

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA
2:30 o'clock, Monday, April 23, 1973

Opening Prayer by Mr. Speaker.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. SPEAKER: Before we proceed I should like to direct the attention of the honourable members to the gallery where we have 100 Grade 9 students of the John Gunn Junior High School. These students are under the direction of Mr. Dueck, Mr. A. Ferman and Mr. J. Hnatiuk. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Transcona, the Minister of Labour.

On behalf of all the honourable Members, I welcome you here today.

Presenting Petitions; Reading and Receiving Petitions; Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees; Ministerial Statements and Tabling of Reports. The Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs.

TABLING OF REPORTS

HON. HOWARD R. PAWLEY (Minister of Municipal Affairs) (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to table the 1972 annual report of the Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation.

MR. SPEAKER: Any other Reports or Ministerial Statements? Notices of Motion; Introduction of Bills. The Honourable Minister of Health.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

HON. RENE E. TOUPIN (Minister of Health and Social Development) (Springfield) introduced Bill No. 3, an Act to amend The Social Allowances Act; and Bill No. 42, an Act to amend The Child Welfare Act. (Recommended by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor)

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SIDNEY SPIVAK, Q. C. (Leader of the Opposition) (River Heights) introduced Bill No. 43, an Act to amend The Manitoba Hydro Act.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health and Social Development.

MR. TOUPIN introduced Bill No. 44, The Prescription Drugs Cost Assistance Act. (Recommended by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor)

Oral Question Period. The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the First Minister. The First Minister's reported to have said that there'll be no tax hikes needed for seven years. I wonder if he can confirm that the newspaper report on that is correct?

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. I must remind all members that Citation 171 Beuchesne does include the fact that one should not ask questions whether things stated in newspapers are true or not. The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Well, I wonder if the First Minister can confirm the position of the government that there'll be no tax increases for seven years?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

HON. EDWARD SCHREYER (Premier) (Rossmere): Mr. Speaker, what I indicated was that the nature of our economy was such, economic conditions were such that with existing rates that it would not appear as though there is any need for tax increases for the next year, and even the year beyond that, in my opinion. I made no mention of seven years. I have no idea where that figure came from, and I believe that when this was clarified on Friday last the reporter in question did make contact with his newspaper to have it corrected.

MR. SPIVAK: I wonder if the First Minister can indicate to the House whether the government anticipates or expects that the equalization payments received from the Federal Government will be as high in the years to come as it was this fiscal year?

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, that too in effect asks for a prognosis and I would say that there are two offsetting forces at work: on the one hand Manitoba's per capita position in terms of per capita production and wealth with Canadian confederation is seemingly moving closer to the national average; on the other hand because of certain tax increases which were effected in the province of Ontario in the last week, that because of the peculiar nature of the

ORAL QUESTIONS

(MR. SCHREYER cont'd) equalization formula and the way it's calculated, any tax increase in the wealthiest province in Canada has the automatic effect of increasing equalization payments received by the other provinces. Manitoba will therefore receive some increase in equalization payments as a result, but with a far greater receipt in equalization payments by the other provinces that are receiving them in the past, the Maritimes, Quebec and Saskatchewan.

MR. SPIVAK: I wonder if the First Minister could indicate to the House whether the government anticipates receiving \$100 million in equalization payments for next year?

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, that would be more a question for an Order for Return.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie.

MR. GORDON E. JOHNSTON (Portage la Prairie): Mr. Speaker, I address my question to the Minister of Mines and Resources who is responsible for the Manitoba Development Corporation. Did Dr. Peter Briant, the former Chairman of the MDC, ever recommend or advocate that the MDC should withdraw its support from Saunders Aircraft?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines and Resources.

HON. SIDNEY GREEN, Q. C. (Minister of Mines, Resources and Environmental Management) (Inkster): Mr. Speaker, I'm not aware of the answer to that question.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: I ask the Minister then, is the Chairman of the Manitoba Development Corporation responsible only to himself and not to the government?

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, the Chairman of the Manitoba Development Corporation, the Board itself is ultimately responsible to the government. I am not aware of the answer to the question that was previously posed by my honourable friend.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Would the Minister tell the House if ever through correspondence, or by conversation, that Dr. Briant suggested or recommended that the Saunders Aircraft Corporation was not viable in its present form with its present manufacturing system?

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I thought I made it plain to my honourable friend that I wasn't aware of the answer to the previous question. May I say this, Mr. Speaker, that I'm not sure that on any individual case that we would be talking about which members of the Board or which officials recommended proceedings, which officials did not recommend proceedings, that ultimately the government accepts ultimate responsibility for the activities of the board. If the government themselves have initiated a policy direction in one way or the other which the board has then accepted, that too would probably be made plain, but an answer to the question such as my honourable friend has raised, first of all I am not aware of the answer; secondly I am not sure that it would be given in any event.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rock Lake. The Honourable Member for Portage have a further supplementary?

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Well, Mr. Speaker, because the subject matter is related, I would ask the same question of the Minister of Industry and Commerce, whether he has approved or disapproved of the Saunders Aircraft operation and has consulted with Dr. Briant, the former MDC Chairman.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, that is hardly a proper question. Officials, members of the Board of any Crown agency are free to arrive at decisions and to give advice but ultimately the government can either take or not take that advice.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie state his point of order? Would the Honourable Member state his point of order?

MR. G. JOHNSTON: My point of order is that the First Minister stands up and said that question is not proper, and I would appeal to you whether or not that is the proper question or not.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. I shall indicate that Citation 171 of Beauchesne, Section (gg) indicates a question oral or written must not seek information about matters which are in their nature secrets, such as decisions or proceedings of Cabinet, advice given to Crown by law officers, etc. Therefore the Honourable First Minister raised a very valid point. The Honourable Member for Rock Lake.

MR. HENRY J. EINARSON (Rock Lake): Mr. Speaker, I direct this question to the First Minister. It relates to the pension that is being received by Mr. Cass-Beggs. Has all or any

ORAL QUESTIONS

(MR. EINARSON cont'd) portion of the pension he is receiving coming from the Superannuation Fund of the Manitoba Hydro?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, the information to that question is I believe provided in an Order, in a Return to an Order that was filed several weeks ago which outlines that a certain payment was made each month by Mr. Cass-Beggs and by the Crown out of which an annuity was purchased which will yield, I believe it is, \$120.00 a month -- \$120.00 a month by the Crown agency Hydro. The amount is I believe in the order of \$120.00 a month; it is payable from this annuity which was purchased by the joint payments of Mr. Cass-Beggs and Manitoba Hydro. It is not from the Manitoba Civil Service Superannuation Fund. What else does my honourable friend wish to know? The annuity commences, I believe it is, in October 1973.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rock Lake. The Honourable Member for Wolseley state his point of order?

MR. I. H. (Izzy) ASPER (Leader of the Liberal Party) (Wolseley): Mr. Speaker, I rise to ask you to consider the magnitude of the precedent that the decision on the preceding point of order you handed down would have in this House, Mr. Speaker . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. Again, there is procedure that is followed in respect to questioning the decisions of the Chair. The honourable member will acquaint himself with it and proceed in that way. I shall not enter into a debate as to whether my decisions are debatable or not, that is not the procedure; and there is also, as I said, no question of me reconsidering except by the decision of this Assembly, not by the decision of one member questioning me. The Honourable Member for Wolseley have a further point or order?

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, it is not to challenge your ruling, Mr. Speaker, but my point of order is this. That I think there may have been a misunderstanding and the record will show that what was decided was not really what was sought. Mr. Speaker, I ask you to make a ruling on the following set of facts. The set of facts was this: that the Honourable Member from Portage la Prairie, the House Leader of the Liberal Party . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. I shall entertain the question that the honourable gentleman wishes to discuss privately. I cannot entertain it on the floor of the House; it's just contrary to the rules because it involves the Chair getting into a debate and explaining, and everything else. I've done a ruling; I've explained the Citation that was in that connection and I cannot go opening the subject up again; it's just contrary to our procedures. If the honourable gentleman doesn't understand this he'll have to get advice from someone else. -- (Interjection) --

Does the honourable member have a further point of order?

MR. ASPER: May I then ask you for a clarification of your point of order. Does your point of order say, or the ruling you've made, are you ruling that members opposite on this side cannot ask a Crown Minister if he received certain advice which is publicly discussed through the media involving taxpayer investments. Is that the . . . , Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. The Honourable Member take what he wishes. I quoted a Citation; he can try and interpret it to his liking, but the Citation fitted the point of order that was raised, and I ruled accordingly. The Honourable Member for Pembina.

MR. GEORGE HENDERSON (Pembina): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Health and Social Development. Are prisoners that have served time now being hired as guards at penal institutions in Manitoba?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. TOUPIN: Well, Mr. Speaker, that very same question was asked of me last Thursday, I believe. My answer then was that any person in the Province of Manitoba that has been sentenced and has served time is actually free to apply for any position within the different departments of government.

MR. HENDERSON: Are any of the prisoners hired to serve as guards at penal institutions where they've already served time?

MR. TOUPIN: Well, Mr. Speaker, if you consider my last answer pertaining to ex-inmates, once they've served their time they're no longer considered as prisoners, they're considered as full fledged citizens of Manitoba, and they can be considered for employment within the same institutions that they once served.

A MEMBER: Or any part of the Civil Service.

MR. HENDERSON: Has this policy proven satisfactory with people who are already now employed as guards?

ORAL QUESTIONS

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Speaker, my colleague the Minister of Labour indicates to me that he hasn't got any formal complaints under that section of the act.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Brandon West.

MR. EDWARD MCGILL (Brandon West): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Honourable the Minister of Health and Social Development. Is it the intention of his department to proceed this year with the replacement of the obsolete facilities that are now occupied by the Brandon Correctional Institute?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Speaker, we're hoping to be able to start on the construction of a correctional facility in Brandon in 1973, but a correctional facility that will reflect the needs of not only Brandon itself but other facilities related to the region.

MR. MCGILL: A supplementary question. Mr. Speaker, has a decision been reached as to the site of these new correctional facilities?

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Speaker, not to this date. Two sites are being contemplated now.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Pembina.

MR. HENDERSON: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Premier. Has the Premier received a letter from the Lower Red River Valley Water Commission asking for an appointment with Cabinet to discuss the construction of the dams in the Pembina area and if so, has a date been set for such a meeting?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, there has been a letter received from the group in question -- I believe this was on Thursday or Wednesday last, and I have not had an opportunity to respond. I might say that the nature of the request is unusual asking for a meeting with the entire Cabinet.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. L. R. (BUD) SHERMAN (Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Health and Social Development and I would like to ask him if he can advise the House specifically what document it was on the Church of Scientology which he requested from the Scientology group, and which was reported on the CTV program W5 last night.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Speaker, some students of the school of Scientology were in Manitoba last year and had interviews with myself and some of my senior civil servants and toured the mental institutions in the Province of Manitoba and I for one and other senior civil servants within the department wanted to have a look at the report, not only the report pertaining to mental institutions in Manitoba but elsewhere in Canada, so we called for copies of their report and that did not indicate our support of the School of Scientology itself.

