

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA
8 p.m., Wednesday, April 14, 1976

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MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 60, Page 30 Income Security Programs. The Honourable Member for La Verendrye.

MR. BANMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to say a few words with regard to this matter. Welfare is always an issue which comes up from time to time and I think the biggest problem that we face with regard to welfare abuse and problems concerning the Welfare Department, are probably a small minority of people, about 10 percent, that are abusing the system, and those 10 percent are making it hard for other people who have very legitimate reasons for being on social assistance, are making it very hard for these people to contend with some of the criticisms that are levied at the different social assistance schemes.

First of all let me say that we've heard from some people that the rights of the people involved in social assistance should be safe-guarded. Now I think the taxpayer in this instance, whether it be through a social worker or through some of the agencies, has a right to call certain of the shots. In other words, I think the taxpayer as a whole should be playing the tune, even though he may sometimes be playing it very softly, but they should have control of the purse strings.

As I mentioned, I think there is about 10 percent that are abusing the system, and when you see some of the younger able-bodied people and you hear different stories of how they've been able to get welfare, you start wondering about the different abuses that are involved. From my own experience I note that when you look at some of the appeal cases to the Welfare Appeal Board and other places, some of the social workers have been exercising a certain amount of discretion as far as the handing out of welfare, and I'm sure the Minister is aware of certain instances where someone on welfare - for instance, a car is seen parked in front of that place, and a man keeps answering the telephone and this type of thing happening where you have somebody on social assistance maybe living together with a person who is out working. And I know this is a problem for the Minister's department because it's awfully hard to police or control, but you've got some of these cases where this particular thing is happening. I don't know what the Ministers department is doing with regard to that; I would possibly suggest that the social worker in a case like this be given a certain amount of leeway because most of the social workers do have a pretty accurate feeling of what is happening with their particular clients, I believe, and a certain amount of latitude should be given to these workers to make a decision with regard to the handing out or the taking away of social assistance.

As I mentioned, probably one of the biggest problem areas is the matter of employables that are on social assistance, and I notice in the media the other day that the B.C. Government has said that where unemployment is high, in other words, where unemployment percentages are fairly high, what happens is that they will cut down on social assistance, in other words, try and get these people back into the labour force. I would like to ask the Minister at this time to inform the House what his government is doing with regard to getting people that are presently on the welfare rolls that are employables back into the labour force. We noticed last year when we had the problems of flooding along the Red River, they asked for volunteers out of the City of Winnipeg, the people that were on social assistance, and I noticed that they had a fair number of workers that got out and were helping with the diking. So I think there is a certain percentage of the people that are on the rolls that possibly could get back into the labour force. Not only would the Minister be doing the people and the taxpayers of Manitoba a favour, I think he would be doing his own department a favour, because the accusations of welfare abuse would definitely be a lot less than they are now.

So I would briefly just ask the Minister to tell the House, what they are doing with regard to the employable people on welfare; what they are doing to try to reduce or minimize the abuses when we have a single parent or somebody that has been deserted and is on social assistance and is possibly living with another person that is

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(MR. BANMAN cont'd) working or is in the labour force, what are we doing to try and minimize this type of thing from happening, and trying to minimize the abuses of a welfare scheme. As I mentioned in the majority of instances which are very legitimate, and I think that the Minister appreciates that too, I have run across many cases where the need is there and the need has been exemplified, and members on this side have no argument with that, but it's the small minority that is spoiling it for the majority and so many other cases happen. I wonder what kind of safeguards the Minister is endeavouring to employ to make sure that these abuses don't take place.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Flin Flon.

MR. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I didn't mean to get drawn into a debate on welfare abuse, but I took some part in it when my colleague of Tourism was involved with the same portfolio, and it's a standard thing. You can always pick on welfare abuse, . . . will do here, the do-gooders, we'll do this, we'll do that. We had the same thing when we flooded South Indian Lake, all these people come out, we've flooded thousands of acres of land that's valuable, and when you look at that country 90 percent is muskeg, a useless thing. The timber rights were available for anyone to take them, but it's a thing that you seize on and I think you're clutching at straws on welfare abuse.

I'll give you some examples. Mrs. Trueman spent many hours in this House on welfare abuse, hour after hour, she had a pipeline right through to the welfare abuse problem because her husband was a doctor. Now her husband drew a salary of \$75,000 and I looked into his schedule, I found out, and in this House I said he made \$80,000 and Mrs. Trueman got up she was going to say - she almost said it - not \$80,000 it's only \$75,000. You know, she didn't bite on it. What he did when he went on his rounds, he would go in at 8 o'clock have coffee with his secretary, flirt with her a little bit, wake somebody up to see if they were sleeping, give him his sleeping pill; the odd operation and if he made a mistake he buried it. The greatest exponent of welfare abuse is the doctors.

And then Joe Borowski seized on this, Joe the Sir Gallahad, the champion of the north, he was going to do away with welfare abuse. Riding the crest of popularity Joe was, and I loved Joe Borowski at first, until I found out what a fake he was. Joe Borowski had one thought in mind and that was Joe Borowski, the John Wayne, Sir Gallahad he will cure the evils of the earth, and he lost it. He lost it because people were not that naive. Welfare abuse is a thing and we'll always have it. Let me tell you why.

And the Member from Pembina he speaks on welfare abuse, and I will tell you this, Mr. Chairman, if I was hard up for a meal or a place to sleep I would go to him, and he would come across because he's that kind of a man. And he's speaking a little bit with a forked tongue; he's not a man who believes in what he's saying. I believe you are clutching at straws on this welfare abuse thing. My God, Mr. Chairman, a person that won't work, there is something wrong with him. There is something wrong with a person who doesn't want to produce, and all my life I ran into that, he is either emotionally ill, mentally ill, or he has lost his faith, he is subject to the depression and he doesn't want to make it public, he wants to keep it a secret, he doesn't want to work. If you're going to go to the extreme we'll stop it, and we'll take as an example a man with ten kids, six kids, four kids. He won't work. So if he doesn't work, we won't give him anything. So what happens? If he doesn't work, he gets nothing, so his wife and children starve, and you'd have to put guards on him. Three shifts, eight hours of paid security to stop that man from eating, or whatever, and what about his wife and kids? And when it comes right down to the crunch, and the Minister of Tourism put it very well, anyone in this province that shows need will get help. And you can take your welfare abuse . . . My God for a man that sells Volkswagens to talk about welfare abuse is just out of this world.

Let's get at something serious. Let's hit some of the subjects. Let's hit some of the issues. Let's not seize on these straws like this afternoon, a 5 percent discount or redemption of . . . Let's get on the issues. Let's hear something that's important but let's not seize on this futile exercise in futility, of you're going to cure welfare abuse

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(MR. BARROW cont'd)because you'll never do it. Because in Flin Flon, and I checked 1 percent, you say 10 in the north, in my area, it's 1 percent of people. My God, there's no way you're going to stop it. No way. And you can talk and talk and talk and waste the time in this House, and the chairman must be bored to tears . . . year after year, welfare abuse. Why don't you get a subject worthwhile. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member from Wolseley. Kindly settle down.

MR. WILSON: Mr. Chairman, I couldn't agree more when you talk about an item that is as costly as \$47.2 million, you have to look at where the fat is, where the problem is and say, we've got to try to make this department and this area more efficient. And I wouldn't be able to, for one minute agree entirely with my colleague because I think the abuse of the welfare system is government. Because nobody has to get taken. If the department is running efficiently, there's no way they have to be taken advantage of. And I've got all sorts of experience in this particular area pertaining to different subject matters. I think it's about time that we had something, a legal definition of what a welfare recipient is, because unfortunately I am one too that likes to blame the Welfare Advisory Committee for being too soft in granting all these appeals, but the problem is they are dealing with a legal definition which is needed. And that becomes very confusing and very broad. And I think the definition of what a welfare recipient is and why he qualifies has to be tightened up. I remember when I first got into look at the City Department when the kids down at the Ting in those days at Broadway, which is right near the Klinik, would relate to me stories of how they would go down and give an address at Thompson, Manitoba or Flin Flon and they would get \$21.00 you see because the city is compelled to give everybody \$3.00 a day for seven days, or something like that, based on need. Well we started getting a little smart, we plugged that hole, we made them show identification. I think that's the type of thing the members opposite have to with part of this \$47 million.

And I would say, also, there's many of these people that are employable, or if you want to call them marginally employable, or classed, because of definition, as unemployable, who could if the unions would let them go in for a government program called the Sheltered Employment Program. Now what is a Sheltered Employment Program? It's where you take people that are making \$300 a month on welfare and you pay them \$400 a month, and you get them out of the home, you get them out of the beer parlours, you get them away from their coloured television set and you get them out into the fresh air. You give them jobs, like you could have them building on conjunction with the Minister of Tourism; you could have them repairing some of the many projects that are out of town, just at the edge of the town, many of our parks and that, that need cleaning up. You could give them jobs of building barbecues along the floodway so that immigrant families and new Canadians and poor people that don't have the money to travel and now with the new tax won't even be able to afford a car, will just be able to go out and have a picnic at one of the Sheltered Employment Programs where there's a barbecue along the floodway.

And that's what I'm talking about of putting people out there, outside in the fresh air. And if your government can't turn around and see the benefits of putting those people back into the work force and getting some tax out of it, that seems to be a sad day. Because that's what I call abuse, the abuse of the government for not getting these people outdoors. These people need to be led and they need some sort of leadership. We talk about the -- (Interjection) -- Well, we don't want to talk about Flin Flon completely.

