

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA
8:00 p.m. Monday, April 6, 1970

MR. CHAIRMAN: Department of Health and Social Services. (Resolution 55-(e) and (f) were read and passed.) (g) (1) (a) -- The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MRS. TRUEMAN: I would like to ask the Honourable Minister whether there is any plan to provide a child guidance clinic type of facility outside of the City of Winnipeg. Is there not a great need for this throughout the province?

MR. CHAIRMAN: 55-(g) (1) (a) -- passed.

MRS. TRUEMAN: Mr. Chairman, may I not have an answer to my question?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I don't know. Is the Minister answering that question?

MR. TOUPIN: The only answer, Mr. Chairman, that I can give the Honourable Member for Fort Rouge now is that this is being considered. I haven't got anything more specific at this time. If I do get, during the discussion on the estimates, I'll come forth with it. And the same thing for the question that you asked before the closing of the House at 5:30.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (Resolution 55-(g) and (h) (1) and (2) were read and passed.) (h) (3) -- The Honourable Member for Brandon West.

MR. MCGILL: Mr. Chairman, under Capital Expenditures there's an amount of \$100,000.00. I think the Minister in his presentation of the estimates said that "in addition to the \$100,000 noted in the estimates there are \$599,300 provided through Capital Supply for a program at Headingley, plus improvements at other correctional institutions. Some of this money will also be used for a new facility at Brandon, the final cost of the Brandon Correctional Institution being estimated at half a million dollars." I assume from the Minister's statement in this respect that only part of this work will be done this year. I wonder if the Minister could enlighten us on the amount that will likely be spent this year and when this will get under way.

MR. TOUPIN: I can't, Mr. Chairman, be more specific. Part and whole, depending on the capital expenditures. It may not even be at all.

MR. MCGILL: Do I understand the Minister to say that -- his statement was originally that some of this money will be used for a new facility at Brandon. Is he now saying that this is not necessarily the case, that it will not happen this year?

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Chairman, I'm only saying that this is not pinned down completely at this time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 55-(h) -- The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MRS. TRUEMAN: Mr. Chairman, while speaking of adult correction services, I would like to ask the Minister whether he can tell us what future plans are regarding the work relief programs which I gather are quite successful. Will there be an expansion in this area?

MR. CHAIRMAN: (h) (3) -- passed; (h) -- passed; (j) (1) -- The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. FROESE: Mr. Chairman, I thought there were some questions asked that probably would receive an answer. Under this (h) (1) there is a \$300,000 increase roughly, a little better than that. What is the increase going for? Is it just employing that many more people, is that it?

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Chairman, when I don't answer the questions, I'm very sorry about this, because in most cases I haven't got the answers and I'm waiting for them, so please don't feel offended if I don't get up and answer your questions right off the bat. I'm being quite sincere. So far as the salaries are concerned under mental health and correction services, the Honourable Member for Rhineland mentions an increase of approximately \$300,000.00. This includes personnel costs associated with the following: Headingley Correctional Institute, B . . . Point Rehab, Birds Hill, Falcon Lake, Brandon Correctional Institution, Carberry Rehab, Boissevain, Dauphin Correctional Institute, Tache Lake Rehab, Portage Correctional Institute for Women, The Pas Correctional Institute for Women, The Pas Correctional Institute for Men, Egg Lake Rehab, Adult Detention on Vaughan Street. And in administrative staff, new positions total 14.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 55 - (j) (1) -- passed; (2) -- passed; (j) -- passed; (k) (1) -- The Honourable Member for Rock Lake.

MR. FROESE: I recall that . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: I'm sorry, I recognized Rock Lake first. Well the member may as well proceed, the Member for Rhineland.

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MR. FROESE: I recall that some of the farms were being closed down. How many of the farms are still being operated and which ones are being operated? I notice the amount that we are allocating for this purpose is reduced very considerably. The ones that are operating, are they self-sustaining or . . .

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Chairman, are we on (j) or (k)?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think we're on (k), Institutional Farms.

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Chairman, so far as the farms are concerned, there's provision here insofar as the estimates are concerned to phase out Brandon and Selkirk; and so far as Headingley is concerned, there's additional funds provided in the estimates. In the Manitoba School for Retardates farm, there's additional funds added on the estimates here, and there's a slight increase in administration of \$2,100.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (The balance of Resolution 55 and Resolution 56 -(a) to (d) were read and passed.) (e) (1) -- The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MRS. TRUEMAN: Mr. Chairman, I would like to enquire here - there's a spectacular rise in salaries in every other area, but it would appear that in public health nursing there is no significant rise in the salaries item, and I wondered does this reflect the miserable salaries that nurses are being paid in relation to their work or is the staff down, or are they just simply not getting raises like the rest of the people do?

MR. JAMES H. BILTON (Swan River): While the Minister is looking into that, I wondered if under this item, public health nursing, does that include the nurses out in rural Manitoba?

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Chairman, regarding the questions of the Honourable Member for Fort Rouge and the Honourable Member for Swan River, these salaries are for the public nurse, public health nurses in Winnipeg and throughout the province. Increase in cost is due to the general increase, increments and reclassification. The amount voted for last year was \$142,000 for salaries and this year it's \$150,000. Permanent staff - 17.

MR. BILTON: Mr. Chairman, on the same item. I made certain remarks with regard to nursing care in our particular area and I wondered if the Minister had any thoughts of increasing the staff. I can assure him they are overworked for the area they have to cover, and as a consequence, the public generally who are served by these people are not getting the services that they might expect.

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Chairman, I was aware of the problem that was pointed out just now by the Honourable Member for Swan River. He talked to me about it before and this is being taken into consideration. I'd like to, while I'm on my feet, Mr. Chairman, try to reply to a question that was made before adjournment at 5:30 regarding the Child Guidance Clinic at Selkirk and Brandon. These are financed as part of the operation of the joint hospitals. I believe that this was a question brought forth by the Honourable Member for Fort Rouge, the appropriation of part of 55(2)(a), Care and Treatment of the Mentally Ill. The total costs are difficult to separate out, but may be approximately 150 to 200 thousand dollars. Treatment of seriously disturbed adolescents is performed in both Selkirk and Brandon Mental Hospitals. You find this under 55 (2)(c). At any one time there are 50 to 60 adolescents under treatment which often takes a year or two, and the cost in these acute treatments are approximately \$250.00 a day. I may be wrong here -- I've got 25 - one day. I've got some good staff, they're very good, but some of them write quite quickly and I can't understand them. I'll check it out anyways and if there's an error I'll correct it.

Some autistic children who are behaviorally retarded are included in the program at Portage la Prairie, and you find this under 55 (2)(d). The cost of beds at Portage averaged 10.62 per day - so the other one must be 25, it has to be. Four community mental health clinics under 55 (2)(j) operate from Selkirk, Portage, Brandon and Eden Mental Health Centre as bases. These clinics see many referred children, trial or adolescent in their areas, test children for the rural school system, special classes and so on. And the child development service, 55(2)(j), again is all related to the treatment of children and the adolescents with emotional and learning problems.

The central office co-ordinates services and supplies to rural areas in Manitoba. The Child Guidance Clinic provides service for the Metro area. The budget listed here is the direct provincial share. The majority of the budget, over \$1 million, is provided by participation of the different school divisions. The clinic provides comprehensive service for the children with emotional and learning disorders in the school system. The above services are supplemented by the Child Development Clinic of the Children's Hospital, the Children's Hospital

(MR. TOUPIN cont'd) Out-patient Service, plus a 25-bed -- it's getting worse -- (Interjection) -- even in French I can't make it out. There's a 25-bed anyway patient unit some-place, and also by adolescent service at the Winnipeg General Hospital.

As part of the Medical Centre Plan, the province will establish an extended treatment centre for the children and adolescents. The projected cost is \$3 million. It will have 48 beds 100 day care space and for 200 out-patients. This is part of the first five-year portion of the plan. The present costs added together represent an expenditure of about \$2 million of public money in direct expenditure for this program.

While I'm on my feet, I still have something I haven't had time to review so please bear with me in case I get mixed up. Salaries of public health nurses and so on. -- (Interjection) -- It seems to be a little better, yes. Representative salaries for consultants covering the province with advisory service, but does not represent the nurses in the local health unit, example Swan River - it doesn't include Swan River. These salaries come under the Health Unit Appropriation 932. I have another one here and I'm told to hold it for later when we get to another problem.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 56 - (f)(1) -- The Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell.

