr. Chairman, I'm just going to ask two questions. One is dealing with treaty Indians. I understand that the Minister indicated that the treaty Indians are not covered by social allowances but since we're discussing this subject I think this would be in order. And I wonder -- in my constituency there is a co-op effort in its initial stages of planning. The Indians are interested in market gardening and also probably growing strawberries and so on, and I wonder if the government is prepared to help them in the form of gardens and financially to get this movement started. I think it would be very ideal there. The soil is just right for it. But that's my first question. Well my second question is: The Minister also indicated that The Social Allowances Act has not fully been proclaimed yet. There's mothers who have been neglected -- neglected mothers who have to wait a year and mothers whose husbands are in gaol have to wait a year. I wonder whether the Minister could indicate when the balance of this Act will be proclaimed by the government?

MR. CHRISTIANSON: We haven't proclaimed the balance of the Act with respect to treaty Indians because treaty Indians are still fully the responsibility of the federal government. At least they are still fully looked after by the federal government. We do, however, any off-treaty Indian, any Indian person who has lost treaty status, is accorded the full rights and privileges of any other person in the province. And with regard to helping the people in that area to improve their economic status, this is precisely the objects of the Community Development Corporation -- precisely. And I might say that beyond that the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Industry and Commerce, the Department of Mines and Resources have given us whatever aid and assistance we have asked for on any of these particular projects. And I indicated this afternoon, I thought pretty fully, that we would be declaring the remaining sections of The Social Allowances Act just as soon as we were able to. -- (Interjection) -- Well, if the honourable member looks at the case loads in the report that his Leader has and if he looks at the increases in spending and if he has been listening to the complaints about delays in processing applications, he will realize that the problem is still a large one.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Chairman, coming back to the MacGregor construction of homes,

(Mr. Molgat, cont'd.) a project with which I heartily agree -- in fact my interest in it is seeing that it's expanded to other areas. The Minister indicated that the matter of employment is an important one before a decision is made on the location of new construction, with which I also completely agree because this is the perennial problem at the moment with a good number of our reservations and the group that always live on the outside of reservations who are not treaty Indians but are principally the problem of the province. Insofar as MacGregor is concerned, the department analyzed the situation there beforehand and found that there were suitable employment possibilities in MacGregor before proceeding with construction. Is that correct?

MR. CHRISTIANSON: Well the member will appreciate that I wasn't in the department when the decision was made. I think they agreed that there was a reasonable potential. Now, of course, if you didn't build the houses there or if you didn't relocate the people into the vicinity of MacGregor, where would you locate them? These people had been living there in shacks, by choice, for a long time. The oldest one, I am told, was living there for something in excess of 50 years. He would go away for awhile and he would come back again. In that particular case I don't really think there was any alternative than to locate these people there. Now I would point out, too, that one or two of the people have had pretty full-time employment in the Village of MacGregor and that they have been able to get a fair amount of casual farm labour in the area, but how fully -- I think I, knowing the workings of the Community Development Department, I think that they realized that it wasn't an ideal situation -- that if they could have persuaded the people that they should move somewhere else where every man would have automatically had a job, they certainly would have done it, but it was the best situation that was available under the circumstances and it was a solution that offered a very good chance of success and I would point out that, to date, this has been substantially true. It has been meeting with a good deal of success.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Chairman, the department then, I presume, will continue to expand this program. Could the Minister indicate what other areas he contemplates proceeding with housing this year?

MR. CHRISTIANSON: There are no other areas that are yet progressed to the point where I would want to make a statement that there will be something proceeded with this year. Now these things can develop fairly rapidly. As I pointed out we have a man in Winnipeg who has been working in the area around Winnipeg; we hope, not in '62-63 but in '63-64, to appoint at least one, and perhaps two, more community development officers in the southern part of the province to cover the other areas down around Brandon, up Amaranth way and up into the Interlake and in the eastern and southeastern parts of the province, but this is a program where one must make haste very slowly. You can't force it. The people have to go at their own speed and while they may decide that it would be very nice to have a new home, they must be prepared to make the sacrifices and the efforts that are required. But I can assure the honourable member that we will be working and doing our utmost to stimulate them, as we are doing, and we're very encouraged with the success we are meeting. I would say, too, that the Department of Indian Affairs is following our approach very closely, are working very closely with us. We hope to be able to convene a conference between the federal government and ourselves as soon as possible to discuss all the ramifications -- education, health and all the rest of it -- as it applies to Manitoba so, while I don't want to make any specific statements about areas that we are going to move into, I think I can safely say that by this time next year we will have undertaken quite a few more of these projects.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Chairman, I'm frankly disappointed that the Minister has not got some more projects in the works for this year, having made an excellent start on MacGregor along No. 1 highway and I think he's aware that there are a lot of other areas in the province where this same problem exists. I would like to have some more information on the MacGregor project before I carry on with other comments that I have in this regard. There were 13 homes built at MacGregor. Could the Minister indicate how many families here were treaty Indians and how many were non-treaty?

MR. CHRISTIANSON: Yes, they were about half and half. Now I think there are still two or three homes to go and those belong to the people who lived on the north side of the highway who are non-treaty Indians. The Roulettes, who were mostly treaty Indians lived east of

(Mr. Christianson, cont'd.) . . . MacGregor, have all been moved into the new homes and we recently purchased a home just south of the area in which the homes were built. Now I'm a little surprised at the honourable member for being impatient with it. We certainly have made a pretty substantial start in this program and I must frankly say we're starting from a long ways back -- a long ways back.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Chairman, I'm really not too concerned how far back the Minister had to go. The point is that during 1961 he did something. During 1962 he tells the committee that he has no project on hand. Now I'm wondering why the gap; why was he able to do something in '61; why has he nothing planned for '62. That's the problem that I see because he, I am sure agrees, that there is a substantial problem, not only at MacGregor, it exists in many other parts of the province. And what I am surprised at is that he has no project -- having got this plan under way -- that he has no project for '62.

MR. CHRISTIANSON: Mr. Chairman, the white man has been in Manitoba and Manitoba has been a province since 1870. Nothing has been done before for the Metis people in any substantial or organized way. We were not in office, Mr. Chairman. We were sitting in Opposition -- (Interjection) -- It ill behoves the honourable member to be making such remarks after his political party held the reins of office for so many, many years here in Manitoba.

MR. DESJARDINS: I thought we were dealing with the --

MR. CHRISTIANSON: We're dealing with the present, and the present is the result of the past, and the mistakes of the past do now have to be corrected and we are proceeding with all haste to correct those mistakes and we have made a good start at MacGregor; we have made a tremendous start at MacGregor. If you will look at the estimates for this department you will find that the total expenditures for this year are \$120,835 as against \$85,850 for last year. There are not included in these estimates any monies that may be required for special projects for a very, very good reason because I would not want to stand up here and give any hope to the people of Fairford or the people of St. Lazare, or any of the other backward communities, that this year we were going to do something for them because, Mr. Chairman, I can't, in all conscience make any promises in this regard. But I can assure the honourable member that if any of these communities come to the point where we feel a housing project has a chance of success, the money will be available and the project will be proceeded with.

There is another housing project as well, \$75,000 in special warrants were authorized this year for loans to people at Grand Rapids to build houses. Now all that money hasn't been spent as yet. Most of it has but there is still some 15 to 18 thousand left in that special warrant and we expect that it will be expended in the coming year. The only reason it hasn't been expended is because land was not available on which to build the houses. These were loans; straight loans; mortgage loans to the people on a three-year term, and I'm very pleased to report that one of these loans has already been repaid. Now if the people in Norway House; if the people in Berens River; if the people in Poplar River or Bloodvein or wherever, come to us in the coming year with a project that the director feels has a good chance of success, it will be carried out and the money will be made available. And, Mr. Chairman, if somebody says: "Why haven't you got more projects in here," my only comment is that he doesn't understand the basic philosophy behind the community development approach. He doesn't understand what we are trying to do here in Manitoba and if he doesn't attach any significance to the words that we are starting a long ways back, he had better just look very closely at his record because, whether he likes it or not, it's his record.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Chairman, I am quite surprised at the political tacks that the Minister takes -- (Interjection) -- There is no political consideration --

MR. CHRISTIANSON: accuses us of not having any projects for 1962.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Chairman, my comments were very straightforward. If the Minister wants to be political, that's fine. I have no objections to being political. I am quite prepared to get in that discussion. The point was, Mr. Chairman, that in 1961 the Minister did something at MacGregor. I commended him for it and I agree that it's a good start. What I want to know is what is he planning to do in '62 and he told me he had nothing planned in '62, and I think it's a very fair question to ask: "Well why did you have something in '61 and if it's a good project, why is it not continuing in '62?" Because there are problems in other areas and the Minister doesn't need to say that we don't know what the Community Development