But I wanted to talk about a problem - for instance, I was very concerned because I was receiving complaints about junk. And it's too bad the Member for Point Douglas wasn't here because this one at 43 Barber Street is an example, where I went out and inspected it and there was a garage at the rear of his home that was completely filled with appliances. What happens is, we have a very strange animal here called the recipient, and I'm talking about the very small percentage, I think it's less than 10, as my colleague has said, but in the city it's probably about four or five, and they have a very very strange habit of moving all the time. And again they move all the time because the government tells them, you cannot move only once a year, you cannot move - they

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(MR. WILSON cont'd) should be allowed to only move twice a year. And maybe the Minister could explain what his government's policy is. -- (Interjection) -- Well I think it's terrible when somebody's living off the public dole to move seven and eight times in a year. And what happens, as in this case, they left behind 14 fridges and stoves, and when I turned around and couldn't have the government, Provincial Government, trace down who those recipients were that were irresponsible and left those appliances behind, I turned around and nailed them under the Health By-law. I nailed the landlord because those fridges had the doors on them and they were unsafe for children. But the point that I was talking about is -- (Interjection) -- \$59.50 was paid for the second-hand fridge and \$50.00 for the stove, and you multiply that over again, I needn't tell you how much those people care about the appliances that are handed to them by an uncaring department.

And that comes up to my point again, which has been a favourite one of mine. I think, and I have talked to Mr. Gordon Muirhead of Eatons, and I think it's time we gave some serious consideration, and I would like the Minister to tell me how much they spent out of this \$47 million for what they call Special Services. That is where people get things. They get appliances for their home, they get furniture, beds, bedroom suites. I don't believe they qualify for television, but that could be included if you felt that in today's day with all the educational programs. I agree, and I think that it's time that if you accept my program, you'll be able to give every welfare recipient a television if you hear me out. I'm suggesting, that if you were to approach the major department stores in this town and you had a clearing house that you could have - and this was confirmed by Eatons who agreed with me - they would deliver every trade-in to you without having any inspection of it for \$5.00 a piece. Now what you would do is take that down to a clearing house and have some of your Hydro boys that are making \$12.56, or whatever it is they make an hour, go down and check these things out. -- (Interjection) -- Red River College, the students could work on them - and these appliances would be sitting out there at one of these clearing houses, one of these empty warehouses we have, and the welfare recipient would go down and they would still have that so-called freedom of choice. And instead of giving them \$94.50 for a fridge or a stove, or whatever, whatever major appliance, you would be buying that thing for \$5.00 and the only thing the second-hand dealers are doing is they are going down to Eatons Warehouse, they were picking up 50 television sets, 50 fridges and stoves and they are giving them a kick in the rear-end and selling them to the government for \$94.50.

And then there comes the question as to who administers this program. Well when I got into the city program, and again I have to speak about which I know best, but I understand the province - (Interjection) -- Well, out of 1,929 appliances, when I found out who they were buying them from very conveniently one received an order for \$1,355 and I wanted to know why; because apparently he was cheaper than the others. The same thing exists in spades in the government. What I'm talking about is these people if we are not going to go for my program of talking about appliances, and again I bet you the figure would shock you. I hope that the Minister's Deputy's there. Tell them what the figure is; how much does this government pay to buy appliances. And it would shock you, because the city was over \$100,000 so I can imagine his is equal that amount. And what I'm saying is that in this one report alone, 1,929 major appliances times, even if you go to 70 that's over \$70,000. So that's the type of thing that I would like to see in my contribution to this particular section.

I don't believe that we can turn around and do anything. I did want to speak about a program we had with the placement of liens which was basically rejected on humanitarian reasons, but we do feel that we should be talking about the use of automobiles. At today's prices of gasoline at a \$1.00 a gallon maybe it's time we started looking at public transit or something, why are people allowed to use automobiles? And why are we allowed to give aid to persons that are on strike?

And I would like to talk about the government's responsibility under the Alcohol Education Program. In my opinion that should be paid for 100 percent by the province, not 80 percent, 100 percent, because . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. The honourable member now knows that we

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(MR. CHAIRMAN cont'd)are not dealing with Alcohol Education, that was dealt with under the Minister of Corrections.

MR. WILSON: Mr. Chairman, the point is well taken except we are dealing with Income Security Program and what it says is that people that are on welfare are on welfare because they are sick. They are sick because they have alcoholism, it's a disease, it's been recognized by health people as a disease. I plead with the government under that section to treat it as a service to people and pay for it 100 percent if a welfare officer designates the reason that person is on welfare is because he is an alcoholic, he needs treatment, it should be paid for by the government. Basically, as I say, I think that if the government becomes imaginative and becomes a little more responsible, any abuse that there is in welfare is really the government, because there's no reason why these people can get away with it unless there happens to be the type of staff morale that says, what should I care, I'm getting a pay cheque anyway, I'm a civil servant; where does my responsibility start, because they'll simply appeal and go to the Welfare Advisory Committee and I'll have to waste time and I'm working too hard now, so why should I have to - I'll just give in. And many people on Mincome went back to welfare because it was better on welfare than it was on Mincome.

With those remarks I'll close. I hope you give me thoughts some consideration.

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

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, I might as well tell my old friend immediately that I'm not going to give his suggestion too much consideration. First of all, he's half cocked again, like he's always been during the debate of this estimate, and he's telling us how much he's going to rectify a thing and he hasn't got half the information; he gets some information and he's trying to make a big case out of that.

First of all, the question of need is defined by the Federal Government under CAP, not by the Provincial Government, so let's start with that. Now let me tell my honourable friend that there are almost no young, able-bodied people over 18 years old that are on the Provincial Social Assistance, those that you have are on Municipal Assistance, administered by the Municipalities, and we were told how terrific that was, that the municipality should do the administrating. So that's another thing that my honourable friend should know.

Now, out of 24,000 cases there are about 800 employable on Provincial Assistance. The other gentleman that spoke talked about 10 percent, he stood up and he said there's 10 percent abuse and that becomes enshrined in there, somebody said 10 percent, and it's 10 percent. You know I, at one time when I was sitting around there, felt a little bit like this that there were too many abuses, and so on, and as I stated last week, I came in and I was going to be a crusader and that's one thing I was going to change when I became the Minister of Health and Social Development. But, I'm not finding that much to change. I'm not finding that much to change. This is easy, you know, people are talking about abuse, and, of course, you're going to find abuse, of course, you're going to find abuse when you look at the type of people, the sick people, people that are having trouble, they're not getting that much money, sure once in awhile there's going to be abuse. There is abuse by every damned member in this House when he pays his income tax, and if he can get away with something he will. So let's not play any God darned games around here, Mr. Chairman, just because somebody that's getting a \$150.00 . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please.

MR. WATT: On a point of order, because the Honourable Minister of Health . . . should get up in this House and accuse other members of this House. . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is not a point of order.

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, I'll repeat that every member in this House, including the Member from Arthur, if he can get away with anything on his income tax will do it; don't anybody try to kid us.

And now you have somebody that is sick, somebody that is sick, I'm saying that . . .

MR. WATT: Mr. Chairman, are you making a charge?

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MR. DESJARDINS: I am saying that . . . Yes, I am.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please.

MR. WATT: . . . withdraw.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, there is no point of order. The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. DESJARDINS: . . . that somebody that can get away with something will do it . . . your own case. And those that can afford it will engage, hire somebody that will show him how to get away with things.

A MEMBER: Are you talking about shoplifting?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please.

MR. DESJARDINS: I thought you had quit drinking, or . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please.

MR. F. JOHNSTON: On a point of privilege.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. Order please. All right, will the honourable member state his point of privilege.

MR. F. JOHNSTON: Well the point of privilege is, the Minister has made a damn dirty remark to another member of this House.

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

MR. DESJARDINS: We're touchy tonight, Mr. Chairman.

A MEMBER: You're the touchy one. The truth hurts.

MR. DESJARDINS: It doesn't hurt me. If I made any statement, that is if the truth hurts, well then don't blame me.

Now we have been told, you know, this is the same people that are pretty touchy, but we're supposed to have second class citizens in this world, exactly, exactly, because how many are we talking about? We have a group of auditors that regularly investigate any suspected case of fraud - we do that, what else can we do? We recommend out of 24,000 cases about 200 prosecutions a year. And about those people that are visiting, if anyone that we suspect of living common law, we check them and then we charge them as if they were married. Anytime that we can catch anybody this is exactly what we do. As far as helping people that are on strike - you know, there was all kinds of wild statements that were made. As far as aiding people on strike, we do not assist anybody on strike unless they were on assistance before the strike. Now the municipality at times might help them, that's not the Provincial Government. And we don't buy TV sets. Now we're talking about also, all these fridges, and that has become a big thing, all the fridges and so on, that we have. How many new fridges do you buy with \$150 when you're looking at a fridge, when you're looking at a stove, when you're looking at a chesterfield, and this is what they get, and then I'm told that in a garage there's 30 fridges, and so on. How ridiculous can you be.

Some of those people, as I say, will break the law, certainly. Does that mean for a few, it's not 10 percent, at the most 5 percent, that everybody is going to suffer. We're not talking about all this money, and we're not talking about all these people, I gave you the list before dinner, and there were 23,930. All right, do you include the Mothers Allowances on that? Do you think we're too flush on the Mothers Allowance? I'd like an answer out there, or at least somebody. -- (Interjection) -- Okay, all right. The Age and Social Allowance, is that who you're counting? No. Well there's another 6,000 off that we're not dealing with. We're dealing with the Long Term Disability Allowance, which is 8,820. We've broken that down so let's forget that 24,000, we're talking about 8,820 and out of those people, you mean to tell me there's nobody sick, there's nobody in here that's sick and cannot work? Because these are the Long Term Disability Allowances and these are provisions of financial assistance to a person who, by reason of a physical or mental ill health or physical or mental incapacities or disorders requires assistance for more than 120 days. That is the definition. These are the people. And then when they get a slip from their doctor, what are we supposed to do? I say, Mr. Chairman, all right, let's keep the government of the day on its toes. Let's make the same speech, and it has been made. I've been here close to 20 years and the same speech has been made about the unemployed employables.