MR. GRAHAM: Mr. Chairman, when we're dealing with the subject of Dental Health Services, I notice there's approximately \$33,000 increase in the salaries in the dental health, and I would ask the Minister, does this cover the services of the dentists for the northern portion of Manitoba; if so, is that the services of just one dentist or a dental clinic which might include an assistant. Secondly, when he would come to Item No. 2, we notice there's an \$8,000 increase in "Other Expenditures," and I would ask the Minister if this is the area under which the special grants have been made in the past to locate dentists in rural Manitoba, a rural incentive grant. In the past we did have several of these granted every year and they pertained to dentists and doctors. However, I am quite concerned that this program be carried on, and if it is under this item, there is only \$8,000 there which wouldn't account for very much of an increase. Could the Minister please elaborate on this?

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Chairman, first of all on the section of Public Health Services, Dental Health Services, on the salary item there is an increase there and the salaries of dentists and dental hygienists and supportive staff in the Winnipeg, Dauphin and Brandon area. One new position to meet needs and extend services north of the 51st parallel has been added to these estimates. And on the second item, "Other Expenditures," there's an increase there of \$8,800. This is the bulk of increases and other expense due to the per diem increase for dentists from 50 to \$65.00. And I must add here that the incentive grant for dentists is not included here.

MR. GRAHAM: Would the Minister be able to tell us then if there will be incentive grants continued this year or will they be discontinued. At the same time, I would like to congratulate the Minister for the program north of the 51st parallel.

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Chairman, the grants for dentists will be continued; an amount set aside for this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. FROESE: I would like to enquire of the Minister at this time, what happened to the money that the denturists had to pay in the way of fines? -- (Interjection) -- What happened to the money that the denturists had to pay in the way of fines? Apparently this went to the Dental Association and what is being done with it? Are they supporting any of the Government's programs with it or what happened?

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Chairman, I think the honourable member knows that any revenue that any department gets goes to General Revenue, and it just goes to help either this department or others that are in need of funds.

MR. FROESE: Does the government plan to change that Act so that the moneys will go to the government coffers so that the government can make use of it instead of the Dental Association?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell.

MR. GRAHAM: Mr. Chairman, pursuant to this incentive grant, could the Minister elaborate on the amount that will be set aside for that and how much per grant will be available? I would like to know the total amount that would be set aside and how much would be available on each individual grant.

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Chairman, I'm very sorry but I couldn't spell this out at this time. When this is available it will be known to all members of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Swan River.

MR. BILTON: Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the Minister for his information tonight that is that the dentist setup in Dauphin is going to be augmented to do a better job in Northern Manitoba and I'm very pleased to see that he mentioned the 51st parallel instead of the 53rd which has been the habit.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Leader of the Official Opposition.

MR. WALTER WEIR (Leader of the Opposition)(Minnedosa): Might I enquire of the Minister, if he has an amount set aside surely we must know the amount at this stage of the game, or generally the amount and exactly where it would be located.

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Chairman, I have to mention again, I'm not withholding anything; if I knew the amount, I'd tell you the amount. It's as simple as that, and as soon as I find out the amount I'll tell you and tell the other members of the House. So far as the grants to be made to different dentists, it depends where they are and what we have to pay them. They have to make a half-decent living wherever they are directed. If they are directed in Swan River it may be less than if they're directed to Churchill and so on. This all has to be taken into consideration. The only reason that I'm withholding is because I haven't got the amount in front of me, so if you'll only bear with me it may be even tonight. If I'm lucky and if you're lucky, I'll give you the information.

MR. WEIR: Well, Mr. Chairman, I really didn't know that our information in the House depended on good fortune. I don't know whether we're talking about the same thing or not, but I kind of gathered we were talking about the grants or loans that would be available for enticing or encouraging doctors and dentists to locate in rural Manitoba, and I don't think anybody is looking for the specific amount for a specific doctor. I think what we're asking about is what the total might be for all of them that are to be found within the estimates, and I'm sure to arrive at the total that we have arrived at in the first place, that it must be some place within the estimates.

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Chairman, I repeat again, that in what we were discussing on the previous page, IX 3, (1) and (2), that there's no amount in those figures that are set aside for grants for dentists, but I can recall that somewhere in my estimates that I have an amount but I haven't got it here, so all I'm saying is that as soon as I get this amount, whatever the amount that is set aside for dentists, I'll supply it to the House.

MR. WEIR: Mr. Chairman, might we ask under what appropriation number it might be found? I think the Minister might be able to tell us that.

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Chairman, if I knew this I'd tell you right away. I may sound very stupid and I guess I am, but I haven't got it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 56 - (f)(1)--

MR. WEIR: Mr. Chairman, before we go any farther, can we have the assurance of the Minister - I'm hoping that we can complete his estimates this evening and I think that we're attempting to be co-operative from this side of the House - can we have the assurance that we'll get the information notwithstanding the fact that we may have passed the items?

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Chairman, I think the Minister gave that undertaking.

MR. TOUPIN: Before you run out of patience, here's a note that comes from my unqualified personnel -- (Interjection) -- Well, I guess I am too then after all.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Better tell them to write faster.

MR. TOUPIN: Well, it doesn't help us very much because, first of all, we say here that it will be subject to another Order for Return, but we do mention here that each grant could go up to \$5,000 depending on the need again, because we can't just say we're going to give a grant of \$5,000. I don't think this is fair, because if I look upon the different applications that I've had in a little while we can't always justify the same amount to every doctor or each dentist who is concerned. And I hurry in adding that you'll find funds provided in IX 3(c), sufficient for five more grants this year.

MR. WEIR: Mr. Chairman, may I enquire of the Minister - I understand there was a shortage of funds last year - will the applications from doctors and dentists of last year be processed through as a result of the additional funds that are being provided?

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Chairman, the only thing I could say is that the demands that we've had last year, I'd like that these be re-submitted.

MR. WEIR: Mr. Chairman, I'm sorry, I didn't quite get the answer.

MR. TOUPIN: I'd like these demands for grants to be re-submitted, if they were refused last year because of lack of funds.

MR. WEIR: Mr. Chairman, first of all I'd like to get a position from the Minister because I don't know of them being refused, I think that a different means of disposal by the department rather than a matter of refusal was the case. And the ones that are on file that qualified - and may I start out by saying, Mr. Chairman, that the program was established, as I understand it, to encourage doctors and dentists to move to rural Manitoba because there was some difficulty in getting them, and may I say that I am encouraged by the fact that there wasn't sufficient money, that it would appear that the policy may be having an impact. If there wasn't sufficient money I'd be happy to see the province provide whatever extra money is necessary to see the program continued, because I think it's generally acknowledged that the dentist situation and the doctor situation in rural Manitoba really isn't that good, and to say that a doctor who has already located, quite frankly, Mr. Chairman, on the strength of what he considered to be a policy of the government and because of insufficient funds not being considered, surely this gentleman isn't going to have to follow the proceedings of this House and re-apply next year. Can the department not process the applications that are on hand?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution . . .

MR. WEIR: Mr. Chairman, do I get an answer from the Minister? Is there a refusal by the Minister to process the applications that are on hand?

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Chairman, I gave an answer. I think that the applications who were referred, and if they were refused either because of lack of funds or because the program was stopped, I think they should be re-submitted. I don't think I'm asking too much.

MR. WEIR: Well, Mr. Chairman, may I enquire then from the Minister as to what the policy will be if a doctor who has been practicing for some period of time and is already there recognizing the policy and so on, is his application form going to fall behind those that may come in as new ones? If the Minister when he runs out of his \$25,000 again, or enough for five doctors, if he's got five new ones and five old ones and the five old ones have to get behind the five new ones again, they may be quite awhile receiving any recognition.

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Chairman, they'll all be considered on the same basis, basic needs.

MR. WEIR: Mr. Chairman, may I ask that whether there is sufficient money or not within the estimates that they will receive the same consideration and money be provided by the government to meet all of them on the same basis? My experience has been, from talking to doctors in the country, that this hasn't been the case in the last number of months -- (Interjection) -- months, it's a relatively . . .

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Chairman, with all due respect to the Leader of the Official Opposition, this has been the case for many years, not only many months, many years, and I've just said that we had funds there for five grants of a maximum of 5,000 each. It means there's \$25,000, depending on the amount who are allocated to the different applicants. We'll just have to stop or go for a special warrant if we need more funds, if the need is there. There's no change in policy as far as this is concerned, Mr. Chairman.