(Mr. Molgat, cont'd.) Project is all about. We are quite familiar with the Community Development project. In fact the basis on which the government is operating is the report that was produced by this party when we were in office. The member who was sitting in the seat of honour here, a little while earlier today, who was then the Member for St. Boniface, Mr. Teillet, is the one who originally proposed the resolution in this House requesting that a study be made by the Province of Manitoba on the people of Indian origins and particularly those who are not treaty Indians because those are the responsibility of the province. Following on, I will say, the unanimous acceptance of that resolution in this House, which included the members of the Conservative party -- some of them are presently here in the House. This was passed; the government acted upon the resolution. The Commission was appointed, Mr. Lagasse who is now the Community Development officer, was the one who did the survey, and I'll agree there completely with the comments of the Honourable Member for St. George, Mr. Lagasse produced an excellent report. I think most of the members of the House will have read with considerable interest -- certainly those of us, who have in our constituencies people with these particular problems, were very concerned with the report; read it very carefully and have a great deal of interest in it and I fully agree when the Minister says that you have to have local participation for this to work. It's the basic element of the community development program. I agree with him that you cannot come along and impose this from the top because if you do it doesn't work and that was probably the weakness in the past in a lot of the things that we attempted to do for the people of Indian origin in this country. There was too much attempted from the top by governments and this includes any government that was in office previously -- too much done from the top without enough co-operation by the people involved and the community development program, in my opinion, is an excellent one and I'm happy to see that the government is proceeding with it, but I want to see it proceeding throughout the province. Now I know that you've got to walk before you can run, and you can't simply go out all over and start these projects all the way through but what I want to see, Mr. Chairman, is a consistent pattern and a program. I don't want us to be going in fits and starts -- I don't want us to be proceeding and doing things along No. 1 Highway, where there's a lot of traffic, and not in other areas of the province where the problem is just as great but not quite as visible.

MR. LYON: doing nothing at all.

MR. MOLGAT: If the Attorney-General wants to get into the fight he's quite welcome to. He's more than welcome into it, Mr. Chairman. And what I want to see then is a consistent pattern throughout the province. This is the purpose of my question, Mr. Chairman, because in my own constituency there are areas where housing is badly needed by these people and they are anxious to see something done. That's why I want to know from the Minister what his plans and his programs are for 1962; why I'm disappointed that he has something for '61 and nothing for '62 and we don't know what for '63. Well I hope he will continue on a planned program. Now coming back to MacGregor. Is it correct to assume then that in the case of MacGregor -- and this then will be the pattern elsewhere -- that if the land is supplied and the individuals are prepared to put up 150 man hours of labour, that the department is prepared to proceed with the construction? Is this the accepted program?

MR. CHRISTIANSON: I answered that question a little while ago, Mr. Chairman. Every case will be dealt with on its own merits and in many, many cases where these people are in difficulties they are living in unorganized territory -- the land will not be a problem. Now with regard to the individual contributions, as I pointed out, in Grand Rapids we're not making any contribution -- we're merely making mortgage loans because the people up there have jobs to work at and they're able to pay back loans and this is all the help they require and what's more they're very happy to get it -- they don't want any gifts -- they want to be self-sufficient people -- they have just as much pride as we have -- so in that case we didn't give them a red cent. All we gave them was a mortgage loan and as I said, and I'm very happy to report, there was a good fishing season up there this winter and one of the loans has already been paid back in full.

Now I mentioned earlier in my remarks when I started off -- I said that the program was only two years old. One of the problems in this program is getting personnel. This is the key to the program, the particular person who is sent into the area to try and stir up interest -- to

(Mr. Christianson, cont'd.) . . . try and stir up the activity of the local people. It's a pretty tough thing to get a man to go into a place like Beren's River or Norway House where your only communication is by air in the winter and by boat in the summer -- to go up there with your family and go into the bush as it were for a long period of time, and it's a very slow process -- it can't be done overnight. We have, as I indicated earlier, three new positions for the coming years -- one at Churchill, one at The Pas and one in the forebay area behind the dam at Grand Rapids where the people of Cedarville are being moved and what not -- and we also hope to have an extra person in Winnipeg and we hope to be able to continue the program in the southern parts of the province at the same time as we're continuing in the northern part of the province. Now we have a full partner in this, the Department of Indian Affairs. They're giving us excellent co-operation and we are co-operating with them in the areas where we both see the greatest need and, if you like, the greatest potential. Now that's not to say that they aren't all in need because they are, and with respect I'd suggest that the number of projects that come up in the coming year -- that are brought forward in the coming year -- will be in direct proportion to the number of community development officers that we have working in the province. Now last year we had four and some of them were appointed late in the year. Mr. Birch went up to Beren's River in December; Mr. Dufore went up to Camperville-Duck Bay I think in the summer; Mr. Whitford was in Grand Rapids about 18 months ago I guess; and Mr. Langon into Norway House just slightly over a year ago. So the projects that will be coming forward I'm sure will be in direct proportion to the number of people that we have actively engaged in the work in the field. I am quite confident -- quite confident -- that there'll be several projects come forward in the coming year. I might report too that the Department of Indian Affairs is going to co-operate with us -- I believe as part of the Committee on Manitoba's Economic Future -- as part of their study on additional ways to improve the livelihood of these native people, particularly living in the Pre-Cambrian Shield -- in the area east and north of Greater Winnipeg.

So we have no apologies to make for the fact that there is nothing in the estimates this year and no projects specifically stated as such -- no apologies whatsoever. We stand ready -- the honourable member seems to have gotten the principle behind community development -- it has to be a community effort -- it has to be one at the local level. There isn't one at this moment ready to be set into operation. There may be one next week, there may be one the week after next, but there isn't one at this moment and until it's ready to go we don't feel we'd be doing anybody a service to announce it because we would only be leading people astray.

MR. GUTTORMSON: Mr. Chairman, the Minister said that in order for such a project to function properly they had to get the co-operation from the people in the area itself. Could he indicate what percentage the government or the committee feels is required in order to go ahead with the project. Take MacGregor, for instance, did they have 100% interest or was it 80% or what percentage does the Minister feel is required in an area to make the project a success; and before he answers this question, is the government assisting in the community centre that's operating in Winnipeg at the present time? I believe there's one on Selkirk Avenue. Could he indicate what assistance is being offered to these people in this regard?

MR. CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I'd be very pleased to. We're very proud of the effort made by the people who organized and are operating this Indian-Metis Friendship Centre. It's a model of its kind in Canada. Believe me, it's an outstanding example of what can be done for these people, particularly in a large urban area. I should pay particular tribute to Canon Scott and to Miss Adams who is the full-time worker there. We are making a substantial contribution. I had occasion to be over there at their third anniversary the other day and presented them with a cheque for \$4,000 which is our yearly contribution to their project. We have, in addition, authorized some extra funds in co-operation -- or at least we hope it will be in co-operation -- with the Department of Indian Affairs, toward the attachment of a probation officer to the staff of this Indian-Metis Friendship Centre to deal with the cases that come up in the local courts and to try and reach out from the Centre -- to try and enlarge the sphere of influence, if you like, of the Centre.

Now when I was talking about percentage of concurrence by the people in the community, I'm only speaking of the Indian people in the community. I'm not speaking about the white people in the community and there again it would of necessity be on an individual case. If, in

(Mr. Christianson, cont'd.) . . . a community you find a strong leader, one who is capable of carrying the people along, and one whose motives are -- I shouldn't say proper -- but one who has good motives, who has the right kind of motives, then you don't need to wait until you have everybody's concurrence in the project before you can proceed but if you have an area or a community where you have one or two strong men -- and there are always strong men in every one of these communities -- who are not in favour of the project, then you've pretty near got to have 100% agreement before you can go ahead because as soon -- (Interjection) -- In MacGregor? MacGregor was a case where we had nearly 100% agreement. Now there wasn't complete agreement because the Roulette family was a bit of an obstacle, and particularly the senior Roulette, and he has been a problem -- or at least he was a problem right along. However, we feel that now that problem has been solved but there again you see you had men -- the Beauchamps, who lived on the north side of the highway, who were earning a reasonable livelihood, notwithstanding the fact that they were living in very poor surroundings, they were earning a reasonable livelihood and their children were going to school so that we had a core, a nucleus if you like, of people we could depend upon to carry the project forward. Then also we had excellent support from the Town and Village of MacGregor because they really wanted to do something for these people too, notwithstanding the TV show which may have given the impression that the people of MacGregor were completely neglecting these people. The Village of MacGregor has always been very kind to these people but because it wasn't felt that the people themselves were making an effort, the kindnesses that they were bestowing on them were never yielding too much fruit. So, to go back again, every case will be judged on its merits -- it has to be judged on its merits and as soon as a project has a chance of success we'll be ready to proceed.