MR. SHERMAN: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker, perhaps somewhat anticipated by the Minister's answer, but can it then be assumed that the interviewer, Mr. Tom Gould, was correct in his assertion that the Minister's communication with the group in no way reflected an endorsement or a sanction of that group or its work in that field?

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Speaker, that is correct. Mr. Tom Gould was quoting a letter that I sent him.

MR. SHERMAN: A final supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Was there any cost to the Department of Health and Social Development connected with that work, and with the reports that were requested, and how great was it?

MR. TOUPIN: Well first of all, Mr. Speaker, the work done by the students was not work done actually on the request of the Department of Health and Social Department, it was done on request of the so-called -- well I shouldn't say so-called -- by the Church of Scientology, so there was no cost for the work itself to the Department of Health and Social Development. There was a cost, you know, for the reports but I can't remember offhand what the cost per copy was. I can check and let the honourable member know.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Liberal Party.

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the First Minister, and may I preface it by saying that from the sound of the register of his voice he is suffering an affliction with which I am familiar and we on this side wish him a speedy recovery, and suggest that perhaps weekends at home rather than travelling might enhance his condition.

Mr. Speaker, the question is: in view of the First Minister's apparent pre-election disavowal of the Kierans Report in Thompson, will he indicate to the House whether the task

ORAL QUESTIONS

(MR. ASPER cont'd) force that was to study the Kierans Report, has completed its work or is it being disbanded in the light of his comment in Thompson?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, the statements I've made relative to the Kierans Report I've made in the past, and that is that before we receive a full evaluation and appraisal and recommendations from the Task Force, that it is not to be assumed that we endorse or repudiate the Kierans Report in all of its particulars because to do so would be to pre-empt the necessity or usefulness of the task force review.

MR. ASPER: Would the First Minister indicate whether the comments he made in Thompson were based on any recommendations that the task force has already made?

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, there have been no such recommendations received as yet and I doubt very much if the task force will be in a position to make a comprehensive analysis and series of recommendations within a matter of the few short weeks that have elapsed since the Kierans Report has been published. There are certain aspects of the Kierans Report which without further study and elaboration would be quite easy to accept and other parts are more difficult to understand and accept, but that's the whole point of the task force.

MR. ASPER: Could the First Minister indicate when the task force might conclude its work and if it's his intention to table at this session of the Legislature the recommendations of the task force.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, I believe that the question similar in nature was asked a few weeks ago, and I indicated that we were looking possibly at a six-month time frame - that we would not take six years as in the case of action on the Carter Commission - but six months would be more in the order of magnitude of time involved.

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, a final supplementary to the First Minister. May we then assume that the observations that the First Minister made in Thompson are his personal view and not the policy of his government?

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, to the extent that that can be separated I made it clear to the reporter at the time that the task force not having completed its work, its recommendations not having been received, I was merely giving an expression of views on the basis of previous study and consideration of the matter. I believe I'm on record for quite some considerable period of time now as one who favors, for example, the concept of the model of Pan Arctic Oil - I think I've expressed that many times - which is a concept of joint public-private venture in resource exploration and development, and from that flows a number of other opinions which I expressed to the reporter in question in the past three or four days.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I direct my question to the Minister of Industry and Commerce. In the course of his duties as the Minister did he ever have occasion to discuss MDC affairs with Dr. Peter Briant while he was the MDC Chairman?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Industry and Commerce.

HON. LEONARD S. EVANS (Minister of Industry and Commerce) (Brandon East): Mr. Chairman, the answer to that question is so obvious it shouldn't be asked. Of course I've discussed matters with the former Chairman when I was responsible for the MDC.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Did Dr. Peter Briant, and again I direct my question to the same Minister, did Dr. Peter Briant ever recommend that the Saunders Aircraft operation was not viable?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: This is precisely my point, Sir. It is literally unthinkable, Sir, and not permitted under our rules, to ask whether, for example, the President of Air Canada or the C. N. R. or Hydro or Telephones have made at any time certain recommendations and given certain advice to a Minister of the Crown. That, Sir, is something which it is clearly and long understood to be a matter of confidential communication between Ministers of the Crown and legal law officers and policy advisers; and in any case I refer you to Section 171, Citation 171 (d) of Beauchesne which covers it as well.

MR. SPEAKER: The point is well taken. The Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: I direct my supplementary question to the Minister of Industry and Commerce, Mr. Speaker. In view of the First Minister's reply, would the Minister of Industry

ORAL QUESTIONS

(MR. G. JOHNSTON cont'd) and Commerce agree that the government has broken their promise about open government?

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, perhaps it's not really in order for me to reply to that but I simply point out again, Sir, that it is a precedent of a hundred years standing under our parliamentary system of government that communication of advice, inclination, attitude, analysis by a law officer of the Crown, or a Chairman of a Crown agency, is something which is not subject to questioning in the House.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Arthur.

MR. J. DOUGLAS WATT (Arthur): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct my question to the Minister of Health and Social Development. I wonder if the Minister could indicate to the House is it his intention to proceed with the decentralization of authority, or administration of hospitals and nursing homes and osteo-type care throughout the Province of Manitoba?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. TOUPIN: Well, Mr. Speaker, following the different meetings and discussions that I've had personally, or officials of my department have had, with different public health unit boards or hospital boards or personal care boards, we've encouraged these different boards to co-ordinate their efforts more in the future pertaining to all levels of care in regards to health and social development.

MR. WATT: A supplementary question. I'd like to ask the Minister, is it not a fact that certain hospital boards have received notice that their termination of authority will come on a set date?

MR. TOUPIN: No, Mr. Speaker, definitely not on my authority or the authority given to the Health Services Commission by myself or for government.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Arthur, last supplementary then.

MR. WATT: Mr. Speaker, is there any other authority then that has sent these letters out, that have gone out to hospital boards?

MR. TOUPIN: No, Mr. Speaker, there is no other authority. As the honourable member is quite aware, when the Health Science Centre itself was formed there was a bill presented to this House and if there is to be any major changes in the structure of hospital boards or any other types of boards in the Province of Manitoba, the authority must come ultimately from government in some cases through this House.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Brandon West.

MR. MCGILL: Mr. Speaker, my question's to the Honourable the Minister of Industry of Commerce. Has he and/or his department, or through his department, lent support and encouragement to the interest shown by a U.S. based garment manufacturer, H. D. Lee Company, in establishing a garment manufacturing plant in Brandon?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Industry and Commerce.

MR. EVANS: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

MR. MCGILL: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the Minister could indicate in more specific terms what kinds of encouragement he has offered to this company in order to locate in this province?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: The matter is under current negotiation; it can only be harmful to disclose any of the considerations.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. TOUPIN: Well, Mr. Speaker, I would only like to add to the answer I gave to the Honourable Member for Arthur that the amalgamation of different boards can be done on a voluntary basis, and that is something we're ready to look at.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Speaker, to the Minister of Health and Social Development. Were there any conclusions or recommendations in the Church of Scientology's report on Manitoba mental institutions which have served as the basis for any determinations on policy made by the Minister in that field?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. TOUPIN: Well, Mr. Speaker, I may be in a better position to answer fully the question posed to me now in regards to the report itself. I could indicate that the School of Scientology, and others across Canada, are recommending a more community-based treatment

ORAL QUESTIONS

(MR. TOUPIN cont'd) method than the treatment given within institutions.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Speaker, can the Minister advise the House whether he is acting on recommendations or conclusions in that report, or what's he doing with that report?

MR. TOUPIN: Well, Mr. Speaker, there's various sources that the government may decide to take action on, and one of them could be certain aspects within that report, certain aspects within other reports that have been prepared by officials of the department by outside bodies, and the future in mental health will be determined by a lot of consideration by officials of the department, by various private agencies and groups of various kinds. It's definitely not only on the wisdom of the given Minister.

MR. SHERMAN: A final supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister advise the House whether he is satisfied that the Church of Scientology has any expertise in the field of mental care?

MR. TOUPIN: Well, Mr. Speaker, there could be members of the Church of Scientology that are qualified but I'm not in a position to give a personal judgment on the official position of the School of Scientology itself. This is the reason why I can't endorse the School of Scientology itself, and officials of my department are not in the position to recommend to me the endorsement of the philosophy and the thoughts within the church and the School of Scientology.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. STEVE PATRICK (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Acting Minister of Education. Is the Minister or his department considering any action to prevent closing of Birchwood School in St. James-Assiniboia past this school term.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Universities and Colleges.

HON. SAUL A. MILLER (Minister of Colleges and Universities) (Seven Oaks): Mr. Speaker, since I don't know where Birchwood School is, I'll have to take the question as notice.

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Speaker, I thank the Minister for taking the question as notice, perhaps he can take a supplementary. Will the Minister perhaps meet with the parents of the children attending that school to see if the school can be kept open?

MR. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I wouldn't want to make any commitment on behalf of the Minister of Education, but I imagine the closing of the school is a school board matter and a decision perhaps by them.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Wolseley, Leader of the Liberal Party.

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the First Minister and it relates to the statement that appears in Guidelines, Volume 1 and 2, that there is intended to discuss the proposals as alternatives for Manitoba's development. Could the First Minister indicate to us what form or what vehicle the Provincial Government intends to use for public discussion of the principles and proposals contained in Guidelines? Will there be a task force, for example, established?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, if my honourable friend allows his mind to reflect on it I think he will agree that there are a number of mechanisms already available for this, some of them rather casual, some really quite formal. I think for example of the forum that is provided by the Regional Development Corporation and their boards of directors; that is one obvious place in which there can be worthwhile discussion of Guidelines' proposals, alternatives, options, etc. Another is the program that was initiated by the Department of Industry and Commerce last year, the Regional Analysis Program, which did involve discussions in forums in some 77 or 70-plus communities in Manitoba. In addition to that of course there are through the Municipal Councils, the regional meetings of the Union of Manitoba Municipalities, the Urban Association, the many different forums that take place in the province on matters having to do with public policy. There is no lack of places in which these discussions can take place.

MR. ASPER: To the First Minister, Mr. Speaker. Does the government intend to indicate to the public during this session which of the proposals contained in Guidelines are recommended as government policy?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: There is no need for that, Mr. Speaker, the discussion should take place in a way that is uninhibited, that all options be considered, all alternatives; there is no point in attempting to lock down given courses of action since that would frustrate the whole point of preinvolvement and prediscussion.

ORAL QUESTIONS

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the First Minister relates to the answers given to the question on the Guidelines. I wonder in view of the fact that, particularly in the second volume of Guidelines, there is a series of contradictions, whether the First Minister will be prepared to table the working papers, the contradictory working papers which were the basis on which the Guidelines report was drafted?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, I don't accept the assumption upon which that question was based, but in any case I would ask my honourable friend whether they were in a practice of tabling all working papers when they were in office. I know some that they deliberately suppressed and I can name them now if they wish.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Emerson.

MR. GABRIEL GIRARD (Emerson): Yes, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to direct a question to the Minister of Labour and ask him if the minimum Wage Board Report is now received by him?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

HON. RUSSELL PAULLEY (Minister of Labour) (Transcona): Mr. Speaker, before I answer the question may I draw to honourable members' attention that today is one of the great days of democratic parliamentary procedure, namely the anniversary of St. George slaying the dragon, April 23rd is St. George's Day and I'm proud to be a descendent of that great democratic . . . I didn't of course mean the dragon, Mr. Speaker, I meant that country.