MR. WEIR: Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the Minister's respect in every way, shape and form, but it hasn't been the case for many years. It's a policy that was instituted at the last - about a year ago. It's a policy that's only about a year old -- (Interjection) -- no, it's a policy that's only about a year old, in terms of encouraging medical practitioners into rural Manitoba. The statement that he is giving me that the Minister says is going to apply hasn't applied as far as I have been able to determine during the last number of months. When the government ran out of money, they said they were out of money, and I'm trying to see whether the doctors that moved into rural Manitoba, understanding the policy as it existed, can expect to find themselves first for consideration ahead of new applicants.

MR. TOUPIN: . . . can answer that in saying -- well, maybe restating simply what I said awhile ago, that I'd like to consider those as the need arises because when they were either deferred or refused and so on, maybe they had changed - I may even withdraw just to show you that I can withdraw - that if we are able to get the applications that we have on hand and find that there is a need there yet after the while that has elapsed, that we will consider them and definitely will consider them on the same basis as the new applications. Let me tell you, Sir, that this program was established by yourself and the last administration, and under this program you had set the limit of five grants per year, the same system that I'm bringing forth today.

MR. WEIR: Mr. Chairman, I don't like to argue the point, but what happened was if there was a provision in the estimates of so much money, which was the best guess of what could be accommodated, like my honourable friend we would have had the same opportunity of a special

(MR. WEIR cont'd) warrant or any other means if the demand was greater than was anticipated. Now I'm not trying to tie my honourable friend down. I know what the policy was; I know that there was room for about five doctors; I know that there was a waiting list of - well, I know of at least two or three, I presume it's probably five or six - and may I say that I'm pleased, I'm pleased to think that that policy, and I don't care who it was administered by, has attracted some doctors and some dentists into rural Manitoba, because they've been attracted into an area that needed them. What I'm trying to do is get an assurance that doctors that moved into Manitoba, moved into rural Manitoba understanding a policy as they believed it to be, would find themselves in a position of having their applications considered, and I would hope satisfactorily considered, so that the consideration would be taken into account, not the fact that they're there now and that we might think that we've got them on a string because we've got them located, and take the money that's available for another doctor, notwithstanding the fact that we have some doctors that moved believing that they were entitled to the grant.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. Boniface.

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, I think that maybe the Leader of the Opposition is not quite fair at this stage. I think it doesn't matter who started the policy. If it's the former government that's fine, the thing is to promote better service for the people of Manitoba. The Leader of the Official Opposition is saying that they had set certain money aside and he said himself that they might have had the same problem as this government. Now the Minister is saying that he has \$25,000 set aside and he's saying, in effect what he said is that all the applications will be reviewed, and if it is felt after reviewing the application that there is need for more, that will be considered. I don't think it's fair to ask him for a blank statement here that will say that everybody in rural Manitoba will go ahead and get the grant. I don't think that that was the policy of the former government or that was the idea. -- (Interjection) -- Well, it's pretty close to it. He's not satisfied with the answer. The Minister has said repeatedly that he has \$25,000, that he wants to look at the applications, and he is suggesting that the applications could be renewed if they were placed before, and that then he'll act and see and it might be that he might even recommend more money. I think that this is as far as he can go.

MR. WEIR: Well, Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank the Honourable Member for St. Boniface for his contribution. I think that he has made mud of something that was relatively clear between the Minister and myself. I don't think the Member for St. Boniface knows really what we're talking about and I certainly appreciate his entry into the debate to try and straighten the matter out. I think that the Minister and I understand one another and what we're trying to get at. It's a fact that there are doctors who believed that they met the qualifications and because of a shortage of funds, which I'm not complaining about, all I'm asking for is that they receive an opportunity to have their submissions on the basis of when they were presented and have them considered ahead of somebody that might be applying after this session of the Legislature. And I don't think, Mr. Chairman, I'm being unreasonable, and I don't think that the Member for St. Boniface knows the first thing about what we're talking and I would thank him to have his exchanges with the Minister himself and allow the Minister and I to seek out the information and the answers between the two of us.

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, this is another case where we have a little private ball game here? I don't think that there's only one constituency in Manitoba. I think that the Leader of the Opposition asked for an answer and he received the answer. He asked the same question about three times in a row and he was given the same answer three times in a row.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, I think we've solved that.

MR. WEIR: Mr. Chairman, I'm not sure we have, but . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. FROESE: Mr. Chairman, before the Minister gets up . . .

MR. SCHREYRE: I wonder if the honourable member would allow me to say just a few words in connection with the question . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: The First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: . . . the question posed by the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition, because as I listened to the exchange I came to the conclusion that there was really no basic disagreement between the questioner and the Minister, the Honourable Leader of the Opposition and the Minister. The Honourable Leader of the Opposition is making the argument that those doctors who have put in their application some time ago, whether it be months or several months, should have their applications considered on a priority basis, and that sounds

(MR. SCHREYER cont'd) . . . reasonable and logical inasmuch as one would assume that in cases like this applications be considered on a sequential or chronological basis. And I think that by and large this probably is the policy followed, but there is also some need on the part of the Department of Health to consider factors other than the purely chronological factors such as for example whether doctors going to or already residing in a particular town is practicing in a town that is many miles away from the next largest centre that has a doctor, general practitioner practicing medicine, so that regional needs and the number of doctors per X thousands of square miles is a factor which, I dare say, would impinge and perhaps supersede the purely chronological. Now, having said that I think, I believe that is the policy that is followed, and I am wondering whether the Honourable Leader of the Opposition would want to quarrel with it that much.

MR. WEIR: Mr. Chairman, may I reply to the First Minister and say that I think that he has presented the situation reasonably well. I think, really, this is what the Minister and I have been talking about, with one exception, that I think that with the shortage that exists, and if it's an area of Manitoba that has a shortage of doctors, and we have many, that should there be a question and it's a matter of 25 thousand dollars or 30 thousand dollars in the estimates, I am trying to make the point that I think that it would be incumbent that the government would find the other \$5,000 within its 448 million dollars some place to be able to look after this point of view. I'm not suggesting that grants should go to doctors that don't qualify or anything else; but I am suggesting that those that were brought in with the Department of the day, whether it was under our administration or under this administration, I don't care who, brought in with a certain understanding in terms of what they qualify for and what they didn't qualify for, then I believe that their consideration should take place. We're not talking about hundreds of thousands of dollars; we're talking at the very most, about a few thousand dollars that may spell the difference in some communities of having medical attention and not having medical attention, and I am quite concerned that we get the message straight between us.

MR. PAULLEY: Might I also ask my honourable friend, is he also referring to the question of continuing grants that were agreed upon - continuing grants that were agreed upon? Is that not also the case?

MR. WEIR: Mr. Chairman, the policy that we are talking about is the one in which the Department was prepared to loan up to \$5,000 for a doctor going to a certain area, and if he stayed one year there was a forgiveness of so much, if he stayed two years, there was a forgiveness of so much, if he stayed three years there was a forgiveness of the balance. It's the old carrot, that if you get the man to put his roots down, you hope he'll stay. All I can say is, Mr. Chairman, if that policy was successful in getting five that got their grants last year, and a waiting list of five, then Manitobans have been the beneficiary of the policy. I would like to think that we would have the same kind of success in 1970, and if it is still necessary in 1971 or what have you; because you establish policies to get results. Essentially, that's the reason we established it and I'm gratified to think that the policy has achieved some results.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. FROESE: I would just like to get a little more information on this very point because it will be another year before we get Public Accounts which will show how much money was actually expended. Was the total amount allocated for that purpose exhausted, and how many more applicants were there than were actually approved, or that actually got the assistance?

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Chairman, is the Honourable Member for Rhineland still talking about the grants regarding dentists?

MR. FROESE: The program that was just discussed here about . . .

MR. TOUPIN: We're talking about dentists here and I just mentioned a while ago that we gave grants to five last year.

MR. FROESE: How many did apply?

MR. TOUPIN: I haven't got that figure, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell.

MR. GRAHAM: Mr. Chairman, I'm not too sure if the figures of the Minister are correct, that it was five dentists. I believe it was five dentists or doctors. However, I would like to have the assurance of the Minister that there will be a fair appropriation of the funds between the two services, that it does not all go for doctors, or that it does not all go

(MR. GRAHAM cont'd) for dentists.