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(MR. DESJARDINS cont'd)

But I say, Mr. Chairman, it is not fair, and there is no way that I can allow some of the statements that were made without answering, because this is not true. There is very little, very little abuse. And then we've tried. What are we going to do? My honourable friend said awhile ago, we're going to make them work. We're going to do something, because of the people - I think he said high tax, he's talking about the people because of the new taxes announced yesterday, so I imagine he's talking about those people with \$25,000, or more, that will have a surcharge and those people won't be able to afford to go to the park, I think he said, and he wants these people to be made to work, to cut the grass and to do these things. Well then - and there's a lot of people that are doing that. But then they are no longer on this force. We work with these people, and we have all kinds of people that go to work. The Employment Service now is with the Income Security together, and that's where the testing is taking place, and they are helped to get jobs. And the minute that you have that, you know what we're going to see, if we did - and this is one of the difficulties that we've had with the Federal Government, that we've tried. They say okay, because it's cost shared, and can you help us and have some kind of a system to have these people work. The first thing you know you'd have cheap labour by the municipalities. And these same people would be . . . That's it, work for wages, for the money that they're getting now, so my friend here can enjoy the park, and so on. And this is the way he's talking about . . . He has something. He has a hang-up over people on welfare. They are not people, they are animals, and everything . . . They shouldn't have a car, they shouldn't have anything. If they go out and buy groceries, if they dare buy a bag of chocolate cookies for the kids, they shouldn't because the taxpayers' paying for that. Well damn it, those days are gone and I hope they're gone forever, Mr. Chairman.

You know, there's a limit in exaggerating. This is not doing a service to the people of Manitoba. He's not concerned. He's not embarrassing me as the Minister responsible, and he's certainly not embarrassing the government for spending approximately what? A million dollars is our share of it for welfare, about a million dollars after 47. What do we get back? And I'm talking about people on welfare. Now if you want to include, well come out and clearly and strongly that you're including people on Mother's Allowances. This is exactly what you're doing. Do you know what the province has paid? \$1,680,000. This is what we paid. The municipal shares has been \$3,150,000.

So, Mr. Chairman, there is no way that we should keep on. Let's make our little speech, and let's talk about this unemployed employable. Let's say that we're tough. We're trying everything. We're discussing with Ottawa now, there will be a new Act. We've done everything possible to help the working poor to have a system where there will be some initiative to work, where the people will be encouraged to work instead of strictly welfare, and if you make \$20.00 or so, well it's too bad and you're off welfare. So society is encouraging these people, because they can't make much more than that. This is exactly - for years we've been working to have this kind of a setup with the Federal Government. It is not that difficult. We think that it will be improved, it will be modified. But to make blank accusation in coverage like this.

Now let's say that we take the police system, from the far-off rookie out there and we put everybody in jail, or line them against the wall and shoot them, and tell them they shouldn't smoke because they're on welfare, they shouldn't drive a car, and they shouldn't have a boy friend visiting them and so on, because they are not citizens. You know, that's it. In a society like we have, in a rich society like that we can't take care of 8,000 people here, people that are sick, and so on, and we're talking about the abuse, there's abuse all over. Let us try to be even tougher. What is going to happen? You're going to have more people in jail. Those people, because they're a bad lot. We can't legislate goodness, a government can't do that. We can try. And if we stick our nose in everything it will even be worse. --(Interjection)-- That's right. There are some people, and there always will be. You know I got hell last time when I said we'll have problems, and I'm being realistic. We're going to do everything we can. I am with you people 100 percent, I do not want to see parasites in society, live on the expense of somebody

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(MR. DESJARDINS cont'd) else. But I'm telling you, it isn't that bad. And if we are tougher, and if we're afraid to get people that - what are they going to do? They're going to steal. And they're going to be in jail. And then we'll have Mothers Allowance who'll get it anyway. Don't say we can encourage these people. We're doing everything we can. But, Mr. Chairman, it is high time- we've had that for about 10, 15 years, every year it's a very popular thing to do - because the people don't like to pay their taxes to take care of parasites, and I don't either.

Let's tell it the way it is. This is an exaggeration, Mr. Chairman. There is 5 percent and so on, we go after them, we add liens, we've recovered what, \$110,000 I think last year on some of the excess payment that we've had. But we're dealing with human beings. All right, we're here to represent the taxpayers. I say to the taxpayer, and it's high time to say to them, there's not that much abuse. You don't sell and you don't move seven times and buy seven fridges when you've got \$150 a year. Do you know how much, the great sums that they're getting? Would you let me see this information? Now for the rent. Do you know why they have to move? Because all of a sudden the landlord - I was watching television tonight and I saw one fellow that had to move. He didn't want to move. It was all packed in crates and so on, because the landlord decided that he's going to fix the place and he'll get more money for it, or he'll live in it himself. Now a single person, for the rent, fuel and utilities, we give him \$90.00; this day and age, \$90.00, that's for rent, fuel and utilities, that's a month. Besides that, he'll get \$93.40. Now that is a single person that gets nothing but welfare. Now if you want to tell me - fine, I'm not going to debate, you're entitled to your opinion - that we're going to be tougher, we're going to give less to the Mothers Allowance, the aged. And another thing, age and social allowances, what figure did I give you? I gave you 6,326, and all of them except 800 have got a health card. That's what they get. Out of 6,000, all of them except 800 are getting a card to get false teeth, or glasses, and this kind of thing. So, is there that much abuse. You know, isn't it time that we stopped this thing of automatically coming in with our pet project, the same people all the time, not getting the information. Sure it's easy. You get a case, any case on anything, if I want to make a point, I will find some abuse. I will find people robbing the Federal Government, robbing the taxes. I will find stores that will shortchange you. I will find people that will sell cars that know that these cars are not that good, they can get away with it with a paint job and so on. I will find people selling their houses, painting it and maybe covering something. There's larceny in all of us, gentlemen. And I say, let's be fair. Let's keep the government on their toes. Let's talk about this abuse. But about the abuse, not in some figment of your imagination. To stand up and say there's 10 percent abuse, somebody must have told him that, so there's 10 percent abuse. It's a lot closer to 5 percent at the most, in abuse. And as I say, if there's somebody that is trying to beat the setup by living common-law, if we find them and if we suspect them, we'll investigate and we will act as if they were married and their revenue will be counted. We're doing that all the time.

So you know it's not that I'm defending myself today on this, that I feel guilty or feel weak. I was the first one to admit that in some areas we're very weak, not in this. We're doing everything we can, we're working with the Federal Government, but I think it's high time we defend a class of society that could not through sickness or a lack of education, or they are not favoured the way we are. None of them were born with a silver spoon in their mouth - I'm not saying everybody else has. Let's not suffer parasites but let's have a little bit of heart in this society, in this year in Canada, that we will be able to do a little bit for people on Widow's Allowance and for older people over 65, for people who are sick and so on. Sure let's keep our eyes open to see if there is any abuse and let's come hard on them. But those are the ones I'm sure that you're aiming at, those are the ones that abuse. Why, for maybe 800 or 500, charge 24,000 people, fellow Manitobans, maybe your neighbours, maybe some of them are your relatives, because all of you - you know, you'll find people that abuse, but I'll say that all of you, each and every one of you know some cases of people that have got the guts, that are taking just what they have to. In fact, many of you who are strong Conservatives, very

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(MR. DESJARDINS cont'd). . . .sincere, but you're sincere enough also to come to me because you are human beings and you'll say, here, these poor people have been citizens, they've paid tax before, now they just can't do it, what can we do for them? You would like to do a little better than we're doing, a little better than we're doing, and we can't do it because we've got rules and regulations, and you feel that we're not quite fair. So give the people, give Manitobans a break, let's go and hit those guys that are trying to be parasites, but fortunately there are not that many.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Swan River.

MR. BILTON: Mr. Chairman, the Minister for the last few minutes has - I think I know him well enough to say that I feel he was speaking from the heart - in fact, I know he was. But at the same time, I think he will appreciate that those of us that are out in the field have people criticizing the department for many ways that welfare is being handled, rightly or wrongly. We have to listen to it and try and give the answers. With the Minister's message today I have tried in my own small way to explain this off to people, but you know, Mr. Minister, I have a case in point. I have a lady that is a wheel-chair victim, arthritic victim. She is the widow of a First World War veteran who has now passed away and as a consequence she gets a small pension from the Department of Veterans Affairs. I'm sure as I go on the Minister will get what I'm driving at. With the pension, the province in its wisdom assisted and she had a woman go in there to assist her, to take care of her and take care of the house, and the province paid the expense of that to the tune of around \$60.00 a month, which I felt was pretty reasonable. She also had a medicare card, and when she required medical assistance it was a question of her having to drive 40 or 50 miles into Swan River. She had no automobile and she had to depend upon neighbours to do it. Well so long as she had that card it was paid for. She got a small increase, a cost of living increase, as I understood it, from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and as a consequence of that small increase, it wasn't too great, her card was taken away from her. I made an appeal to the Minister, and I took it up with the department on several occasions, your local officials, and they too I believe pleaded her case. But undaunted the department stood fast. Having said that, Mr. Minister, I must report to you that she says to me, "Why? Why on God's green earth would they provide a low rental house, a brand new house for an unmarried mother of three children, and continuing to live" as she said, and as I don't believe, "on the fat of the land." Sixty dollars I suppose she got for the three children, and then the support of the Welfare Department to assist her - I have no objection to this. And also paying the rent for a brand new house that she was living in, and I've got no objection to that either. What could I say to that woman, Mr. Minister? What can I say to women or people under those circumstances? What answer can I give?

Listening to what you had to say tonight, I'm four-square behind you in rooting out those people that take advantage of the system. But, Sir, that's going on, and your people know it's going on. But what can they do about it? There are men in and out of that particular house as I understand it, it's just like a rabbit warren. And it aggravates those people that are trying to play the game. She's not complaining about the fact that the card was taken away from her, even though it creates some hardship with her. And it's only through the goodness of the hearts of neighbours that as and when she has to go for medical attention they drive her in and drive her back at their expense. It's true her son gives her a hand, he's working away from there, but nevertheless if anything happened to that son, she would be helpless. In the meantime the department down through the years have been very good to her and it's very acceptable, but for that one little thing. Why the department should have stood fast and not give her that medical card, and give her that little bit of added protection. My God, she could be dead tomorrow in the condition she's in, it's pitiful. She has to depend on so many people to help her. But she witnesses these other things going on around and about her and she wonders why. She's the kind of a person, Mr. Minister, that you spoke of, who would be the last to come and ask for anything, but she's helpless but for the little pension she gets from the Department of Veterans Affairs. And I have appealed her case - you know what I'm talking about.