Now in answer to my honourable friend . . .

A MEMBER: Slay them.

MR. PAULLEY: Oh I'll slay them when we get into the election when it's called. I do want to indicate to my honourable friend, the Member for . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

MR. PAULLEY: The answer to my honourable friend's question, Mr. Speaker, is that I have not received the report of the Minimum Wage Board. I have given an undertaking that as soon as possible I will make the information of the contents of that report available to members of the Assembly.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. HARRY J. ENNS (Lakeside): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I direct a question to the Honourable Minister of Labour. Did the Minister of Labour just indicate that he intended to slay the dragons next fall?

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, I indicated I would slay dragons at any time it's opportune to slay them.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Industry and Commerce.

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, earlier this month the Honourable Member from Rhineland, and also the Honourable Member from Roblin, asked questions on the possibility of increased shipments of grain via Churchill in view of the announcement by the Russians of the purchase of Canadian wheat, and we have been in touch with Wheat Board officials in this matter and I understand that the Russians have agreed to take at least part of the purchase via the Port of Churchill, and in fact a very good portion of the Churchill program in 1973, irrespective of its overall level of activity, will be made up of wheat and barley for Russia.

We don't have any firm figures on the total of 1973 programs for the Port. This obviously will depend upon the volume of grain output from the prairies in this crop season. We did have a chance to talk to the Soviet Union Trade Mission earlier this year on a variety of issues pertaining to Churchill, and in view of the recent sale we intend to follow up this matter with further discussions.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Health and Social Development. I wonder if he can indicate whether any representations were made to him this weekend by a group of guards, or by one or more of guards of Headingley Jail, with respect to the employment of a person who is an ex-inmate of the institution?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Speaker, I personally wasn't requested to meet with a group of correctional officers at Headingley, nor was there such a meeting with the Minister of Labour. I did have my Deputy Minister and other officials of my department meet with the correctional

ORAL QUESTIONS

(MR. TOUPIN cont'd) officers at Headingley and with the residents at the jail at Headingley, and following that meeting certain recommendations were made to me.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, it really is a repeat of the question. I wonder about whether any representation was made to the Minister personally. I accept the answer that he has given but since that meeting was there representation made to him personally by several of the correctional officers or even by one?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister.

MR. TOUPIN: Not officially, Mr. Speaker. The only representation, if we can call it such, was by a correctional officer that phoned me late at night without identifying himself.

MR. SPIVAK: Well I wonder if the Minister can indicate whether the procedures that were outlined by his Deputy will in fact be the procedures to be followed by the department or is there going to be any alteration of that?

MR. TOUPIN: Well, Mr. Speaker, there's always recommendations on part of the officials of the department, and they're always subject to change according to policy arrived at by the government.

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day. The Honourable Member for Emerson.

MR. GIRARD: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to direct a question to the Honourable Minister of Colleges and Universities. I'd like to know if the policy with regards to the summer holidays allocated to the senior civil servants or the teachers at Red River Community College has been changed?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Universities and Colleges.

MR. MILLER: No, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Liberal Party.

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the First Minister. Perhaps if I can simplify what I asked before, I'd like to get an answer to one question on the Guidelines question. Has the First Minister or government decided whether or not to establish a task force to study the Guidelines and make final recommendations to the government or this Assembly?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, that is not the format that we have decided to follow, at least not to this point in time. Guidelines constitute a series of recent arguments and observations relative to alternative courses of action to deal with varying social and economic problems of future development, and the various alternatives that are spelt out really are open for discussion and consideration, and that process, Sir, can be served we feel fairly adequately by the existing forums in the province which I have already named some of them.

MR. ASPER: Would the First Minister care to distinguish or explain the difference that we should place on the Kierans Report which is being studied by a task force and the Guidelines Report which the First Minister says will not have any back-up government study? Could he explain the difference between the two reports?

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, one is broad spectrum, one is very specific. One does have a multiplicity of forums for discussion existing under the aegis of the municipalities, the urban municipalities, the rural municipalities, the regional development corporations, etc. The other is not broad spectrum. It has to do with a specific area of economic and resource development. The forums which exist there are in certain respects inadequate to the task, hence a task force.

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day. The Honourable Member for Arthur.

MR. WATT: Mr. Speaker, I direct a question to the Honourable Minister of Agriculture. I wonder if the Minister can tell the House if he is in agreement with the statement made via the news media, that is the radio this morning, from the Minister of Agriculture in Saskatchewan when he said that the joint hog marketing commission, Manitoba and Saskatchewan, would have no authority over price fixing or production control of hogs?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

HON. SAMUEL USKIW (Minister of Agriculture) (Lac du Bonnet): Mr. Speaker, the honourable friend should be aware that I don't have to agree or disagree with a statement made by someone else.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry. The Honourable Member for Arthur.

ORAL QUESTIONS

MR. WATT: Could I then ask the Minister if there was any communication between he and the Minister of Agriculture in Saskatchewan before the Minister of Agriculture made the statement that was reported over radio at noon today?

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, there's never been a time when we have not been in communication. We are on speaking terms with the Province of Saskatchewan.

MR. WATT: Mr. Speaker, I asked the Minister if there was any discussion regarding the production and marketing of hogs prior to the statement that came over the radio at noon today.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, I normally have more to do than to listen to the radio or watch the newspapers every hour of the day, so I'm not aware of the article or commentary that the Member for Arthur refers to. I have no idea what the comment is all about.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Speaker, to the Minister of Health and Social Development. I wonder if he can advise the House why 100 copies of the Scientology report were ordered by his department rather than a much lesser number?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health and Social Development.

MR. TOUPIN: Well, Mr. Speaker, apart from a few of the civil servants that were questioned by the individuals of the School of Scientology, there was probably a few others within private agencies that were questioned and desired a copy of the report. That's the only sensible answer I can give.

MR. SHERMAN: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Are the copies, or is the report being distributed for use in mental care institutions?

MR. TOUPIN: Not by the Department of Health and Social Development, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SHERMAN: A final supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Has any professional opinion been sought on the validity of the report outside the department itself?

MR. TOUPIN: Not by myself, Mr. Speaker. I've relied on the professional opinions of those within my department that have long years of experience in the treatment of mentally ill individuals.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Souris-Killarney.

MR. EARL McKELLAR (Souris-Killarney): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the Minister of Health and Social Development and it relates to the question I asked some time ago. When can we expect the Clarkson Commission report on mental health to be tabled?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister.

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Speaker, the given report is at the printers now so hopefully we should have it within - I don't know - a week I guess, or days.

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day.

ORDERS OF THE DAY - ADDRESS FOR PAPERS

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

MR. HARRY E. GRAHAM (Birtle-Russell): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Roblin,

THAT an humble address be voted to his Honour the Lieutenant-Governor praying for copies of all correspondence between the Rural Municipality of Ellice, the Rural Municipality of Archie, the Government of Manitoba, its boards, agencies, commissions and the Government of Canada, its boards, agencies and commissions, related to the operations and ownership of the community pastures located in the Rural Municipalities of Ellice and Archie.

MOTION presented.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, I have no problem in accepting that Order for Papers with one caveat and that is, we will have to get the permission of the Government of Canada wherein information relates to that authority. -- (Interjection) -- We don't know if we'll get it.

MR. SPEAKER: Agreed on those terms? So ordered. The Honourable . . .

MR. GREEN: Just on a point of order so that there's absolutely no misunderstanding. We would have no authority over correspondence between the Rural Municipality of Archer and the Government of Canada. We are only talking about being able to fulfill those things over which we have jurisdiction with the consent of the Government of Canada.

MR. SPEAKER: Agreed? So ordered. The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Attorney-General

ADDRESS FOR PAPERS

(MR. SCHREYER cont'd) that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee to consider of the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

MOTION presented and carried and the House resolved itself into a Committee of Supply with the Honourable Member for Logan in the Chair.

SUPPLY - ATTORNEY-GENERAL

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 20 -- passed -- oh pardon me. Resolution 23 . . .

HON. A. H. MACKLING, Q.C. (Attorney-General) (St. James): Mr. Chairman, it was Resolution No. 23. Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to -- (Interjection) -- I just wanted to answer a question. I regret the fact that the Honourable Member from Thompson isn't here but he was concerned about law enforcement as it affects a number of departures from a federal institution of corrections, and I wanted to indicate to him that the information that I have obtained in the case that there have been 16 escapes from Stony Mountain Institution from April 1st, 1972 to March 31st, 1973. Only four escapes were over the wall. The other 12 escapees merely walked away from a minimum security farm annex. I'm also advised that 12 inmates escaped from guards while on escort, that is three who ran away from guards at a restaurant after a basketball game - it wasn't a Jet hockey game. I don't know whether it was a pro basketball game or not for those who are interested, and one escaped from a mental institution, and two others were located inside the walls of the institution while attempting to escape. I think that answered the concerns of the honourable member on that point.

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

MR. GRAHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to - dealing with law enforcement I just want to ask the Attorney-General one question, a question that arises out of debate that has taken place in the House of Commons in the past week dealing with law enforcement and cattle rustling and I was wondering if the Minister, as the Minister charged with the responsibility of law enforcement, has made any representation to the federal authority, or recommendations to the federal authority, dealing with the specific problem of cattle rustling.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: Just while the Minister is pondering that question, on the same area of interest, and perhaps with the help of his staff that's available to him there, could the Minister, or is it at all possible to ask of the Attorney-General just how many persons have been charged with that particular crime in Manitoba say during the course of the past year, or indeed if there are - and as well as the number of convictions. I wouldn't ask the question but I thought perhaps it would be of interest in view of the amount of discussion that has taken place on the Attorney-General's Estimates having to do with that particular crime .

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, while I'm looking to see whether or not -- I did have I think some information about the number of persons who had been involved in offences of rustling, and I don't know whether I can just put my hands on that or not, I did have some information. It wasn't all that conclusive as I recall, however I do want to indicate to -- no I don't seem to have anything on that. Perhaps if -- there's something here, let's see. Yah. This gives some indication of the scope of the problem. The RCMP advise that they have only in the last three years maintained or compiled statistics. In 1970 there was 146 head of cattle reported missing or stolen; in 1971, 178; and in 1972, 430. So a major escalation over the two previous years. The advice that I have is that there are approximately 1.2 million head in the Province of Manitoba. In 1972 the cattle that were reported missing or stolen, represented 70 steers, 187 cows and heifers and 173 calves.

A MEMBER: How many cars were stolen?

MR. MACKLING: The number of arrests and convictions are not significant. The RCMP have not maintained a record of convictions but they estimate that there have been fewer than ten convictions as a result of investigations in the last three years. That underlines the difficulty in obtaining evidence and convicting.

I think that's the essence of the information that's here which indicates as -- confirms the viewpoints that I have heard here and elsewhere by way of letter and concern expressed to me that it's an increasing problem and therefore deserves more attention, and as I've indicated, we have had meetings from time to time with the RCMP and discussed various areas of policing activity and our concerns, and we will be meeting again with the RCMP and I have some particular

SUPPLY - ATTORNEY-GENERAL

(MR. MACKLING cont'd) ideas about investigative technique or priorities that I will convey to them, and I've already made arrangements for that kind of instruction.

