

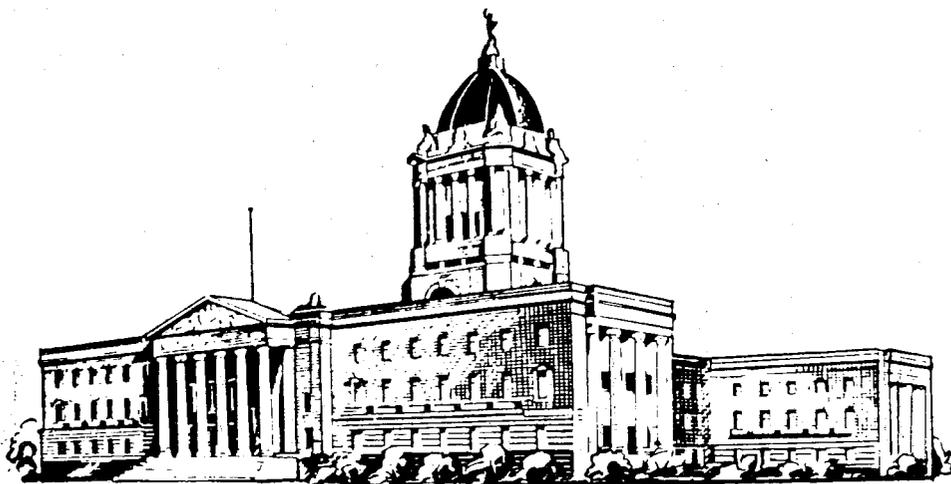


Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS

Speaker

The Honourable Peter Fox



Vol. XXI No. 28 2:30 p.m., Friday, February 22nd, 1974.

First Session, 30th Legislature.

Electoral Division	Name	Political Affiliation	Address	Postal Code
ARTHUR	J. Douglas Watt	P.C.	Reston, Man.	ROM 1X0
ASSINIBOIA	Steve Patrick	Lib.	10 Red Robin Pl., Winnipeg	R3J 3L8
BIRTLE-RUSSELL	Hárry E. Graham	P.C.	Binscarth, Man.	ROJ 0G0
BRANDON EAST	Hon. Leonard S. Evans	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
BRANDON WEST	Edward McGill	P.C.	2228 Princess Ave., Brandon	R7B 0H9
BURROWS	Hon. Ben Hanuschak	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0VB
CHARLESWOOD	Arthur Moug	P.C.	29 Willow Ridge Rd., Winnipeg	R3R 1L5
CHURCHILL	Les Osland	NDP	66 Radisson Blvd., Churchill	ROB 0E0
CRESCENTWOOD	Harvey Patterson	NDP	978 Garwood Ave., Winnipeg	R3M 1N7
DAUPHIN	Hon. Peter Burtniak	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0VB
ELMWOOD	Hon. Russell J. Doern	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0VB
EMERSON	Steve Derewianchuk	NDP	Vita, Manitoba	ROA 2K0
FLIN FLON	Thomas Barrow	NDP	Cranberry Portage, Man.	ROB 0H0
FORT GARRY	L.R. (Bud) Sherman	P.C.	86 Niagara St., Winnipeg	R3N 0T9
FORT ROUGE	Lloyd Axworthy	Lib.	132 Osborne St. S., Winnipeg	R3L 1Y5
GIMLI	John C. Gottfried	NDP	44 - 3rd Ave., Gimli, Man.	ROC 1B0
GLADSTONE	James R. Ferguson	P.C.	Gladstone, Man.	ROJ 0T0
INKSTER	Hon. Sidney Green, Q.C.	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0VB
KILDONAN	Hon. Peter Fox	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0VB
LAC DU BONNET	Hon. Sam Uskiw	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
LAKESIDE	Harry J. Enns	P.C.	Woodlands, Man.	ROC 3H0
LA VERENDRYE	Bob Banman	P.C.	Steinbach, Man.	ROA 2A0
LOGAN	William Jenkins	NDP	1294 Erin St., Winnipeg	R3E 2S6
MINNEDOSA	David Blake	P.C.	Minnedosa, Man.	ROJ 1E0
MORRIS	Warner H. Jorgenson	P.C.	Morris, Man.	ROG 1K0
OSBORNE	Hon. Ian Turnbull	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0VB
PEMBINA	George Henderson	P.C.	Manitou, Man.	ROG 1G0
POINT DOUGLAS	Donald Malinowski	NDP	23 Coralberry Ave., Winnipeg	R2V 2P2
PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE	Gordon E. Johnston	Lib.	135 - 16th St. S.W., Portage la Prairie, Man.	R1N 2W5
RADISSON	Harry Shafransky	NDP	4 Maplehurst Rd., Winnipeg	R2J 1W8
RHINELAND	Arnold Brown	P.C.	Winkler, Man.	ROG 2X0
RIEL	Donald W. Craik	P.C.	3 River Lane, Winnipeg	R2M 3YB
RIVER HEIGHTS	Sidney Spivak, Q.C.	P.C.	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0VB
ROBLIN	J. Wally McKenzie	P.C.	Inglis, Man.	ROJ 0X0
ROCK LAKE	Henry J. Einarson	P.C.	Glenboro, Man.	ROK 0X0
ROSSMERE	Hon. Ed. Schreyer	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0VB
RUPERTSLAND	Harvey Bostrom	NDP	Manitogagan, Manitoba	ROE 1E0
ST. BONIFACE	J. Paul Marion	Lib.	394 Gaboury Place, Winnipeg	R2H 0L4
ST. GEORGE	Hon. Bill Uruski	NDP	10th flr., 330 Portage Ave., Wpg.	R3C 0C4
ST. JAMES	George Minaker	P.C.	318 Ronald St., Winnipeg	R3J 3JB
ST. JOHNS	Hon. Saul Cherniack, Q.C.	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0VB
ST. MATTHEWS	Wally Johansson	NDP	418 Home St., Winnipeg	R3G 1X4
ST. VITAL	D.J. Walding	NDP	26 Hemlock Place, Winnipeg	R2H 1L7
STE. ROSE	A.R. (Pete) Adam	NDP	Ste. Rose du Lac, Man.	ROL 1S0
SELKIRK	Hon. Howard Pawley	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0VB
SEVEN OAKS	Hon. Saul A. Miller	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0VB
SOURIS KILLARNEY	Earl McKellar	P.C.	Nesbitt, Man.	ROK 1P0
SPRINGFIELD	Hon. Rene E. Toupin	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0VB
STURGEON CREEK	J. Frank Johnston	P.C.	310 Overdale St., Winnipeg	R3J 2G3
SWAN RIVER	James H. Bilton	P.C.	Swan River, Man.	ROL 1Z0
THE PAS	Hon. Ron McBryde	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0VB
THOMPSON	Ken Dillen	NDP	1171 Westwood Dr., Thompson	RBN 0GB
TRANSCONA	Hon. Russell Paulley	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0VB
VIRDEN	Morris McGregor	P.C.	Kenton, Man.	ROM 0Z0
WELLINGTON	Philip M. Petursson	NDP	681 Banning St., Winnipeg	R3G 2G3
WINNIPEG CENTRE	J.R. (Bud) Boyce	NDP	777 Winnipeg Ave., Winnipeg	R3E 0R5
WOLSELEY	I.H. Asper	Lib.	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0VB

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

2:30 o'clock, Friday, February 22, 1974

MR. CHAIRMAN: I refer honourable members to Page 38 of the Estimates. Resolution 104 (a)--the Honourable Minister of Public Works.

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HON. RUSSELL J. DOERN (Minister of Public Works) (Elmwood): Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

A MEMBER: You'd better be good, Russ. We're after you.

MR. DOERN: Mr. Chairman, I was beginning to worry whether I would ever get to my Estimates after that prolonged examination of Northern Affairs and also after that rugged practice of the Golden Boys yesterday morning. I thought that I would begin by outlining a few changes in senior personnel in the department and then outline some of the new programs or responsibilities that have been given to Public Works in the past 12 months.

First I would like to pay tribute to Mr. J. D. McNairnay who is my former Deputy Minister, served with the department for some two years and helped reorganize the Department of Public Works. Mr. McNairnay is I think a very outstanding public servant with a long record of experience, served with the City of Winnipeg as legal council with the Metropolitan Corporation of Greater Winnipeg, as the Assistant Deputy Minister of the Department of Municipal Affairs and is now returning to the Department of Municipal Affairs.

I would also like to pay tribute to Mr. Vince Marrin who headed the Purchasing Bureau of what is now our department and served the government with dedication and loyalty, the Province of Manitoba, for the past 38 years.

Mr. Chairman, my two assistants seated in front of me are men who have recently been promoted, Mr. M. I. Nordman who had a record of some 21 years' service in the RCAF, served with the Department of Public Works for one year and then became the Assistant Deputy Minister where he served for the past three years and was recently promoted to Deputy Minister. It's difficult to pay tribute to somebody who is standing only a few feet away from you, or seated only a few feet away from you but I would simply say that he is an excellent worker, well liked and that he has my complete confidence. When Mr. McNairnay left I was rather reluctant to release him back to the Department of Municipal Affairs from whence he had come but I realized I had a commitment to allow him to return to his original department and I was able to do so because of the fact that I had great trust in the ability of Mr. Nordman, his replacement. I would also like to mention that Mr. Osler who is with us is the new Assistant Deputy Minister of my department. He has an excellent background, served just previously as the Director of Planning. Mr. Osler is an architect by profession, worked with the Federal Department of Public Works, served in private practice, worked for the Department of Education and was the General Manager of MHRC. So this is a team of which I am proud to be associated with.