There's two fields here in the rural areas of Manitoba which, both cause great concern amongst the people. I know in many areas that communities themselves are offering incentives and if they could be complemented by hasty approval of such grants or incentive grants from the province, I'm sure that the services in the rural areas would be very much enhanced for the benefit of Manitobans.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (Resolution 56, (f) to (h) (1) was read and passed.) (h) (2) -- The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MRS. TRUEMAN: As we're passing the items under (h), I would like to ask the Minister whether he would consider coming to the rescue of a City of Winnipeg Family Planning Clinic within these funds that are allotted. I think it cost around -- something over \$4,000 last year was financed by federal and provincial funds and the federal funds have been withdrawn. I think it would just take somewhere around \$2,000 to keep that clinic going. Now, is this possible within your estimates?

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Chairman, I believe we are on IX (3) Public Health Services. In this service, first of all, under the salary there is an increase there of approximately, well exactly \$5,000, is to provide governmental consultative service in the area. Maternal and Child health care. The staff will consist of the medical officer and a clerk steno and a clerk-typist. Under (2) you have the Other Expenditures there. There's an additional \$2,900 - an increase in operating costs reflect further development of this program which commenced in 1969-70. This is why your amount seems quite small. On your External Program, you have a program there for PKU disease, additional \$1,700.00. Maternal Mortality Committee \$1,500; Poison Control Centre \$1,304, which is a total of \$2,809.00.

I must say here that there is no provisions for the request of the Honourable Member for Fort Rouge, but I would like to mention here that if there is a crisis, there has been a reduction from the Federal Government, that I would like them to submit their application to my department, please.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (Resolution 56, (h) to (j) (1) was read and passed.) (j) (2) . . . The Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell.

MR. GRAHAM: Mr. Chairman, could the Minister explain the almost \$11,000 under Other Expenditures in the Clean Environment?

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Chairman, I believe the honourable member hit on a department here that requires a long statement, because this is a small can but it's good ointment!

First of all, there's that \$10,900 which is additional we didn't have anything last year. This is development expenses and normal operating costs, including travelling expense and new appropriation of IX (3) (d) Environmental Sanitation.

I would like just to make a statement if you don't mind in so far as the Clean Environment Commission is concerned, as you can notice according to these expenditures, being the Minister responsible for the Clean Environment Commission; but as you know the Commission represents several different departments. I think I pointed this out before, a few days ago in my estimates, with the main representation from the Department of Mines and Natural Resources; and there is representation from my own department, the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Industry and Commerce. The Commission's responsibility covers maintenance of the environment in Manitoba and as such is maintaining a co-ordinating role in the matter of mercury in fish in the Manitoba waters. As you may be aware, the Federal Government is interested in this matter. The Prairie Federal-Provincial Fisheries Board is interested equally. Our provincial Department of Mines and Natural Resources is interested in this department. My own department is interested and equally the different businesses involved and so on, and other departments in government.

Because of the scattered interest, the Clean Environment Commission is keeping an eye on the activities of all the different branches, and equally the Federal and Provincial government as a whole on behalf of the citizens of Manitoba by virtue of its responsibility bestowed upon it by the Clean Environment Act. As you are probably aware, the whole matter involves not only the Province of Manitoba but also the neighbouring provinces and the United States. I am informed that every effort is being made to investigate the total situation, which as you can imagine is very sensitive, involving the livelihood and the health of the citizens of our province, and also our neighbourhood.

I do not think this situation is as serious as some might think, nor do I think it is a

(MR. TOUPIN cont'd) matter for complacency, but I am assured that it is being carefully watched and I would say that it would be unwise to come out with any more definite statement so far as the negotiations that we have with other provinces and the Federal Government. You can be assured that I am, as Minister responsible, watching the situation, that is myself and the assistant deputy minister responsible; I will keep this House and the public informed so far as the results that we obtain in our negotiations with other provinces and the Federal Government.

The amounts that are mentioned here under IX (3) (j), like we said before, are quite small but are reflected under Other Expenditures.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (Resolution 56, (j) to (k) (1) was read and passed. (k) (2) -- The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MRS. TRUEMAN: I would like to ask the Minister a question concerning this section. The estimates seem to be up about a million dollars. Care Services are so extremely important in relieving pressure on hospital beds, leaving patients to go home sooner and helps a great deal to hold down the cost of health care. I realize there have been ceilings as to how many patients municipal hospitals can admit to their care program. These ceilings are apparently applied by the Hospital Commission. I wondered, does this million dollars represent a program increase? Does this mean that the hospitals providing this service will now be able to enroll more patients on Care Services?

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Chairman, I believe the Honourable Member for Fort Rouge is asking a question on IX (3) (k) (4) which is Financial Assistance? There is an increase of over a million dollars. I would like to mention that this consists mainly of payments to actually nursing homes themselves for needy patient care in the Greater Winnipeg area. Increases due, first of all the amount that was voted - I don't know if you have that figure - in 1969-70 was \$4,532,000.00. The increase in institutional cases in 1970, \$300,000; increases in institution per diem rate 1970, \$310,300; increase in Social Allowance here \$150,000.00. The increase in the institutional rates and social allowance for 1969 was \$388,900, which is actually an increase of \$1,149,200, which gives you a total of \$5,681,000 the figure that you see under IX (3) (k) (4).

MR. CHAIRMAN. (Resolution 56, (d) to (m) (2) was read and passed.) (m) (2) -- The Honourable Member for Emerson.

MR. GIRARD: There shows an increase of \$300,000 in Health Units (a). Does this mean that there will be an increase of the number of units in Manitoba; and I would also like to know if all of southeastern Manitoba is included in one health unit or another?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. FROESE: On that same vote, the southern health unit was opened up last year. The difference - does that account for that particular health unit? Is that the amount that is being allocated for that purpose. I would like to get that answer first.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. Boniface.

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, on the same question of health unit, I wonder if the Minister can tell us if his department is contemplating any changes in policy in regards to health units, especially in the cities - the Greater Winnipeg area mostly? It seems to me that there could easily be some changes now that we have not only hospitalization but medicare also. From my understanding there is certain work that is not carried out the way it was before the advent of medicare. It seems to me that some of this work might be done in hospitals now, it might be just a question of transfer to make it a little easier and maybe to save a little money. I don't know if I'm stretching this point a little far also when I mention that this might be the same thing with the different labs and x-rays and so on that you have in local clinics. It seems that there's a repetition and a duplicate of some of the services. It doesn't seem now that there will be a change of policy at this time, at this session, but I wonder if the Minister can tell me that that will be looked into very seriously for the next session anyway?

MR. TOUPIN: I'll try and answer the question on IX (3) (2) regarding Health Units. The increase, first of all, is due to services to be provided requiring . . . in order to carry on expanded programs. Increases in other expenditures is related to the increased service and staff.

So far as the Health Units themselves are concerned, here is a list of the Health Units in question: For Brandon area, the location is at Brandon; for Dauphin it's Dauphin; Kildonan is East Kildonan; Neepawa is done at Neepawa; Portage is at Portage la Prairie; Red River is at Steinbach; St. Boniface, there's a Health Unit in St. Boniface; St. James is at St. James;

(MR. TOUPIN cont'd) Selkirk in Selkirk; Swan Valley is in Swan River. For the northern part of the province, The Pas; Stonewall is done at Stonewall; Virden, it's in Virden; Birtle-Shoal Lake is done at Birtle; Southwest is in Killarney, and for the southern part of the province is Morden.

MR. FROESE: Could I have the budgeted amount for the one at Morden?

MR. TOUPIN: I beg your pardon, Mr. Chairman, I didn't get that.

MR. FROESE: Could I have the budgeted amount for the one at Morden?

MR. TOUPIN: I haven't got the answer to that question, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Emerson.

MR. GIRARD: Mr. Chairman, the reason I bring this up is I believe that there is a large area between the Units of Red River and Morden which are not in a specific Health Unit, and I'm just wondering when will they be included.

MR. TOUPIN: . . . the complete answer so far as your question is concerned; I'll have to have a closer look at it. I'll try to get back to you and to the members of this House on this problem. The problem that was mentioned by the Honourable Member for St. Boniface, this is something that will have to be discussed by my officials and my members in Cabinet.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (Resolution 56. (2) to 4) (c) was read and passed.) (c) -- The Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. BEARD: I notice an increase in (c) Emergency Transportation. I take this opportunity to ask what this is for, and I hope it would not be for this new ambulance service that they are talking about for Manitoba. I haven't heard anything about it. Perhaps I've missed it while I was away, but I wonder if the Minister would have anything to say about ambulance service in Northern Manitoba?