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(MR. BILTON cont'd) This is the sort of thing, Mr. Minister, I've just given you that as an illustration, that those of us in rural constituencies have thrown in our faces everyday, regardless of politics. Politics are aside in my remarks at this particular time. But we are confronted with these things, Mr. Minister, and the abuses are there. And I would wish you well in trying to arrest these abuses. By what you've said tonight, you have every intention of continuing your efforts to do so. But we have to answer to those people, those proud people, that are only asking for a little assistance to help them over the hurdle until they go to their graves.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, I think that my honourable friend will see the difficulty that we have. I'm well aware of that case, and it's quite a dilemma. I know that my honourable friend is 100 percent correct, but I live by rules also, and the minute that we change that, the minute that we increase the allowed revenue, we have to do it for everybody else, and I think that this is one member who really understands the situation.

Now another area - and as I have said, that's a commitment that I've made, and I'll make it again without any hesitation, that we will go very hard on any abuse that we can find. But there's another thing, we hear cases such as today, that there's abuse, and these people and so on, but people do not want to come out and give us names or give us cases, so what can we do? They'll say, well I'm not going to be a tattle-tale, I know somebody, and it gets them mad, but they don't want to give me the name. I don't know if it is a question of guts. They say, well these people are a little, maybe they deserve it, so - it's the same thing, that's it. But they won't give us the name, so that makes it twice as hard. And mind you, I'm not talking about this case now, I'm talking in general. But some of the cases that we hear, automatically, from some of the members - they say here is a case but we haven't got the name, somebody told us that sticks in our head here somewhere, and it's a fact. And sometimes, oftentimes, no matter what you check, and you see the other side, it's not always like that, that people exaggerate.

And there are often cases where you might have people that look very very healthy but are not well, are sick. And remember, a while ago we were talking about health, we were talking about getting people out of the hospital, people that might have been 20 years in Selkirk and Brandon, we're getting them out; we're helping an agency to have an outdoor, what do they call it, an Outdoor Club or something like that where they will come in--(Interjection)--Pardon? Yes. And they will work with them and so on. But those people can't work, we're lucky that they're not in a bed in a hospital, some of them, they are sick. They might weigh 250 pounds and look very healthy and strong as an ox, but they can't work, they're mentally ill, but to the neighbour, he doesn't know, he sees this fellow, he's perfectly all right. I know that some people might be conning us on this, no doubt some are, the same thing as people are conning insurance companies. You know, you get car insurance, again I've got to be very careful, but you were one of these callers and you say you've had a whiplash, and nobody can prove anything and you're in business - and that is being done.--(Interjection)--I didn't name anybody.

So, Mr. Chairman, I am saying that it is not that easy, but if we find somebody we will. But are we going to have a police force to do that and spend fifty times the money that we're losing? We've had - what is it? There's a program that we have now, the Property Tax Credit Plan, that's \$77 million for that plan. Then there is the Tax Credit Plan, another \$23 million. There's \$100 million. And then we - of course, I'd better not say this, I'll be vulnerable when I say this - but we loan money to companies also, and we lose that money, millions of dollars sometimes; and he's got a fellow that's maybe stealing a few pennies and so on and we're going to make a big thing out of this and tar the whole Manitoba population, I don't think it's fair.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Pembina.

MR. HENDERSON: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I've enjoyed the discussion tonight very much. I think possibly at the beginning here we were maybe getting a little bit hot under the collar on each side. It's true that there is two sides to the story. I think I must say that I do know of cases where welfare has been given,

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(MR. HENDERSON cont'd)where the children as they have grown up have taken jobs and have become good citizens and are earning their own living now. I don't know for sure how they would have got along if they hadn't been helped, so it really has a good side to it.

However, I am also aware of many of the abuses, and possibly because we as an opposition point them out just doesn't mean that we don't - we're not really saying that even if we were government there wouldn't be abuses, because they do come in just like in everything else. But we do believe it is the duty of the government and of the social workers to try and find these people and try to sort it out. I know that is a very difficult job and I'd say to the members too, as well as to any of the public, that where they do really feel there is abuses, they really don't even have to put it down in writing or anything, but if they advised the social worker of it in a nice way, he'll check on it and see if it's true. I have done this myself, because if there is anything I hate to see is abuses in a program that is meant to do well. So I think this is really a duty that we have, no matter which side of the House we're on, if we really feel there's abuses that we should do something about it.

One of the things that the Minister said, I just can't follow him, he said that the rent was only \$90 a month in rural areas. I think I know of one--(Interjection)--For one person. Oh, well I know of families that are living in a place and paying \$160, so I was wondering what you were referring to. I do know of some people on welfare, and of course when they're getting into a house they aren't really caring in a few cases if the rent is high or not because they aren't paying it themselves. And of course that's a deal between the social worker and the individual that's charging the rent. I suppose when they aren't paying it, it is only natural that they aren't too concerned about it.

But another thing I'm thinking about these welfare people, is that occasionally they even get holidays. Now I just don't know whether they're allowed to have a social worker come in, or somebody come in, not a social worker, but somebody that they can hire to come into their house, and they're allowed holidays to go different places. I don't know, I don't suppose you can be too tough on them, but it does seem like as if you're being pretty generous, an awful lot of other people that are poor never get a holiday at all.

Another thing is, a number of years ago the welfare people who were attending here and they didn't want vouchers when they wanted extra furniture or appliances, they wanted to be able to get the cash. Well I feel sure, by what I've heard from time to time, there's quite a few people that have got this money to get furniture or appliances and they really haven't done it. I wonder, has there been any checking out done on this, and have they got many cases where they have found out that the furniture or appliances weren't bought at all, that the money was just spent elsewhere? I remember the time of the, I think it was the Barber Report that was brought out at one time, and it was talking about the people on welfare. I think the figure that he established at that time was about 5 percent of the people he figured was abusing the system, but that amounted to \$3 million at that time, and if there's 5 percent abusing it that's caught, we know there's a lot more. I think possibly somewhere along the line we should do something more to check up on some of these people. You say, well you've got to check up on everybody, and maybe you should if you can. This is what we have our Consumer Bureau for, and other things that we have like this, and if anybody else is caught they're raked over the coals, so I think if anybody is abusing these privileges they should be raked over the coals too and made to pay the money back that they've overdrawn.

I just don't know, I feel sorry for the people that are on welfare, but we find some of them that's an awful lot their own fault they're on welfare, and I think if the social workers would do something to give them a little bit of good common sense or to talk to them in a sensible way it would maybe help.

I hate to knock your social workers, but in many cases they are young people that have graduated and have taken a course at a university or some place in social work and they haven't really been out and run a house on their own or paid their own bills in their life. They don't know that things can be done, they were always raised in a good home that was kept clean and tidy, they don't know what some of the working people really have to set up with. I think if some of them had a little bit more practical experience when

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(MR. HENDERSON cont'd)they came around to some of these places where they see the fuel bill is \$100 a month for heating a place, if they'd know enough to look at the place and tell the tenant to get some of the storm windows in, or put on the storm doors, or some of these other things that should be done. Because I know of people that have been on welfare that are complaining about the places being cold and they don't even know enough to put on the storm windows. So I think you know, it's only a little thing, but there's things like this that are going on all the time. We blame it on the landlord, but in a lot of cases it's the very tenants that are making it this way, and in many cases when you complain about tough landlords or poor landlords, it's because of poor tenants that they are.

I don't think I have anymore to say, except that I do know it's a problem and I know that the Minister is trying. But I think that, you know, these things we have to be watching, we have to be trying all the time, or else even more and more abuses will slip in.

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

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, I've got good news for my honourable friend, because there's very few social workers now that are doing this work. There's been a change and the people in the Income Security are looking after it, not social workers, they're not the one that decide on that at all. There might be the odd ones that are graduate social workers, but very few of them.

I wonder if my honourable friend could read - maybe tomorrow, or when Hansard comes out - if he could read what he said, because it's not the first time that he's done it. And I've never doubted this gentleman's sincerity at all, but there is a few statements that he made that make me think. For instance he said, well these people don't know enough to put on the storm window. That's right, that's right, they're not necessarily the brightest people in the world, some of them. Some of them are mentally ill, and that's exactly it, and if they had the brains and the I.Q. and the know-how to get out of the rain, some of them that are healthy and so on might be sitting here and might be getting the money that you're making and that I'm making. But I don't hear you people, I don't hear you people say, I don't hear any of you people all of a sudden say, why is it that insistence, put a police force on the people that are stealing a few bucks, are we going to get up, are we going to say tomorrow, are we going to say about all the people in society that are a lot worse than that?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Pembina got a point of order?

MR. HENDERSON: Yes, I think what I said at that time was that the social worker should be able to give these people some guidance and maybe to tell them to put on the storm windows, this is what I was saying. The social worker should be a little bit more practical and tell them some of the sensible things.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please, Order please. That is not a point of order, that just happens to be a difference of opinion between two members of the House. The Honourable Minister of Health and Social Development.

MR. DESJARDINS: It's not even that Mr. Chairman, it's not even that. I agree with these gentlemen, that's what the social worker should do, and that's what they do, but they can't get them all. All of a sudden you've got people on welfare and that's the favourite target, these are the people in society who are handicapped. A very small group because they're lazy people, and those people - I'm with you 100 percent, even with you - no mercy, get them back to work or get them out and tell them to find a job. But if they are sick, or for some other reason, why do we say, but we've got to do more. I'm telling you there is no abuse, very little abuse, and we are not losing that much money. You keep harping about that fridge and so on. They get \$150 a year, and if they sell their fridge they do without. What are you going to do? Am I going to have somebody every day or once a week is going to come with his chart and his board, have you got your fridge, yes; you didn't sell your stove, yes; the next week come again, there is no bloody way I'm going to do that.