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, I can't understand why the Minister is so touchy on this question and why he feels that it's wrong for my Leader to ask questions. I can't understand why he has to tell us that they have to be careful but then criticize all the former governments and I must say all -- I can't see where he can skip over the Conservative Governments of the past -- I can't see how that could be done, especially when so much of the work has been started by a government that I certainly don't take any credit for, but a Liberal government, and I think the man whom I replaced, Mr. Teillet is one of the men who did the most of everybody -- anybody in this province in this question of Indian and Metis. I can't see why it's so wrong at the estimate time to ask questions, especially when nine, ten weeks ago we heard the Speech from the Throne and I'll read a paragraph here -- I quote -- "My Ministers are pleased to state that the experimental program of community development designed primarily for Indian and Metis citizens, is beginning to bear good fruit. You will be asked to provide additional funds to expand and strengthen the program." Why is it so wrong to try and find out about this at this time, Sir?

MR. CHRISTIANSON: Mr. Chairman, there's nothing wrong with asking questions. Nothing at all -- (Interjection) -- and I guess that I am one of those people who doesn't like having allegations made. Now I guess it all depends on where you sit as to how an allegation goes over. It's perfectly all right for the honourable members across there to make allegations, but if I make allegations this is neither fit nor proper. Mr. Chairman, if I am guilty of reading something into the demands of the Leader of the Opposition -- if I am guilty of believing that he was accusing us of not proceeding with this program -- I must apologize -- I must apologize because I must say that this is what I thought and this is what I inferred from his remarks, but if he didn't infer that we were not going ahead fast enough, that we had no programs to announce and our whole community development program was bogging down, well then again I apologize for speaking a little louder than is my custom.

MR. ORLIKOW: Mr. Chairman, I think it's fair to say that until some six or eight years ago that the governments of all the jurisdictions in Canada -- federal and all the provinces -- were, in as far as the problem of the Indian and Metis are concerned, were really only offering welfare -- were really only offering sufficient relief so that people would not, very often at least, die of starvation or die of cold because of inadequate housing. The last half dozen years I suppose, maybe a little longer, has come, and I think it's long overdue; a realization that merely to provide assistance to keep people alive is not enough. We've known that about other groups in the community for many, many years, but in the last few years we've begun to

(Mr. Orlikow, cont'd.) . . . realize that this applies to the Indian people too, and that they need to be helped in such a way, as the Minister said, that they will basically help themselves. Now I think that the community development program which was -- and let's give credit where credit was due -- which was first proposed in a report commissioned by the former government and then because of the accident or what you want to call it, of the election, was then instituted by this government -- (Interjection) -- Well, it was an accident in terms of when it started for these people, that's all I'm talking about. That is something for which, I think, we can all be happy, because what we have learned from the beginning, and I think the Minister said, and said correctly, we've only made a beginning on this program, is that the best way to solve this problem, the only way to solve this problem, is to help these people learn to help themselves. I'm one of the members, and I'm sure there are many of this House who have had occasion to go to visit the Indian and Metis Friendship Centre, and it certainly is a wonderful feeling to see 75 to 100 young people there on a Sunday evening and to realize that if this facility had not been provided for them that many of them in all likelihood would have been in some much less desirable place, some restaurant in one of the poorer areas of Winnipeg and would probably have wound up in some considerable difficulty. So we are making strides and, if as I see in the estimates we are providing in this coming year sufficient money to hire four new community development officers, I'm quite certain that, as the Minister says, we will find places for them. I'm not so concerned about the fact that the Minister doesn't know tonight in what particular area they will be put. I recognize the problem of getting adequate staff. There are not too many people trained in this field and certainly less people who have the proper philosophy.

At the same time, Mr. Chairman, I would not entirely agree with the Minister that everything is being done which can be done. That doesn't mean that I have any specific recommendations that instead of four it should be six or it should be eight. I do think however, Mr. Chairman, that if the four have proved their value, that the eight will certainly prove their value and that probably we need a good deal more than eight. And if I have any criticism, Mr. Chairman, of this particular program from what we know about it up till now, it is that I feel that the department should be -- after all Mr. Lagasse made, in his study and in his report on the bulk of the Indian communities in the province, and it seems to me that the one thing which we need now is for the department to make an assessment of what the total problem is and to set itself an objective. I have no objections to four more per year. It may be that that is the rate at which we can grow and which we should grow. But if I have any criticism, and it's certainly not a great criticism this year, is that I feel that there should be an assessment of the total problem and that the department should make some five-year or ten-year or whatever length of time the department feels will be required to get a program for the whole province started. And that I think should be put before the Legislature and should be approved. I know that one legislature can't bind future legislatures, but it does seem to me if we had that kind of approach to it that we would be dealing with the problem -- and it is a problem, the greatest problem in the field of welfare which faces not only the Province of Manitoba but, I think, all three Prairie Provinces at least, -- but we could deal with it in a much more consistent and a much more thoughtful manner than in what seems to me to be a somewhat "catch as catch can" basis. This year we propose four, and I'm all for it; next year it may be two or three or six. It seems to me that this is the one thing I think we could do which is to work out some over-all objective with some time table.

.....Continued on next page.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (a) passed.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Chairman, there are still some questions on 1 (a), Mr. Chairman.

MR. HILLHOUSE: Mr. Chairman, the matter which I wish to raise in this committee is a matter which is outside a provincial jurisdiction but it deals with citizens of Manitoba and, for that reason, I feel that I am justified in bringing it up here. At the recent conference of Indians and Metis held in Winnipeg on February 7th, I believe that Chief Albert Campbell of the Peguis Indian Reserve made a charge of fraud against the federal government arising out of the surrender of St. Peter's Indian Reserve, which Reserve was originally situated just north of the Town of Selkirk. And I think for the purpose of making my remarks as brief as possible, I may be excused from reading this article which appeared in the Winnipeg Free Press on February 8th, under the byline of John Gordon. The article reads: "A Manitoba Indian Band will ask the federal government for a cash settlement in a 54-year old land fight. If the Band doesn't gain satisfaction, the Chief says, he will try to take the matter to the United Nations. The plan for action was revealed to the Eighth Annual Indian and Metis Conference in Winnipeg, Wednesday, by Chief Albert Campbell of the Peguis Reserve." And I understand he's no relative of the Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. CAMPBELL: I wouldn't be too sure.

MR. HILLHOUSE: Chief Campbell maintains that in 1907, his band was defrauded out of its original reserve, St. Peter's, on the northern boundary of the Town of Selkirk by agents of the federal government. He says this was done so government supporters could buy the land for speculation. The matter was brought up in the Commons in 1910. In 1915 a Provincial Royal Commission found the Indian had been defrauded, said Mr. Campbell. Since then the Band has attempted to have two petitions of rights filed, the last in 1936. The matter has never been settled. Chief Campbell, however, is determined it is about time the white man did the right thing to us. The Chief says that in 1936 the Band filed to have \$1,000 of the Band's funds allocated to pay a lawyer to file a petition of rights. The federal government refused to approve the expenditure, he said. In 1907 the Band Council was bribed with liquor, land and money to turn the land over to the government, Mr. Campbell said. Most of the Indians voting for the surrender didn't know what they were voting for. G. H. Bradbury, M.P. for Selkirk brought the matter up in the Commons in 1910. According to Hansard, Mr. Bradbury charged the surrender of the land was arranged at the request of the then sitting government member just prior to a general election to provide money to reward party stalwarts. Mr. Bradbury charged the Indians were not sufficiently informed of the government's intention to ask them to surrender their lands and to move them to another reserve. Most of the discussion went on in English which the Indians didn't understand and took place in a very small room where only a few Indians at a time could gather. The rest had to stay outside. Mr. Bradbury said the Chief and Counsellors were bribed with promises of land and money to induce them to support the measure. When the time for the surrender came, Mr. Bradbury said, the Indians were told to go to one side of the hall or the other to signify their intentions. He says, that a government representative announced the vote by telling the Indians, those who want \$90 go to the side favoring the surrender. The then Deputy Minister is reported to have said just before the vote, "I have \$5,000 in my satchel. If you vote for the surrender tonight, I will distribute this \$5,000 among you; if you do not vote for the surrender, I will take my bag and go home and you won't get a cent." Individual Indians were granted a few acres of land which was then grabbed up by speculators, according to Mr. Bradbury. In 1915, a provincial royal commission judged that fraud and bribery were proved in the transfer and recommended that action be taken according to Chief Campbell. Chief Campbell is working with lawyers to get the support of federal members of Parliament, he said, and indications are encouraging."

Now I don't know whether everything that's in that article is true or I don't know whether part of it is true and part of it is false -- but the point is this, if we ever want to have that mutual understanding between the white man and the Indian in this province, and between the white man and the Metis, it must be based on trust and it must be based on faith. And as long as a situation like this prevails, as long as the Indians feel that they have been defrauded by the white man, I think it is incumbent upon us as their representatives in this House, and they have a perfect right in Manitoba to sit in this House; they have the franchise; they are in all respects first-class citizens, although federally they're still treated as second-class citizens. And,

(Mr. Hillhouse, cont'd.) . . . I think, in view of the fact that they have equal rights in this province with us it's incumbent upon us as their representatives in this House to investigate this matter and find out whether or no there is any truth in the statements that have been made by Chief Campbell. I know, for a fact, that the Howe Royal Commission did make a finding. Now whether they found that there was bribery or fraud, I don't know. But I know that they did impose a lien, or register a lien under the St. Peter's Indian Reserve Act against all the lands in the St. Peter's Indian Reserve which had been transferred or sold by Indians prior to the receipt by them of a patent; and I know that lien is still in existence although no efforts whatsoever are being taken or have been taken by the federal government to collect that lien. That lien is bearing interest, I believe, at five percent compound interest from June 1, 1950, and it now amounts to about \$3.20 an acre.