Mr. Chairman, of some interest I think to the members would be the new responsibilities of our department. In the fall of last year we were given a number of new additions, the Land Acquisition Branch with some 48 staff, the Office Equipment Branch with 17 staff and the Purchasing Bureau with 37. I might point out that we have made some new rearrangements in our department. We have completed a major reorganization and more recently established a technical research division. There are several new programs given to Public Works. We acquired the responsibility for employee housing, the maintenance of all government housing, some 200 units throughout the province. In addition two more current major changes. The Department is now responsible for all leased space under the government line departments and is now also responsible for all furnishings and renovations. Prior to that, individual departments would often lease space on their own or would have moneys allocated for furnishings and renovations but this has now all been brought together and placed under Public Works. Mr. Chairman, as is known, the Public Works Department is the construction arm of government responsible for new construction, for renovations and for the vehicle fleet.

I thought I would add briefly that we established an Energy Advisory Committee, something on which I intend to speak at another time, but this is the committee in which we invited representation from the Professional Architects' Association, from the Engineering Association of Manitoba and members of the Department of Public Works' staff and the appointment of a University of Manitoba Professor of Engineering. This comprises a committee which advises the Minister on practical matters of energy conservation in relation to government buildings and the vehicle fleet.

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(MR. DOERN cont'd)

I think that Public Works is clearly not one of the glamour portfolios in government. It's service department and basically its watchwords are "crisis and complaints". We tend to frequently hear about all the minor grievances of government and we are continually under pressure to respond to major crises, so we are not flustered when pressure is put on to respond quickly because this is something we deal with on a daily basis.

Mr. Chairman, I have enjoyed my responsibilities as Minister of the Department and the working relationship with the 1,000 members in Public Works and I would now look forward to the comments and criticisms and questions of members of the opposition.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Charleswood.

MR. ARTHUR MOUG (Charleswood): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I intend to be probably as brief as the Minister is or was. I figure to deal with his department and stay as close to home in the first instance as possible. I think that to make corrections of what the previous Minister did to his department I think he should start out by removing the buzzer that was put in the building in place of the bell we had. We had one instance here when a very important Bill 36, the City of Winnipeg Act, one or two sittings ago where one of our members was trapped in the bathroom. He had a key but he just didn't hear the buzzer. So I suggest that we go back to the bell system if it isn't too costly. Whether his department can afford it or not I don't know, but I think we should go back to the bell system because it sounds more real in a Legislative Building or a parliament building than does the buzzer; and I know in our own caucus room we can't hear the buzzer if the door is closed and we're caucusing. If you don't keep an eye on the clock you could miss the opening of the House.

Something else I wanted to mention to the Minister, Mr. Chairman, was our caucus room. We have a very tough situation there, the way the furniture is set up at the present time it's impossible at the time of the adjournment of the House to get to the coat rack and get your coat off there, your rubbers, your hat to get out of here because it's so badly congested with tables and chairs. We have 21 members in there and with the three girls and their desks and typewriters--(Interjection)--Three girls, that's right. We pay for two of them ourselves and one supplied by the government. And that's to look after 21 members. I think any other Legislature you go to across the province, across the country, including Ottawa, you'll find out that each member has a girl to look after his work.

Also in that room, the three girls are congested into the same room as we have to caucus in and there's 21 members and there's chairs around the tables where you can comfortably seat 14. I know it's very seldom you'll see 21 members out of a 21-man caucus turn up to a meeting but if they do we have trouble getting everybody seated, and for that reason I say we have a justified complaint. When we do caucus on a--if you want to caucus, for instance, on a Wednesday morning we find that we have to chase the girls out of there and keep them out of there from 10:00 o'clock in the morning to 12:00 noon. So we're losing all that secretarial time, and believe me with 21 members and three girls there is lots of secretarial work to be done without asking them to go and sit in the coffee shop while we do our caucusing.

A MEMBER: Speak for yourself, Art.

MR. MOUG: So I would suggest, I would suggest, Mr. Chairman, that we have the Minister take a look at the adjoining room and see if he can open the doors between and let us use that adjoining room for secretarial work and let us have our caucus room for the true meaning of what a caucus room is meant for, to have caucus members sit in there and openly discuss problems of the province and our attack that we are planning on the government. --(Interjection)--No, that one couldn't stand any good sensible caucusing such as we put out. We would need the one on the south side.

Further to that, Mr. Chairman, we have two phone lines coming into that room and it's impossible between the hours of 12:00 o'clock noon and 2:30 for 21 members to carry on the business that's necessary, to phone to rural members particularly, that have to make their calls from government phones because it's too expensive to do in their own place of residence; and the two phones are tied up with a line-up at all times between 12:00 noon and 2:30. I think that some consideration should be given there. We go into the adjoining room, the room that I'm asking that you give us for additional caucus purposes, and we go in there, that phone is generally tied up because it's a phone that you can place a call on where you want some privacy. Then there's another phone on into the coffee shop area and it's impossible to get on that phone

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(MR. MOUG cont'd) because there's always somebody other than members of this Legislature that's using that phone. I don't know what purpose they're using it for or how many long distance calls goes out over it but I would sure like to see the bill on that phone at some time.

I think, Mr. Chairman, that pretty well airs the problem that we have with our caucus room and I certainly hope that the Minister will give some consideration to widening and making our facilities a little more workable than what they are at the present time.

I would also like to ask the Minister, Mr. Chairman, about Lakeview Developments and what square footage has been rented by the government. I'd be interested to know the rental price per square foot in there and what type of lease the government has taken on this particular area they've leased. I think there's a lot of concern, as always, around the province about the luxury that possibly some of our Ministers or some of our departments have in plush offices and so on; and Lakeview Developments is something that has been brought to my attention on more than one occasion and I think that we would appreciate very much hearing from the Minister on that.

Also, I noticed in a report that was distributed to us the other day from the Department, the Annual Report of the Public Works Department, is new figures come up on the Auditorium. I can remember very clearly the then Minister of Government Services, who is the Minister of Labour, getting up and telling us on April 1st, 1970, that the purchase of the Auditorium was \$1 million and the complete renovation was going to be 1.5. That was the complete renovation. He said it in those very words. And the cost of renovations now, I think it says in the report, the estimated cost is now \$3 million, and ten contracts were awarded during the fiscal year for a total of 1.361, so on. So we've gone beyond pretty well in the one year of what the then Minister of Government Services promised the cost of renovation would be for the building and I see more work going on outside and probably a lot more inside and the complete cost of renovation as he had it as 1.5 million in those days is now set at three and we're still working on it.

Another thing that I was concerned about and wanted some information from the Minister on was Gimli Industrial Park. There's large amounts of money set out in the Estimates for current expenditure and Gimli Industrial Park is set at 493,000. I read on into the report somewhere else the amount of dollars that was being spent there employee-wise, building, setting up buildings in several different areas and 170 of 182 housing units was completed I believe, and I was wondering who owns the Gimli Industrial site, the old airport. Who owns that? Is it the Federal Government, Provincial Government? What portion of the industry that's located in the Park at this time is owned by the Provincial Government? How is it funded? Are we creating jobs there? Is it a break-even point? Who owns the restaurant? Is it a government restaurant and to what extent do we intend to go in debt or to keep this open. I think it would be interesting for the people of the province to know how many jobs are being created out there. I know that your report says that there's 460 employees in Saunders Aircraft. I know that now that will be nothing more than an approximate figure because it is fluctuating. I think Lake Winnipeg Boat Company I would question - want to know who owns that. Misawa Homes, I suppose the government has a goodly amount of money in that. But looking at the overall report that you have on that, Mr. Chairman, I would suspect that there is a lot of people interested in knowing what part of the action in the Gimli Industrial Park is certainly carried by the Provincial Government.

Also, Mr. Chairman, I wanted to mention the contract - I know that this government from time to time sets aside the democratic way of getting the cheapest prices on buildings. The Minister shakes his head and I am not laying the blame with him necessarily because I don't believe that he was part of the Executive Council at the time. But certainly the City of Winnipeg was offered money in the way of half a million dollars to stay away from the public tender system to purchase buses. Now this isn't the point I'm getting at. I looked through your report and I can see where there is close to \$900,000 of a contract that went I think with \$231.00 difference in price; and you're talking about a job that was being let for \$900,000 and when it can come within \$200.00 - when you see the democratic tendering system working that clean-cut that an eight or nine hundred thousand dollar job can be let out with the first and second bidder only being \$200 apart, I say that that's very satisfactory and it's the way to let out our government work. It was construction of the--well of all things, the Culturel Franco-Manitobaine Centre. Poole Construction was awarded the contract for \$907,787.00. Dineen

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(MR. MOUG cont'd) Construction came second at \$907, 830, so actually we're looking at \$43.00 difference and I think this is the real way to let out construction work when we decide we're going to put up new buildings or be it buy buses or whatever.

But I wanted to mention the contract that's taking place just on the corner of Broadway and Kennedy. I wonder if you let out a contract at that price, is it wise to tender something today that we know is going to have a 24-month or a 30-month construction date. Should we not have a clause in the contract of some type to protect those people, that they will have a day of reckoning twelve months later when they can come back to the department say increased costs and building materials are this - labour has gone up, minimum wage has been increased, the plumbers have been on strike and they now want \$8. 75. So you can renegotiate after twelve months rather than try and do it in 1974 for a '77 completion, cause I think that the contractor when bidding has got to protect himself by a 30 percent increase in wages, materials, etc. that may never happen.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. I wonder if we could just keep the tone of conversation down a bit. I'm having difficulty hearing the honourable member, I'm sure the Minister is.

MR. MOUG: So at any rate - thank you, Mr. Chairman - at any rate, I think if there was a clause in there where you could renegotiate after 12 months or whatever on a contract that's going to last two and a half years I think it would safeguard the contractor and he could put in a more reasonable and real price rather than protecting against the increase that he knows is going to take place, that may never, but he suspects they will take place in the next two and a half years.

Mr. Chairman, I wanted to mention the washroom across the road. I think that we should get a set of keys that work in there in the wintertime as well as in the summer because I see a lot of people around that corner even in the winter time--(Interjection)--with crossed knees, and . . . sorry, you shouldn't be assisting me like that, it threw me off.