Well, Mr. Chairman, we're exaggerating. Are we saying now, are we talking about these poor unfortunate people - and that's what they are. They weren't born with

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(MR. DESJARDINS cont'd)either the health or the know-how or the luck that we have. And it's easy for somebody that is - you know, it's very easy, we live hard, we're tough, we've got a beautiful home, we've got a nice car, nice family and so on, but we're out there and we are going to judge these poor people in society who were not given what we were given. And do you know what we say, those are the ones that we single out and say, get after them, don't give them an inch. You know they even have holidays, my goodness, they even have holidays, never, that shouldn't be allowed. Because we're paying a few bucks for them, they shouldn't have any holidays. What are we paying for the professionals? And I'm going to catch hell in a day or so about what we did to the poor doctors, I'm going to catch hell. And what do we do with these people? What they're saying, well, with this tax we might as well go to the States because we can do more than these people working six months, we can do more than the average people make, so what's the point? And we're going to begrudge these people a holiday - and we don't pay them any money for a holiday. You know, we're awful, because we make no difference, we feel that they're all Manitobans. We don't say, are you on welfare? You stop smoking, you're on welfare, you can't afford to smoke. All right, nobody should smoke, we know that, but they smoke.

And then these people have a bit of home care. You know, let's take a woman whose husband left her, he could be the bad bugger and all this, and he could be the drunk, and he could leave - and you've got a woman with four or five kids, so once in a while you send somebody for home care so she can have a week so she doesn't go completely beserk, is that what we're begrudging? Is that why, because she's on welfare, there is no holiday for her, she's on welfare.--(Interjection)--You've been 20 years, without holidays? You haven't received your watch - 20 years ago - I'm sure.--(Interjection) --Well all right I know somebody that stole about \$10 million, we're trying to get him back in Manitoba and we can't, he's on holidays. And when he visits a country and they find out he's there, he visits another country, and he's getting a hell of a holiday. --(Interjection)--How did I make my money? How did you make your money? What was your occupation before you came here?--(Interjection)--Oh yeh, yeh, you used to re-possess those fridges and so on, and you're hard; that was your job, you're hard. You'd make a hell of a social worker, because you'd go out there and say, give me that fridge back or look out. And that's your job and you're trained for that in your heart. There's no way that I want you - you might be a good bailiff. I'd hire you for a bailiff - no bloody way that I'm going to ask you to set up a welfare program though, I can tell you that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. You have a question?

MR. BARROW: One question, just one. Mr. Minister, the welfare abuse, the detriment to our society, it's by degree, but can you equate the difference between a pawnbroker, a loan shark, a bailiff and a welfare recipient?

MR. DESJARDINS: He's respectable, he has his pay cheque.

MR. BARROW: Oh I see, thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. The Honourable Member for Wolseley.

MR. WILSON: Mr. Chairman, I was hoping the Minister would have answered some of my questions, but I guess I did cover the waterfront. But I will ask him again, I wonder how many dollars were spent in the Special Services section which does deal with practically all the hardware that is purchased for recipients, it would be under a particular one liner I would hope. However, I did want to possibly ask the Minister to maybe go back, and again I respectfully submit everyone is subject to error, and I think the Minister as an ex-baseball player has thrown us a real big curve here; because he says that they're only allowed \$150 a year. Well the very existence of the Welfare Advisory Board is because what happens is so many recipients lose their glasses, they lose their dentures, they lose their hearing aids and they go back and get a second, and a third and at one point in time the person, I'll call him a social worker, or a welfare worker, says enough is enough, you're going to have to do without glasses, you've lost too many pairs of them. That person, because of need, goes in front of the Welfare Advisory Committee and I submit many times gets a favourable decision.

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(MR. WILSON cont'd)

I would submit that people do, and are allowed to move more than once a year. If the Minister is correct they're only allowed to move once a year then I welcome that government policy.--(Interjection)--Well then I misunderstood the Minister, I thought he said they were only allowed \$150 a year for furniture, appliances and what have you, is that correct?

MR. DESJARDINS: I didn't say they had it only once a year.

MR. WILSON: I did, as I say, and I will say this again to the members in the Fifth Estate, whoever, I am a champion of people that are the sick, the handicapped and the underprivileged. What we are talking about is my experience as Vice-Chairman of Health and Welfare, of my experience in my former occupation, in my experience with a university of life degree, and I'm simply saying that I'm talking about the people - and the Minister did throw us a curve because he knew I was talking on the side of the underprivileged but I was talking against the government for allowing the abuse to take place. Now, I simply said that he felt that comments that I made were ridiculous. Is it ridiculous, as I pointed out in the Special Services - and I assume the Minister will tell me how much his department spent on special services - if I could prove a big saving to the government. Why does he want to dismiss it right away? Why won't he listen? And that's where I felt that it was my duty under \$47 million to examine and criticize this item in the Budget. I also submit in the forms that they fill out, there should be a section there that they're covered by the Canada Evidence Act because there's nothing like having a by-law or something on the books as a deterrent to dishonesty. Because most people are honest. If they signed those forms and they were subject to the Canada Evidence Act they could do up to two years in jail. There's nothing on these forms that indicates they're subject to the Canada Evidence Act.

I also submit that we should get some of these marriage counsellors that are referring everybody to Legal Aid to go out and chase some of these husbands down who are responsible for having the Mother's Allowance move into a \$135 a month suite and have us have to look after her, and we should chase him down and get some of that money back. Because I can find him, why can't the government. I don't agree with the Minister's figure. Again I said he threw us a curve because he talks about the lowest amount, \$90.00 a month.

MR. DESJARDINS: I'm talking about a single person.

MR. WILSON: Yes, why are you only giving us the rate for the lowest one?

MR. DESJARDINS: Because nobody asked me.

MR. WILSON: It's also common knowledge in the trade down there, and as I say, I do speak for the people in Wolseley, we have a lot of welfare recipients, they all vote for me because they know that I'll look after their interests. But they've also told me that whenever they get heavily in debt . . .

A MEMBER: . . .should explain why they vote for you.

MR. WILSON: Because they know that I will chase down the people that abuse the system, because in other words you don't tell papa how to make children and if I was on government I would catch these people just like that because we know what to look for. I share with the Member from Pembina when he said some of these people need some practical experience. They've had a silver spoon in their mouth. They've got to get down there and learn what it is, that they're not to be conned in by these people that have a violin playing when they're asking for their third pair of glasses or what have you.

All right here's some of the abuses that I talked about. I have a cheque here made out to a Diane Zastre, mailed to Adolph Houser at 426 Newman. He tried to give the money back to the Provincial Government; they continued to mail him a cheque. He received seven cheques before I intervened and demanded that the province investigate why they continued to mail these cheques out to the landlords when the woman checked out of the province many months before. These are the kinds of things that I'm talking about. If he's making a statement that he wants the public to start sending him letters about welfare abuse, let the Fifth Estate print it in the paper and you watch the letters come in.--(Interjection)--I get people. A woman the other day sold her hearing aid so she could play bingo and a woman phoned me and said I've got a complaint because the

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(MR. WILSON cont'd) woman has a new hearing aid . . . she has a new hearing aid. She's down at the Imperial Legion playing bingo, she's got a brand new hearing aid from the provincial welfare worker. So what I'm saying is that I'm for the sick, the underprivileged and the handicapped and I talked about the province taking over 100 percent of the cost of people that are designated alcoholics, because that is a health problem and the province should be paying for it. Don't let the city only get 80 percent of the cost. If a person is an alcoholic he's a sick person. If you agree with that, take over the cost of it.

If the Minister would answer that question about how many dollars in Special Services, if he gave me a breakdown like the one I asked for from the city, it would be alarming because they would list all the second-hand dealers and they would show how many appliances were bought from a particular dealer. I pointed out that one particular dealer, Cosman's Furniture, got more than 80 percent of the business and I would like to have that same list from his department because some strange facts and figures would come out. And that's why, if Eaton's, The Bay and Simpson Sears are willing to give us all their appliances for \$5.00 each, if they're willing to give us televisions for \$3.00 each, why not let every welfare recipient have a television program. What makes their children so much different from yours? There's nothing wrong with a television being a necessity today, if you can get it for \$3.00

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

MR. DESJARDINS: Probably the firm mentioned by my honourable friend is in front of the court now.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 69(c)(1) Social Allowances - the Honourable Member for Brandon West.--pass; (2) Health Services . . . the Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. BROWN: I wonder if the Minister could separate this expenditure for us, the \$4,378,000, whether he could tell us how much was spent for dental, how much for drugs and how much for optical needs.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (2)--pass; (3) Municipal Assistance--pass; (4) Manitoba Supplement for Elderly--pass; (d) Day Care Services (1) Salaries - the Honourable Minister of Health and Social Development.

MR. DESJARDINS: Optical \$15,000; drugs \$2,668,000; dental \$1,365,000 for a total - you've got the full amount. The high increase is because of the high cost of products and also the services, the dentists and so on . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: (d) Day Care Services (1) Salaries - the Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. BROWN: I wonder if the Minister could tell us how many children are now enrolled in Day Care Centres and what is the per diem that the government now allows per child.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Perhaps that question could be asked under (3). Salaries (1) - the Honourable Member for Wolseley.

MR. WILSON: Mr. Chairman, I rise to carry a message from my particular constituency in that at one time we had sufficient day care facilities in the riding but many people because of the amenities of downtown have moved in the downtown area, we have a very large percentage of working mothers and one of the problems is a lot of the Federal Government programs and government experiments that have come into the area have put an unbelievable burden and have taxed the facilities in my area to the limit. And I think in light of the fact that the Federal Government is the cause of filling up so many of these and a lot of these women are having to take their children over to River Avenue and some of the other facilities because apparently these people from the . . . some of them from the Native program under the Federal Government that come in and they qualify ahead of these other people and I was wondering if the Minister could give some consideration to researching the needs in the downtown core for the day care and possibly . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister of Health and Social Development.