I feel that since we have in Mr. Legasse, an excellent individual who is genuinely interested in the welfare of the Indians and Metis in this province that we should do something as a province to find out from the federal government whether or no they are prepared to reopen this whole case with a view to seeing what can be done to better the lot of the Indians who were moved from the old Peguis Reserve out to Hodgson. I understand that that money that is being paid under the St. Peter's Indian Reserve lien is being held in Band funds at Ottawa. Now I don't know under what terms or under what conditions it is released to the band, but my understanding is that when an Indian of that band becomes enfranchised he gets a certain share of the funds. Now if that money could be released to that Indian Band now, I think that it could be used for the purposes of rehabilitation and for other purposes; it could be used to their advantage. And I would certainly ask the Honourable Minister of Welfare to take this matter under advisement and to see whether something could not be done to get to the bottom of this whole sorrowful affair, because this is nothing new; it's been going on for years. When I first went to Selkirk in 1923 I first heard about it. I've interviewed numerous Indians who claimed that they sold land to the white man for \$10 and a bottle of whiskey, and I believe that in some instances they were telling the truth. I feel quite sincerely that this is a matter which would be worthy of the attention of our Department of Welfare. Let's get to the bottom of it and find out whether or no the charges made by Chief Albert Campbell are true; whether they're partly true or whether they're false. And if they're true or partly true, let's see what we can do to assist these people in righting what they claim to be a wrong.

MR. CHRISTIANSON: . . . the honourable member any information on that, but I certainly will endeavour to find out something about it. I want to correct an impression left by the Honourable Member from St. John's. The men in question are going into Forebay area, into Churchill and into The Pas and one in Winnipeg. The program is well in hand and the future planning is also well in hand as I indicated earlier. We have planned in the coming years to expand into the western parts of the province, based, I hope, on Brandon to cover all the western parts, and perhaps from Winnipeg or some other point to cover the west shore of Lake Manitoba; the Interlake area as well as the southeast and the east side of the province. We are indebted to whoever started the ball rolling on this matter of Indian and Metis affairs; and if it was the previous member from St. Boniface or if it was the Member from Inkster, I certainly want to give them full marks, full marks, because the effort, the resolution, or whatever was the force that prompted the appointment of Mr. Lagasse to conduct the inquiry, was certainly an effort or a force that was long, long overdue. I can assure the honourable members that Mr. Lagasse has lost none of his zeal and he has, in fact, gained a tremendous amount of intelligence and experience from his experiences in the last two or three years. I wanted to inform the Honourable Member from St. John's as well that the limiting factor, as I said earlier, the limiting factor in the program to date has been the ability to engage competent staff for these remote areas.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Chairman, now that we've gone a full circle round and we're all together again on the community development program, and all agreed that we want it, I'd like to ask some further questions of the Minister on it. And now I'm speaking as the member for Ste. Rose constituency and not as Leader of the Opposition specifically, because when I was asking him questions about this program I had in mind some specific areas in my own constituency where housing is badly needed; and what I wanted to be sure of is that we could in those areas organize a group who would undertake to have local co-operation and local effort, and if

(Mr. Molgat, cont'd.) . . . they were prepared to do that, that they would meet with the approval of the department and of the Minister in their desires for improved housing. There's one area in particular which has been a problem area for many years, right near the big Indian Reserve at Sandy Bay or Amaranth -- the locality known as Marius. Now here I'm sure that we can obtain the land. They are presently squatting on land owned by private individuals and I'm sure that this can be obtained. Provided this can be done, provided that they are willing to do the amount of man-hours of work that were done at MacGregor, is the department then prepared to consider this year, their request for assistance in housing? That's the main thing that I want to cover in this particular regard; and then of course, throughout the province as the same situation develops, is the government prepared to take into consideration and provide the funds in the coming year?

MR. GRAY: Mr. Chairman, I think perhaps, I know the situation of the Metis as good as anyone else in the House. I have brought this question up years ago. I had once a resolution on it and it was amended to appoint a committee. I don't think that there is any good purpose to debate who is to blame and who is not to blame. What I said many years ago, there was another government at that time, another administration, and the same applies to this administration. Some of the Metis hang around the corners of Logan and Main. I talk to them every day. I try to find out their livelihood; I try to find out what interest have they got in life; why do they stand on the corner all the time. The information I have is that they live in 1 or 2 rooms -- sometimes a family of six or seven. They don't know what to do; they cannot get a job, and we all know it. The average employer would not employ them in any kind of work and how they live, I don't know. Most of them are on relief; others on social welfare. But instead of arguing who is to blame, for God's sake, let's quit it. Let's find out what we can do for them. They are human beings and the longer we postpone some kind of a remedy for them, the worse it gets and the more expensive it becomes to the taxpayer. They are hopeless and helpless. There's no future for them. They simply exist and it is our duty to see what could be done. We cannot send them anywhere, they are here; and as someone expressed, they are Canadian citizens longer than any one of us. It's a problem and the problem should be solved. It's getting worse from day to day. Little kids running around down there on Main Street without their parents' guidance begging for a penny; begging for something else; and if you look into their faces you see the tragedy of a child. The child itself realizes -- 4 or 5 years old children realize they are handicapped and there is little hope for improvement. They go around in shabby clothes and no one to take care of them. Go down there on that corner sometime during the day -- any one of you -- and have a talk to them. They're intelligent; they realize their position. They realize the tragedy but what can they do? And instead of accusing one Minister or another there's no program -- we've discussed it for years -- Let's have a program. Instead of criticizing, let's suggest something. Let's help them. But for the last few years anytime this question comes up, one blames the other. In the meantime these poor people are suffering.

Some improvements have been made, I realize it; some concern has been given by this House, I realize it. But for God's sake, let's help them, and help them directly. It is not a question of a year or a month or 10 years or 5 years, it may be requested for years and years and generations, and they're all on our hands. It's our responsibility. They are not here to talk for themselves and as a matter of fact they have an inferiority complex. But if you start talking to them and honestly, it's a disgrace for civilization that human beings suffer. I would suggest that let's do something instead of squabbling; let's do something instead of criticizing the others. This will not help. Action -- that will help. And after we consider they are not a second-class citizen in this country; they are just as good as we are -- just as good. Unfortunately, for the last -- probably centuries -- we have not tried to do anything for them. The same applies to the Indians, but I'm not so familiar with their tragic life. But I am familiar fully the tragic life of the Metis, and the one thing I can ask this House is quit blaming one another. Let's get together. This is not a political issue. I don't know what political party they belong to but it's immaterial. They are human beings; they are suffering; it's a tragedy. Let's help them.

MR. CHRISTIANSON: . . . assure the Honourable Member for Inkster that we are proceeding as quickly as we can, and we are certainly fully cognizant of the human dignity of

(Mr. Christianson, cont'd) these people and we are treating them in that way as we could treat any other human being -- any other human person. Concrete evidence of what he says, of course, is the fact that out of the some 100,000 --odd people of Indian ancestry in Manitoba, 50,000 of them are self-supporting citizens.

With regard to the question from the Honourable Member from Ste. Rose, I've already indicated that we are prepared to accept or to proceed with any project that, in the opinion of the director and the members of the staff, has a good chance of success. It would be wrong of me to say that if they meet certain material qualification, that we will automatically proceed with the program, because I don't want to place any false hopes in anybody's way or I don't want anybody to read any promises into anything I may say, because this is a very complex problem and the decision to go ahead on any given project will depend on the particular set of circumstances surrounding the individual case. But I can assure him that every case that has the chance of success will receive the most sincere and the most sympathetic consideration.

MR. FROESE: Mr. Chairman, I don't think my question that I asked the Minister before was answered regarding the social allowances in the case where the need is identical between rural and urban cases. If there is a difference, and I think the answer circulated among the members here that there was a difference, I feel that -- and I doubt whether there should be a difference, because it seems to me there is a tendency that once they become a welfare case that people will tend to move to the cities to enjoy the facilities and conveniences of cities rather than to remain in rural centres; and as a result, it just costs the government more in social allowances. I'd like to know from the Minister what the differences amount to. Is it 10%; could it be 20% as an average, or what difference is there?