Mr. Chairman, I wanted to ask the Minister if he would give some consideration to the use they're making of the Fort Osborne Barrack site, Tuxedo Blvd. There's a great many complaints around there about the noisy air conditioners on the Manitoba Youth Centre. Whether they've been corrected in the last while or not I don't know, but there was a petition circulated and certainly sent to me and to the Minister of Public Works. I know that the boys need special attention out there but I don't know if air conditioning is all that important that they have it running at night where the neighborhood has a problem sleeping.

In the same area, Mr. Chairman, there's a problem moving traffic through there now on account of the great many driving school cars and the driver testing that's going on. Route 90 which is a very important thoroughfare to move traffic in the way of trucks and semi-trailers and a lot of automobile and bus traffic is being hampered by the slow driving of high school driver training, regular run-of-the-mill driver training and motorcycle and automobile inspectors out there checking drivers' licenses. I think if they went west of the Fort Osborne Barracks into that area towards Charleswood rather than into the Academy Road, Kingsway, Corydon, Grant Avenue and Kenaston is the worst - it's 40 mile an hour traffic there and it just can't get moving. I would ask the Minister to look at that for us.

Sir, I think that that takes care of what I had to mention apart from - there's one or two questions I wanted to ask the Minister in his report. I noticed that on the automobiles in his department, the credit card purchases in 1971/72 fiscal year were \$159,000; they changed in 1972/73 fiscal year to \$784,000; there's a large jump in those figures and I'm sure the people of the Chamber here are interested in knowing why the increase.

There's a change also in the parts purchased there and I'm wondering if some of the work rather than being done all here in the city has been sent out regionally where these parts are being picked up by credit card. It just needs a little clarification possibly.

Also in the total amount of cars in the department, in 1970/71 I think he had something like 1, 579 cars for a total of 32 million miles at a cost of just over \$2 million. Then in 1971/72 there's an increase of 226 cars, approximately 14 percent, there's no change in mileage or nothing that you would bother mentioning and the cost increases by just over the million dollars, or a 50 percent increase. And in 1972/73 they only increased 42 cars and then mileage goes up by another five million miles and the total cost of operation doesn't change that much. So I was wondering if the Minister would dig out that page of his report and give us some clarification on it.

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MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Swan River.

MR. BILTON: Just following on to my colleague's comments, Mr. Chairman, thank you very much, I just want to go a little further afield and I don't see anywhere in the Estimates any provision for a jail in The Pas. I'm sure the Minister is familiar with the situation that has developed over the years. We don't have to go any further back than the former Minister of Highways who discussed at great length the deplorable conditions of that jail. And with the development of the north in so many ways, this jail that they have now is used to the extreme and is certainly not serving its purpose by any manner or means. I know the government have something in mind but I don't see anything in the Estimates this year to alleviate that situation. The doctors and the community as a whole, Mr. Minister, are very very concerned about this matter and while I'd like to see that jail in Swan River - that's where it ought to be really - I have no objections to it being in The Pas to eliminate that problem that we have there. As the Minister will know through inquiry that many hundreds of thousands of dollars are being spent year by year in transporting people that run afoul of the law to Dauphin and elsewhere. I feel that they should be closer to their families and that something should be done about this jail. And obviously the government doesn't intend to do something at this time but I would remind the Minister that he has an obligation in this regard insofar as Northern Manitoba is concerned.

Another matter that concerns me, too, is that our courtroom in Swan River, and I'm sure it's the same elsewhere, does not display the Manitoba flag or the Canadian flag. I think this is a misdemeanour and I understand these flags are available but for some reason or other orders are out that they're not to put up those flags. I'm very glad to report to the House that there is a portrait of Her Majesty and I think she should be adorned with a Canadian flag and a Manitoba flag, not only for the purposes necessary but I would remind the Minister that from time to time we have a citizenship court and I've got people of all ethnic groups from time to time taking out their Canadianship papers and I think it would add to the atmosphere to have those flags in the proper order.

I noticed the other day when we were dealing with the Minister of Northern Affairs that he is equipped with an office in a public building together with a telephone in The Pas. We have a public building in Swan River and I see no reason in the world why the local member cannot be provided with accommodation in that building. And I'm not only speaking for myself but I'm speaking for other members where there is a public building and I would ask the Minister to give consideration to this because more and more people are calling upon us for our time and if they have a proper place to go to, they're going for every other department and why can't they come and see their local member in the public building which belongs to the people of Manitoba.

I don't know whether I'm on the right track but it may be worth mentioning at this juncture that the unemployment insurance situation throughout Canada and certainly with us in rural Manitoba presents a problem particularly prior to the Christmas season or the off season when people are out of work and it is necessary to get on the phone and get on quickly to alleviate some of the situations that develop. It's been talked of from time to time that we might be given a card and given the authority to use the long distance phone and I would ask the Minister to give that consideration, that the rural members be given this facility so that they don't have to be arguing and friggling around with telephone operators in order to take care of the people's business. Thank you, Mr. Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to begin this group's comments on the Department of Public Works first by associating ourselves very strongly with the remarks of the Minister in his compliments to his previous Deputy Minister, Mr. McNairnay. I've had occasion to know Mr. McNairnay in the past and have worked with him on several committees concerned with various aspects of design and planning and find him to be probably one of those civil servants who epitomizes the high standards of the Civil Service and one of those who I think all of us can take some pride in that he is a member of the establishment of the Government of Manitoba.

I'd also like to compliment him on his new staff and the new replacement of senior staff. I haven't had the occasion to have any contact with the new Deputy Minister but I have had in the past certain associations with Mr. Osler particularly when he was involved in the

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(MR. AXWORTHY cont'd) management of the Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation and certainly found that at that time when the Housing Corporation was just beginning its major achievements in the field of public housing, which unfortunately it no longer achieves, he was one of the more skillful and again one of the more resourceful people who brought about a tremendous achievement in a very short period of time, and I compliment the Minister in being able to acquire again the services of a man who's demonstrated his competence and capacity again in the field of public service.

I was interested, Mr. Chairman, in the comments of the Minister saying that he doesn't have a glamour department but it is a down-to-earth kind of gutsy department. I agree with him totally, that I think that in this day and age the Department of Public Works is increasingly able to play an important role not simply in the provision of certain services and amenities to the government service but to have an impact on a much wider and more important scale. Because the one thing that the Department of Public Works is seriously involved in is the acquisition and the use of various forms of physical space particularly in the City of Winnipeg; but as the Civil Service grows and as the demands for new accommodation are required the Provincial Government becomes a major landlord, a major renter and a major occupier of all kinds of different kind of spaces in and around this downtown area. And I would only bring to the attention of the Minister a fact which I'm sure he is fully cognizant of and that is, that that responsibility carries with it a tremendous obligation to make sure that the space that the government uses, particularly in this downtown area, is done with the best objective and design related to the overall shape and character of this city itself. Because of the tremendous amount of money and resources the Provincial Government is now putting into the occupancy of space that this government in itself can have a very profound influence on the nature of our city. I've heard other Ministers of the Crown express the fact that they feel that the responsibility for the planning of the city is very much a municipal jurisdiction and I tend to agree with them only to this extent, that the Provincial Government in its own action also carries with it a tremendous influence on the planning and design and the shape of the city. And therefore I think it's very important that the Department of Public Works being the agency chiefly responsible for that carries with it a complimentary commitment to make sure that when it builds a new office structure, rents space or begins to deal in the whole field of land acquisition, it is done so in close co-operation with the municipalities. And one of the questions that the Minister didn't deal with in his remarks, which I had hoped he would, would be this question as to what degree is there a connection or a consultative arrangement between the Department of Public Works and the city planning officials and others to ensure that that use of Provincial Government space is designed totally in keeping with the objectives and the priorities of the Metropolitan development plan for one example, or the downtown development plan. Because I think that is a very important aspect of the work that this department does. And I hope the Minister will provide us with some answers on the degree to which his department works in conjunction with city planners to make sure that the allocation and use of his space and the space he has control over is properly fitting into the priorities and directions that we are trying to shape in the City of Winnipeg itself.

Now there is another set of obligations, Mr. Chairman, that I would like also to bring to the attention of this House and the Minister, and that is that as again the activities of his department grows, and he mentioned that it has taken on several new responsibilities, it carries with it I think an interesting and important impact upon the economic fabric and structure of the city. And let me, if I may, take a moment to outline this. One of the things which I think Winnipeg over the past several decades has been renowned for is the quality and calibre of its professional consulting architectural planning engineering firms, that one of the important economic assets to the City of Winnipeg has been in many of its private firms which have been able to undertake various kinds of work outside the province. They have brought a surprising amount of revenue back into the province through the sale of their professional services, and one of the basis for the ability of such firms to do this is that they would have some guarantee of a minimum level of work within the Province of Manitoba itself, that they would be able to utilize the basic contract work that they would receive from provincial and city governments to give them a floor upon which they could then maintain a corps of highly skilled and qualified people which they could then use to sell their services to other provinces and in fact internationally. And I think I don't have to remind this House the fame of many of our engineering and architectural firms in places like Latin America and Africa and the United States, for the work that they do.

(MR. AXWORTHY cont'd)

That the point is this, I notice that in the Estimates one thing that is happening is that increasingly the in-house staff in the Department of Public Works is growing and that there is a substantial salary increase. I think that the architectural and engineering estimates are close to 600,000; the planning is over 114,000 - that is \$700,000 in straight salaries alone, and while I certainly recognize the need to have in-house staff to provide for basic services, I would hope that that continual hiring of professional services in an in-house basis is not done to the detriment of the private firms of Winnipeg. Because if that is so then this government would be, and I'm sure that they wouldn't do it consciously, would be guilty of in many cases pulling out from many of our professional firms one of the major underpinnings that they require in order to maintain their ability to provide an export, if you like, of brains, intelligence and professional services. So again that is another question I would like the Minister to answer, is what criteria do they use to make sure that they have a proper balance between the requirements of their own department and the maintenance and the work of specialized contracts with private firms throughout the city so that they are able not only to maintain but also to expand their own consulting capacity which I think if you start adding up the economics of it and multiplying it is a major revenue producer for the City of Winnipeg. I would hope the Minister would be able to provide us with some answers on that.