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, the honourable member is not talking about our day care program at all. He's talking about a federal . . .

MR. WILSON: Mr. Chairman, . . . be more specific. We have several day care things that are funded by the Provincial Government and anyone that lives in our

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(MR. WILSON cont'd) district if they meet a certain set of rules qualify, and what I'm simply saying is that because of the increased number of government experiments in the area which I alluded to earlier on under his Estimates, because of the 40-some odd homes and the big business that it's become in my particular area, we need some help in day care in the Wolseley riding.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Chairman, I just have some questions, or comments to direct to the Minister concerning the operation of the program. One is really the question as to why the day care program isn't in some way integrated with the programs of education. That it seems to me that the schools have been operating nursery school programs for many years, they receive no assistance whatsoever for those nursery school programs but they do have qualified teachers, and it's an expense that the school divisions themselves have to bear totally. And for some, really I think it's an administrative judgment, for some reason it was decided that the day care programs themselves could not be included in school buildings. It's my understanding that certainly in the last year, at least in the Winnipeg School Division, they've been quite prepared to allow facilities in schools to be used for locating day care programs, that they obviously have quite adequate physical facilities, a gymnasium, kitchens and oftentimes spare classrooms and in many cases for some of the downtown schools which are threatened with being closed, the installation of day care programs in the schools would make more efficient use of that space, would provide for a better allocation of resources and save some of the duplication, and would also mean that a lot of the facilities which are now located in church basements and otherwise, which have to be renovated, could probably be improved upon and not at the same kind of expense.

It seems curious that the application of the day care program, the funding arrangements for the subsidy to parents couldn't also be applied aside from the school in school run programs. I'm aware that in many other countries where there is forms of day care programs they are integrated with schools, seems to be an obvious extension particularly in terms of pre-school children, and I know having spoken to many parents they have a situation where they may have a child of six or seven who is attending school and the parents or the parent is forced to take them to two separate facilities rather than having the older child be in the same school.

I'd like to have some reasons from the Minister as to why we couldn't provide for a support program of day care facilities within the schools and work out with the different schools who have expressed interest, ways of combining those programs in school facilities, particularly in the downtown inner city areas, where the school population is changing and where there is a high percentage of single parent families who could benefit from these kinds of services.

The second question I would like to raise also is really in terms of the intentions of the government in relation to lunch and after school programs where again you're dealing with children who go to the day care program because the mother is working. They reach the age where they have to go to school and all of a sudden they're brought into a school and there is no provision for that service say from four to six. I believe there's about five programs which are supported by special grants. But the general situation for most of these special five projects, I don't think there's any more than five, is that they really don't have any expectation as to what the future is. It kind of works on a year by year ad hoc basis, there's kind of crisis intervention at the very last moment, someone decides to give them a few more dollars to continue it next year, there doesn't seem to be any commitment. And if there's a shortage of money this year that may be understandable, but at least it would help if there was some kind of guidelines set for it as to what is in store for lunch and after school programs. Because I think it is a natural and logical extension of the day care program if one of the rationales - and I've heard the Minister use this rationale himself - has been to provide for the option of allowing single parent mothers, or fathers for that matter, to have their children looked after so they may work. Well all of a sudden things don't stop happening when the child reaches five or six years old and is prepared to go to school. That parent still wants to continue working but the availability of some kind of treatment or care for the

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(MR. AXWORTHY cont'd)children during that period, in particular from four to six, when the parent is still working but the schools are closed, would seem again to make some sense and it again would seem to be a logical extension to work out arrangements in the school system itself for the provision of those services where there seems to be a high percentage of parents, particularly single parent families who would make use of that kind of service.

So I wonder, Mr. Chairman, if the Minister could provide some knowledge on those two issues.

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

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member from Rhineland wanted to know how many children. There's approximately 3,800 places and that more children, there would be, oh 4,000 or so children because there's more . . .you know they're not there necessarily all the time. And the per diem is \$5.00.

We are discussing the use of school rooms with the Manitoba Association of School Trustees, in fact we would like to encourage the use of the schools. Now what my honourable friend might mean though, we will not pay the schoolboard. Our rules are that a community group, if they can arrange with a community group, fine, we will pay them but we would . . .We certainly have nothing against using schools, we'd be all for it and as I say we're discussing that with the school trustees, but we will not make any payment to a school board.

As far as the other one, well now my friend is suggesting a program that we haven't got. It's a question of priorities. As I stated last year, the first thing that we want to do is build this program. We have certain areas where we will have different shifts and this might assist, the Member for Fort Rouge was talking about people on a certain shift, well you might need more than that. For instance at the Health Science Centre they have different shifts and in fact they get more money for that. But that's not children usually over six years old. And besides those two or three on special grant, the Family Bureau also, from grants from us are taking care of some of these kids. And that is something that if we're talking about lunch after school, older than six years old, well we're not in that program yet, it might come, but as I say it's a question that you can spend so much money, that's it. We are doing a little bit of it but I know not as much as my honourable friend would like.

There's been some changes on this day care program that I would like to mention. I would say that approximately \$1 million in maintenance grants to the province - 125 day care centres have been approved for 1976. The grants are being made as part of the modifications to the day care program which became effective January 1st, 1976 and are being issued to day care centres participating in the child day care program. These grants are important not only to the operation of the day care centres who will receive them but also to all families using day care services since the grants represent a universal subsidy for all families with children in day care centres. By increasing the grants to the highest level of any other province in Canada, Manitoba has kept the maximum daily fee which day care centres may charge to \$5.00 per child, which is the lowest in Canada. The maintenance grants are available in variable amounts of up to maximum of \$500 for each child space for which a day care centre is licensed. The exact amount approved for each day care centre depends of course on whether the centre provides full or part time day care services and the fee it charges in its actual operating costs.

Of the 125 day care centres now included in the day care program, the largest portion of the grants will go to the 70 full-time centres in the province. These centres are open for 11 hours a day and provide care primarily for parents who must be out of the home for the whole day for employment, education or training reasons. Some of the centres are also open seven days a week and in the evenings for parents who must work shifts. 25 of these 70 full-time centres will receive the maximum grant of \$500 per child space and the total average grant for all the full-time centres in the province is \$402 per child space. Altogether, approximately \$900,000 of the \$1 million in grants will be for the full-time day care centres. Most of the full-time centres are located in Winnipeg and tend to be somewhat larger than similar centres in other parts of the

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(MR. DESJARDINS cont'd) province; therefore, about \$600,000 of the maintenance grants will be for these Winnipeg based full-time day care centres. I might say, that if you remember last year, we were kind of ridiculed with this program. We hadn't spent the money and so on. The set-up, the guidelines we had with the Federal Government wasn't practical, it wasn't working, especially since most of these people had started their day care centre under the LIP program which was quite generous.

This was one of the priority items that we discussed with the Federal Government and I'm very pleased to say that they've changed, that we were practically ready to go it alone on the maintenance grant, and so on, and they agree and that is being cost-shared. So there's a lot of change and we are now probably, from not a too successful day care centre, we probably have the best now in Canada. We've had trouble with the licensing with the City, but that is improving also. We've had a lot of trouble with that. I'm talking about now more of the family day care, where they can keep a maximum of five or so. We had difficulty, that people were even afraid to apply because the inspectors were sent and the first thing they knew they didn't get their license and they were ordered to make changes, to change all their electrical setup and so on, and it might cost them \$500 and they wouldn't get the license or they'd have to do it anyway.

So I think that this is a pretty good setup. We can't go less than \$5.00 because you have people there that could afford it, they pay the \$5.00. But if you go higher than the \$5.00 you'd have people that would not qualify for any part of that, people that we'll say with \$7,000 or \$8,000 with 2 kids and so on, it would cost them a few thousand dollars and there's no way that they could pay that, and they'd end up on welfare having to keep the kids. So it's being quite helpful, and then we have the start-up grant also.

Now, as I say, these grants are to a maximum of \$500 but the average is about \$402 for those. So, we're quite pleased. Now, of course, there's some people that are pushing for more and the policy of the department is that we are not going to go and have a universal program or it will be completely free to everybody. Certainly we are not ready to move in that direction.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Chairman, I thank the Minister for that statement. I think it clarifies some points and raises some others. I wonder if we might try to tape down more specifically this one issue about the schools. I'd like to get that clarified because in the past month I've had meetings with officials of the Winnipeg School Division in relation to 2 or 3 schools in the downtown area who are at the present time threatened to some degree with closure because of the lack of full numbers of school age children, and one of the options that would be available to them would be to introduce day care facilities within the schools; in fact there are already classroom spaces available. And they indicated to me, I'm just simply saying, Mr. Chairman, they indicated to me in fact at the present moment they found it very difficult to do, if not impossible and we're expressing a great deal of frustration.

Now it seemed to me that if on the Minister's side, you're saying that you would welcome it and somehow the communication is not taking place between those school officials and school board members and the department. And it would seem to me then, that if the Minister could give me that assurance, I'd be quite happy to try to clear up the confusion because I know that in this case several of the schools are interested. And I agree that the condition would be that it would be a community organization that would use the school facilities and they would then be eligible for the full day care subsidy program. One thing I would like clarified, would the same kind of maintenance grant and start-up grant be available for starting the schools for perhaps changing the physical structure to some degree in providing for those start-up grants and maintenance grants that are available. I believe that those now go to the funding organizations, so I would assume that those same conditions would hold true for putting a day care facility inside a school. That would be one question, perhaps the Minister could just clarify that.