MR. CHRISTIANSON: If the honourable member would care to call at my office tomorrow morning, I would be pleased to give him a copy of Chapter 57 of the Statutes of Manitoba, The Social Allowances Act, and a copy of the regulations appertaining thereto. I might even, if the time permits, endeavour to give him the same short course as I have had in the mechanics of applying the regulations and the Social Allowances Act, but I really don't think we should burden the committee with the detailed explanation at this time.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Chairman, earlier -- well I shouldn't say this year, actually it was last fall -- the report was carried in the Free Press on the 7th of September, a headline: "Study ordered into The Pas social problems to investigate prostitution and bootlegging. The provincial government will initiate a study of social problems in The Pas, Premier Duff Roblin announced Wednesday." And it goes on that he issued a -- it says here, "a very carefully worded statement saying we have set on foot a study of special problems which may be associated with The Pas in connection with a situation as a communication centre. The study will touch on social problems arising from this fact." He also shortly before that, I think, had had a Cabinet meeting in The Pas and has some specific requests from the town council with regards to law enforcement in the area and assistance for additional constables because of their special location and special problems. I wonder if the Minister could tell us whether the report is completed; if not, at what stage it is and what he can tell us about the situation. Has the government agreed to assist the Town insofar as their special problems in this regard?

MR. CHRISTIANSON: Mr. Chairman, by the Deputy Minister of Welfare, Municipal Affairs and the Deputy Attorney-General, and Mr. Legasse went along as secretary. They heard briefs from all the local groups in the area. The report is very nearly completed. I don't know whether it's being printed or just exactly -- it's in the final stages of preparation at any rate. Since that time we have had other meetings with the people from The Pas interested in setting up the Friendship Centre; and as I've already indicated we hope to be able to appoint a community development officer in The Pas in the very near future to help with the Indian-Metis problem that they have in that area. I'm sorry that the report isn't available yet and I can't indicate how soon it will be, but it won't be very long in coming; it will be coming forward fairly quickly. I think the members are aware, too, that in the estimates of the Department of the Attorney-General there was mention made of a gaol for women at The Pas. I think this was probably a decision that was made prior to the visit at The Pas of the Deputy Ministers. However, that has been made since that time anyway.

MR. MOLGAT: Will the report be made public when it's completed, Mr. Chairman?

MR. CHRISTIANSON: Indeed it will, Mr. Chairman.

MR. MOLGAT: Has the government decided yet whether or not to assist the Town of The Pas with its request for special or additional constables because of the problems in the area?

MR. CHRISTIANSON: That decision has not been made yet, although I think it's fair to point out that the Town of The Pas does not differ too substantially from other communities of similar size because there are several other communities who have similar problems in the Province of Manitoba. I realize that The Pas condition is aggravated because there is a larger concentration of people in the area and because of the tremendous number of transients that go through The Pas on the way to and from jobs in the north. However, I can't indicate whether any decision has been made because I really don't know; and, as I indicated, the report is not yet completed.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Chairman, I want to ask some questions as well of the Minister on the matter of adoptions. Is this the proper item under which to ask those questions?

MR. CHRISTIANSON: It would come under Ward Maintenance or Grants to Charitable Institutions

MR. MOLGAT: Under 2 (b) or (f) . . .

MR. CHRISTIANSON: (b) or (f). Yes.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Chairman, before we leave the matter of Indians and Metis, there is some pressure being put on, if not pressure, at least requests being made by the federal government now on the matter of the reservation and their schooling, and in a number of areas in the province the federal government are approaching local school boards -- obviously not in the reserves, but local school boards in areas adjoining the reserves -- with a view of integrating their students from the reservation with the students from the properly constituted local school board in the area. Does this come through the department of my honourable friend and are they in consultation with the Community Development group in this regard? I think there's a very important aspect here to be considered. If we accept, and I for one certainly do accept the principle that integration is the direction in which we must move, then I think it is essential that assistance be given towards this integration in the schooling system. I know that at the moment in the case of at least one reserve, the Ebb and Flow Reserve for example, on the shores of Lake Manitoba, the federal department now are prepared to consider taking students from there and putting them in the schools of the adjoining areas. Now this will mean special problems obviously for the schools there -- space, teachers and so on. Has consultation taken place? Is the department aware of this? If the local school boards want advice and suggestions, can they come to the department for assistance in this?

MR. CHRISTIANSON: Mr. Chairman, we're always ready to give whatever help we can to the local people with regard to the special problems that they have. This matter doesn't come under our jurisdiction. The Community Development Department is kind of an odd bird in a way, it doesn't have any legal entity -- if I may use that word -- it doesn't have any legislative responsibility. It's only an advisory body; it has no legislative duties responsibility. The communities must work through the Department of Education and through their local school boards. However, we always stand ready to give whatever help we can. And I must say that -- I not only must say, I want to say that we encourage, we encourage wherever possible the integration of the Reserve children because the Metis children are already going to the local schools -- the reserve children into the school system of the province. I notice the member shaking his head. This may be in some cases where the Department of Indian Affairs operates a school and the Metis children from outside the reserve attend the school that the Department of Indian Affairs operates. In other cases, the reverse is true, the Department of Education in the Province of Manitoba operates the school and all the children in the area go to it.

In any event we are doing our best to stimulate and to encourage this integration process and, in particular, where we have areas in the more remote parts of the province where the language problems are apt to crop up we have been trying to talk to the Department of Indian Affairs into establishing kindergartens so that the Indian children when they come to school will have an equal chance with the white children solely by virtue of the command of the language, if for no other reason. The language handicap can be quite a problem in the early years and it's the belief of the people in my department that if the Indian children can be given some instruction in language prior to going to school that their progress will be equally rapid as that of the other children.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (b) passed; (c) passed; Resolution --

MR. ORLIKOW: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if we could get from the Minister a statement as to how many -- I know here we're only dealing with the salaries, I suppose the money provided is in capital -- but can we get from the Minister a statement as to how many units have been provided and how many are in plans? I know there's the big project which the Minister mentioned in Sherbrook and Portage, but what other projects are more or less definitely planned and what are the long-range plans of the department? How much money, for example, is it expected that there will be available for this type of project? Because I think, without starting a major debate and without seeming to be critical, I think the Minister would have to agree that we, so far -- although we have made some progress in the last few years -- we are so far really only nibbling on the edges of the problem. I certainly don't claim to be an expert on this question and, of course, I know less about the problem as it affects the rural areas. The Minister said that some areas are concerned whether they have over-built. That may be so, and I express no opinion, but certainly in the urban areas although we have a number of projects in operation the vast majority of elderly people who are living by themselves are living in very meager and completely unsatisfactory rooms in the centre part of the city. We have a long way to go, but I wonder if the Minister could tell us in some detail what the plans are, not just for 1962 but, say, for the next three or four years.

MR. CHRISTIANSON: Well dealing with the immediate future, there are presently a total of 346 beds under construction and the grant requirement in these particular beds is 452,000. There are a total of 46 projects in the planning stage at various levels and the grant potential in these projects is one million nine, approximately. There are a total of 20 projects that are either under construction or approved, and the total grant on those is one million one. Quite a bit of this has already been provided in past votes, and the balance will I believe be provided in the other capital votes. The total number of beds in projects that are defined as to size is 1,428. Now there are 14 projects under way or in the planning stage in Winnipeg and 33 in the non-Winnipeg area. This equalizes a bit when you realize that some of the projects in Winnipeg are quite large whereas most of the ones in the rural parts of the province are fairly small. There have been some 1,248 beds completed in Winnipeg and 1,087 in the rural parts of the province under this program.

Now I agree with the member that there certainly is a need in Winnipeg and there is a need in some of the rural areas. The need is greatest in the downtown area of Winnipeg, particularly from Portage Avenue through to Notre Dame and in the Main Street area down on the north side of the CPR tracks. However, the Lions Club project is going in and I think there will be some senior citizens' housing projects going in in the Burrows-Keewatin area. I understand the United Church is interested in something over there. There are other projects too in the north and the west side of the city that will be coming forward. There is also some need in some rural areas but we are catching up in the rural areas very quickly.

MR. ORLIKOW: Mr. Chairman, are there any plans for some real assessment of what the problems are -- some real surveys of the need? Is there consideration being given to this kind of survey or will this possibly have to wait, does the Minister think, until after the housing legislation, which we now have but haven't considered, which I think -- certainly housing authority would take that type of problem under active consideration. I wonder, is that already being considered or does the Minister feel that that would have to wait until the housing authority possibly has been established.