In answer to the Honourable Member from Birtle-Russell I can't say that we've had any dialogue with the Federal Government about the scope of the problem but providing all of my estimates are through I expect to be in Ottawa at the invitation of the Minister of Justice, and I hope also that we'll have an opportunity to dialogue with other Attorneys-General from other areas in Canada and I will certainly seek out some indication of their appreciation for the scope of the problem, and what ideas that they have, and certainly it may well be an opportune time for some informal, if not formal, discussion with the Federal authorities on the subject.

MR. GRAHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The figures that the Minister has given I think are impressive and significant in the very fact that until we raised the question in the House two years ago and again last year, and bringing the fact to the attention of the public, that the number of reported cases stayed very low, but when we did make an issue of it last year and brought it to the attention of the public we see the results in the number of cases of rustling that are reported. This does not mean that all the cases of rustling that occur in the province are reported. It is significant that there is concern at the federal level. Two years ago I raised the question with the Minister of Agriculture; last year I asked the Attorney-General, and the result so far has been rather disappointing, Mr. Chairman. In fact the Minister indicates that even though last year he told us it was a federal matter and it was not a matter for the Legislature of Manitoba, he has now indicated that he has not really corresponded with the Federal Government at all and has so far had no dialogue with the Federal Government dealing with a subject matter that is of vital concern to the agricultural people in Manitoba. And I think that it is a very sorry state of affairs when the Minister last year was specifically requested by a resolution, a resolution that his government accepted, and still he has had no dialogue with the Federal Government and the responsibility is a federal matter.

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Speaker, I intend to respond to that. I think, you know, we have lots of time with my Estimates, and if the honourable member wants to attempt to chastise me by, you know - I'd like him to carry on as long as he wishes, but I would like to indicate to him that it is a federal law that we work with, the Federal law provides for a ten year sentence, a ten year sentence for someone who is convicted. The problem is getting evidence on which to convict persons. We need the co-operation of all people, including all farmers in the province, and I think if all the cattlemen in the province would agree to a uniform brand inspection system, which would cost the individual cattleman some money but would provide an effective inspection system, then the police would have a better tool of evidence to work with in trying to secure convictions. But if the cattlemen of the province say that the province, that is other taxpayers, must foot the bill for brand inspection, let them say so, and if the honourable member wants to argue that way I want to hear from him. But to chastise the Attorney-General's Department for not being able to convict or to cope with this problem, or not drawing to the attention of Ottawa the gravity of the problem, as I've indicated the Criminal Code does provide for very substantial offences and makes particular provisions in respect to interference with cattle. As a matter of fact as I pointed out, and I can refer the honourable member to the sections again -- (Interjection) -- Oh, I've got a little red book under my desk here - well it's a little blue book. But you know, as I pointed out, Mr. Chairman, people no matter in what society they live in don't like, you know, reverse onuses. That is that you have to prove yourself innocent, you're assumed guilty before you -- simply because of a state of facts you're found to be in. But that is a fact in connection with the Criminal Code in respect to certain items in respect to cattle, and there are protections here. Admittedly, you know, we could go a lot further but if the cattlemen of this province would be prepared to foot the expense for adequate inspection systems it would make the work of this department, the administration of justice, a lot easier. And, you know, I just don't accept, you know, the rather negative criticism that I continually get from the Member from Birtle-Russell even though he may sometimes say it with a smile.

MR. GRAHAM: Mr. Chairman, let the record be straightened. First of all members of this side have brought forward proposals dealing with cattle rustling on two occasions. We have also brought forward resolutions asking for a check-off in the red meats industry. -- (Interjection) -- You want a check-off; you want money to carry out a branding system, there is the vehicle. Let the record be straight, Mr. Chairman, at the present time, or last week, they were dealing with a specific problem of rustling in the Federal House and the

SUPPLY - ATTORNEY-GENERAL

(MR. GRAHAM cont'd) Minister has indicated that Manitoba was not represented; they did not make their views known when the Federal Government in Committee was dealing with the very subject of rustling and proposals for legislation to rectify the problem that exists. And we in Manitoba through our Provincial Government weren't even represented there.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Chairman, what concerns me is the Attorney-General keeps reading that passage of the Criminal Code which indicates rather severe fines that are possible for thefts amounting to over \$50.00 but the fact of the matter is that in the last three years there has been fewer than ten convictions, and I won't ask him now but I'll ask him privately at some time, I think if any examination of those convictions would indicate that the fines or the penalties levied were far, were far from the nature, you know, of the ones that he just described as being possible. In other words, what is in the judgment of most cattlemen a very lenient and overly lenient attitude on the part of the law enforcing agencies with this respect.

Another matter, Mr. Chairman, I just leave it with the Honourable Minister while he's discussing with his law enforcement officers ways of improving the situation. I know, Mr. Chairman, that the RCMP as well as other law enforcement officers are very imaginative from time to time in how to apprehend you know the criminals involved. They do go into undercover work from time to time whether it's in the area of trying to find dope smugglers, and so forth, and I might suggest to him, Mr. Chairman, that he considers starting or advising the RCMP to set up some undercover cowboys. I think if we had them roaming the community pastures in the cover of the cowboy wrangling outfit why he just might help improve on the record of convictions, so I toss it out to him as a further suggestion that he may take up with his law enforcement officers. I would inform him that in most instances the local ranchers or farmers would have time to see that these undercover cowboys would be well received in the community, would indeed be welcome to a cup of coffee at the various ranches throughout Manitoba at any time they chose to tie up their hoss, you know, on the front guard rail.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, the thought of undercover agents has not escaped my fertile imagination and I would, you know, I just hope that, you know, the fate of these undercover agents, if we were to employ them, would not be similar to the situation of the young man from the city who went out to the country and he didn't have much to do, he wanted to go out and shoot crows. And he wasn't having much success shooting crows and he said to this young farmer, he said, "You know I can't get near those crows, they fly away every time I try to sneak up on them." So the fellow said, "Well you come out with me," the young farmer said, "You come out with me in the back pasture tomorrow morning, we'll shoot lots of crows." So they went out in the barn and they got a cowhide and he says, "What are you taking that thing off," and he said, "Well you'll see." So they went out in the back pasture and sure enough they spread this cowhide over them and they were having a whale of a time shooting all the crows you know imaginable. And the young farmer turned to the young city slicker who's in the hind end of the hide and says, "Say are you good at running?" He says, "Well, no, I don't know." He says, "Well you better find out quick, here comes the bull." Now I just hope that if any undercover agents are under cover working in the country they don't face that sort of reception. But certainly the thought has crossed my mind and I want to again assure honourable members that when the Federal Parliament deals with the question and they have committee meetings, they don't invite the Attorneys-General of the provinces to appear before the committees or send representation, or even invite them to write to the committee making representation. We act, or they act in a parliamentary system where they have MPs from various constituencies in Manitoba who surely express the same concerns of farmers in the countryside, and I would expect that there would be MPs throughout Manitoba who'd be interested in making submissions to any committee of the Federal House dealing with this question, and if they didn't then that's not incumbent upon this government; but we have indicated our concerns from time to time both to the police and both to the chief judge of the province; and also, as I've indicated, there have been concerns about establishing a much more thoroughgoing inspection system. And there is a continuing concern in this area and I think that summarizes the point.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (Resolution 23 and 24 were read and passed)

That completes the Attorney-General's Department.

SUPPLY - CONSUMER, CORPORATE AND INTERNAL SERVICES

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would refer the honourable members to page 13 Consumer, Corporate and Internal Services. Resolution 35(a) the Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, a high level of activity was maintained in all branches of this varied department and while new programs are being introduced in the communication field, this is being accomplished with relatively minor requests for additional staff. An overall review of the department shows an increase in the total amount for the department for the next fiscal year from \$1,763,300 to \$1,945,100, or a net increase of \$181,800.00.

As you are no doubt aware a Communications and Information Services Division has been established under an associate Deputy Minister. This new division within the Department has been assigned the responsibility for co-ordinating the government's communications functions to achieve a maximum degree of efficiency in cost saving and for developing policies in the important new field of telecommunications. Thus the Queen's Printer and Information Services Branch are part of this new division and through them responsibility for the citizens' inquiry service and the co-ordination of government advertising.

The major initiatives undertaken by the new communications division however are in the area of telecommunications policy research and development. In recent years there has been a growing interest in the telecommunications field on the part of all provincial governments as new technologies brought new issues to the fore. In a number of these fields jurisdiction lies with the Federal Government, and in a number of other fields the precise jurisdictional arrangements are not yet clear. But in all of these telecommunications areas there is a need for the Provincial Government to develop properly researched policies to enable it to exercise those responsibilities which are under provincial jurisdiction and to enable it to represent the people of this province more fully in areas of Federal jurisdiction.

Since the Communications Division was formed we have instructed it to give top priority to the extension of more broadcast services throughout Manitoba. In pursuit of this goal the Provincial Government has now intervened before the Canadian Radio Television Commission on three occasions. Personnel of the Communications Division have also worked closely with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, private broadcasters, and the Manitoba Telephone System, to help to determine the most economical ways of extending more television service to rural and remote areas. At least in part because of these efforts, it appears that the Dauphin-Swan River area of Manitoba will finally begin receiving second channel service in the fall of this year, and as many as 10 or 12 communities in northern Manitoba will begin receiving live television for the first time in the next 12 months. Other areas of policy that the new division is studying include interconnection of terminal devices to the public switched telephone network, computer communications, microwave and satellite transmission and computer assisted support services for small businesses in rural Manitoba.

A great part of this research is intended to be published in the summer of this year in the form of a provincial position paper on telecommunications. This will not be a White Paper but rather a document which sets out Manitoba's telecommunications assets and requirements and provides the basic source material on which future policies can be formed. The Communications Division has also undertaken some special responsibilities in terms of studying future uses of computers since the ability to communicate with computers from rural terminals will likely play an increasing role in the organization of data processing in the future.

Honourable members will note in Item (1) (b) of the estimates for this department that only a small amount has been set aside for salaries with a larger amount listed as Other Expenditures. Honourable Members will also note in Item (1) (c) immediately below it that there has been a decrease in the salaries for Administrative Services. These figures indicate that four permanent positions previously listed under Administrative Services are now part of the Communications Division, and these four positions account for roughly half of the amount indicated for salaries. The other half is accounted for by our intention to create four new positions in the Communication Division. These four new positions will consist of a senior co-ordinator in the communications field and a senior researcher in the telecommunications field, plus two clerical support personnel. This represents a very small permanent complement of personnel in this field, and this can be so for two reasons: First because we believe that it is better to hire qualified consultants or researchers on a contract basis, as and when required for specific projects, rather than building up a large permanent staff. The telecommunications position paper I referred to earlier has been approached in this manner.

SUPPLY - CONSUMER, CORPORATE AND INTERNAL SERVICES

(MR. MACKLING cont'd)

The second reason our staff can be small is the extremely fortunate fact that our Telephone System is under Crown ownership, thus the engineering and technical resources of our Communications Division can be supplied by the Manitoba Telephone System without unnecessary duplication of staff and effort.