A second issue that I would like to raise goes back to the one about school-age children and the lunch and after school program. I would concede with the Minister at this point that because of all the concern we've heard lately about cost restraints that he doesn't want to establish a universal lunch and after school program. I do want to

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(MR. AXWORTHY cont'd)re-emphasize though the anomaly that now takes place; and that is the day care program was in part set up to enable parents to work, and in a way, from the documents I've read, your own documents and the Federal Government's, they see day care as one of the ways of providing for the income supplementation, assistance to the working poor in effect, the way of providing the incentive to work.

Now what is happening right now though is that a parent who puts their child into to day care let's say, at the age of 3 or 4, the child then goes to a day care facility where they are looked after all day, they then graduate to the point where they have to go to nursery school or begin school and all of a sudden the care stops. Because there is that 2 or 3 hour time gap that used to be covered between a day care that was open from 7 in the morning til 6 at night and the schools are open from 9 to 4, and all of a sudden the parent finds a great difficulty to work because their kids are coming home at 4 o'clock and they have to arrange for part-time babysitters or some other convenience. So without going into a universal program, I'm wondering if it's possible under the regulations for existing day care centres, those that supply preschool children to in fact provide an additional service from the 4 to 6 period for school-age children whose parents are working and that they'd really need a place to look after them, and I wonder if that could even be tried in some centres to determine whether in fact that would be possible as a way of filling in that gap that obviously exists now in the present program. So that would be one of the recommendations I would make, just to try to see if it would work, because I know again, that there are a number of parents, particularly single parents who run into that kind of difficulty, that their children in effect graduate from day care, go into school and then all of a sudden they are faced with a number of difficulties in maintaining the program.

The same problem applies, Mr. Chairman, during the school holidays. That schools close down for two months but the single parent mother who has gone to work because there was a commitment in the day care program now must find some way of getting part-time babysitters or family or relatives to pick up for the two month period while the schools are closed. So what I'm really wondering about is in order to deal with that peculiar kind of problem in those areas of the city where there are large numbers, particularly of single parent families, where there might be some attempt to try that particular replacement program or substitute program to determine whether in fact it's a feasible way of using the day care centres as an offset for school-age children who need special care because either both parents are working - or one parent is working. That would be a second kind of inquiry if you like, request perhaps, to the Minister to see if that would be a potential area of innovation that he might look at.

The third area of questioning I would have is on this trade-off between the so-called family day care centre which in effect is a private operation that someone sets up in their home and he said they're having some trouble with licensing. If we accept that principle that in fact we're allowing a private person to set up a small scale family day care centre, I am wondering why is it not possible to maximize it, why it is not possible therefore to allow those families or parents or parent who are eligible for the day care subsidy, who live in close proximity to a private day care centre not to make use of that program when it seems feasible. Now I can see that if a family - and I give you examples where in fact a family may live 2 or 3 miles away from a public day care centre, one that's sponsored by a co-op or publicly sponsored one, and there may be a private day care centre a block away, and I'm just wondering if there is not ways in which that working mother, rather than having to get on a bus and transport the kids 2 or 3 miles away that may be in the opposite direction from where she works, wouldn't be available under expressed permission to allow that parent to in fact place the child in that private nursery centre. Because in fact the principle is the same, we're doing it under the family day care centre, we're putting them into a family group where there's a certain I suppose profit being made if you like, certain return being made. It would seem to me, and I'm not advocating on a large scale basis, but I am suggesting that perhaps there may be certain examples of it taking place now, I'm wondering if that couldn't be again another area that should be expanded in order again not to have to set up a brand new centre where there's already a private centre in operation.

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(MR. AXWORTHY cont'd)

And finally, Mr. Chairman, I'd raise the question with the Minister about the degree of assessment that goes on in the existing day care centres. The program has now been going close to two years and one of the things that was emphasized when the program was initiated, was the idea that this is just more than a babysitting service, more than a place to park the kids but would also be a place where you could get some good education, some good training in, I guess, both educational skills and play skills and all the rest of the things that you do with young children. I'm wondering to what degree are we presently set up to evaluate the programs that go on in the respective day care centres to ensure that there is at least the minimum level of educational programs or play programs, nutrition programs and so on being applied so that when the kids go into the place something more is happening than their simply being in a building being looked after for six hours, in fact there is a fairly decent program of education going on in the meantime - I'm not saying that it isn't happening, but I would like to know if there is assessments of that being made, and in fact what those assessments are finding out at the present time in relation to the existing program.

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

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, I do get the message, my honourable friend, about the meals after school in those over six years old, but I can only repeat that this is not now a . . . we'll consider the suggestion of my honourable friend, we've been looking at that, I'm not saying that this is not a program that will never come but it is not a program that we have now.

Now the last question about the people being able to go next door to a private, profit-making day care centre, we've changed our regulation to allow that and I'm told that you should be aware of that.--(Interjection)--Oh, I don't know exactly when, about three months ago or so. I'm told that the Member from Fort Rouge should be aware of that. Now it is something that - I think they have to have a special application but the possibility is there and I'm all for it, personally. There is no reason why we can't do that, if they can give the same service and they would qualify the same. I'm not too worried about that.--(Interjection)--The co-ordinators all know about it, the Director's upstairs and she'll take a note of that and make sure that this information is given.

Let's go back, I think the next one was the question - oh yes, the assessment. It was very difficult to assess and to get the kind of programs that we wanted, the kind of staff, because they couldn't afford it on this \$5.00 a day, and now with this maintenance grant, that's one of the reasons why we do that, there will be more of that, we're working on more programs and so on, and there's this assessment and they are getting better staff in, because of these maintenance grants besides the \$5.00, this makes it possible to get proper staff.

Now as far as the schools, there is no doubt about that, especially - I wasn't sure if you really understood, if you're saying fine that we are not paying the school boards, we are not going to pay the school boards - in fact that exists right now. The Health Science Centre are renting from the school board a school that is no longer in use and they've got a terrific program, and if you haven't seen . . . well that's one we're proud of. I think that's probably the best one because they've got so many doctors and people like that interested in it, they get all the service and they've got a terrific director, they were very fortunate in getting that director. I was there for the opening and was quite impressed. But that is exactly that, that is a school, a building owned by the school board . . . And they pay rent to the school. The school board can't pay rent but that is something . . .--(Interjection)--Yes. They would get exactly the same thing. They're not going to get any extra money to change things, to paint this, but they have the start-up grant, they could use that. They're like everybody else, nothing less than any other day care. They get the start up, the maintenance grant and the per diem rate.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

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MR. AXWORTHY: I have one further question to raise to the Minister before my colleague from Assiniboia asks a question. It goes back to an issue I raised with the Minister of Labour when we were discussing the Estimates of the Civil Service Commission in relation to the Action Program that the Provincial Government was itself establishing to ensure that women employees in the civil service would have an opportunity to both maximize their employment potential as well as to upgrade themselves. And one of the recommendations, I believe made by the different women's councils was that one of the things that should be provided is day care facilities within provincial office complexes and organizations where there's large numbers of employees to ensure that women employees in it would have that kind of option. The Minister of Labour at that time didn't seem to be able to answer the question. I'm simply asking again, as part of the day care program has the Provincial Government made, aside from the Health Science Centre which I realize comes under Health Services Commission, but in terms of large buildings like the Norquay Building, Fletcher Building, I suppose this one and the Fort Osborne Complex, whether in fact again the government is looking toward trying to establish day care centres within its own employment areas to provide that kind of option opportunity which might provide a kind of incentive or a leadership that private industry may eventually adopt. So I would again simply enquire whether that sort of initiative and direction is being taken or being planned as part of the overall day care program as it solidifies and expands itself.

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

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, there is one such a day care centre being planned for Norquay Building. I'm not saying that the day care will be in the Norquay Building, but for that area I think they're looking at a school across the . . . and as far as we're concerned, fine. I don't know where they would pay to rent space in the Norquay, that might be with Public Works, I don't know, but there's a school across there. And the Health Science Centre in effect is doing that up to a certain point. It is for the people at the Health Science Centre mostly, not only them but it is primarily for them, and if there's extra space people in the neighbourhood can use it also. But it might be nurses that are bringing their kids in or workers and so on and this is why they have different shifts there. But this is being planned also.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. STEVE PATRICK (Assiniboia): Mr. Chairman, the point that my colleague was making about lunch service after four has been brought to my attention quite a few times. These people are working, employed and taking care of themselves and it is just a problem that they have and I think that perhaps the Minister as he said, he hasn't got the money in the budget this year, but this is something that perhaps he could look at.

The other point, I was glad to hear, the Minister indicated that some three months ago the regulations were changed, where you can take a child now to a private day care centre, because the situation that I had in my constituency, two people, where . . . and what happens, the mother has to take her child, say 5 years old and another one that's 8 years old going to school and if she hasn't got a car this person has to take a bus, two children, go down three miles or so and then has to walk half a block to a day care centre, then go back home, take the other child and leave her at home and then be able to still go to work. That involves a considerable amount of time and it's presenting difficulties. My question to the Minister at this time would be, how widespread known it is amongst the people that have to use the service, or is it known at all, because this is something that I've been in touch with his department at that time, but I have not heard that the regulations have been changed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 60(d)(1)--pass; (2)--pass; (3)--pass. Resolution 60(e) Employment Services Salaries (1)--pass; (2) . . . the Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: Well, Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to raise a number of issues concerning the employment assistance. We may have a larger opportunity when we get to the Budget speech, which might be more appropriate, but it would seem to me that one of the commitments that this government has made and really is absolutely essential is the development of manpower employment programs in the province for those

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(MR. AXWORTHY cont'd)who don't have the skills or the advantages of the education and are presently representing in this city, I know the age range of young males between 18 and 24 the unemployment range is around 10 or 12 percent and there are large numbers of so-called street kids who simply are not getting work and there doesn't seem to be any co-ordinated approach between education, community colleges, the programs of this department, programs of the Department of Labour to try and develop a kind of a total overall approach to the problem. It's an issue, Mr. Chairman, that we made a great issue of last year, I guess we kind of hammered every department that came along trying to bring attention to it, and we're glad to be . . .unfortunately, it was not until last summer that the government's own report itself on manpower issues in fact confirmed our findings, that in fact, there is no proper program of upgrading of manpower training to reach in particular the group of young adults who have limited education, come out of low income backgrounds and have a number of other disadvantages, and again it seems that a government that is committed as it says, to the social ideals of this government, would have addressed itself somewhat more effectively to this particular problem. And in this case, Mr. Chairman, I in part regret the passing, or at least the reduction of some of the LIP programs; I know that that's not a popular program in this province and I'm glad that the Member for Pembina isn't here so that he wouldn't go into convulsions when I mention it, but the fact of the matter is that one of the things that grew out of the LIP program is that they did develop many innovative employment opportunities for groups of people in the core area and in rural areas that weren't available, weren't coming before, and the thing we emphasized last year is that . . .the conventional employment approaches that come to the Department of Manpower through the Community Colleges simply don't work, they're simply not effective, and that there had to be new approaches to it.