I'd also like to point, Mr. Speaker, to what I think is an interesting sleight of hand, if you like, in the Estimates that we deal with, and it's brought to my mind through looking at the proposals in this area of the Gimli Industrial Park, which again I say that the Minister is the chief landlord and they have again in the estimates a substantial amount of money dedicated to the renovation of that site, and while again we can certainly honour the requirements to renovate and improve, the point that the Member from Charleswood brought up I think is an important one to recognize. That it seems to us that most of the firms who are presently leasing space in the Gimli Industrial Park are in fact firms which are now being supported by the Manitoba Development Corporation or the Department of Industry and Commerce.

So in a sense we have a double entry of subsidy. Not only are we subsidizing them in straight financial or equity terms, we are subsidizing the improvements and renovation of their facilities. And therefore I think that when we get down to the question of how to revise the form in which we present Public Accounts and Estimates I think it's important when we see what amount of public dollars are going toward the upkeep and the support or subsidization of these private firms, that certainly the amount of money that is committed to renovation should be included in that calculation about the kind of subsidy that the Misawa or Saunders Aircraft are receiving.

And therefore again I would hope that the Minister would be able to - maybe he doesn't want to answer that - but I think it's important for this House to understand that by dividing these estimates up on the different pages we don't get a total picture of the dollar value that is going into these particular companies. I obviously don't have to tell this House that one of the concerns of this side of the Chamber is what is again the equation between the amount of money given into a firm to produce and the actual return that it gets. And if we start calculating up all these forms of hidden subsidy which are not calculated when we look at the statement of the MDC, then it may be what the actual dollar value we're putting into Saunders Aircraft and Misawa Homes is not really justified in relation to the return that they are going to make.

So again I would bring that to the attention of this Chamber and perhaps the Minister would like to comment and explain what is the connection and what is the justification again for that renovation, and where is the renovation occurring? Is it actually going to be committed to the precise facilities of these firms or even to the housing that supports their workers or to the water system. Because if they were a totally private enterprise firm, Mr. Chairman, they would be paying for it themselves. They would not have the Government of Manitoba necessarily putting in waterworks, building homes for their employees or providing for an improved infrastructure. Therefore I think it's very much part of the estimates that we begin to calculate those things in a more effective fashion.

I would also like to bring attention, Mr. Speaker, to the statement made by the Minister, and he justifiably took pride in that statement, that he had set up an energy advisory committee to advise him on how the Department of Public Works could best conserve energy in terms of its own public buildings, in terms of its own automobiles. Well I think that the Minister knows

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(MR. AXWORTHY cont'd) that the conservation of energy is part and parcel, at least in my estimate, of a total energy policy. And it only simply proves the case that was being made in this House a few evenings ago that in fact there is a requirement for a much better organization for the development of energy policy because obviously he hasn't set his own committee to look at conservation or the Minister of Industry and Commerce is off working on some other aspect of energy policy; and a case should be made that conservation of energy is just as important as an examination of supply and demand; that the two cannot be separated and they shouldn't be separated into two different committees. I would hope that if nothing else the Minister might take into consideration expanding the terms of reference of his own committee not simply to apply to the use of energy in public buildings and in public vehicles, begin to look at the whole problem of conservation of energy in the province. And when he starts if he would expand those terms of reference and get the kind of advice and information he needs then he might be polite enough to persuade the Minister of Industry and Commerce that he should be looking at that problem as well and perhaps making use of some of that information; because obviously the Minister of Industry and Commerce at this stage is not prepared to do that because he says his committee and his council is doing all that needs to be done. But obviously if he's doing all that needs to be done we wouldn't be needing an energy committee to advise on conservation. So there is a certain kind of connection here. I trust that the Minister with his training and background and intelligence would recognize the point I'm making and I know that he wouldn't want to embarrass his colleague publicly in the House, but he may want to pass him a note or nudge him in the knee when he's sitting next to him some evening and say, "Hey, Mr. Minister, do you notice what's going on here?" That what you're saying really isn't what's happening in the province. So I would hope that he would take that into some consideration.

Mr. Chairman, I'd like to come to one very important aspect which the Minister only mentioned very briefly, and that is this question of land acquisition, that he indicated that the Department of Public Works is entering into one of the major new responsibilities of the government and that is into the field of provincial land acquisition. Once he said that, at least members of this group were saying well now we're going to find out maybe what the government is going to do in the field of land acquisition and land use. But in keeping with the standard that has been set by his First Minister he quickly passed away from that subject and said, well now let's get down to some other business. Well the point of the fact is that the acquisition of land by the Provincial Government is the keystone in many cases of not only an urban land use policy but a rural land use policy. Because the point as we're tried to make in this House, particularly the Member from Portage la Prairie, we are now being faced in the Province of Manitoba with major land grabs by foreign owners German, French and Americans and that in order to offset that that what is going to happen unless something is done to control and regulate that when the Minister goes out with his agents to start buying up land he is going to find out that that land has already been bought up by German consortium and that the land is double the price that he'd like to pay for it. And so when the Minister of Mines and Resources got on his high horse the other evening and said why would we want to get into this kind of thing. Well the point is the reason he should get into it is to save a few dollars for the taxpayers of this province. And unless there's a combination of land acquisition with some attempt to control foreign ownership of land then we are going to be paying double or triple the price that should be paid.

So, I would like to pose a series of questions to the Minister concerning what in fact is going on with land acquisition. What kind of agents is the Minister using? Is he doing it through the civil servants or is he using private real estate agents? What kind of criteria is he using? Is he using federal funds through the National Housing Act or is he using total provincial funds? How is this \$430,000 being used? Is it a match-up fund to NHA funds or is it being used totally without any recognition? What kind of pricing policy does he use? I notice that the Minister has a Land Value Appraisal Commission. Well I'd like to point out to the Minister a little bit of history, and some of the members in this House would like to know, who talk about the--who should be concerned although I haven't heard any concern yet, about the increasing cost of land, that three years ago when the Province of Manitoba had made agreements to borrow money from the Federal Government to buy land for land assembly and for residential usage they turned back, up to \$6 million back to the Federal Government and the reason they turned it back is because someone on the Land Value Appraisal Commission, who I don't really think he knew what he was doing, said, well we don't really need to acquire land at this time, we'll get land cheaper.

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(MR. AXWORTHY cont'd) Well the point is the longer we wait, and if that kind of practice continues and if that Land Value Appraisal Commission is still working on the same limited criteria they were using before, then we're in serious trouble because we're going to be paying an increasingly inflated price for the acquisition of land.

So I would recommend very sharply to the Minister that before these Estimates are concluded that he give us a very complete and detailed breakdown about the criteria and priority and policy that now is being used to determine the land acquisition of the Province of Manitoba. I think that we've got to look at who is doing it and how they're doing it and where they're doing it and all the questions that this House has a right to know about the question of land acquisition. And once the land is acquired who dispenses it? Is it being leased? Is it being held? Is it being given to the municipalities for housing purposes? What's happening to that land? And I would again only recommend to the Minister, because we can't do much more than that, that when he acquires the land he might also make recommendations to his Cabinet colleagues that land acquisitions by itself is not sufficient, that it must be accompanied by a number of other measures including some kind of control on foreign acquisition particularly by large financial consortiums in order to try and preserve at least a minimum price or realistic price for Manitobans who are trying to acquire land.

Mr. Speaker, before we leave this subject I would like to turn to one which is of particular interest to this group and particular interest to me in my own constituency, and that is the increasing role that the province should be playing in establishing a responsibility and a concern for the environs around this capital building, that as I pointed out at the beginning of my remarks this department is being asked to -- the different activities it engages in, a very important responsibility for the acquisition of space. Now the point is that when you're around this building the Provincial Government has a tremendous influence. It has a number of parking lots, which by the way, Mr. Minister, I receive a lot of complaints by because civil servants arrive at work too early sometimes and there's a lot of older people who wonder why all that traffic is going on Edmonton and Kennedy and Carlton and they would like to know finally what is the Provincial Government doing to establish a basic long-term plan for the improvement and upgrading of this capital area. Now various governments, particularly the one in Ottawa, has established to my mind an excellent record through its National Capital Commission of taking over responsibility for looking at the acquisition of open spaces, for parkland, for the protection against the grievances and nuisances of activities related to the Provincial Government.

So I would like to recommend certainly that in the long term this government give great consideration to the establishment of a provincial capital commission to work out basic uses of land and facilities for this area immediately surrounding. And I would give one example. That right on the corner here, Mr. Chairman, there is two open spaces of land, one on the side which is owned by a company which has some relation to the government, and the other one where an apartment block was stopped building because of lack of finances. That area is occupied by close to 7,000 people, it's the highest density of almost any city in Canada and there is no open space. The Provincial Government could acquire that land easily; it could do so in co-operation with the city and therefore that is only one example of the kind of planning and programs.

Now we have an example here where the Osborne Street Bridge is being considered to be built. There's another proposal to build a bridge at Edmonton Street. Now those bridges will have the impact of totally cutting this area into ribbons, of bringing large amounts of new traffic into this area and if nothing else disturbing the quiet and calm of this Chamber - and I use that word guardedly - but more importantly it's going to have a tremendous impact upon the people of this area. And I think the people of this area are looking for some leadership from the Provincial Government. Now I know we're not going to set up the provincial capital commission right away but I would make a recommendation for immediate action; that the Minister within days establish a provincial capital committee composed of aldermen or councillors who represent this area on the city level, the MLAs who are concerned, primarily myself and the Member from Winnipeg Centre, members of his own department, members from the City Planning Department and also residents, members of the churches like St. Stephens-Broadway who also have open spaces and would like to do something about it, some of the resident groups that work in the area, and begin working out some basic guidelines which we can establish an area which we can take pride in, where we can use the land to its maximum ascetic and

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(MR. AXWORTHY cont'd) enjoyable capacity, and which we can begin putting together the kind of community if you like surrounding these buildings which would really give members and the public at large some real pride in the community, as well as to add an important asset to the City of Winnipeg.