MR. CHRISTIANSON: It all depends on what you mean by a survey. We have, using some of the data that's available as a result of the last census, divided the province up into areas and tried to figure out the exact number of people in the age group that were interested in these areas; and then using the best advice we can get as to the requirement of beds per thousand, and working on this basis to try and determine the need. Now as far as future planning goes, I think if the honourable member will read the submission of the provincial government to the Royal Commission on Health Services, he will see in there that we advocated a little different approach to this problem, going into it on more of a community basis, particularly in the rural parts, much the same idea as local hospital units or hospital area, and of course this is also bound up with the problem of nursing homes, hostel type of accommodation, and chronic care facilities. It's all part and parcel of the whole health picture, and until CMHC changes some of

(Mr. Christianson, cont'd) their requirements with regard to the construction of hostels and until the role of the MHSP is fully defined as to how far it goes below the hospital, the total picture won't become too clear. Now if I'm not being too clear it's because this problem is presently under study. The Minister of Health and myself have been studying this problem very actively for the past -- well ever since I came in, and we feel that in the very near future we'll be able to make some pretty firm recommendations in this regard; but we feel for the long haul that the final approach to the matter of providing senior citizens housing of a low rental nature will be in a community approach with grants of something the same natures as the hospital grants, and with active community involvement in the support of the project.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 88 -- passed. Item 2 (a) -- passed; (b) -- passed. (c) --

MR. ORLIKOW: Mr. Chairman, I would like to say something on this question of social allowances. I rise again to correct some of the impressions which may have been created this afternoon in the discussions which we had. I mentioned this afternoon, Mr. Chairman, and I want to repeat that I think it's a very serious matter and a serious omission that this government has not yet proclaimed all the sections of the Social Allowances Act which they brought in and for which they have the responsibility and for which I think they are morally bound. They have an obligation to bring this into effect.

Now I said this afternoon that calculations which had been made for me were that there were 3,000 people in the City of Winnipeg alone who would be covered by the provisions of the Act if the whole Act had been proclaimed, and who are not now covered; and the Minister told me that my information was wrong and said that the numbers were very small. Well, Mr. Chairman, I've gone through the record and looked at the provisions of the Act which have not been proclaimed and got some information -- nothing new, it's all in last year's Hansard because I gave some of the categories which hadn't been covered last year -- and the numbers of people, not estimated by me but estimated by the people in the Public Welfare Department, and I don't think that they can be wrong and I don't think the Minister really thinks that they're wrong because after all the Minister and his department and this government are paying for 80% of the costs of these welfare cases, so let's just look at what the situation is.

Now, Mr. Chairman, on July 18 of 1959 and that's some months ago -- I'm not going to try the arithmetic, I didn't do very well this afternoon -- but on July 18, 1959, the Winnipeg Free Press reported that the Acting Director of Public Welfare of the City of Winnipeg, Mr. Jerry O'Brien, reported to the Welfare Committee of the City as follows, and I quote: "that the province will pay" -- he was talking about the effect of the Act on the City of Winnipeg when it's proclaimed and he assumed that it would be proclaimed very shortly, and here's exactly what he said: "that the province will take care of physically and mentally incapacitated people who are now a city responsibility. Winnipeg is now caring for over 600 such people at an average cost of \$80.00 a month and the number is going up constantly." Now, Mr. Chairman, that is a provision of the Act, that the province will, under the provisions of The Social Allowance Act, assume the responsibility for these people. Yet today, unless a person is so mentally ill that they're in a mental institution, the Province of Manitoba accepts no financial responsibility for this person because this part of the Act has not been proclaimed. And when members on this side scoff at the claim of this Minister and of the former Minister that other provinces are emulating this Act -- they're falling over themselves to copy this Act -- I point out to members of the committee that the Province of Ontario does pay for this type of assistance, although we say we have a better program.

Now Mr. O'Brien also reported that the City of Winnipeg was supporting 250 families. Now what is the average size of a family, Mr. Chairman -- four? That's a thousand people. Two hundred and fifty families each year where the family has been deserted by the father or where the husband is in prison for more than one year. The average cost to the City of Winnipeg is \$1,800 a year per family. Now it's true that the province is picking up 80% of the cost. That is not the point at issue at all. The point is that these people would be covered and should be covered, as the province has said in its Act. It has said that these people are the rightful responsibility of the provincial government and that under The Social Allowances Act the province will take care of these cases. It's not being done because this section of the Act has not yet been proclaimed.

Now long-term welfare cases are the responsibility of the province under the provisions

(Mr. Orlikow, cont'd.) . . . of The Social Allowances Act, but this provision of the Act has not yet been proclaimed and so the municipalities are still, as far as I know, handling this. Now elderly persons who, though not ill, require welfare help; and the cost of supporting families of unmarried mothers of more than one child; these have not yet been covered except where the elderly people are older than 65 years. Now, Mr. Chairman, I ask again why we say in The Social Allowances Act -- and it may be an academic question because we haven't proclaimed this section of the Act yet -- why we say in The Social Allowances Act that we will only be responsible, we will only give assistance to an unmarried mother after she has had two children. I'm not going to lecture the members of this House on the moral questions involved nor am I going to say that I hold any particular brief for these people, but it seems to me that what we're saying when we put this into the Act -- what we're saying to these unmarried mothers is that we're sorry you've only made one mistake so we can't help you; you better make a second mistake and then we will look after you financially.

Now, Mr. Chairman, our Social Allowances Act has no provision for assistance to divorced persons. The Province of Ontario does provide for such assistance. The Ontario regulations now provide that an allowance may be paid to a mother for the support of her children, if she has divorced their father and has been granted custody of the children in such a way that it does not provide for maintenance. If the father has failed in his obligation and has not been heard of for at least one year, the Ontario regulations provide for assistance. The Provinces of Newfoundland, Quebec and British Columbia give assistance to separated persons who are in need. Now if you look therefore, Mr. Chairman, at the categories which I have listed which have not yet been proclaimed, I want to suggest to the Minister that I was not very far wrong, if I was wrong at all, in my estimate that 3,000 people in the City of Winnipeg, who are entitled to assistance by the very Act which this government passed, are not yet getting that help except in as far as they get it through public welfare, simply because the Act has not been proclaimed in its entirety.

If you add, Mr. Chairman, the Indian and Metis who are also promised assistance as a matter of right under this Act, members will see how far we are from attaining the objectives which were set. Now I'm not too critical of the government for not covering all the Indian and Metis people, not that I don't think that they are entitled to the same assistance as other people, but simply because the fact is that legally the treaty Indians are the responsibility of the federal government. And certainly when one looks at the far greater financial resources of the federal government, it would be foolish for any provincial government to undertake the responsibility; and this we pointed out, Mr. Chairman, to the government when this bill was brought in. So I'm not being critical and I'm certainly happy that a step has been made -- and the Minister mentioned the agreement made between the federal government and the province to have the Children's Aid look after a large number of the children -- but I mention this only to show how far we are from achieving the very aims which this government told us would be in this act, which we are told is the best act in Canada and is emulated by other people.

I want to say again, Mr. Chairman, that I'm not going to debate tonight or at any other time with this Minister or with the old Minister about the virtues of the act. It may very well be that the act which we have is the best act in as far as the provisions written into it are. It may be that it's the best drafted act. After all, it's one of the most recent acts so we learn from other people's mistakes and their experiences.

All I want to say about the act, Mr. Chairman, is that the people who need assistance can't eat the paper on which the bill is printed and they can't use as beds the bill; and if one compares the Province of Manitoba and what we provide, whether we do it by categories or on a per capita basis, I think we can only come to a conclusion that a number of the other provinces, and I would suggest the Province of British Columbia, the Province of Ontario, the Province of Saskatchewan are spending more money per capita providing aid to more categories of people in need. I suggest, Mr. Chairman, that we have a long way to go before we either meet the needs of the people who are in need or even before we meet the objectives which were set out, and I think set out very well, in The Social Allowances Act which we passed in this province in 1959. As I say, Mr. Chairman, I raise this only because this Minister, like the last Minister, told us so often about what is being done. I'm not being critical of the things that are being done, but I certainly think that we have a right to be critical about

(Mr. Orlikow, cont'd.) . . . the many things which have not yet been done.

MR. CHRISTIANSON: Well, Mr. Chairman, I don't want to get into a debate with the honourable member, but I really can't let him sit down leaving the impression which I am sure he has left with the members of the committee, that we really haven't done very much in our Social Allowances Act. At least to hear him tell it, we've only declared one or two wee little portions and the great bulk of it is still to be declared. Well I respectfully suggest that he look at that figure under (c) — \$8,231,741. In any man's book, Sir, I think that is a pretty sizeable amount of money and, with respect, I suggest that it represents the bulk of the welfare costs in the Province of Manitoba.

Now he says that he estimates there are 6,000 people in Manitoba who will be taken over if the remaining sections are declared; and he says now that there are 600, that he is told, that are in the infirm, mentally-disabled category that would be taken over. Well I think that figure is subject to an awful lot of scrutiny, and I wonder if he looks at that very closely and if he examines it in view of the information that I have here from the department and which I read into the record earlier this afternoon from the Winnipeg Department of Welfare, and their long-term case load, because if what he says is true, Mr. Chairman, these people would be long-term cases. They would be on relief for long periods of time without any let-up, and this just is not the case because in the City of Winnipeg -- the graph I have here -- grinds to zero at about 20 months. The number of cases who are in receipt of direct aid and welfare by the City of Winnipeg for a period of longer than 20 months is almost negligible. If what he says is true, these 600 people have all been enrolled within the last -- nearly all been enrolled within the last 20 months. So I suggest, Sir, that this figure of 600 is certainly open to scrutiny on the basis of whether or not they are employable adults or whether they are unemployable adults by virtue of infirmity or mental disability.