MR. TOUPIN: For the benefit of my honourable friend from Churchill I'd like to mention that the ambulance service was discussed in this House, I think last week. We are going ahead with the ambulance service to the north and this is not included in this amount. I didn't reveal any amount because we haven't set one yet. So far as this appropriation is concerned regarding the Northern Health Services, covers all health services in the northern area of the province, increased costs due to the addition of three staff in order to expand services in the north. This figure includes an interpreter who will have to be employed to assist such clinics. Medical supplies and services are expected to increase due to the increased operation of the Family Planning clinics and medical stores.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Leader of the Official Opposition.

MR. WEIR: Mr. Chairman, the Minister indicated that they were going ahead with the program and didn't have the amount in the estimates. Could he tell us what the anticipated amount would be that they are planning on?

MR. TOUPIN: I couldn't exactly. No. I couldn't give you the exact amount, I could only - what I could do now, so far as the service itself is concerned, throw out an amount and that would have to deal with the additional equipment required so far as the services to be provided of the capital expenditures. We could say maybe between 97 to 100 thousand dollars for the north.

MR. WEIR: Mr. Chairman, I recognize that I essentially at any other time would be scheduled to be out of order asking a question like this on an item, but does the Minister have any other programs that he's contemplating that are not included in the estimates besides the one that he's just mentioned to us?

MR. TOUPIN: Oh, yes, many! Yes, many. Many programs. -- (Interjection) -- Well, not necessarily all this year, no.

MR. WEIR: Mr. Chairman, at what stage during the estimates would the Minister be prepared to outline for us the plans that he has, that he intends to implement this year, that are not included in the estimates? -- (Interjection) --

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Chairman, I am very serious about the question that has been asked.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member from Ste. Rose.

MR. MOLGAT: Has there been a misunderstanding here between the Minister and the questioner, or what gives? Surely if the Minister has programs that he intends to introduce now is the time to tell the House; not at some other time. Maybe it's a misunderstanding. I recognize the Minister is new in his department and I'm not trying to be difficult, but I think the Minister should not get up in this House and say he intends to bring in programs and he's not

(MR. MOLGAT cont'd) going to tell us.

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Chairman, Okay, all I'll deal with is what I intend to deal with here and what the Cabinet has accepted. In the future, I won't tell you ahead of time what I want to do in the future. All right?

We'll start with the program for the north. -- (Interjection) -- Yes, I understand. Now so far as the Public Ambulance Service is concerned, this will be covered by the Manitoba Hospital Commission and this could be dealt with when we get to the estimates of the Manitoba Hospital Commission, so far as the program to the north is concerned.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (m) (4).

MR. WEIR: Mr. Chairman, that's still dealing with the one and the answer the Minister gave was that he had others. Now the thing is, does he have others that he intends to implement this year that he knows about at the moment?

MR. CHAIRMAN: (m) (4) -- passed; 5 --

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Chairman, are we still on (m)?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, (m) (5). (Resolution 56 was read and passed.) Resolution 57 (a).

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Ste. Rose.

MR. MOLGAT: On Resolution 57, Social Services. I was very interested to read in the newspapers recently some statements by the Minister indicating that he was going to reduce the influence of the private agency, and I am very curious to know exactly what it is that the Minister has in mind in this regard? I recognize the difficulty in simply handing government funds to private agencies to spend as they wish with no government control. On the other hand, Mr. Speaker, I think we have to recognize that the private agencies and the volunteers in this field have made a tremendous contribution in the past and I think have a great contribution to make in the future as well. I was quite concerned at the statements attributed to the Minister - and they may not have been correct or the interpretation may not have been correct - but the inference was that government was going to take over more and more of the responsibility and that there would be less and less of the participation by the public. Now, I repeat this could be a matter of interpretation. The Minister may have a different view than the one that I read at least in the newspapers. I would hope that's the case. -- (Interjection) -- I beg your pardon?

MR. GREEN: Aren't we the public in here?

MR. MOLGAT: Yes, we are the public in here, that's true; but we are 57 dealing with a million people, and I think that in this area . . .

MR. GREEN: This is the public.

MR. MOLGAT: . . . there is a tremendous possibility of using volunteer people.

MR. GREEN: Sure.

MR. MOLGAT: . . . who have a great contribution to make, who have made a tremendous contribution over the years and who should not in any way be discouraged.

MR. GREEN: No. Encouraged.

MR. MOLGAT: Encouraged? Fine. This is what I would like to establish, because the news reports that I obtained, or the ones I read, seemed to indicate to me that the Minister was saying the government is going to take over more and more of this, we are going to control it more and more from the government standpoint, and there's not going to be real public participation. So I would just like this matter cleared. I'm in favour of public participation, public involvement . . .

MR. GREEN: Hear, hear.

MR. MOLGAT: . . . and the more of it that we can get I think the better the system is going to work. I'm opposed in this field to growing centralization and control by the government. So I'd just like the matter cleared by the Minister.

MR. TOUPIN: . . . Mr. Chairman, to try and answer the questions, the comments made by the Honourable Member of Ste. Rose. I believe that he did take me just a shade out of context on the statement that was made in the press. What I did say, and I think I even mentioned it during my estimates, and I quote, "Let me emphasize that I certainly do recognize the valuable job that has been done by the many Board members and agencies themselves, the various agencies in Manitoba. I am only trying to point out that I cannot support, nor will I allow to continue, the procedure by which public funds are given to private agencies to do with as they please, when the Boards do not in any way represent the interests of the consumers or local residents."

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Would the Minister give the names of any ones he has in mind?

MR. TOUPIN: It's not against anybody.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for The Pas.

MR. McBRYDE: I have a question that's sort of further to one question that was asked this afternoon in regard to the Community Development Program as it affects northern Manitoba. The Minister is probably aware that this particular program has somewhat different relationship than other government programs do in the north, and that the communities have had in the past some say in how this program is administered, how this program is run, to the extent that they sort of say what sort of qualifications they would like in a community development worker; to the extent that when some services were being taken over by the Indian Brotherhood, people were consulted to see whether they wanted an Indian Brotherhood worker or a provincial worker to cover their area; to the extent that they've had, as I say, quite a bit of say in the staff involved in the Community Development Program.

In light of this special relationship with the communities in the north, I wonder if the Minister could tell us if these proposed changes in the administration of the Community Development Program in the north, if the communities will be fully consulted and involved before any decision is made in regard to changes in the administration?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. BEARD: Mr. Chairman, while the Minister is thinking over the last question posed to him, I would like to go back to the question that was posed by the Member for Ste. Rose, because I think it is rather important. I believe if he extended it on to voluntary public boards, or voluntary public service, people that are contributing a great deal at no cost to government except those monies that are expended on actually the person, or the service that they're doing. It's voluntary wage and I would hate to see this done away with.

I take rather exception to the way that you have scouted around this because I know it's rather difficult to name names, but I think in this case that the feeling in the House is that there should be some indication as to what groups are going to be dropped. Is it the Mount Carmel group, or is it a group that is contributing to a great extent to the service of the community itself? I agree categorically that anything that we can get in a voluntary movement within any community if it's to serve the public on a voluntary basis, is many many times better in many respects than the services that are offered by the professional people. In many cases. Just in communication, I say that a mother that has raised four or five children, she may have very little education but certainly she can contribute an awful lot to types of training programs than possibly some young person that has just graduated from a university with four or five degrees but no real experience in life itself. I would hope the Minister could tell us more about this.

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Chairman, I don't intend to make a speech or announce exactly everything that's implicated into that speech that I made that day at the Family Planning Bureau. It was in part a statement of principle. I am most definitely, if you know part of my background, for any volunteer association or agency that we have in the province. I feel that when an agency, whether it be private or public, co-operative, it should be looked upon, the merits of the association or the agency in question, and this is the way that all of them should be treated. In so far as the policy to be established, following this statement of principle, I'm quite sure that all members of the House will be made aware of it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member of Ste. Rose.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Chairman, I want to say at the outset that I have complete confidence in the good intentions of the Minister. I believe that he means well. But I'm deeply, deeply disturbed, Mr. Chairman, at the direction in which the Minister seems to be heading. I would like to warn him not to get wrapped up by the empire builders, and that there is a very grave danger that that's the direction in which he is heading; and that this direction will neither be good for the people whom he seeks to serve in his department -- and they are people who need great help in most cases -- nor will it be good for the Province of Manitoba. Because to say that there are agencies who should not be handed funds is one thing. By the way, I would like the Minister to table a copy of the speech to which he refers so that members may have the full text, if he has no objection. But I think, Mr. Chairman, that the Minister here is heading into some very dangerous ground. I think the House should be well aware of the direction in which we are going, if this is going to be the course. Because I am convinced that for all the problems that may exist in private agencies, that over the years this province has been exceptionally well served by volunteer groups. That many of the programs that now exist would never have been started had it not been for volunteer groups. That they were initiated by individuals with a

(MR. MOLGAT cont'd)concern for, not themselves, not their good, but that of other people in the community; who've devoted tremendous amounts of their own time; and, Mr. Chairman, from a practical standpoint have raised tremendous amounts of money to put into programs, to get things moving on a purely volunteer basis, and that the inference in what the Minister is saying today is that these people are really somewhat suspects, they are going to be watched. I'm all in favour of watching the expenditure of money, I have stood for that principle over the years. I don't want to see any money wasted. But, Mr. Chairman, I think that the statements made at the moment sort of put all of the volunteer agencies under a shadow. The Minister by his statement puts all of them in a category that we're watching over your shoulder, fellow; maybe you're doing a good job but we think that maybe government can do a better job. Mr. Chairman, I'm afraid that that sort of statement is going to cause great harm to the services which the Minister I know wants to produce for the people in the province.