Because I think, Mr. Chairman, as I pointed out at the beginning of his remarks, the Department of Public Works could take the leadership in this respect, I have a good deal of respect for the Minister's interest and concern of providing a fresh new look at the idea of Public Works, of bringing a different perspective and a different set of directions to it. Well I am proposing that this is an opportunity for him to take a new direction and through his own department to begin establishing a major commitment to this downtown capital area, to begin doing something for the people who live here, and most particularly to begin looking at where he's going to put buildings; how he's going to use the space that the government already owns and how it can begin acquiring land for open spaces, for parkland, for riverbanks so that people in this area can use it as well as members, and also to begin taking very strong stands against any intrusion in the area which will destroy the present qualities. We don't want trees cut down; we don't want more traffic and we don't want more noise. I think the provincial government as a neighbour in this area to all the people who live on Kennedy and Edmonton and Carlton and Roslyn Road and the rest of the area would expect the Provincial Government to be as much a good neighbour as they're trying to be. So I would hope that the Minister might take some recognition of these remarks and perhaps even take a look at that particular recommendation, because I think in that case the Provincial Government without getting into any jurisdictional conflicts could indicate its willingness and its interest in working with residents and the City of Winnipeg to provide a downtown area which would provide an urban environment serving this community in the decades ahead when we're going to be under extreme pressure.

So, Mr. Chairman, those are basically some of the comments we'd like to make about the Department of Public Works, and I would only close by saying that while people have in the past treated the Department of Public Works first as a pork barrel department, and it may still be, I'm not sure, but certainly as a bland department simply providing services and amenities, I think the time is now here, and the time is right now, where we can be doing something far more adventuresome and far more creative with the Department of Public Works in providing an excellence and a quality of the urban environment of which this provincial building and the provincial environment is so much a part.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister of Public Works.

MR. DOERN: Mr. Chairman, after that enthusiastic outburst from the freshman Member for Fort Rouge I might indicate to him that we'll shortly be bulletining for a new Director of Planning and he might consider putting his name in.

Mr. Chairman, there was quite a raft of questions. I intend to deal with a number of them. There's a few I think that I'll defer until we move a little further into the Estimates, namely those on Gimli Industrial Park, but I'll try to answer some of the more detailed questions and also some of the general policy questions.

The Member for Charleswood raised the important but apparently trivial question of buzzers and bells. This is the sort of issue on which nobody can score any points because if the-- I spoke to the Speaker a week or so ago, he told me that the sound of the buzzers - the buzzers as you recall replaced the bells under a previous Minister. They were thought to be too loud giving everybody a headache so new buzzers were installed. Now this year we had them set at a certain rating. The Speaker complained to me that members couldn't hear them so we turned them up and then I knew that it was only a matter of days before we'd get a score of complaints about the fact that the buzzer was too loud - and sure enough. So this is the sort of issue, you turn it up you get complaints; you turn it down you get complaints; you just can't win. We will, however, take into consideration the member's comments about reverting to bells which are more traditional. I might point out, however, that there is one problem there, and that is that you do have a fire bell and although I don't ever recall hearing it in this particular building, I know there's sometimes cause for concern on members of the general public hearing the bells and wondering whether it was a fire; or perhaps the other more complicated matter where if there actually was a fire I suppose the members would all run into the Chamber thinking it was a Division and possibly get burned to death or something.

Mr. Chairman, the Member for Charleswood raised some good points about conditions

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(MR. DOERN cont'd) and amenities for members of the Legislature. One of the problems confronting us is that the caucus rooms attempt to provide two functions and really they don't mix. One is of course a meeting room and the other is of course office space; and if you have a number of offices or desks for members and members are attempting to use them to meet constituents, do their work, type, dictate, answer telephones, etc., and at the same time it's combining a function as a place for everyone to caucus, you really cannot properly mix the two. This has been the practice I guess for generations in the Legislative Building. We have had discussions with representatives of the Conservative caucus, for example, and we are in fact going to undertake certain renovations; we are going to provide some divider screens and some new desks etc. And we're also going to I think generally upgrade each of the three caucus rooms. But the problem remains the same, namely that while it serves two functions it'll never be quite satisfactory. You'll never really be able to operate as in an office or operate as a caucus room. The one solution that the member was moving towards but never quite made would be of course to elect fewer members, and then of course you'd be able to fit into your room, or perhaps to elect more, in which case we would in fact give you the adjacent caucus room and solve your space problems in that way.

We have, Mr. Chairman, given the opposition party some additional space. We have provided a small room for the storage of files and also for an office for the Conservative Whip and I think one secretary and provided an additional room for an executive assistant of your Leader. So although that still doesn't solve the problem we still have provided more space I think than ever before. The long-term solution has been mentioned and I think is one that should be considered in the next few years. I myself have a very strong belief in providing good facilities for members so that they can carry out their responsibilities. In the long run, perhaps when some of the space in this building is freed up due to transfer of employees and functions to the new Library and Archives Building there will be some space freed up, and I suppose if members prevail on the Minister and perhaps on the government as a whole it might be possible to allocate more space for each of the parties or perhaps even offices either on an individual basis or that could be shared. I know in Toronto they tend to have at Queen's Park two members work in kind of a joint office; they have a secretary and they have their own individual facilities. That obviously is desirable. Whether Manitoba will move towards that next year or in ten years will depend on the attitude of the government and on the position of members of the opposition. Suffice to say that the government backbench tends to favour a more individualized office system than presently exists.

The Member for Charleswood also mentioned the fact that it's sometimes very difficult to use telephones in the members' lounge, etc., etc. We've had all these debates before. We attempt to restrict the use of the members lounge for members between sessions. During the session it's open to the public, open to the press, etc. and we've had some very trying times but nevertheless the general policy is that between sessions those rooms are going to be reserved for members of the Legislature.

The member asked some questions about Lakeview and I think it's quite clear that that whole development adjacent to the Convention Centre and there's further talk of other developments to the west, that that development was in fact triggered by the participation of the province and the leadership by the province in developing the Convention Centre. I think the whole face of downtown Winnipeg, especially in the 14 block area which the City so desperately wanted developed, I think that has been significantly changed and improved because of the support given by the province.

The Department of Public Works has in fact entered into an agreement with Lakeview that will become effective probably in the fall of this year for the leasing of a significant amount of space in a new office tower that is being constructed there, has undertaken a five year lease for some 50,000 square feet at a very good, what I would consider to be low rate for prime office space in the downtown. For the next five years. For the next year I suppose or until that space is ready we do in fact occupy some 5,000 square feet at present for the Department of Tourism and Recreation and the Department of Industry and Commerce.

The Member for Charleswood raised some questions about the Provincial Library and Archives Building. We have undergone some extensive renovations in that building, for short or for an acronym I suppose, we call it the Plab Building; and as I've mentioned I would hope that somewhere in the near future we would start naming some of our buildings after prominent

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(MR. DOERN cont'd) public figures rather than naming them in more functional and I think less interesting ways.

All of us who remember the Civic Auditorium, attending many concerts there over the years and so on, one of the first things that was done there was to remove the balconies which has changed the appearance of the facility immediately and then two floors were installed. Now that's a very massive undertaking; the steel work and the general work required to in effect convert that into a Library and Archives Building. The installation of elevators, the renovations for the Queen's Printer, a tunnel connecting to the Norquay Building and so on and so on. I can only say in general that renovations, major renovations, are costly. We've had many debates in Cabinet and discussions on this question. I'm sure members of the former administration can recall the fact that when one renovates a building it costs a considerable amount of money. There is such a thing as minimal renovations but when one is into major renovations then the cost can sometimes approach, and in some instances exceed the cost of new construction. One of the problems is of course when you work in an old building that you don't have the elbow room, instead of starting from scratch and using all the latest techniques and the latest materials you're in a confined space and you have to bore holes in old walls and replace old wiring and work within a confined space rather than an open space in effect.

I think that the Library and Archives Building is an example of a major renovation and I think it was one well worth undertaking. I believe that if you have a sound basic building or a historic building then it is worth renovating. If you have space that is very old and obsolete, and I would cite as an example some of the wings of the old Grace Hospital. On first glance it might appear that one could take a 1927 wing of a hospital and convert it into modern office space. Well that may be an impression but when one examines it or goes into it more deeply and considers possible new heating and cooling equipment, fire escapes and minimum standards of accommodation, etc. then one can get some very frightening figures. I believe in the case of the old Grace I was rather staggered by one estimation which indicated that it might cost as high as \$23 a square foot to bring that accommodation up to in effect first-class, or let's say medium to first-class office accommodation. Now you can build a new building, if you're lucky and if you're building at a very minimum level you can in some instances build a new building for that and not go through all of the headaches associated with renovating an old one. So I think that there are, Mr. Chairman, very few bargains, there are many white elephants, but there are very few bargains in renovating really old buildings, unless as I say they have historic value or unless they're very sound.

The member asked some questions on the Gimli Industrial Park, but as I said I'd like to defer those for the moment. I would thank the Member for Charleswood for his compliments about the fact that the department respects the tendering process. He pointed out an example, nearly a million dollars where only \$43.00 separated the successful tenderer and the person who ran second. We try to follow the system, occasionally if there are other factors, perhaps the record of a particular individual or some additional factors might lead us not accept the lowest bid, but normally we accept it immediately.