The other thing -- he talks about the 250 families who are the result of being deserted by fathers or whose father has been incarcerated in one of Her Majesty's gaols. Now I point out that the Act states that -- and the particular section that he is so worried about states -- "has been deserted by her husband for a period of more than one year." There again, we go back to this graph, and if these people have been deserted for a long period of time, for over one year, the figures would certainly show a much higher -- a much higher percentage of long-term welfare cases on the roll. Now he says again -- he comes back again though, after making these two statements, and when you add 600 -- and you say there's four in a family or even six in a family at 250 families -- six times 250 is roughly 1,500 people and 600 and 1,500 is 2,100. That's still quite a long way from 3,000, and we're being very generous in admitting that every figure that he's given us is accurate; and as I've indicated, there may be some shade of doubt that these figures are not perfectly accurate.

Now, I'd just like to read something that I received from the Department of Welfare of the City of Winnipeg and it's dated February 3. "Effective February 3, 1962, the Department of Public Welfare administers a program of direct aid with supplementary casework services to a total of 2,548 cases representing 7,492 individuals." Well now, he maintains that 6,000 of those people would be the responsibility of the Province of Manitoba if the three sections of the act were proclaimed. Well, Mr. Chairman, I submit that the allegation is not founded in fact. I'm not suggesting -- I'm not suggesting that the burden of the people who are covered in the categories that are not proclaimed are not a very real burden on the municipality. I agree with this and, as I indicated earlier, we certainly hope to be able to do something about that in the not too far distant future.

Now one other point that I would like to make -- and this is from the city's own figures. "During the year of '61, the department expended a total of 2.3 million, with a total of 809,000 for institutional care. One hundred percent of the latter cost and related administrative costs were returned to the city, and approximately \$1,698,000 of the direct aid to Winnipeg residents. The latter figure is roughly 71.8% of the total direct aid calculated on the basis of the sharing." That doesn't include the cost to the city -- and there were 409 cases in the city who were residents of the province and who were paid for 100% by the province over and above that, and there were also 23 cases on their caseload who were resident in other municipalities and were paid for by the other municipalities. So I don't quarrel with the honourable member when he says we should proclaim the other sections of the act. I have to agree with him on that and I can

(Mr. Christianson, cont'd.) . . . assure him that as soon as it's possible to do so, we will do so.

But when you look at the figures, Mr. Chairman -- when you look at the figure for the social allowances of 8.2 million; ward maintenance, 1 million, 390; and the grant to charitable institutions of \$601,000 which is made up in large measure of the grant to the Children Aid Societies who are carrying on the work of child welfare in the Province of Manitoba; and then to say that we have not taken a substantial share of the burden, when the portions of The Social Allowances Act which we have proclaimed are, in fact, taking this substantial share, is to cast pretty wrong impression on the facts. Now I know I'm not going to convince the honourable member -- because every year I've been in the House he's made the same speech and I expect that he will continue until he goes to Ottawa.

MR. ORLIKOW: Mr. Chairman, if I make the same speech, it's because the government hasn't moved. Now I don't mind the Minister being critical of things which I say, if they're wrong. I don't mind the Minister drawing inferences from things which I say, but I certainly reject the things which he said tonight. I have never said, and I challenge the Minister to go through the Hansard -- I don't read Hansard, back Hansards, not even the speeches that I make -- but I challenge the Minister to go through the Hansard and to bring in a quotation from any speech I made in which I said that this government was doing nothing in the field of social welfare. How could any member look at a set of estimates which includes \$8-1/4 million for social allowances and say that the government proposing that was doing nothing? A member who said that would be stupid. I never said that tonight or any other time. What I did say, and what I will continue to say until the government moves, is that this government did promise to do the things which are set out in The Social Allowances Act. It's their act, not my act. I did say, and I did quote some speeches which the former Minister said, when he said over two years ago that he would be doing this in three months. The Minister says that he agrees with me and hopes it won't be too long. Well that's all I said, so why he berates me for it, I don't know.

Now what about these figures. The Minister questions whether my figures are correct. Well I quoted the sources. Now surely, who is picking up the bill? Who is paying the money? The City of Winnipeg this year had the biggest welfare budget that it's had -- certainly since the dirty 30's, and I don't remember -- maybe the Honourable Member from Inkster will remember how the costs this year compare with the costs in the 1930's -- but we have the biggest costs that we have ever had. Now the government is paying 80% of those costs over the one mill. Now if the people I have quoted -- and these are the people who headed or were near the top of the department -- if they're wrong in their calculations, why does the Minister argue with me? Surely he should be arguing with the people in the Public Welfare Department, because if they're wrong in their calculations they may be wrong in a lot of other things, and maybe the department is paying out money which they ought not to pay.

So if I'm wrong in my figures, Mr. Chairman, I don't think the place to argue it is here. The place to argue it is with the Public Welfare Department and the best man to argue it is the Minister. He's paying the bills and I think he should get on the job. I don't think there is anything which I have said which the Minister has disproved. He's tried to minimize the criticisms -- well maybe they're not important, but I don't think there's anything I said which the Minister has been able to show has been wrong in fact. All I've said is that the government should do the things which it promised the people of Manitoba it would do.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (c) -- passed. (d) --

MR. SHOEMAKER: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if it would be possible to break down items (c), (d), and (e) under resolution 89, to show the amount that goes to Metropolitan Winnipeg and the amount to the remainder of the Province of Manitoba.

MR. CHRISTIANSON: I couldn't break it down by caseload, Mr. Chairman, but in 1961-62, the reported costs by the City of Winnipeg was \$2,485,000, of which \$1,600,000 was borne by the province leaving them with a net cost of \$884,000; and the total cost from all the municipalities was \$792,000, of which \$371,000 was borne by the province, leaving them with a net of \$420,000. So the actual cost in '61-62 by our estimates, and they're fairly close I think because the reports are made quite soon after the end of the year, the total costs for Winnipeg were \$884,000; and for all the rest of the municipalities, \$420,000. Our cost in the case of the City of Winnipeg was almost double whereas it was nearly equal with the remainder of the municipalities.

April 24th, 1962

Page 2191

MR. SHOEMAKER: You're referring to Item No. (e) are you there?

MR. CHRISTIANSON: Well that's the total, Mr. Chairman. I don't have the split between municipalities and the City of Winnipeg and the province by those categories, but they pretty nearly all come into the social allowance category or the ward maintenance. They are nearly all in there.

MR. WRIGHT: Mr. Chairman, my colleague made mention today of a case involving parole for two persons who were being kept in prison because of a technicality in the residence regulations. I have the editorial here now, the Tribune of seventh of April: "Two inmates of Stony Mountain Penitentiary have been unable to obtain parole because of a technicality in The Provincial Welfare Act." Would you like me to read the rest?

MR. CHRISTIANSON: Well I think the thing goes on to report that they had discussed the matter with the Director of Welfare, and I'm advised subsequent to reading that article that this was not so, that the person who was quoted in the article was misquoted. They had not discussed the matter with the Director of Welfare. This is a fact nevertheless, that the municipality in question in which these people have legal residence does, in law, have the responsibility for providing welfare costs for these people. Yes, the responsibility is the municipality's and we are always willing to do what we can to help and we certainly pick up our share of the municipal tab in every case. If the municipality in their wisdom want to give assistance in these cases, we will reimburse them on the normal sharing basis and we will assist the people in any way that we can in that regard as well.

MR. WRIGHT: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Howard of the John Howard Society said that it was logical to expect these people to apply for jobs elsewhere than the community in which they live. He says that "if a man cannot be granted welfare assistance when he gets out and he cannot get a job, he is denied all legal challenge for obtaining the basic necessities for survival." This is by the official of the John Howard Society, and if the local municipalities refuse to help them, then it seems to me that the provincial government should do it.

MR. CHRISTIANSON: Well in that case, Mr. Chairman, every municipality would simply say that nobody was their responsibility. If these men had not had legal residence, I would point out, they would have been the responsibility of the provincial government, but in these two particular cases they had legal residence; they were the responsibility of a particular municipality and therefore this case applies.

MR. ORLIKOW: Mr. Chairman, what the Minister is saying then is that -- and probably there aren't very many cases like this, not so many people are given the opportunity of parole -- but what the Minister is saying is that the best advice that could be given, and in this case it's certainly the advice of the parole officers that these people are ready to leave the penitentiary; they're ready to assume their place in society and the parole officers feel that they can do this; that they will be able to find jobs but they need temporary assistance. What the Minister is saying is that just because we have this residence equalification in our regulations which I think maybe has long outlived its usefulness, that some people on a Municipal Council in a rural area, or it could be in the city I suppose, who really know very little, if anything, about the way in which a modern correctional system with parole officers and probation officers work, that they are, in effect, the final judges about whether this program is going to work or not. Because by their saying, "no, we will not permit these people to get assistance", the whole recommendation of the parole officer was negated. Now this seems to me to be a very narrow point of view. I know that there are difficulties and I know that the province doesn't want to step in and give orders to the local municipalities, but it does seem to me that in these special cases some method could be found, and that it would be money well worth spending to get these people on their own.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 89 -- pass?