The workload of the Consumers Bureau has continued to increase in the landlord and tenant field as well as in the Consumers' area. This is gratifying to those on this side of the House as it reflects the need for such a service and corrects many of the imbalances in consumer and landlord-tenant transactions.

I am advised that telephone calls to the Bureau have increased by 66 percent to 77,444 in 1972. Office interviews have increased by 56 percent to 4,863; and the number of complaints filed and processed increased by 40 percent to 3,448 over the previous year.

Pyramid selling techniques have been brought under control in the broadening of the information and educational program to involve schools, and adult educational groups is making many more people, both young and old, aware of the pitfalls of the marketplace.

The regulatory activities of the Manitoba Securities Commission have continued at a very high level this past year, a direct reflection of the relatively buoyant state of the securities market.

Without going into too much detail I would simply mention that approximately 230 prospectuses of prospecti - I don't know which it is - were processed and approved in the calendar year 1972, together with 72 prospectus amendments. In addition, there were 20 rights offerings cleared.

The following registrations were issued or renewed: security issuers, 18; investment counsel, 1; broker registrations, 45, with 81 amendments; mineral interest brokers, 10; mineral interest salesmen, 12; security salesmen registrations, 425.

On the Public Utilities Board side, honourable members will recall that basically the same staff discharges both roles. The volume business transacted has not lessened. The Public Utilities Board held 48 regular meetings in 1972, as well as a number of special meetings. In addition to these they conducted a number of formal hearings in various areas under its jurisdiction, the largest being the rate base and the rate of return hearings held in Portage la Prairie on the application of the Inter-City Gas Utilities Limited. Full particulars of that hearing, and a number of other hearings conducted by the board, are set out in the board's annual report -- and as honourable members will recall that was tabled in the House earlier. I shall conclude my remarks on this subject in the Public Utility Board's activities by pointing out that the board issued a total of 132 orders in 1972, 111 of which related directly to the various public utilities under its jurisdiction.

The Public Information Services Branch continues to perform its role of keeping the public informed of government programs and policies. The Citizens' Inquiry Service commenced operation last September and is handling an ever-increasing number of inquiries.

The Purchasing Bureau continues to operate as a central purchasing agency of government with the issue of 130,000 bid invitations and 25,000 -- pardon me, 23,000 purchase orders representing \$30.8 million in 1972.

With respect to the Queen's Printer, this branch has gone through a difficult two-year period of reorganization of premises but is now settled in its new quarters -- that's in the Provincial Archives Building -- and considerable improvement in service and productivity is now apparent.

Within the Queen's Printer operations an advertising audit and media co-ordination centre is being established and will involve four new staff members; three of these will be concerned with efficient co-ordination of government advertising expenditures, while the fourth position will be that of a film co-ordinator responsible for co-ordinating the government's film needs.

The Advertising Audit Office will function as a media buying service for government departments and Crown corporations. This does not mean it will take over the function presently served by the advertising agencies. The advertising agencies will continue to be used on a fee for service basis to do creative work, research, production and media planning. Only the media buying will be done by the Advertising Audit Office because the media buying function coincides naturally with the checking and certifying function already required of the Queen's

SUPPLY - CONSUMER, CORPORATE AND INTERNAL SERVICES

(MR. MACKLING cont'd) Printer under the terms of the Public Printing Act.

Individual departments and Crown corporations will still have the full responsibility for the content of their own advertisements, but they will now be placed in the media in a co-ordinated fashion.

The Advertising Audit Office will allow government departments and Crown corporations to be considered together as one large account by the media for the purpose of determining the best possible volume and frequency discounts, the same kind of discounts that are available to large multi-product private corporations.

The Advertising Audit Office will also be in a position to request the same 15 percent discount from the media as is presently earned by private media buying services and advertising agencies. Most Manitoba media have already agreed to grant this 15 percent discount to the Advertising Audit Office, including most private radio and television stations in the province, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation for both local and network programming, the Manitoba Community Newspaper Association representing almost all of the weekly newspapers in the province, and a number of other media both inside and outside Manitoba. We expect discussions to get under way soon with the province's daily newspapers about similar arrangements.

Finally, the Advertising Audit Office will allow better internal control over advertising expenditures. The internal procedures that are being developed in order to determine advertising needs a year at a time will have the further effect of bringing about more accurate planning and less duplication. On the basis of studies dating back to 1968, we have estimated that the Advertising Audit Office will result in a saving of between 150,000 to 200,000 dollars of the approximately 1.5 to 2 million spent in mass media advertising by government departments and Crown corporations.

This saving has three main components: first, the greatest part of the saving comes from the improved internal control over expenditures and the elimination of unnecessary and duplicated advertisements; second, the next largest part of the saving come from receiving the full discounts from the media to which any client of similar size would be entitled; and third, the smallest part of the saving comes from the fact that the amount of fees paid to advertising agencies will probably average out slightly less than their present earnings from commissions.

I would stress that the Provincial Government has no intention of setting up a House Agency or full advertising agency, within the Queen's Printer operation. Indeed we feel that the system of doing media buying internally while leaving the creative planning in the hands of advertising agencies has much to recommend it both to corporations and advertising agencies who are looking for an alternative to the House agency approach. In the future the advertising agencies will be treated like creative professionals and paid on a fee-for-service basis rather than on the present commission service -- system, I should say. Many advertising executives have commended the government for this approach since they agree that it is time to treat ad agencies on a professional basis rather than as mere brokers.

The new Advertising Audit system may be illustrated graphically and two charts have been prepared for this purpose, which I will distribute to the honourable members.

The first chart illustrates the functions performed by advertising agencies in government under both the old and new system and the methods of payment. Honourable members will note from the chart that only one function changes in the new system, leaving the great bulk of advertising work for government in the hands of the many private advertising agencies in Manitoba.

The second chart is a work flow chart showing the number of steps required under the old system and the number required under the new system. Under the old system there were eight definable steps in the process, two for ordering and six for checking, certifying and paying. Under the new system one step is added as a control in the ordering process, and because of that addition four steps can be eliminated from the checking, certifying and paying process for a net reduction of three steps.

Aside from the better internal control over spending and the obvious gains in efficiency, the new system will also result in much faster payment of the government's advertising bills.

The fourth staff member of the Advertising Audit and Media Co-ordination Centre will be a film co-ordinator. The film co-ordinator's job will be twofold: first to arrange for the tendering of government film needs in the most efficient and economical manner; and second,

SUPPLY - CONSUMER, CORPORATE AND INTERNAL SERVICES

(MR. MACKLING cont'd) to work closely with the Manitoba Film Makers so that the audio-visual industry in this province can grow to its full potential.

My final remarks will be very short and deal with the Office Equipment Branch, which is shown this year as a separate branch of the department. This branch previously operated as a division of the Queen's Printer open ledger, but with the takeover of other office machines such as calculators, dictators and copying equipment, it became necessary to operate this branch independently. Staff and funds are merely removed from the Queen's Printer and shown as a separate appropriation and no increase in staff of this branch is contemplated in these estimates.

Mr. Chairman, I'm sure there'll be further questions that honourable members will want to put to me in connection with the innovations in this department which I have referred to. There were some questions that were asked earlier -- I don't see the Honourable Leader of the Liberal Party here, because he did ask me some questions about television broadcasting in the north and I'm sure that now would be the appropriate time for me to answer. Perhaps if he doesn't arrive later on, I will put the answers on the record in any event, but I think I will cease my opening remarks on that note.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Swan River.

MR. JAMES H. BILTON (Swan River): Mr. Chairman, I haven't got very much to add other than to compliment the Minister for many of the things he has had to say. I'm particularly gratified with what he had to say to do with the extension of TV into my particular area anyway.

But there's one thing I would like to bring to his attention and that is north of Swan River, that is north of Mafeking again is a sort of a fringe area where they're neither getting one thing or the other at the moment, and I wondered if he could give an opinion or find out for me as to whether or not these people -- Westgate and Barrows, and so on, will get a far better reception than they have been getting in the past, that is, as of September can they look forward to coverage in that respect? I have representation from them and if the Minister could give us that assurance, I know they'll be quite happy with it.

I was quite interested in what he had to say about the newspaper advertising, and of course one could say I would have a particular interest, but I want it thoroughly understood that I'm speaking for the industry rather than myself, but it is a departure from what the Minister has suggested today, the departure from the system that has been in operation for so many years. On previous occasions I have indicated that the commission that has been paid to advertising agencies as such has been developed over the years by the fact that advertising agencies are in the field of collecting advertising from all manners and sources of industry and as a consequence this commission was paid, and it gave the industry, the weekly newspapers particularly, the advantage of the agencies' headquarters in Montreal, Toronto, Vancouver, and elsewhere, where industries had their head offices and could be approached and the business done. And as I said before, and I say again, that it's a closed shop as far as the government is concerned and I'm at a loss to understand why they want that rebate.

I would be interested in any opinion that Minister would like to give on the representations made to this program by the weekly newspapers of Manitoba. And another comment I would like to make is that - does the distribution of this advertising, will it come about by the fact that a union shop as opposed to a non-union shop - would they be getting preference by this method or will it be on a provincial-wide basis, depending on the location of the newspaper itself -- and I must say to the Minister in this particular regard that I would hope there would be no discrimination in this particular direction because of the fact of information being given out by the government in purchased advertising, should be equal to all readers regardless of the area.

I may have a little more to say as we go through the Estimates but at the moment if the Minister could give me clarification on those points I brought forward I would appreciate it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Chairman, I too only have a few points to offer to the Minister. I wish to thank him first for introducing his department and for giving some information on it. I know that we all agree that in the area of consumer protection nowhere is it more evident than amongst the poor. It seems to me that the exploitation of these people by, say, unscrupulous sellers, sometimes the ones that suffer most are the people that are poor and don't know what consumer legislation exists. I know that experience also proves that perhaps ethical business people are perhaps behind the establishment of consumer protection legislation and behind good law, because they are the first ones to perhaps be injured when one suffers from widespread

SUPPLY - CONSUMER, CORPORATE AND INTERNAL SERVICES

(MR. PATRICK cont'd) dishonesty by certain sales or certain promoters. So I would like to make a suggestion to the Minister, and I feel that in one area in the Consumers' Bureau area, which I feel that has been doing a fairly good job in regards to such things as speakers and visual aids and pamphlets, phone calls, films, and you know this has all been done. But I would like to suggest that the government consider working out ways to supply information about buying habits to low income groups and if necessary to supply information on such things as nutritional food to at least low income groups. I think that consumer groups in the province could be supplied with perhaps some funds to assist in this area.

The other point, Mr. Chairman, I believe that consumer courses in school should be opened to boys as well as girls and become a good part of the home economics course, not just a matter of a small part of their home economics course but I think this should be quite extensive. And perhaps the Minister can give some consideration to a special course on problems in legislation regarding consumer problems offered to teachers at the university level and perhaps at the community colleges. If we do this I think that perhaps it will cost us much less to give the type of information to the people and to the consumers that should be given.

The other point, there may be some necessity, Mr. Chairman, to perhaps speed up the existing program, make it more comprehensive for the people in the province. I know that the Minister will say well we have such things as TV programs and we've offered more information than we've ever before but I think that the present programs while they're good they perhaps can be improved and in that extent.