We also raised an interesting point about whether or not we should as a matter of policy have a clause of escalation for contractors. These have been trying times for people in the building trades and people who are in construction in general, because the price of materials has just skyrocketed, and there are very serious shortages throughout North America. I would only say at this time that we have met with the president and secretary of the Builders Exchange, they raise these concerns with us. There have been times in history when there have been escalation clauses built in, and there have been times when the Builders Exchange have asked that they be deleted, it was not in their best interest. But this is a very trying time for them, I can only say at this time that we are considering this question and we are attempting to get harder information on the materials side themselves. There are of course the labour side and the material side trying to get some better prices; I believe that the Bureau of Statistics in conjunction with the Builders Exchange and Statistics Canada is attempting to put together lists of materials in an attempt to find out what escalations are taking place.

The member also mentioned that the Manitoba Youth Centre has some noisy air conditioners. I must admit I am not familiar with that complaint but that we will check into it and see whether we can rectify it.

He also mentioned that there's a lot of activity and complaint about the driver training

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(MR. DOERN cont'd) facility at Fort Osborne complex and I can only indicate to him that for the time being I suppose the present system will have to continue but that within the next two to five years that facility will be relocated. There are some short range or intermediate range plans to relocate that facility with the Motor Vehicle Branch.

The Member for Swan River raised some questions about The Pas jail. I think those questions are best directed to the Department of Health and Social Development. Some of them may be answered under Capital Estimates. There are some plans being developed for northern correctional institutes but I feel that that should be answered at another time.

The member would also like to see flags waving over buildings and I must say that I share with him and the member . . .

A MEMBER: Let's have more flags.

MR. DOERN: The Member for Lakeside and myself, the Member for Swan River all like flags waving and lots of colour and music, etc. I share that same feeling. I must say that I most recently directed my--(Interjection)--Right. I recently instructed our director of security who is also responsible for the immediate environment to fly more flags so that we now have a flag at the front and a flag at the back. That's my general policy, the more the better. So we'll see if we can get something flapping over Swan River in addition to the honourable member who represents the constituency.--(Interjection)--

Well, I must remind the member that although he wants it in the court room that the court room is Federal, and I suppose at the Citizenship Court he should direct his comments to them.

The member also wanted to know whether he could have access to the government building in Swan River. I think that's something that would have to be perhaps decided later; that would be a new government policy. I personally think that it's a good suggestion. We have just made the first beginnings of developing some kind of an arrangement for members of the Executive Council, for example, in the buildings in Brandon and The Pas; still sort of a makeshift arrangement, not that permanent but I believe that there should first of all be space available to members of the Crown when they travel, but I think it's also a suggestion of some merit that MLAs should have accessible space in government buildings. But I think this is something that the honourable member should direct to members of the committee that looks into that question, and I think this point should be brought up again and discussed to see if we can make any progress on it.

He mentioned telephone cards, and I think again that the internal committees dealing with privileges and so on of members should have that question directed to them - telephone cards.

Now the Member for Fort Rouge I think raised some interesting points. He talked about the importance of design and the nature and design of government buildings and facilities and the impact of public works, government buildings, on the province and on the City of Winnipeg in particular. I have that kind of positive attitude I think. Recently when we developed the 405 building across the street, one of the things that concerned me was that I did not want another grim, gray concrete office tower in downtown Winnipeg. I look at a number of the newest and largest facilities near Portage and Main and I must say that those buildings completely turn me off. On a dull day they make the day duller, and on a bright day they make the sun look cloudy. So I think one of the things that I asked for was for a development of a more attractive facility, and we have employed curtain wall on that building which I think makes it much more exciting and interesting than gray concrete.

The Department of Public Works has the architects and the interior designers for government and, as the member mentioned, that consideration should be given to the attractiveness of the buildings and I think that it should also follow that the interiors of these buildings should also be attractive, that there is an effect on the part of employees on their attitude and on their morale about the conditions under which they work, and if a person is working in a bright and an attractive facility I think he tends to perform better than if he's in an older sort of dirtier dungeon type. We get complaints occasionally from employees about their working space and we attempt to make such improvements, but I think the Grecian ideal was correct about the impact of the environment on a person.

The member asked whether we have liaison with the City of Winnipeg. There is a direct contact with our administrators and the city's, and I myself as Minister am on the Urban Affairs Committee, where we have regular meetings and discussions with members of Winnipeg Council.

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(MR. DOERN cont'd)

The Member for Fort Rouge was concerned about the size of the staff of DPW. He seems to express a concern about the number of architects and whether they were madly designing new buildings and leaving the Winnipeg architects and their firms in the doldrums. Well I would point out to the member that our staff spends most of its time monitoring projects that are being designed by private architects and engineers - that an average Public Works architect might have 30 or 40 projects, and I suppose some might have 50, 60, 70 or 80 projects for which he is responsible.

On occasion a Public Works architect will design a building, some of the smaller projects, 100,000 or less, are designed by our people in-house. I think it's good that occasionally they do undertake certain assignments. I know we have one fellow who has done some work for Tourism and Recreation, I think outstanding development of facilities, but if the Public Works staff grows, if the figures indicate that the staff is in fact growing, I think it's simply the tip of the iceberg. It indicates that there is a large number of outside work, and we tend to grow in relation to the amount of work that is done outside. For example, in 72-3 the fiscal year we employed some 50 private firms as consultants and paid just over \$1,000,000 in fees. To date in this fiscal year, we have employed some 56 private consultants and paid out over \$600,000 in services. I imagine that by the time the fiscal year is older those figures will be about equal or will surpass previous years.

The member is interested in the question of energy, and so am I. There are two groups I suppose that deal with this question. My colleague heads the Manitoba Energy Council, which in effect deals with the broad questions, the national questions, the broad provincial questions, about policy on oil and gas, etc., and he has that particular responsibility. Mine is more restricted. I decided to establish an Advisory Committee that would specifically report to our department to give us some practical advice. The Energy Council I suppose could have been pushed to work in this direction but I don't feel that that's really their function. I think our two committees are complementary - one is looking in broad policy, the other is looking at the specifics of government buildings and the operation of the vehicle fleet. The aim though I think is similar. The aim is to make the general public energy conservation conscious.

I believe that we also have a responsibility to set an example. If we are advising people on doing things to conserve energy, I think they can say, what are you doing? And I think that we can say that we are taking practical steps to in fact change the approach and the policy of government in regard to the uses of energy, and some of that material, some of that information, will be passed on to the public as to what we are doing, and we will also attempt to provide information as to what a homeowner can do. For example, there is a model being developed within a department to show people what an ideal home would be like. That would, say, would retain heat and would maximize the use of energy.

We have mentioned before that we have asked civil servants to co-operate by keeping their thermostats a little down, and we have also taken measures to turn down the thermostats during the evenings and on weekends. We have altered the number of air changes in a building which very much affects the amount of heat in a building. If you have six or eight air changes an hour, complete air changes, and you can reduce that by several, you will save a considerable amount of money. There is obviously a limit, if you have no air changes or very few air changes, the air will get stale and it will become unpleasant and dusty, etc., but we have instructed our staff to undertake those projects.

We are looking into the purchase of some sub compacts; we are going to purchase some very small vehicles, particularly for use in the city of Winnipeg or in the urban centres. I myself don't think that these vehicles are, well among other things, safe for highway travel. I think it's obviously been proved that if you drive a larger vehicle and you are in an accident, you would have more protection than if you were in a very small vehicle. We have had experiments before - several years ago and I must say they were not conclusive and, you know, there are problems associated with using smaller vehicles but I perhaps can answer questions on that later.

Well Mr. Chairman I have some more answers about land acquisition, etc. Maybe I will leave that for more questions and answer them shortly.

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

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MR. HARRY E. GRAHAM (Birtle-Russell): I just have one short question for the Minister - could he indicate to me what plans his department has for the utilization of the old Vaughan Street Juvenile Detention Centre?

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

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, Mr. Chairman - I would like to join in congratulating the Minister on the way he has presented his Estimates and to express our general satisfaction with both the presentation, the background report, which is the annual report of his department, and also the general year to year operation of the department. We find very little to quarrel with or criticize in the total estimates of the department but Mr. Chairman, we would really address our comments I suppose to his colleagues in government. We believe that the department is one of the most important departments as my colleague from Fort Rouge has pointed out. We would like to see the department recognized as such, as the senior portfolio that it's becoming, because it is handling so much of the provincial affairs that the public generally isn't aware of its operations and the extent to which it influences government activity.

We would like to think of the department more as the Ministry of Supply, the Ministry of, or, if you'll permit an army term, the Ordinance Department, because the centralization of all purchasing, the centralization of purchasing of supply and service to government, it's really becoming a very very professional department, and though I do commend to the government the suggestion that the name of the ministry be changed to reflect the kind of responsibilities that it's becoming responsible for, and the duties it has now, and also perhaps to do so in an attempt to upgrade the portfolio in the eyes of the public, I would ask too that the Minister because of his well known and well respected enlightened view of his departmental responsibilities and the role of the ministry, to set an example for his colleagues perhaps by making his department and the material in it a little more open than other departments have been wont to be.

I'm referring to the fact that his department is the supply and the tender operation for all of the province. It would be an ideal event if that department would say those files where we purchase and where we supply service are open. And opposition members, members of the public, but opposition members are free to come in and take a look, and look at a given contract, how we arrived at it, and these were the bids, these were the tenders, and this was the technique that was followed, simply because it's of abundant importance that his department be the most open because it's the one that in effect and in present terms and in future terms, handles the purchase of goods by government. We'll come to the specific of, for example land acquisition in a few moments.

We would like to know specifically, and first of all is there a policy by his department on promoting and favoring where there are no insignificant differences, granting of supply contracts to local Manitoba firms as opposed to those from other regions and those from outside of the jurisdiction entirely.

We would like to have some idea of the percentage, for example, of what amount of spending that is directed by his department goes to the local economy.