So I caution, Mr. Chairman, the Minister very much against the dangers of empire building in this department. It's one of the biggest spenders in the province and the dangers in my view are enormous. Now the Minister I think should at this time table in the House the grants that have been provided to each one of the volunteer agencies to which he refers, and -- well, maybe it's not fair to ask him to say which he thinks are not being properly operated, but there's a danger unless he clears the situation that all of them may feel that they are the ones whom he is aiming at.

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Chairman, first of all I think I have to add on to these comments. I am quite convinced for the short time that I have been Minister of Health and Social Services that nobody in this department is trying to build an empire. I'm quite sure of this; if they were they wouldn't be there. And I'm not trying to build an empire because if I was I'd be out of this House . . .

MR. MOLGAT: Remember those words.

MR. TOUPIN: Now, I had the courtesy of listening to the honourable member, I hope he has the same courtesy. I feel that this department is big, it could be bigger because the services that have to be rendered will justify this, not because we want to build an empire. I'd like the honourable member to take notice that if we want to build empires, this is not always done under governmental institutions; this can be done equally under private institutions. I did not point to any agency in question. I think we have a right, and I think it's only justifiable that the agencies themselves, whether they be private, public, had a second look at themselves. Nobody is good enough to say that we have a good strong agency, we have no place to go ahead. We have a right to question, when we're paying 60 percent of the total budget of an agency, not to say that it's bad, but to say that there's a possibility to do better, and this is all that I've said.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Chairman, would the Minister agree to the same second look within his own department?

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, although I hesitate in taking part in this debate, first of all I'm not too sure - I can't say that I disagree with the Minister because I don't really understand or know what the Minister is after, and you can't be interested in something for ten years and because you've crossed from this side of the House that you no longer have any interest, so I feel that I must make a few comments on this.

Now I feel that it is true - I agree that there's good intentions on the part of the Minister - but it is a fact that the Minister said publicly that I will not allow this to continue. It is in a way practically a blanket - maybe not an accusation - but to say the least, these people are wondering if it is an accusation and if they're named. Now it might be too much to ask the Minister to name the group that he's talking about, but in the past we've always had a list given to us, a list of the grants given under the Department of Health to these special people, and if the Minister doesn't feel that he should mention anything about any agency, those that he's not satisfied with, I think that we have the right nevertheless to request a list of the grants and those that have been turned down in comparison to those of last year and then we could ourselves determine what is what.

I'm also quite concerned also - and I feel very strongly on this - I'm also quite concerned with the danger of losing some key volunteers. We've meant well in the past and we've accomplished certainly certain things in getting hospitalization, compulsory medicare, but it is also a fact that some people have turned away because of these things. Some people who in their wills used to leave some very large sums to hospitals are not doing it as much now. They

(MR. DESJARDINS cont'd) feel the government has taken over and there's no need for that. People who used to do a lot of voluntary work, the doctors themselves, feel now - all right, this is a compulsory plan, I'd be a damn fool to work for nothing, and they're not doing it any more. I hasten to say that I'm not making an accusation against the government, I'm not saying this is what is being done, but I'm certainly saying that we have to be careful because even if our intentions are good there is always that danger. I don't think that you can legislate goodness or charity or anything like that, this is something that we can't do, and the government can't take over everything in every phase of a person's life. This is going a little too far; this is over-government and this is not the reason of a government.

So I feel - as I say, this is not a debate, I'm not objecting to the policy of the Minister because I don't know those policies - but I would ask the Minister at this time if he is ready to do like what has been done, at least during the ten years that I have been here, furnish us with a list of the grants that were paid last year and the grants that will be paid this year to these voluntary associations, because right now I've asked the same question too. Do they mean the Mount Carmel Clinic; do they mean Canadian Mental Health; do they mean this; what is it that they mean? If the Minister -- I hope he has an answer that will, especially after this debate, and what we've seen after the Minister made his speech, there are some people that are not quite sure and I think we owe it to them to let them know where they stand and give a little more explanation on the policy of the Minister.

. . . . Continued on next page

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for The Pas.

MR. McBRYDE: It's strange how I hear different things when the Minister was speaking than my honourable friends did, and I would just like to comment on that a little bit. From what I can understand from what the Minister was trying to say, and the message was quite different apparently, was that he was trying to express the idea that those people receiving the services should have some say on how those services were being handed out, and I think he was going beyond sort of including in that the Provincial Government social services and the private agency social services, and saying that these institutions must not live within themselves, must not lose this public responsiveness, especially in terms of the people to whom they're supposed to give service.

So my understanding from his statement was that he wants to allow more citizen participation in public and private agencies to which government money is going rather than to have this agency operate in isolation from its clients, and a few of them are tending in this direction and have become unresponsive to the public who they're supposed to serve. I think this is the direction the Minister is heading rather than in the direction of more tighter control from the state; that is, to allow more citizen participation from below.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Chairman, I would not like to dwell too long on this item. I would like to mention to my honourable colleague from St. Boniface that when I mentioned that I will not allow to continue whatever is found, whenever we come forth to the final analysis of whatever is being done either in private or government agencies, I don't think that this House would allow me, I'm sure my colleagues in Cabinet would not allow me as the Minister responsible for health and social development in this province to continue any services that would not actually meet the needs of the people who are concerned. And I cannot supply a list because I did not mention anybody in particular. All I was mentioning in that speech that I made was that we should look upon ourselves and try to do better, try to find a better solution to these different problems that we have, the same thing as we are doing every day in our department, which is like we mentioned a while ago, the department is not only big in size insofar as the employees are concerned, the civil servants, but equally in the service that it has to render to the people of Manitoba.

I'd like to make a comment on the question that was asked by the Honourable Member for The Pas. He was talking about community development officers in the north. This is a much needed service in the north and I think the Honourable Member for The Pas is well aware that this service will have to be designed so as to increase community self-government and not to reduce it, no matter what steps are taken.

MR. McBRYDE: . . . a question, Mr. Chairman, I just want to . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: A question from the Honourable Member from The Pas.

MR. McBRYDE: . . . reword that or to restate it in a little bit different way. My question was, does the Minister intend to consult with those people receiving this service before administrative changes take place in this program? Does he intend to involve them in this decision-making process or not?

MR. TOUPIN: Well, as the Honourable Member for The Pas is well aware, this is something that's being done on a joint basis by the Honourable Minister of Mines and Natural Resources and my department. I've been advised by the Honourable Minister of Mines and Natural Resources that consultation has been intense in this area. If further consultation is needed, I'm quite sure that my honourable colleague would agree with me that we should have more consultations.

MR. McBRYDE: A further question to the Minister. Let me state that I have received a number of telephone calls from community leaders in Northern Manitoba and this proposed policy was completely new to them. They wished to be consulted, they wished to be involved before it is carried through, if it is intended to be carried through, and I would ask the Minister if his department, as the department presently responsible, intends to consult with the people whom they've consulted with in the past before they transfer this administration to a different department?

MR. TOUPIN: My honourable colleague is quite persistent. I thought I had answered the question. If consultation as we've had up to date is not sufficient, the people who are concerned are not satisfied, I believe that we shall have more consultation with them.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. Boniface.

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, I wonder is it the intention of the Minister to give the members a list of all the grants made under his department?