I had not heard from the Minister to see or hear if he has done anything in the way of registration of liens which I have requested of him on every occasion that I had an opportunity to speak in respect to consumer legislation; I know I did it the first time that the legislation was brought in or considered by the former government. I said that's one area that we should really apply ourselves and again I feel that there's too many people that are getting hurt financially because this is not done. I know it is done in at least a couple of other provinces I'm told; I know it's done in Ontario and it's done in B. C. and perhaps it's done in some other provinces as well. So I would like to hear from the Minister what he has in mind in this area because I think that conditional sales and lien notes should be registered and then he could say to us that he has a pretty comprehensive type of consumer protection legislation in this province.

These are the points that I wish to raise to him at the present time and when we get item by item I may have something else to raise, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 35 -- the Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to respond. I'll deal with them in reverse order.

In respect to the remarks of the Honourable Member from Assiniboia, I'm not sure now whether I've read the motion for first reading on The Personal Property Securities Act or not. I believe I did, and in my -- as a matter of fact I think in my introductory remarks to two other bills identified as companion pieces of legislation, I really departed to some extent from the essence of the two bills but indicated that they were necessary because of the legislation which was being brought forward in respect to personal property security registration. I also undertook - and this is on the record - that when this bill is received from the printers and is checked, that I will endeavour to supply members with explanatory notes of the main sections of the bill to facilitate their more ready review of the bill, and furthermore, that if it's possible, I will have legal counsel available, say, in the members' lounge or in one of the rooms, Room 254, to go through the salient sections of the bill to answer questions and so on, because it is rather a formidable looking bill in size although the essential matters are not all that difficult. But nevertheless I think that would facilitate the answering of questions. So that my honourable friend is anticipating again because I did indicate clearly that that legislation was coming forward. It's been long desired and hopefully we will have it soon. However, I want to just caution that the passage of the legislation won't provide the vehicle overnight. It will take some time to set up all the administrative apparatus and it's certainly my hope that in the new building at 405 Broadway there will be comprehensive facilities for the registration of both real property interests and personal property interests - that is, you know, lien notes, chattel mortgages, bills of sale, the whole business.

He indicated, or he wondered whether or not we were concerned with the expansion of consumer education through perhaps courses at the community college level for teachers, or

SUPPLY - CONSUMER, CORPORATE AND INTERNAL SERVICES

(MR. MACKLING cont'd) not courses might be included in respect to consumer matters in the home economics courses. That's something that I'm sure if my colleague the Minister of Colleges and Universities were here he would indicate that in this review that the Task Force on Secondary Education no doubt will be reviewing the kind of programming and course material that's available, to see whether or not it's relevant, you know, to our society and to make specific recommendations. Now I don't know the priorities that they will establish in respect to course content and courses themselves, but certainly I would think that they are aware of the interest in consumerism that is prevalent today in North America, and Manitoba is one of the leaders in legislation in the field.

In respect to advice to low income groups in respect to buying, I think that there is a fair amount of this type of program, there may not be enough. I think that there are probably disparate experts advising from time to time as to what is a better buy on the market in respect to particular types of foods, and I don't know whether that would more properly be a program that could be conducted by the Department of Agriculture in some aspects, in others by other agencies. Certainly, it's something that I think we all have an interest in and I've made a note of it, and I expect that some of my staff who are in the Goods will have heard that idea and will certainly bear it in mind.

The Honourable Member from Swan River was concerned about the effect of the advertising audit and media branch in respect to the allocation of work as against union and non-union shops. That should have no effect whatsoever. The present arrangements, the present criteria, is that any contract of printing with a value of \$200.00 or more is put out to public tender, and it matters not whether it is a union or non-union shop; well -- I'll get to the advertising-- the needs of departments for printing therefore established in that way. So far as advertising is concerned, the advertising will be, the make-up, the art work and so on will be done by advertising agencies, and what we did since we came to office is looked at the kind of advertising that was being done by government, found, much to our dismay, that it was in the hands of one or two advertising agencies, and set about to diversify the advertising work amongst not one or two but half a dozen agencies, and so it is that we now have more creative diversity in advertising agency work. Now that's not to say that, you know, at all times we're satisfied with the kind of advertising creativity one gets. Sometimes the program isn't as good as what we thought it would be and we might want to consider changing an agency. But it's not based, it's not based on whether they're union or non-union but on what kind of tender they make. They come forward with proposals in respect to what they would charge, an individual agency would charge as their commission for all of the creative make-up of an advertising program, and that is continuing on the same basis with the exception that, as I say, there is more, there is more scope to the advertising creativity because we have broadened the base on which contracts were awarded so that there are far more companies now participating and competing in connection with government and government agency advertising.

Now in respect to the media-buying arrangements, the Weekly Newspapers Association have agreed to this arrangement. In practical effect it means no loss of revenue at all to the weekly newspapers. It doesn't change their position at all from a financial point of view. But what it does mean is that the government gets the art work for an advertisement created by an advertising agency staff, pays a price for that art work and then turns it over to the weekly newspapers and we get paid the normal price that would otherwise have been paid to the agency, which is 85 percent. This is a net saving of 15 percent which ordinarily the agency got. Now the agency is working as a professional. They are doing their creative art work and we are paying them on the basis of their art work, not as advertising brokers, and I think that the principle of that technique, which I referred to in my remarks, has been accepted by now an overwhelming number of advertisers, and I think there's a very positive benefit to this because it makes of the advertising agencies professionals in their field; they're not just brokering advertising, and I think it's a very healthy improvement in our co-ordination of advertising.

In respect to the television viewing in the northern areas, as I indicated second channel viewing we hope will become available this fall. Now I'm not aware of the quality of present viewing in Swan River. It's as I understand it, CBC television programming through Yorkton and that hopefully will be changed by co-operation with CBC in developing other channels,

SUPPLY- CONSUMER, CORPORATE AND INTERNAL SERVICES

(MR. MACKLING cont'd) other microwaves. Now let me just see if I can refresh my memory from the details I have here. The CBC microwave will be sent -- will be sent north, hopefully, to provide a signal to Leaf Rapids, Nelson House, Norway House, Cross Lake and Lynn Lake. Now I am sure that with this improvement in northern service there should be an improvement in the signal that's received in the Swan Lake area, but I'm not absolutely certain of that, I would have to check.

I think I could perhaps elaborate under an individual item and I wouldn't want to take the time of the whole House to detail all of this. I could indicate the expansion we expect in first channel service to various communities, and perhaps for the record I better set it out because I think there are honourable members here who are interested in what the expectations are in the north and the mid-north, and I can say this that the following communities will receive television for the first time in 1973. The CRTC approval which has been granted to the CBC to extend their English language network to Leaf Rapids, Nelson House, Norway House, South Indian Lake and Cross Lake, and service to these communities will begin in the fall of this year; and I assume that that will provide a strengthened signal to the near north, including areas such as Swan River.

The following communities had only a video tape CBC service for some time and are being switched to live television this year; Lynn Lake, and this will be in the fall via microwave, and Churchill, which is in service already via Anuk I, the satellite. Service to all of the communities named except Churchill, which is served from this satellite, is made possible by the extension of the Manitoba Telephone System microwave facilities in northern Manitoba. Because it is possible to build in microwave capacity to carry television at the same time as microwave is being constructed for other purposes, the Manitoba Telephone System can offer extremely favorable rates to broadcasters for carrying their signals from point of origination to distant transmitters; specifically the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation will use the Manitoba Telephone System microwave to carry their Winnipeg signal to Leaf Rapids, Nelson House, Norway House, Cross Lake and Lynn Lake. South Indian Lake is close enough to Leaf Rapids to allow the building of a transmitter at South Indian Lake which will pick up and re-amplify the signal from the Leaf Rapids' transmitter without requiring a microwave connection.

In the following communities the Manitoba Telephone System is assisting local groups to apply to the CRTC for community licenses to pick up and rebroadcast CBC service. The communities have populations under 500; the CBC's present expansion plans only commit them to serving communities over 500. So the province and the Manitoba Telephone System are assisting smaller communities where it is practical to do so; and this underlines again the commitment that we gave to communities in the north despite the fact that they may be under 500 in population to try and give them a quality of life by way of communications and information from communication services that are otherwise available free to all other people, the kind of facility which we all enjoy.

Depending on the Canadian Radio and Television Commission's approval service is likely before the end of 1973 in Pikwitonei, Thicket Portage, Sherridon and Cormorant. The Provincial Government, the Manitoba Telephone System and the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, have been holding continuing discussions on the extension of first channel service to the following communities: Split Lake, Ilford, Moose Lake and Easterville, and service dates for these latter four communities are not yet definite but we're hopeful that they can be on the air with live network programming within the next 12 to 18 months.

I'm getting some friendly advice from my colleague from Radisson which I cannot read.

I think now that I'm dealing with television broadcasting I better deal with it in its entirety. The Honourable Member from Wolseley was asking about service east of Lake Winnipeg and I want to indicate that in all extensions of television service a relatively detailed and intricate sequence of events must be followed, thus microwave extension is usually a prerequisite for television extension. It is worth noting in this regard that because of the well-developed basic microwave grid in Manitoba it is less expensive to use microwave in this province than it would be to use to the Anuk I satellite for extension of service. After the microwave is in place and a suitable contract for transmission is signed with a broadcaster, transmitters must be constructed. Very often a number of communities depend on each other for service in that until service comes to one an off-air pickup and rebroadcaster

SUPPLY - CONSUMER, CORPORATE AND INTERNAL SERVICES

(MR. MACKLING cont'd) cannot be built in the next adjacent community, and so on.

For communities east of Lake Winnipeg, specifically the God's Lake, Island Lake and Oxford House areas, we are tentatively projecting microwave extension in the mid-seventies, thus live television service to these areas will be contingent on that extension of microwave. However in the interim we have been actively investigating the possibility of helping a number of these communities to get on the air sooner with a video tape service and with a capacity to insert local programming suited to each community.

I have already indicated in respect to second channel service that an application is presently before the CRTC to bring second channel TV service to the Dauphin-Swan River area of Manitoba. We have filed a formal intervention with the CRTC urging the Commission to give speedy approval to this application, and I might add that the government, the Manitoba Telephone System, and the private broadcasters, have been holding continuing discussions to facilitate rapid extension of the second channel CTV service to the Interlake area and to The Pas, Flin Flon, Snow Lake and Thompson.

Now I understand that in the Swan River area, the area that the Honourable Member from Swan River is referring to, it is in the fringe reception area and it is one of the special areas under study for the telecommunications position paper, and the results of this study will be published in August. It may be that a special rebroadcaster would be required to give a more adequate signal to the Mafeking, Barrows, Westgate area, and the most economical way of doing this is currently under study.

. continued on next page

SUPPLY - CONSUMER SERVICES

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Swan River.

MR. BILTON: Mr. Chairman, I don't want to labour the fact that this has been a problem with me for some four or five years. Now Swan River and Dauphin for instance, the signal is good from Yorkton, there's no particular problem there, but Mafeking and those places that you mention, National Mills, Barrows and Westgate, they're sort of a no-man's land, they're between The Pas and Swan River; and I understand that the apparatus that's going to be put into use in September is going to be on Baldy Mountain and my concern was as to whether or not the signal would be great enough to service these people.