On the Land Acquisition Branch - and perhaps the Minister will want to deal with it separately as part of the resolution on land acquisition - because at this very moment before the Legislature there is an issue, an open-ended issue or an unanswered issue, dealing with land practices - and I'm sorry the Minister of Finance isn't here because I understand he made some observations about it this morning - we would like to know--(Interjection)--no. My question that we would like answered is: does the Land Acquisition Division of your department have a procedural set of rules, guidelines, for members working in it? - I'm referring to conflict of interest of course - and what are the procedures taken by the department to ensure that there are no conflicts of interest; and is it a fact that the Land Acquisition Division of government makes all the acquisitions, including those for Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation, or does the MHRC operate its land acquisitions or land dealings separately?

That's a very specific kind of thing we'd like to know because we will be trying to pursue some answers to the questions that were raised yesterday in the House after the Minister has had an opportunity to look into the question that was raised. It may very well be that it should appropriately come up under this debate.

Mr. Chairman the point raised by the Member from Fort Rouge is a very serious point with the Liberal Party. We would like to see the Minister's department evolved to the point where it sponsors a provincial capital commission and the suggestion - the first step that the

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(MR. ASPER cont'd) . . . Member from Fort Rouge suggested, which we had raised last year in debate in the Speech from the Throne I believe it was, we would ask for the Minister to respond to this in a very positive way, the establishment of a provincial capital committee. The Member from Fort Rouge made some reference to the kinds of things that could be done, could be doing rather. We would urge the Minister to look at what the National Capital Commission has done for Ottawa, what it's done for it as a centre of tourism, what it has done for a capital which was a very dull, gray, drab city, frankly, before the National Capital Commission took a very serious interest; and today you have the bicycle paths, the malls, the skating rinks, the music in the park outside the building. Mr. Chairman, these are very non-costly things but they make an environment, they make a very pleasurable place, whether it's riverside drives - and I hear support coming from the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. We hope --(Interjection)-- one of the last great riders. Mr. Chairman, we would like to hear, because I suspect that the Minister himself would be very taken with that kind of an approach to this department, and it probably is an issue that would have to be resolved between he and the rest of his colleagues, but we would like to hear that we can look forward to his support or his thrust in this direction.

Now a moment or two on the MLA facilities, Mr. Chairman - you get to a subject very close to my own view of the reforms that are required in the process, and I don't want to spoil what is almost the end of the day by saying further how strongly I feel about this subject. But I can't let his department pass without placing on the record my very deep concern about the problem, the fact that we do not have MLAs with facilities that are equivalent to their requirements, to their constituents, and their ability to do their - to fulfil their obligations. I hear the Minister of Cultural and Recreational Affairs suggesting gym facilities. I would not have dared go so far. And I hear him suggesting dining, and certainly privately - I feel the same way --(Interjection)-- absolutely. Mr. Chairman, I think it should be put on the record that perhaps there are good chefs in that restaurant some place, but Mr. Chairman, it is a gastronomic endurance test - it is, and I promised I wouldn't get exercised about this thing this afternoon but --(Interjection)-- no, no. I'm going to change the subject because I can't deal with this without getting a little angry.

But Mr. Chairman, seriously, if the Minister would comment on how he sees the facility developing for MLAs as Ottawa has done, as Saskatchewan is moving toward, so that we can - and of course Ontario as he mentioned - so that we can do our job, so that we can do some research, so that we can have private consultations with people who advise us, or be able to give our advice to our constituents as we spend four or five months here, and longer, during the year.

He might also comment on, as he develops new office buildings, government office buildings, throughout Winnipeg as well as Manitoba, the prospect of allowing space in those buildings to be set aside for the sitting MLA of whatever party he may be, government or non-government, so that there is an established place in each riding some day soon, that the people know that they can go to and they can expect to see their MLA on a regular office hour basis.

It's a very inexpensive thing to set aside 200 square feet or 300 square feet in a building that's going up to provide that facility, and perhaps in co-operation with the City of Winnipeg as it develops its Community Committee offices around the city, something like this could happen. It's something that really should happen, and because we know he is a reform-minded Minister we think we can have it happen through his aegis over the next few years.

Mr. Chairman, I think perhaps there's only one last question I would put that is a specific question, and that is: we hear constantly rumours that the government is negotiating for the acquisition, or has entered into some discussions, for the acquisition of this property or that property, one of which is the Great West Life complex. Mr. Chairman, if the Minister could address himself to that. The reason it is of such current interest is that if the members of the Assembly are ever going to get facilities which permit them to be more effective in the community, it means that we're going to have to make space available in this building. And --(Interjection)-- Well, Mr. Chairman, the Minister of Cultural Affairs asks me if I'm in favour. I'm not sure if he's asking if I'm in favour of acquiring the Great West Life Building? Is that the question? Mr. Chairman, I don't want to make a statement that would be considered to be aiding private enterprise because --(Interjection)-- No, I'm not a shareholder, no. One of the things I did when I entered public life, Mr. Chairman, was make sure I owned no

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(MR. ASPER cont'd) . . . shares in any corporation whatsoever, and that is the position I -- and not in trust in any way whatsoever, no, Mr. Chairman. I believe that's something we'll get to later in the Session, the whole issue of what members of the Legislature should be holding. Well, Mr. Chairman, I think we should have an answer on that because if there is no plan afoot to acquire existing adjacent space in this complex then, Mr. Chairman, may we hope that the Minister will make other provision so that some time during the sitting of this new Legislature members can look forward to adequate office facilities where they can do their work and do it with a little more comfort, a little more facility, so that they can be more effective.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for La Verendrye.

MR. BANMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Being a small car franchise dealer, which is helping subsidize my political career, I of course would tend to agree with the Minister's analysis of car safety. But being that as it may, I would just like to make a couple of observations about the Department of Public Works.

I would like to reiterate what my fellow colleagues on this side of the House have said with regards to facilities being provided to MLA's especially the opposition members. As a new member I must say when I walked into this beautiful building, the main area and from there into the caucus room, I was to say the least quite shocked. The facilities are quite inadequate and in order for us as MLA's to enable us to carry out our proper functions in looking after our constituencies, and the needs and responsibilities that we have to this House, I would strongly urge the Minister to have a good long hard look at providing us with, namely, more phones and better facilities. I might also add that our Leader, the Leader of the Opposition, also is in very cramped quarters. There are three desks, filing cabinets and other office equipment in a room 12 x 18, and this is also causing problems as far as the daily operational procedures that our Leader has to take. And I would say, don't put off till tomorrow what should be done today.

The one area of concern that has come up in my constituency is with regards to land acquisition. It appears that the Land Acquisition Branch is either being overworked at the present time or is dragging its feet somewhat. Roads construction on provincial roads has been held up because of the purchase of right-of-ways and as a result not been completed. Many of the road projects that have been approved by the Department of Highways when we ask the Highways officials to what the status of those roads are, or why the work isn't being commenced, we are informed that the right-of-ways have not been purchased. I understand that the Department of Highways is attempting to go to a three-year plan for road building, and I would like to say that we strongly endorse that. So this is just one of the questions that I would have of the Minister whether he would mind checking into that if it is in effect factual that the land acquisition on the right-of-ways of roads is far behind or will it be caught up in the near future.

Two other pointed questions. I would wonder if the Minister could give us the cost of the walkway between the Law Courts Building and the new building under construction; and whether the Minister could provide us with a list of what departments are located in this building in the different rooms.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Charleswood.

MR. MOUG: Just one or two brief questions before the Minister gets up to answer. Mr. Chairman, I was wondering if on the Lakeview Development - I thank him for his answers on the 50,000 square feet, etc., but I had asked him the rental price per square foot on that particular subject if he could give it to me --(Interjection)-- Five-fifty? Thank you.

And I was wondering about if the post office, if the mailing, mail service in and out of the building, is as adequate as it was previous to I think some department or Post Office Department being moved out of here to the Norquay. I was wondering how the timing is. The timing doesn't seem to be quite as good as it was.

One thing I meant to mention, I had marked down here specifically was the poor lighting in front of this building in the parking area for -- particularly when we're in Speed-up, and it's not as bad now as it was because at the time we had a lady member in the House and she had to get out to her own car at night, I thought it's a bad environment out there for the men to be walking in amongst and any people that happen to come here at 1:00 or 2:00 in the morning watching our sessions, and if they're ladies themselves I don't think that the lighting is adequate for them to be walking around.

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(MR. MOUG cont'd)

And we have one flag waving monarchist in our caucus who has asked me to bring to your attention to do with some statues we have in the yard here. General Wolfe has a broken nose and something wrong with his sword, and also the Earl of Dufferin has a bad nose. So if you could look after the noses and swords on that statue I'm sure that would satisfy Jim Bilton. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge. Order please. I'm sure the Honourable Minister will take that into consideration. The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Speaker, if I knew that the Minister was in the business of giving nose jobs that would have led to a whole new line of questioning, and I'm sorry that we hadn't brought this up before but I would hope that we would have an opportunity to hear whether this is a brand new responsibility taken on by the Department of Public Works. I wonder if it's going to be done sort of under Medicare or pharmacare program, or if it's part of the general — connected with the Department of Health and Social Development.

Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to raise a specific question to the Minister by way of the question I introduced concerning whether he would be prepared to within the next short while, and I know he may want to think about it, of setting up a committee composed of himself and members of the city and other MLA's and residents to discuss problems within the immediate area, but particularly I wanted to raise a question related to the problem of parking. I would like to know whether the plans, or the department still has plans, to pursue the objective of an underground parking system in the immediate environs? And there is an important reason for it. (1) Because the present parking lots which are in existence on Kennedy Street and Edmonton Street, as I pointed out, are becoming a serious inconvenience and nuisance to many people in the area because of the noise and because of the traffic that they generate. And secondly, because of the increasing demand or need for open space which it now occupied, and I think the Minister knows enough about the economics of parking to know that surface parking is a very uneconomical use of urban downtown land, considering the land value itself. It would be — it's cheap only if you're speculating, I would point out to the Minister, and I certainly wouldn't like to think the Provincial Government is simply holding that surface area for speculative purposes, which is common practice these days in the downtown.