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Chairman, I have no objection to presenting a list to this House insofar as the grants which have been made for the fiscal year 1969-70 and what's projected for the year 1970-71.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. FROESE: Mr. Chairman, I think that the matter we have been discussing here the last while is a very important one as far as the various voluntary agencies are concerned. I can recall when our hospitals were not operating as they are now with assured funds from the province. I recall the days when the local auxiliaries, the local ladies' groups and other people in the area would make large gifts in kind to the hospitals; then the government brought in the compulsory hospital premiums and a lot of this fell away, people no longer made the contributions voluntarily. Now that we have the medical care insurance, or medicare, we can have a further drop-out as far as these auxiliaries are concerned that have been contributing very largely and in a great way to the assistance of our hospitals in different ways, and I hope that nothing of the Minister's statement will take away any of this and discourage people from doing voluntary work of various kinds, in any way to detract from it.

I would also like to know from the Minister in connection with the various organizations where donations or gifts or grants are being made to, do we get audited statements from them? Does the government get audited statements from these various groups so that they know the funds are properly applied and so on? Is there this communication between the two groups and is this being done?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. BEARD: Mr. Chairman, I noticed the lateness of the time and I just wonder, with the Minister's assistants up in the gallery, whether possibly we could have a list of those the government had given monies to, the list of organizations, whether could have those lists for tomorrow, both of the projected ones and the past ones, last year, for comparison basis, because I don't think that we'll be through your estimates tonight and it would be nice to see them before your department was completed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 57 -- The Honourable Member for Ste. Rose.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Chairman, did I understand the Minister to say that he was agreeable to giving a list of the grants? I wonder if at the same time he would give us, for those organizations to which he has given grants or is contemplating grants, if he would give us the amount of money they raise from other sources so that we would have a comparison of the amount of public funds going to the agency and the amount of funds that the agency raises through its own efforts. Would this be possible, because I would presume that the Minister would have from these agencies a budget before he would agree to a grant in any case.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution No. 57 --

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Chairman, is it possible to get a reply from the Minister in this regard? Is he prepared to give us this information?

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Chairman, I'll come back to you in a few minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 57 (a) (1) -- The Member for Assiniboia.

MR. STEVE PATRICK (Assiniboia): I'd like to make a few comments at this time under the heading of Social Services. In the last few minutes we were debating about perhaps withdrawing some of the grants to some of the agencies, and I would like to tell the members and the Minister about one agency that's just started in Winnipeg in January this year, and that's the Big Brother organization which had a tremendous success in the United States and in Eastern Canada. It was started in Eastern Canada in 1904 in Toronto and in Hamilton and jumped right across Canada and operated in British Columbia since 1921, and it was only last year that it came out to the prairies and almost all urban centres in Alberta have organized a Big Brother organization in larger centres, and it wasn't until January of this year that an organization was formed in Greater Winnipeg. I would hope that the Minister - I know up to the present time I don't believe the Big Brother organization has applied for a grant to his department, but perhaps they will in the near future - and I would like to just advise the Minister to be very receptive because I believe the program and the organization is a very good one. The Big Brother program is one of youth guidance and one of the most effective in the field of social welfare. It is the only program in which volunteer men called Big Brothers work with boys called Little Brothers. You must appreciate at the present time we have

(MR. PATRICK cont'd.)... somewhere in the neighbourhood of 1,000 homes in Winnipeg without a male parent in that household, so we are talking about somewhere in the neighbourhood of probably 2,500 young boys without a father. And if you relate that to the present time, that we have in Winnipeg somewhere in the neighbourhood of anywhere from 400 to 800 juveniles appearing before the Juvenile Court. I believe in the month of October it was quite high. Naturally when it is not as cold then this falls down. I think an organization like this is certainly doing a tremendous amount of good and a tremendous amount of work, because statistics tell us that over 75 percent of all juvenile delinquents come from homes without male influence. If it does exist, sometimes it is quite inadequate. I am sure that everybody in here would realize that the growing up from seven to seventeen is the most difficult time in a boy's life. I would hope that the Honourable Minister would look very carefully at some of these social agencies because let's appreciate that to have a boy in a retraining school or a detention home, is a very expensive thing to do, while on the other hand, to operate a Big Brother organization is very inexpensive.

I think it has been proven quite extensively in many centres in the United States and in Eastern Canada what a great job this organization can do. I am sure that we appreciate that juvenile delinquency has reached academic proportions, not only in Canada but there is a great increase here in the Province of Manitoba, because as I mentioned, when you have anywhere from 400 to 800 juveniles appearing before Juvenile Court each month, this is a pretty staggering figure.

So I hope that the Minister will look very carefully at most of the service organizations. I know that many of the volunteers that are involved in many of these organizations, I don't think they would be hurt or embarrassed if most of these organizations would be done away with. I think they would have less to do. But really the people that these organizations are serving, many of them are greatly concerned at the present time what will happen to the services that they are receiving at the present time, and it is for this reason, Mr. Chairman, that I am bringing this to the attention of the House and to the attention of the Minister.

I think it benefits the community. When boys are turned from delinquency or confusion to responsible citizenship is something we can all readily appreciate and understand. These are the few points that I wanted to bring to the Minister's attention at the present time and I hope he will sort of consider some of these things very carefully.

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Chairman, I would like to present at this time the grants which have been made in the fiscal year 1969-70 and the ones that will be made in 1970-71.

I see that the question asked by the Honourable Member for Churchill, who is not in his seat, and the Honourable Member for St. Boniface who was asking for the grants. I guess they'll read it in Hansard tomorrow. For the benefit of the Honourable Member for Ste. Rose and Winnipeg Centre and all those interested:

Grants to the Children's Aid Societies in 1969-70 was \$1,919,500; for 1970-71 \$2,139,600.00. -- (Interjection) -- You will all get it on the register here. Unless you want to write it down. Do you want to write them all down? It's quite long? \$2,139,600.00.

Grants to the Social Service Agencies, 1969-70, \$215,700; 1970-71, \$213,000.00.

Financial assistance regarding Public Health, \$922,300 for 1969-70; \$956,200 for 1970-71. Financial assistance regarding Mental Health Service, in 1969-70, \$2,220,000; 1970-71, \$2,454,300.00.

That's a subtotal of \$5,763,100 for 1970-71.

Financial assistance. Grants to Children's Aid Society of Winnipeg 1969-70, \$1,129,500; 1970-71, \$1,297,500.00.

Children's Aid Society of Eastern Manitoba: 1969-70, \$254,100; 1970-71, \$279,100.00.

Children's Aid Society of Central Manitoba, 1969-70, \$227,700; 1970-71, \$270,900.00.

Children's Aid Society of Western Manitoba, 1969-70, \$235,400; 1970-71, \$292,100.00.

That's a subtotal of \$2,000,000 for these grants here, Children's Aid Societies, \$2,139,600.00.

Financial assistance. Grants to Social Service Agencies. Bethany Home, 1969-70, \$4,000; 1970-71, \$4,000. Villa Rosa, 1969-70, \$5,000; 1970-71, \$5,000.00. Church Home for Girls, 1969-70, \$2,000; 1970-71, \$2,000.00. Age and Opportunity Day Centres, 1969-70, \$31,200; 1970-71, \$35,000.00. Community Welfare Planning, 1969-70, \$16,000; 1970-71, \$16,000.00. Canadian Welfare Council, 1969-70 -- I'm sorry, I missed one, Indian-Eskimo Association, \$800 in both years. Canadian Welfare Council, 1969-70, \$3,900; 1970-71, \$8,000. Residential Welfare Institutions, 1969-70 and 70-71, \$8,500.00. Salvation Army '69-70, \$900;

(MR. TOUPIN cont'd.). . . . '70-71, \$1,000.00. Community Projects, '69-70, \$20,000; '70-71, 19.7. Indian and Metis Friendship Centre, '69-70, \$60,000; '70-71, \$100,000.00. John Howard and Elizabeth Fry Society, 1969-70, 17.4; '70-71, 12.9. Canadian Congress of Corrections, \$100 in 1969-70 and '70-71. Subtotal there of \$213,000.00.