I must say, Mr. Minister, in all seriousness that these people have had a poor deal for many years; they are not getting it from Yorkton as we have been in the past and I'm rather insistent that something be done for them and done for them soon. I understand that they're getting a faint signal from Prince Albert if you please and this is about as good as they are getting and I do feel because they are in that remote area that some consideration or some better consideration should be given to them, and it's been my feeling during the past 18 months or two years in discussing this extension that you announced today that something would be incorporated to accommodate that particular area. As I say, it's in and it's out, so to speak, and I would ask that the Minister give this very serious consideration.

Now with regard to his comments on the advertising, the government advertising which I appreciate very much and thoroughly understand what is being attempted. It looks to me though that by the figures that the money that he's going to save, that he intimated to us was \$150,000 or was it \$250,000 saving? -- (Interjection) -- Yes, well that's pretty close to the figure that's in the Estimates too. And there's just one other point I want to make. That various newspapers around the province have different rates depending to a large degree on their circulation, and they may increase from time to time because of circumstances, salaries, rising costs and so on. Would it be the thinking of the department that they may have something to say in the determining of these rates, that is comparing one newspaper with another newspaper and saying they must balance out some way, is there going to be a development of this kind under this new setup?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Roblin.

MR. J. WALLY MCKENZIE (Roblin): Mr. Speaker, I just have a few comments regarding the installation of the transmitter on Baldy Mountain. I'm aware of the hearings that were held in Ottawa some ten days ago and the meetings that have been held between Yorkton Television Company and CJAY TV, but the snag and the problem that's consistently come up is that Manitoba Telephone System will not establish a rate that's acceptable. It's my understanding that the first rate that was established I think was a 15-year agreement at \$11,000 a year. Then a matter of a year later I think that was raised to \$18,000 a year; and then the last figures that were quoted to me by those that are interested was it's gone up to \$33,000 a year rental for I think the first ten years or the first five years then it drops down to 15,500 I think for the balance of the contract. And I'm wondering if the Honourable the Minister can give me any indication of where the Manitoba Telephone System are going on these rates and why they can't arrive at a rate that's reasonable. As three increases in a matter of some 15 months and rising from \$11,000 to \$33,000 a year, there must be some justification for their asking this increase, but in the meantime that's what's held up them moving ahead with the project.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. MACKLING: Well I don't have any analysis of the rentals that the honourable member refers to. I don't know whether my staff can assist me in an analysis of rentals. It's a detailed question that I really don't have the immediate answer for; however, I might be able if my staff has it to get it and communicate it to the House, or if not at least I'll get it to the honourable member such information as I can get.

I would like to respond further to the Honourable Member from Swan River. He indicated that these communities were getting a faint signal from various places and I couldn't help but note that I was getting something less than a faint signal from the Honourable Member from Lakeside who was talking about On Top of Old Baldy or he was singing to himself about -- he was communicating anyway his relative unconcern with our concerns about better communication for the north. I appreciate what the Honourable Member from Swan River -- that the people in the area are concerned to have a better signal because there is an investment made

SUPPLY - CONSUMER SERVICES

(MR. MACKLING cont'd) in television equipment and I'm sure that the people there want and have a right to expect that they're going to get a much better signal than they have. We appreciate the problems that are there, we have these in-areas such as this which we call the fringe of a clear broadcast area and we're trying to determine what's the best way to improve the signal to such areas, and that's one of the reasons why we have a task force set up to in part co-ordinate information that is obtainable elsewhere and do some original thinking to meet our own needs in Manitoba.

In respect to the question that the honourable member makes about balancing out rates, I don't think that that's the kind of thing we would be engaged in, saying well you know you have to come to this rate or we won't place our advertisement there. I think what we would go on is we would tailor the kind of budget that we have. If the advertising line rate is greater then we'd probably have to put in smaller advertisements or tailor our budget accordingly rather than try to influence rating itself. That's up to the individual media. I know that there are variations in rates both in broadcast and in print form, and it's certainly current here in Winnipeg and elsewhere.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (Resolution 35 to 38 were read and passed.) Resolution 39(a) -- The Honourable Member for Swan River.

MR. BILTON: Mr. Chairman, I notice that the amount in this item is kept reasonably within bounds and I congratulate the Minister for that. It could be a little less, it doesn't seem to be dropping in any way. But my purpose in rising at this time is that we have several publications being printed in an amateurish sort of way up and down the province in various locations. I wonder if the cost of developing and paying the salaries of those publications are under this item?

MR. MACKLING: I wonder if the honourable member would just give me a little bit more detail about the kind of publications he's referring to because there are departmental publications and there are others that are organized perhaps under this department. I'm not sure what the honourable member is alluding to.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Swan River.

MR. BILTON: I'm thinking in terms of the -- I believe there's a Metis bulletin printed in The Pas. -- (Interjection) -- Yes. And there's another one printed in Dauphin, and I believe there's one being printed in Brandon. I have no objection to them whatsoever but I just wonder if the Minister could give us the detail or a breakdown as to what this is costing the people of Manitoba.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. MACKLING: Well I'm not aware, Mr. Chairman, of departmental organization of printing for the groups that the honourable member refers to. I would assume that if they are bulletins put out by the Manitoba Metis Federation they would be from funds which the Metis Federation has at its disposal. Now it could well be that those funds in part are from either Federal or Provincial Government funds either for a special program or for the general funding of those organizations because the province does make grants to both the Manitoba Indian Brotherhood and the Manitoba Metis Federation for general organizational purposes and from time to time also some special grants. Now there might be a special grant involved in those publications but I am not aware of that. If my colleague, the Minister of Mines and Resources were here he might be aware although -- it doesn't really fall under any particular department -- Northern Affairs might, Municipal Affairs. But this section of the department deals with the communication of government program by way of factual release of information dealing with departmental activity. It also does however cover a new service and perhaps it is time that there would be some further publicity be given to this.

We have purposefully not given any substantial publicity to the Citizens Inquiry Service because first of all we think that it's inappropriate to highly publicize something that has a new operational basis because the first thing you do is swamp it and it breaks down or it can break down. This service is not unique in Canada. We can't say that you know we've done something bigger or better or more helpful than any other jurisdiction because I'm aware of the fact that there are similar programs in other jurisdictions. But this is a very simple -- I shouldn't perhaps use that word -- it's a very basic service that's provided, but hopefully it will be a very helpful service. It was established last summer and began operations only in September of last year. It is designed to extend existing government information services to those people

SUPPLY - CONSUMER SERVICES

(MR. MACKLING cont'd) who may be having trouble gaining access to them.

The Citizens Inquiry Service is a telephone information and referral service which helps Manitobans to obtain information on Provincial Government programs and services. It provides toll free telephone service - that's important to remember - toll free, at no expense to the inquirer for residents of the province outside of the City of Winnipeg. The personnel will answer an inquiry if they are able to do so, or will transfer the caller to the proper government agency to handle their inquiry. The service is not involved in the ordinary functions of the central switchboard, the Ombudsman, members of the Legislative Assembly or those areas where there is existing direct telephone information service, such as the consumer and tenant services, school tax rebate or auto insurance. Callers in those areas are referred directly to those agencies. The personnel for the Citizens Inquiry Service were selected as a result of advertisements placed in Manitoba newspapers seeking university students who were prepared to take a year from their studies to participate in this program. Five students were chosen after assessment of the applications and interviews were deemed advantageous. Four students now operate the service. The students underwent a training program to familiarize themselves with general government operations and with the specific functions of various branches of government departments. They undertook the compilation of a retrieval system for information on the proper person to contact to answer specific inquiries.

Since it commenced operations last September there has been an increasing volume of calls with each passing month. In September there were 318, actually only 18 operational days; in October 582; in November 796; a drop in December to 633, but January 1,072, and in February 1,154. The calls, honourable members might be interested in what people call the Citizens Inquiry Service about, well they range through all departments of government and include queries on federal and civic topics. To provide assistance in the federal field the Inquiry services a direct line to Information Canada and calls can be transferred directly to them for response. In return, Information Canada now has a central point of referral for calls which they receive dealing with matters of provincial jurisdiction. Other private, social and community agencies also make use of the services of the Citizens Inquiry Service to make referrals to the Provincial Government where the proper agency or person to deal with may be in doubt.

Similar citizens' services are now in operation in Nova Scotia and Saskatchewan, with a service operating along the general lines in Ontario and with the Province of Alberta soon to start a similar service. Several other provinces have displayed an interest in providing a same type of service for their residents. The service operates from 8:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on weekdays and from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Saturdays. Now I think that gives you some indication of the scope of that program.

I should add, Mr. Chairman, that we want to increase the rural use of the Inquiry Service so we intend to run a small advertising campaign in the weekly newspapers over the next few weeks to help inform rural residents of the service. And I should note that the honourable member's weekly in Swan River would of course be included in such an advertising program. -- (Interjection) -- Well, I know the honourable member is not looking for something personally but this government is aware of the fact that weekly rural newspapers do provide an essential informational service to the people of Manitoba and we want the people particularly in rural Manitoba to have access to this inquiry service and the only way you can have access to this kind of program is if they know about it and understand how it can be used.

I understand that the cost of that campaign will approximate \$3,500 but I think that it is time that we had this sort of a campaign to assist people to first of all find out what the information service program involves and how they can use it. Because I think it's a sad state of affairs when people want information about a particular program, or need advice about a particular service that is available or they believe is available and they phone some department and then inadvertently the person who answers doesn't know about the program involved, because after all it may be a fairly complex matter and they're referred again to someone else and they become exasperated along the way in trying to find out who it is that they should talk to. And the sooner that we can let people, or give people an opportunity to talk to the person who knows specifically about the program they're interested in - it's not only a saving in the times of everybody that's concerned but I think it's a real blessing, because frankly the bureaucratic runaround, I don't care under what aegis, is a frustrating experience for anyone.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Swan River.

SUPPLY - CONSUMER SERVICES

MR. BILTON: Mr. Minister, I appreciate your final remarks there. The spirit in which you have explained it is very good for the people themselves but there is a tendency to overlook that the majority of people, or in fact all the people are represented by individual MLAs and there is a feeling developing through a process which he has outlined to totally ignore the MLA that is elected to take care of problems as they affect different persons in their constituency. However that be as it may, I think the service is well worthwhile but at all times somehow or other it seems to me that people are getting in to the state of affairs where they can't go forward or can't go backward and even with the system that the Minister has explained to us they finally come to the MLA and he only gets half the story and his job is just that much more difficult. However, there's no other way around it and I feel that nothing but good can come of it. But I just wanted to explain to the Minister that this sort of feeling is developing.