But the thing we would like to know is, do you have specific plans to ameliorate the present parking situation, either through the construction of other facilities underground or above ground, and to release those particular areas of land (a) either for the use of residents in the times in which civil servants are not using them, particularly weekends and on the evening hours after the employees have left; or secondly, would they in fact just release them generally for the use open spaces or for other kinds of developments of amenities, and in this regard I would bring to his attention the specific case where the St. Stephens-Broadway Church itself has a large area of open land which it has expressed some interest in developing into a new kind of neighbourhood facility, including shops and recreation and cultural areas, which may be available for the purpose of people working in the Provincial Government as well as residents.

And again I would urge or recommend to the Minister that the formation of a committee as we suggested would enable us to begin discussing with people like the church and with residents, the kind of use that this land could be put to in providing joint facilities, facilities that would be available both to members of the Provincial Government who occupy the space in the daytime, and for residents who occupy it in the evening hours, and I would hope that the Minister if he needs some time to think about it will at least bring it to the attention of this House in short order whether he's prepared to move on this recommendation and do something, particularly about parking.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Public Works.

MR. DOERN: Well, Mr. Chairman, I believe that the Member for Fort Rouge asked me some questions earlier that I didn't respond to, so maybe I could refer back to them. In regard to the Land Acquisition Branch, again as a good service department, Public Works responds to the requirements of the other departments. We do of course use our own appraisers and do both appraise and acquire land, and we have more recently used some private companies to help us in that regard.

(MR. DOERN cont'd)

In regard to the Legislative core area, this has been alluded to by the Member for Fort Rouge and the Leader of the Liberal Party, and others. Obviously this is quite a beautiful area, the Legislative core area as we describe it, going up to the Norquay Building and the Law Courts, Land Titles, Memorial Park, this particular building and the whole general complex, plus some additional properties in the downtown, is a very attractive centre, and it's largely because of the green space. This building in all its beauty if it were on a street and there were other buildings adjacent to it, would lose its visual impact; it's really because of the site I think that the Legislative Building is so outstanding as well as the very attractive architecture.

There are some long-term plans, but you know I've seen a - I've been around just long enough to have been excited many times about development plans of various kinds and then seen them changed or amputated or altered or discarded. There are so many schemes and dreams that come forth and die on the drawing boards, and we do in fact have at least one plan, maybe we have several, but I know that there is one general plan for the development of the Legislative core area, and part of that plan calls for the development of future office towers and for the expansion of Memorial Park.

The Vaughan Street Detention Homes is going to come down; it has some slight uses at present, but I think in the next few years that facility will go and that will give us with the possibility - open up the possibility of providing some more space.

I must say that I'm willing to ponder the proposal of the Member for Fort Rouge about a capital commission. I want to make my views very clear here, I'm willing to consider it but I must say I am not that keen on the idea for the moment. I still regard the legislative core area as a government responsibility; I think that we are open to advice and suggestion, but I believe that the decision-making should be a responsibility of the government. I suppose I could express a concern which would hold true here, but in many other areas that by involving more and more people about the long-term plans of the government in a particular area, you I suppose make it more possible for the news to leak out and when we're acquiring property, etc., it could lead to us paying a higher price. But I see that only as a small point, because that certainly holds true about, you know, the entire operations of government when it comes to purchasing and acquiring land, that information can leak out.

As I said, the member raised a question of the use of the Vaughan Street Detention Home, and as I said that in fact will come down.

The Leader of the Liberal Party made the suggestion that it might be more accurate to change the name in line with our responsibilities of our department to the Department of Supply or a Department of Government Services. I myself think that the name Government Services does in fact fairly accurately represent the nature of our department, but that is something for the government to ponder.

Now the Leader of the Liberal Party also mentioned that he thought that our books should be opened in regard to purchasing and in regard to construction. We do of course reveal in construction the various bids, the lowest tender and all the tenders on our projects and I think that probably is sufficient. I don't believe it's the practice of the Purchasing Bureau to provide the information on the various people who tender. As to whether that should be changed, I have no particular opinion at this time, other than to say that I think that could be considered, assuming it would provide a useful service.

The member also raised the question of conflict of interest, and I think we'll have a full debate on that shortly. I personally think that conflict of interest legislation should not apply only to elected members, but should also apply to civil servants. I would like to see that kind of legislation introduced on City Council as well. I don't know what they have, for example, but obviously anyone involved who has information about property or government plans, etc., you know, could in effect abuse that privacy.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to raise a question if I might to the Minister on that point.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: Would the Minister be prepared to give to this House on Monday when the estimate debate continues a list or a recognition of the private real estate agencies that the department presently uses to acquire land through its Land Acquisitions Branch so that we

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(MR. AXWORTHY cont'd) . . . would have some idea as to who is involved; and also indicate what kind of rules they set for those private companies when they go to purchase land on behalf of the government, because obviously they are involved in other activities.

A second question, which the Minister would also consider, that while he may be pondering the idea of a commission, would he be prepared to issue an invitation immediately though for a more informal committee of the people who I, you know, suggested to discuss these plans that he does have and to discuss with the interested parties in this area some of the concerns that they have, so that we could start that right away without having to set up a commission.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Public Works.

MR. DOERN: Well, Mr. Chairman, I'm trying to be agreeable with members of the Opposition, but I would have to register perhaps a qualified no to both of those requests.

I would say in the first instance that what we are attempting to do in certain instances is to acquire land at the best possible price for the government, and to that goal we have employed some real estate agents from private companies, but the whole aim and intention is of course, anonymity, and I think it would be not useful for me to disclose the particular individuals who in some instances would purchase on our behalf. All of those purchases of course must be approved by the Land Acquisition Branch and by the Land Value Appraisals Commission which is a quasi judicial commission.

On the second point, I would take a more modest step and rather than establish some informal committee, I would be prepared to discuss that with the Member for Fort Rouge or his Leader or any other members; I wouldn't like to formulize it or maybe even think of it as a committee, but on an individual basis, I'd certainly be willing and interested to hear some ideas and then see where that leads us to.

The Leader of the Liberal Party talked about such useful amenities as bicycle paths and skating rinks, and my colleague, the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, who's often seen as a streak in the cities and in the parks as he cycles around at 60 miles an hour or more on his 10 or 2-- speed racer, I know he would certainly support that kind of facility.

I know that I myself am interested in the prospects of jogging facilities. I have seen one at the YMHA, and I have seen one at the University of Manitoba where buildings, the sub-basements of buildings were excavated further and jogging facilities put in. I could think of nothing better than to have such a facility either in this building, or under the Norquay Building, or under the new office building, and to have some of our more portly members of the Legislature or out-of-shape civil servants jogging around at noon hour or after hours, I think that would be excellent. Anything in that line I support. --(Interjection)-- Well, the Member for Swan River says that his sizable stomach is muscular; I think we'll have to look into that. But he certainly is well attired; I think that if we're lacking a flag in Swan River, we could fly his jacket there as a temporary measure.

I must say that the Leader of the Liberal Party talks about better facilities for members, and I support that myself, but I think again that that is a --(Interjection)-- Well, the member is probably talking about the early plans-- our more enlightened predecessors in the 1920s had a bar in this building and had other attractive facilities like that.

The Leader of the Liberal Party complained about the restaurant, and I have heard some suggestions of that. We are again looking into that question. One solution perhaps a long-run solution might be the development of a restaurant for MLAs this is the case in Ottawa and in a number of other provinces. I personally think this would be something that should be considered in Manitoba, some place where members could do better than a cold or dried out egg sandwich for their lunch or dinner that's available in the lounge - it certainly is an improvement over not having food available, but I think it would be nice if they could have a warm meal, or a hot meal, or a cold plate at dinnertime, or a place where they could relax and meet with their constituents. --(Interjection)-- That's right. That's right.

Just briefly on Great West Life, the question was asked - we have been approached and have had discussions with Great West Life; these have gone on for over a year. I would simply say in general that is an attractive price is offered to the government, I have a standard outlook; if someone has property at an attractive price I'm prepared to buy it. We have a need for it. If the powers at Great West Life are willing to offer us their property at an attractive price, then I am willing to buy it at that price. But of course it is a question

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(MR. DOERN cont'd) . . . of how many dollars, and it would be a logical purchase for the government because of the fact that the proximity of the building, and the fact that we, we could in fact use additional space because we lease a considerable amount throughout Winnipeg. I think we have to look ahead, Mr. Chairman, not only for the next few years but we have to plan now for decades and generations ahead, so property acquisition in the Legislative core area is necessary and desirable.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hour being 4:30, is it the will of the committee to rise and report? (Agreed) Call in the Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the Committee of Supply begs leave to report progress and asks leave to sit again.

IN SESSION

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The Honourable Member for Logan.

MR. WILLIAM JENKINS (Logan): Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for St. Vital, that the report of the committee be received.

MOTION presented and carried.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable House Leader.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I believe that there is now a general disposition on both sides of the House that we adjourn. (Applause) Before we do so, Mr. Speaker, I would indicate to honourable members that the proceedings for our next week would be much the same as for this week in that we will be dealing with bills; perhaps some new bills will be introduced on second reading, and that we will then be following up the estimates in the order as they appeared in the letter.

Mr. Speaker, in order that perhaps I could win my wager with the Leader of the Liberal Party, he could move the adjournment, and I would vote for it, and that will be the passing of a private members' motion.

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable House Leader, that the House do now adjourn.

MOTION presented and carried.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. A motion to adjourn is not debatable, I'm sorry.

MR. ENNS: I was- the official Opposition wasn't quite prepared to adjourn under those circumstances, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The House is now adjourned and stands adjourned until 2:30 Monday afternoon.