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Chairman, I had mentioned to the Minister that I wanted to ask him questions about adoptions. Is this the item? Mr. Chairman, the answers I would like to have are with regard to the legal position of parents in the matter of adoptions. Where a married couple are involved and they wish to have their children adopted, what is the situation? Do both parents have to sign the adoption papers?

MR. CHRISTIANSON: I think this comes under The Adoption Act and I must confess that I'm not too familiar with the case where both parents voluntarily place their child for adoption.

(Mr. Christianson, cont'd.) I think this is a very unusual type of case and I must confess I'm not familiar with it. But I would refer the member to The Adoption Act for the details of that particular case.

MR. MOLGAT: Well I'm interested in some further information, Mr. Chairman. I doubt that I can find it in The Adoption Act, and that's the reason that I bring it up at this point. If the Minister does not have the information now, possibly he could bring it into me later, if that's acceptable then. What I would like to know then is, if the parents are married but separated, not living together, what is the situation with regards to adoptions. Do both parents have to sign?

MR. CHRISTIANSON: I think that is up to the court. I think the court would probably award trustee of the child to one or other of the parents. They may even declare the child neglected, in which case the child becomes a ward of the Director of Welfare. But I think that every case would be different. People who had agreed to legally separate and there was no provision made by the court for the children as to whose children they would be and who had, in fact, legal responsibility for them, I think this would be a very strange situation.

MR. MOLGAT: A subsequent question, Mr. Chairman. Where the two parents are legally married; they are not legally separated; there's no separation on their part but one of the parents, say the mother, is in a provincial institution, what is the situation with regard to adoption?

MR. CHRISTIANSON: Well what type of an institution? If she's in gaol, she's still a legal

MR. MOLGAT: Let's say in an asylum.

MR. CHRISTIANSON: Well if she's in a mental institution, the Administrator for the Estates of the Mentally Incompetent would be, I presume, the person who would have to make the consent, although I'm afraid I must beg off any real firm answer on that because you're getting into pretty rarefied legal air for me.

MR. MOLGAT: Would in any case the adoption be possible without the signature of the father?

MR. CHRISTIANSON: Well Perry Mason must be on the trail of something, Mr. Chairman. I rather suspect this is leading up to a specific case. I don't know of any case where it was done. I doubt that a court would grant an absolute decree unless there was consent by persons able to give consent. But again, I must confess that this is an area in which I have not had to delve too deeply as yet.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 89 - passed. Item 3 (a).

MR. GRAY: Mr. Chairman, under Item 3, there was some debate in this House already but I'd like to get more clarification. I understand that when anyone enters an institution of the old aged, it has to go through the Welfare Department, and once they approve the case, they pay so much per day -- \$4.23 or whatever it is. I'm not arguing about the amount. Then the Welfare Department takes the old age pension amount from those people, and then they authorize that each inmate of the institution gets \$5.00 a month, which the institution carries out the conditions and the instructions of the Welfare Department. I happen to be a member of the Old Folks Home and ever since the pension has been increased by \$10.00 a month, every time I come to a meeting most of the people come up and say: "Why couldn't we not get the benefit of the \$10.00? Well I understand that the Welfare Department takes the \$10.00 a month increase of the pension and they still get their \$5.00, which I think -- I'm not complaining about it because once the Welfare Department pays the full cost of the maintenance of the old age pensioners in an institution, they're entitled to direct what needs to be done. Am I correct in this? Now there's a big demand -- they are not satisfied; the people think that they should get \$10.00 or an additional \$5.00 on account of the increase of the pensions. So I would like the Minister to tell me exactly what are the regulations of those people in the homes who are authorized to be admitted by the Welfare Department and the Welfare Department pays for their maintenance so much per day. That's the question I would like answered.

While I'm on my feet, Mr. Chairman, I think perhaps I would mention a little bit of a history in connection with the old age pension. I think it comes under No. 3. I hold in my hands the journals of 1944 and at that time I have made by perennial resolution in connection with an increase of pensions. At that time it was \$25.00 per month.

MR. ROBLIN: You're doing very well.

MR. GRAY: Anyway, and then the late Mr. Best of St. James at that time made an amendment that the words "pension of \$25.00 per month" of the first line of the proposed motion be struck out and the following substituted therefor: "Allowable income"; and that all the words after the "assessment" -- and the motion reads -- I'm not going to read it, it's a lengthy motion, reads: "That the federal government be requested to negotiate with other provinces in Canada for the purpose of increasing the old age pension, after all the provincial governments agree to it, to \$60.00 a year." That was in 1944. I'm thankful to Providence that three members of those who voted for the amendment and against the increase of the \$25.00 per month are still in this House. I just wanted to bring this to the attention of the House now -- \$25.00 a month and they asked for another \$5.00 and those members at that time objected to it, and I have the records of the names right here -- (Interjection) -- I don't know whether I should say or not. All right -- the Honourable Member from Ethelbert, the Honourable Member from Lakeside and our Speaker. Those are the three members that opposed an increase of \$5.00 a month in 1944. I thought I'd mention it here.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (a) -- passed.

MR. FROESE: Mr. Chairman, under 2 (f) could we have an itemized list of who are the recipients of these grants? I notice there's a \$75,000 increase and could we have the names of the recipients?

MR. CHRISTIANSON: The Children's Aid Society of Greater Winnipeg, \$340,500; Children's Aid Society of Central Manitoba, \$72,000; Children's Aid Society of Eastern Manitoba, \$71,000; Children's Aid Society of Western Manitoba, \$72,000; Bursaries to Children's Aid Society, \$15,000; Children's Institutions, for Sales Tax Exemptions, \$100 each, \$900; Old Folks Institutions, Sales Tax Exemptions, \$100 each, \$4,000; Grace Hospital, \$4,000; Misericordia Hospital, \$4,000; United Church Home for Girls, \$2,000; Age and Opportunity Bureau, \$9,000; Welfare Council of Winnipeg, \$4,000; School of Social Work, \$3,000; for a total of \$601,400. Some grants have been transferred to the Department of Health.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Item 3, (a) to (e) -- passed. Resolution No. 90 -- passed. Item 4, Resolution 91 -- passed.

MR. ROBLIN: Mr. Chairman, we have finished the Welfare Department estimates and we have left to do the balance of the Treasury Department, which I'm prepared to proceed with if the committee is desirable of doing so. I see a few heads on the other side that indicate they'd rather not. Well I won't press the matter but I declare my willingness -- I don't know about my ability, but I declare my willingness to proceed with those estimates without delay. Any takers?

MR. PAULLEY: I'm sure my honourable friend is jesting, Mr. Chairman, because I have evidence -- I think he is jesting -- for which I collaborated with him on his notes, so I suggest that from 9:00 o'clock this morning until this time is sufficient.

MR. ROBLIN: Mr. Chairman, I will be glad to take the suggestion of my honourable friend. I'm willing to stop, but I'm also willing to proceed if I had any encouragement. It doesn't look as if I'm going to get any, so

MR. PAULLEY: If I may say this, Mr. Chairman, to my honourable friend, if I thought that there was a possibility of finishing Treasury say by midnight I would agree, but I don't see it.

MR. ROBLIN: Well I'm game for it tomorrow, so we move the committee rise.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Chairman, before the committee rises, has the Minister got the Capital estimates available, so that we could --

MR. ROBLIN: Which?

MR. MOLGAT: The sheets on Capital estimates, so that we could have those for perusal before tomorrow.

MR. ROBLIN: When we get back into -- when the Speaker is in the Chair, Mr. Chairman, we can deliver the message from His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Committee rise and report. Call in the Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the Committee of Supply has adopted certain resolutions, directed me to report the same and asks leave to sit again.

MR. KEITH ALEXANDER (Roblin): Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable

(Mr. Alexander, cont'd.) Member from Rupertsland, that the report of the Committee be received.

Mr. Speaker presented the motion and after a voice vote declared the motion carried.

MR. ROBLIN: Mr. Speaker, I have a message from His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor.

MR. SPEAKER: The Lieutenant-Governor transmits to the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba, estimates of sums required for the service of the Province for Capital Expenditure and recommends these estimates to the Legislative Assembly.

MR. ROBLIN: I move that the message of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor and the estimates accompanying the same, be referred to the Committee of Supply. My seconder is the Honourable Minister of Industry and Commerce.

Mr. Speaker presented the motion and after a voice vote declared the motion carried.

MR. ROBLIN: Mr. Speaker, I'm sure that the Clerk will distribute the estimates immediately, and in the meanwhile I will move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Welfare, that the House do now adjourn.

Mr. Speaker presented the motion and after a voice vote declared the motion carried and the House adjourned until 2:30 Wednesday afternoon.