Now getting back to the Public Information Services, I take it that this incorporates these releases that we get every week and I know it's a perennial subject and I'm not going to go into it as others have gone into it before. I know it's much greater than it ever was before and I'm just wondering as to whether or not each department has its own public relations officer who in turn prepares the material and then turns it over to this particular department for editing and developing and then distributing to the various sources. It would seem to me to be a duplication of effort or does this organization visit the various departments or at least on a regular basis to develop this material? What I'm attempting to outline is that I hope there isn't a duplication whereby you have a bureaucracy within each separate department and then a department set up to take care of it which is overriding and overseeing the whole thing.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Pembina,

MR. HENDERSON: Mr. Chairman, my question was something along the line of the Member for Swan River and I'm just wondering where do you get your lists from and are they cross-checked, because I've been getting two of everything for a long time. I know it's a good way of getting your information out but I don't need two of them.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Morris,

MR. WARNER H. JORGENSON (Morris): Mr. Chairman, I wanted to deal perhaps a little more critically with the subject raised by the Member for Swan River, and that is the approach that is being taken in this particular section in setting up consumer advisory bureaus where a person can phone in to a particular telephone number and get information about departments and get directed to a particular department.

It seems to me, Sir, that this has been, in the past at least, essentially the role that has been fulfilled by MLAs and I look upon this particular move as a somewhat pervasive effort to downgrade the role of the MLA, to bypass the role of the MLA to insure that many of the misdemeanors of government or the bureaucrats do not see the light of day. It seems to me that there is a tendency to insure that all of these things are kept under wraps so that the member, whether he be on the government side - and there are occasions when members on the government side do raise matters that are critical of the government, drawn to their attention by their constituents. I've raised this point in this House before, the seemingly consistent effort on the part of this government to downgrade the role of the elected members so that he has no function left at all. Of course the ultimate and the end result of that sort of thing is complete totalitarian government, and I question, regardless of the service that is provided, I question if that is in the best interests of democratic government or the best interests of the people themselves, when many of those matters that they would normally raise-- and I find a number of them come to me and many of the questions as a matter of fact that are asked in this House of the government, many of the criticisms that are raised are raised as a result of matters being brought to the attention of the members themselves. It is in my view the real purpose of having people elected representing various areas of this province to insure that government do not have the God given right to trod roughshod over people, or do the bureaucrats for that matter. And I don't use the word "bureaucrat" in a derogatory sense, it's a term that is applied to the civil service and whether they deserve it or not that is generally the term that is used. But I do think that when there are mistakes made, when government is moving in a direction that the public may not want them to move and doing it surreptitiously by trying to hide misdemeanors, that is the very opposite of what democratic government is supposed to be all about, and I would hope that the Minister would not be too anxious to pursue a program that would simply eliminate the necessity or the usefulness and the function and the role of elected members of this Legislature.

SUPPLY - CONSUMER SERVICES

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, I don't know what it is about some aspects of the operations of this government that turns the Honourable Member for Morris into thinking that there must be some Machiavellian purpose behind a program that we enunciate, that, Mr. Chairman, that there must be some ulterior motive in us doing in Manitoba what the Government of Ontario has been doing. You know, if the Government of Ontario does it, well that's after all a pretty good government because they've got Bill Davis there; Alberta they've got a nice fellow by the name of Peter Lougheed and they're doing it there and I guess there's nothing ulterior, there's nothing wrong with doing it there. But my heavens, when they start doing things like that in Manitoba, now that, you know, that makes me suspicious. And you know, when all of these governments, these governments like Ontario and Alberta, Nova Scotia, and by heavens, here's Saskatchewan -- surely you know we shouldn't be accused of doing something that is designed to subvert the role of the MLA; because I want to point out to the Honourable Member from Morris that this is going to facilitate the Honourable Member for Morris' constituents getting and communicating with him by being able to use the toll service of the Citizens Inquiry Service. They get an inquiry, how do I get ahold of my MLA -- well he may not be readily available, but if they want to get hold of their MLA they can get in touch with him toll free by using the Citizens Inquiry Service. So rather than doing something negative about the role of the MLA this may be giving the MLA far more work than what he wanted. But that is I think a complete answer to the honourable member.

Now the Honourable Member from Swan River was concerned about what may be happening with the staff. I can assure the honourable member there's to be no increase in the staff of the Information Services Branch. I don't believe that various departments maintain public relations people there to feed the Information Services Bureau information, that is my understanding of how the system has worked and we have made no changes in it.

I want to also point out that there certainly hasn't been any slackening of our interest in -- now maybe I'm going back to another area, but in respect to communication and information to the people of Manitoba, our commitment to the weekly newspapers is much better than the national average. I think I should put it on the record that according to Statistics Canada and McLean-Hunter Research Bureau, the total spent by advertisers on all mass media in Canada in 1972 was \$1,227,100,000. It's a big industry. Of this total weekly newspapers accounted for only 57 million or only 4.6 percent of all advertising. Now on the basis of some general figures that we have been checking over the past few weeks it appears that this Provincial Government is placing close to 10 percent of its advertising media dollars into weekly newspapers, or roughly twice the proportion that regular advertisers grant to the weeklies.

Last fall for example, Autopac ran a small advertising campaign and placed more than 20 percent of its media dollars in weekly newspapers, or more than four times the share that weeklies generally experience from private advertisers. Now I think that gives you some indication of the importance that this government places in having effective communication of information to the people of Manitoba through the available newspapers and certainly including the rural weeklies.

The Honourable Member from Pembina was concerned about receiving two sets of information from Information Services. I regret that, because I don't like spending any more money on informing the Honourable Member from Pembina than what we should for any other honourable member. Now maybe it's just because he has such a delightful manner about him or something that the staff is concerned to make doubly sure that he gets all the information. I don't know. Certainly we've made a note of that. It's probably automated in some way by some sort of addressograph or something and he's probably getting a double mailing because of some automated process because this -- (Interjection) -- I see. Maybe he's getting it under two capacities, maybe that's what it is.

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

MR. GRAHAM: Thank you. Seeing as how the Attorney-General raised the question of the mailing of the Public Information Service, perhaps the Attorney-General could give us an indication of what the total mailing is of that particular service. When he mentions the fact that the Member for Pembina got two, maybe I should tell him that two weeks ago I think I got four. I don't know what happened to the machine, it seemed to get stuck on my particular address and I got four of them.

SUPPLY - CONSUMER SERVICES

(MR. GRAHAM cont'd)

I'm going to say this though to the Attorney-General, I will give him a pat on the back that finally after we have repeated on more than one occasion in this House, we have got the mailing down to an open type envelope where the cost is less than half of what it was with a sealed envelope, as we find that even though we've cut the cost of postage in half we're still finding an increase in expenditure here, so maybe it's because it's sending two or three to every man on the mailing list.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. MACKLING: Well, Mr. Chairman, all I can indicate to the honourable members is again that if there is duplications going out, it's certainly not by design, it's obviously by over-zealous staff wanting to make doubly sure that certain members of the opposition get ahold of certain information. Maybe that's the reason, maybe that's the reason, I don't know. But with all seriousness, I have made sure that note has been taken of those observations.

MR. GRAHAM: The Attorney-General still didn't give me the answer to what the total mailing list is of the Public Information Service.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for La Verendrye.

MR. LEONARD A. BARKMAN (La Verendrye): . . . on his propaganda sheet there, did I understand the Minister correctly when he said that approximately, most provinces approximately four to five percent of the money spent on rural papers, and he was kind of crowing about, or saying that they had gone as high as 10 percent, and does he feel that this is really high enough compared to half the population being in Manitoba rurally and while at least approximately 48 percent -- was he referring to that?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. MACKLING: No, Mr. Chairman, I was indicating that we had made a survey, or an estimate as to what had been spent in the past, immediate past, that is individual government spending of placement of advertising in weeklies and we came to this figure of approximately 10 percent. But there is no reason for being complacent about that, and despite the fact that that is twice as good as what the national average, we have indicated our concern to get more information to the people of Manitoba. And as I demonstrated earlier in order to get more usage of services we are advertising more in the weeklies and I indicated that there would be advertising going out shortly in respect to Citizens Inquiry Service. I don't know what the relevant percentage or the best percentage ought to be because it's true that the weekly, or at least the daily newspapers do have a circulation beyond Winnipeg to a very substantial portion of the population in addition to Winnipeg. Now to what extent percentages reflect the real need I don't know, but certainly we have been spending more time and more attention in respect to giving the weeklies more advertising.

In specific answer to the honourable member, if it can be specific, my informants advise me that the number of mailing receivers of the Information Services Branch would be approximately 1,000.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (Resolutions 39 and 40 were read and passed.) Resolution 41(a) -- The Honourable Member for La Verendrye.

MR. BARKMAN: On 41 I think we are, I imagine that a lot of the printing that is being done is being let out to other printers than the Queen's Printer, I wonder if the Minister could give us an approximate idea what amounts are going out and if so -- I'm sure they are, but is this being done by tender or how is it being operated? I wonder if the Minister has some figures on that department?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. MACKLING: Well Mr. Chairman, I don't know whether the honourable member was in the House when I reviewed this and I reviewed it I think, at length -- the Honourable Member from Lakeside is correct. The system is that with contracts in excess of \$200.00, these are put out to public tender and the lowest tender, you know, all other conditions being equal, receives the award of the contract. Now, under \$200 it's discretionary. That is the basis of operation. Now I don't know whether the honourable member wanted total money involved in tenders. The total printing distribution to February 20, 1973 was \$1,956,879.00. -- (Interjection) -- That's outside printing, that's right.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (Resolution 41(a) and (b) was read and passed) (b) (1)--passed; (b)(2)--passed; Resolution 41 (c) passed -- The Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell.

SUPPLY - CONSUMER SERVICES

MR. GRAHAM: I just want to ask the Attorney-General one question on the Revised Statutes. Could he indicate to the House what period in our consolidation and revision we are at the present time, when can we expect the new revised statutes -- or the new regulations?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. MACKLING: Well, Mr. Chairman, this is an ongoing process. As bills are passed in the Legislature they are incorporated or the changes are made in a particular act where they're existing acts and revisions are sent out as soon as they have been prepared in final form. In respect to the regulations, I think they are presently under contract for printing . . . being set on the regulations, there was a -- as the honourable member knows, a revision and review of all of the regulations, and that printing, you know, the printing for that is now in the work.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (Remainder of Resolution 41 was read and passed.) That completes the Department of Consumer, Corporate and Internal Services.

The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Chairman, I understand that the Department of Labour Estimates will be the next department to be considered. I note that it is now a quarter past five. I wonder whether or not it would meet with the convenience of the House for you, Sir, to call it 5:30 and . . .

MR. ENNS: Mr. Chairman, I'm sure that we will be prepared to listen to the opening statement which I'm sure wouldn't be more than ten or fifteen minutes on the part of the Minister at this particular time.

MR. PAULLEY: I can assure my honourable friend it'll be longer than that.

MR. ENNS: Well then we'll call it 5:30, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Before we call 5:30 I would like to draw to the attention of the members of the Municipal Affairs Committee that there will be a meeting of the committee in Room 254 at 7:30 this evening. It's now 5:30 . . .

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Chairman, before you leave, may I suggest -- and I'm not trying to dictate as Acting House Leader to what the Municipal Affairs Committee should do -- but I do want to point out that there was a commitment given insofar as the Municipal Affairs Committee is concerned, that they would expedite the bill of my honourable friend from La Verendrye, and if that is the only bill to be considered I'm sure nobody would raise any objections to only considering that bill at 7:30.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time is now 5:30, I'm leaving the Chair to return at 8:00 p.m. this evening.