Financial assistance regarding External Public Health. City of Winnipeg, '69-70, \$157,400; '70-71, \$130,300.00. Public Health Technical Advisor Service, \$500 both years. Sanatorium Board '69-70, \$492,800; '70-71, \$542,800.00. Alcohol Education Services, '69-70 and '70-71 \$36,000. Heart Foundation, \$6,000 in both years. Canadian Diabetic Association, \$1,000 in both years. Mount Carmel Clinic \$15,000 in both years, and that's apart from the \$25,000 that was voted upon on a separate Order-in-Council. National Safety League, \$100 in both years. Canadian Arthritis and Rheumatism Society, \$75,000 in both years. Winnipeg General Hospital - Home Care Program 1969-70, \$125,000; '70-71, \$135,000. Victorian Order of Nurses, 1969-70, \$8,500; '70-71 \$8,500. Home Welfare Association, Meals on Wheels, 1969-70 and '70-71, \$5,000. Miscellaneous programs, 1969-70 there was none; '70-71 there's \$1,000. A total of \$956,200 in '70-71 and a total of \$922,300 in '69-70.

Financial assistance regarding External Mental Health Services. Canadian Mental Health Association, '69-70 and '70-71, \$20,000. Canadian Association for Mentally Retarded Manitoba Division, \$15,000 both years. Eden Mental Health Centre, \$185,000 in '69-70 and \$225,200 in 1970-71. St. Amant Ward, St. Vital Hospital, '69-70; \$988,000; '70-71, \$971,000. Society for Crippled Children, \$610,000, '69-70; \$738,700, '70-71. Alcoholism Foundation, \$275,000 in 1969-70, and \$311,900 in '70-71. Salvation Army Harbour Light, \$37,000 '69-70; \$43,000 '70-71. Canadian National Institute for the Blind, \$90,000 1969-70; \$129,500 in 1970-71. Makes a grand total of these grants, \$2,220,000 for '69-70, and \$2,254,300 for '70-71.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 57.

Honourable Member for Ste. Rose.

MR. MOLGAT: I thank the Minister very much for obtaining the information for us as quickly as he did, and the comparison between the two years which was very helpful. I had asked him a question regarding the possibility of getting the amounts of money that these various organizations and groups raised through their own. Now, I realize he may not have that on hand. Would it be possible to get it fairly soon?

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member for Ste. Rose is right, I haven't got the information on hand. If it's possible to get it, and I believe it is because we do have the financial statements, I will bring these statements or at least amounts to this House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 57.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Chairman, before we leave the Resolution in its general terms, I would like to say something about the delivery of social services, particularly in the rural areas.

It seems to me that one of the real problems in rural Manitoba is the fact that the delivery services are too centralized, that in most cases the welfare workers are resident in some key centres like Portage la Prairie, Brandon and Dauphin, and the people that they serve are not mainly in those centres but rather decentralized throughout the areas.

In my own constituency, for example, Mr. Chairman, the workers either live in Portage or in Dauphin, and before they can reach any of the people with whom they work, they have to drive a long distance to begin with. They do not have ready knowledge of the area -- and I don't fault them for this, because there is no way in which they can have; they are not residents in that area -- but this does lead, in my opinion, to serious weakness in the delivery of the service to people who need the service, and the fact that the workers cannot be expected to know the local circumstances, to understand the problems, and in my view very often to be able to assess in a proper way the needs of the people involved. And I repeat I don't blame the workers for this because they have no real means of getting this information.

It seems to me, Mr. Chairman, that there are ways and means of changing this which would provide for better service to those who are in need and better use of government funds in giving this service; and that there are two things that should be considered. One of them is the decentralization of the workers. Let us get the workers in the areas where the people who need the help are located; and the help then can be not just financial help, because in many cases, Mr. Chairman, it is not just a question of dollars and cents. Many of these people need other types of assistance - guidance, counselling, advice, the feeling that someone is interested in them; and it's not just someone who has a job in Portage la Prairie and who comes

(MR. MOLGAT cont'd.). . . . out to the area, but someone who is from the community, someone who is involved, someone who is part and parcel of the whole operation. So that's one method.

The other one, Mr. Chairman, which I think should be used even before the decentralization takes place, because I'm afraid the decentralization could not be done overnight, would be the use of some local advisors. I'm not suggesting in this, that we go back to the system where the municipal council was the welfare distributor, but I do think that there is a great deal of benefit to be gained from having some local advisory body who can help, who need not make the final decision, but who would be consulted prior to a final decision being taken on assistance in an area. Because one of the common complaints in rural Manitoba in particular, Mr. Chairman, is that there is too much welfare being given, that some people are on welfare who should not be on welfare, and this is creating a great deal of trouble in many rural areas where a lot of people are trying their best to make their own way through life without public assistance but who see someone else, or who think they see someone else - in very many cases it's imaginary, but it is there nevertheless - who they feel is getting assistance in an unwarranted way and the turmoil that this causes -- and when I specify the rural areas, Mr. Chairman, the reason I do so is because by and large in the rural areas people know what's happening to the neighbour. In the cities this isn't so, you don't really know what's happening next door to you in many cases; you're not really in the same sort of a situation. But that's not so in a small town in the rural municipalities.

These difficulties, Mr. Chairman, I think are causing a great deal of unrest in many parts of the province, and they could be overcome by the decentralization of the workers who would be in a position to provide better service, provide guidance and counselling, be able to work with people. In many cases these people simply want an opportunity to improve themselves; they're open to suggestions but they have really no-one to turn to. That, plus an advisory group who could in many cases be assisting in the rehabilitation process, in the whole aid that some of these families need, and that a combination of these two would do two things: (a) Provide better service to people who need the help; and (b) provide a whole system which would be much more satisfactory to the society as a whole.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 57(a). The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. FROESE: Mr. Chairman, I would like to lend support to what the Member for Ste. Rose has just said. I think this is needed; this is something the government should consider and not just brush off lightly, because I've seen too many cases which the member has just spoken of.

It used to be that the municipalities would do a certain amount of welfare work and look after cases. They still do in some instances, but as has been mentioned by the Member for Ste. Rose, I feel that we should decentralize as far as the workers are concerned, because they would have a better understanding of the situation in these various communities and thus be able to understand better and also to give better counselling advice as a result.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. TOUPIN: I would like to acknowledge the comments made by the Honourable Member for Ste. Rose, that is so far as the comments made a few minutes ago. His comments are well taken. I have discussed quite a few of the things that he said a few minutes ago and wherever it's feasible, wherever possible, some of these things could be looked upon favourably.

I would like to go back to the comments made awhile ago - I'm sorry I missed it - by the Honourable Member for Assiniboia regarding the Big Brother Association. I've received a letter, well I think it's more than one letter really, wanting our government to give them financial assistance. I must agree with the Honourable Member from Assiniboia that this Association is doing very good work and we'll certainly do our best to help them financially.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 57, Sections (a)(1) to f (1) were read and passed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MRS. TRUEMAN: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the Minister some questions here. I notice that Old Age Assistance now is a blank. I expect that's because of the new system of bookkeeping, but I'd like to hear an explanation of this. In this particular section the estimates are up about \$3 million under the Social Allowances. I wish we could hear just exactly what accounts for this high increase. It surely can't be the additional \$2.21 per month personal allowances that were recently granted to the old age pensioners. Could the Minister explain this for us?

April 6, 1970

MR. TOUPIN: Regarding Appropriation IX - 4 (f), Field Services - Programs. First of all this includes expenditures in the areas of Mothers Allowances, Aids to Infirm Social Allowance, Rural Nursing Home Costs and so on, increased cost due to the increase in case loads and cost per case, and the commencement of assistance to citizens over the age of 18 and covers maintenance costs regarding the Child Placement Fund, there's \$118,000; Home of the Good Shepherd, \$213,000; Roslyn Home Association, \$63,000; McDonald House and Dawson House, \$159,000; and all of these three that I've mentioned here are according to the per diem payments - which is a subtotal of \$553,400.00.

There's a decrease in costs anticipated in disability provisions when the Canada Pension Plan becomes operative. The Blind Allowance covers payments to needy persons who are totally blind irrespective of age, and the cost of maintaining children who are declared provincial wards based on a per diem paid to the Children's Aid Society, Child Care Institutions and Foster Parents; increase due to the increased number of children declared wards and increase in rates - I was just going to say "rats", but it's "rates". A greater number of Indian children are coming into care -- (Interjection) -- yes I do. Covers social allowance recipients for drugs, optical, dental and other medical costs not covered under the Health Service Insurance Corporation reduced costs with the introduction of Medicare. -- (Interjection) -- There's still more to come. Do you want me to go on?

MR. GREEN: Mr. Chairman, I move the committee rise.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Committee rise. Call in the Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Committee of Supply has directed me to report progress and asks leave to sit again.

IN SESSION

MR. RUSSELL DOERN (Elmwood): Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Flin Flon, that the report of the Committee be received.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion and after a voice vote declared the motion carried, and the House adjourned until 2:30 Tuesday afternoon.