So the issue without belabouring it, because I would hope to perhaps speak more directly to it when we reply to the Budget, would be to say in this particular area where the Department of Health and Social Development have responsibilities for the work activity projects, to what degree there is any plans to expand those projects. I've noticed that there is now about five in operation, I think there has been five now for a year or two. And the thing that does disturb me in part about the work activity projects which I have had some acquaintance with, in fact worked on one, is that they have now basically been taken over by the government. Many of them grew out of LIP projects, they grew out of private initiative, they grew out of community activity or action, they were jointly operated by residents of areas, or community residents. Now increasingly there seems to be a more rigorous application of departmental rules and regulations and direction placed upon them. And while that may be understandable from the point of view of an accounting point of view, I'm not so sure it's the wisest course to take in terms of encouraging the sort of initiative that was shown, because this is one area that cries for innovation, that so many of our past efforts have failed miserably, the conventional standard bureaucratic answers that we've applied. It would seem to me that one of the successful areas, and I notice the Minister of Tourism here, he would know the one I'm talking about, when he was Minister responsible for work activity did sort of demonstrate some alternative approaches to the whole question of taking groups of unskilled young men and women, giving them kind of combination of work experiences, educational training, and particularly acquiring some attitudes and some outlooks towards work and then through that moving them into a work effort. The one activity project that I know about has had some success in the field, not as much as I would have liked to have seen, but some success in moving people on into the work force, but some curious anomalies and I'd like to know if they're cleared up. For example, in some of the projects that we're actually getting into the field of things like home repair, or construction of furniture and other things, that if in fact they were able to sell their products or make some money off it, they had to turn the money back to the government, they couldn't use the money in effect to improve their own operation or give them some incentive for continuing. It seemed to me if you're trying to give people incentive to acquire the incentive to work, that it seems to me that there has to be some reward attached to it. Those rewards weren't there and I think it was primarily bureaucratic regulation that interfered with that activity.

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(MR. AXWORTHY cont'd)

The other kind of problem, Mr. Chairman, was that there didn't seem to be any clear connection between as I said, the educational programs that were sponsored by one department and the Department of Labour efforts in planning them or the Department of Health and Social Development in operating a few of them, or the Federal Departments, there was a tremendous fragmentation of effort and an awful fragmentation of resources. As a result a lot of the effort was being dissipated and we weren't really attacking the problem in the kind of concentrated way that it demanded. Above and beyond that, Mr. Chairman, we made as a province and as a federal and provincial government, made very little efforts to enlist the involvement of private industry in this area, again relating to the work activity project. In many cases they require a fair degree of co-operation both by the labour unions and by private business, and again bringing those kinds of areas of private sector, both labour and business, into supporting work projects where you would provide a transition from someone who is unable for reasons of skill . . . to get work to actually being the point where he or she can find work totally on their own independently, there's kind of a transition period that is required. One of the things that has certainly appealed to me from the point of view of some of the experiences I've worked on in the past, both in other cities and in some of the American situations has been the idea of the Community Economic Development Corporation, where in fact government would provide capital support to community initiated economic enterprises. I noticed that in our own city, for example, the native community made a proposal for a thing called Neeginan, which was to set up a kind of Indian village which would have in a sense part of that economic enterprise activity to it, a way of creating jobs for native people in the core area.

That proposal, Mr. Chairman, has sat on someone's desk now for two years, never seen the light of day, just hasn't been responded upon, yet it was a major project to provide some opportunity. I don't know, I wouldn't judge on the merits of the total project, but it was an indication of a community in the core area who probably suffer the worst problems of unemployment, I think the unemployment rate there was probably 50 percent, and I'm just judging that figure, but there was no support or incentive given to what was an obvious effort to provide some sense of self help and self responsibility, and that rather than having government created programs and manpower departments an opportunity to give that incentive to community inspired or community sponsored economic development activities would seem to be an area that in this time and place, with everyone concerned about the problems of the economy, would seem to make reasonable and good sense. I just don't think that we have taken advantage or in any way expanded the kind of opportunities in this area of developing community economic activity in areas where there is severe poverty. The only real example we have in part are the five work activity projects and I compliment them because I think they are worthwhile projects; I think that in a sense they seemed to have been held back, or seemed to have been stopped at this stage, or they don't seem to be able to go much further than where at. So I say one of the areas then that the department should be looking at in this whole area of employment assistance is community economic corporations; the other area would be the direct recruitment of private business and labour itself.

Again, one of the successful experiences that came out of the war on poverty activities in the United States was in fact the partnership between private business and government in providing work incentives, where an employer would take an unskilled guy he normally wouldn't hire, have part of his salary paid for part of the time while he was learning on the job, and at the same time certain educational skills would be added onto it; so in effect, there was a subsidy going on, paying part of the salaries, but it was awful lot better than paying someone a full welfare payment or whatever it may be.

So what I'm saying Mr. Chairman, is that I consider in part this issue that we are talking about now maybe really in its own right one of the most important areas in the province and I guess it's one of the most neglected and ignored and the great hoopla that went on here last evening, there was the budgets and we were all going

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(MR. AXWORTHY cont'd) to get exercise about the great economic blueprint, in fact, we should be far more interested in this kind of thing, this is really where you do create the economic problems of the province, this is where you can really attack the problems of employment, not in the rhetoric of saying we're going to cut some taxes here and add some there. This is where it really happens. Particularly in that structural unemployment field of young adults who are experiencing very severe unemployment. I simply repeat, I guess what we repeated almost ad nauseam last year; that there is not a clear direction, there is extreme fragmentation between levels of government, there has not anywhere been shown the kind of initiative or innovation that's required, we're not recruiting or enlisting private resources both from the trade unions, private business in this activity, in fact, we are not properly using government money itself, because, in fact, we are being far too insistent that it be government directed programs as opposed to providing incentive to community sponsored programs, which is a very direct change in emphasis.

So, Mr. Chairman, I would simply repeat those cases we tried to make last year and really ask the Minister to respond, either in terms of saying maybe some changes have been made, or more hopefully, perhaps, more major changes will be forthcoming.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Roblin.

MR. MCKENZIE: Mr. Chairman, maybe I should make the speech instead of the Minister. I just can't believe the Member for Fort Rouge who is standing here and asking this government to spend more money, when the government at Ottawa has already indicated we're trying to hold the guidelines and hold a restraint program and here he is standing up urging, not only this Minister, but the government to spend more and more and more, when his own government in Ottawa had some problems to see--(Interjection)-yeh, with some of the problems at this particular time. Certainly I'm all for these make work programs and to help people as much as we possibly can, but there is a time and a place for everything, Mr. Chairman.

The Member for Fort Rouge he continues to amaze me, I wonder if he has in fact a Liberal card in his pocket. Because if he does, he isn't tuned into the federal scene at all, it just amazes me. I certainly am in support of what the Minister is doing and the five projects that he's trying to get across there's 322 people involved, and these programs are all that this government can support at this time. I was just going to stand up and congratulate the Minister for being able to hold it within this line with the budget that he has got instead of asking to move into another phase of maybe four or five million dollars and maybe not get as much result as he's got from the program that he already has under way.

I just can't understand the Member for Fort Rouge if in fact he is a Liberal and he's listening to the beat from Ottawa and listening to what the Minister of Finance has been told by the Federal Government, but here he's standing up urging the Minister, the government, to spend more and more dollars. I think these are most worthwhile projects and I congratulate the Minister for it. I'm sure that if he had more money and we weren't in this severe restraint program and try to control inflation we would do more.

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MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, I just want to comment briefly on this particular aspect of the overall Estimates for this Department, because I go back to the point that I've made previously in this debate that there are certain essential services that ought to be carried out in this province that are not being carried out despite the fact that we're faced with a total appropriation here of \$395 million which represents an increase of \$80 million in spending over last year; and I repeat the point that many of us have attempted to make on this side in the past two or three years, and that is that there are areas where there could be rationalization, there are areas where the private sector could be encouraged to do the job, where government, where the taxpayer could be relieved of having to do the job and undertake this kind of expense; and if the Minister can afford several millions of dollars there is certainly areas in the field of health and social service, particularly in the field of health, where we could show him where that \$3 million or several million dollars could be better spent.

I referred to one earlier today which is a problem area in this province which is not being served and not being met in the field of care and treatment for seriously emotionally disturbed children. I know I can't go back to that point but it all ties into the argument that I think we've attempted to make in this field and that is: are there not areas in the total program that the government has undertaken here, in the total \$395 million being spent where there are jobs being done that could be done by the private sector, where there is money being spent that could be created and generated in the private sector, to free-up some of this money for far more essential services in the area of health.

I just pose the question and the challenge to the Minister without disputing the point made by my colleague that the five work activity projects referred to are worthwhile projects, I'm quite sure they're providing opportunities for training and experience for people in specific areas of activity which are denied them in other terms, but I return to my concern over the fact that there are services that can be fulfilled in this whole region through the private sector, and I wonder whether the government has entertained and tried to encourage the initiatives of the private sector in this particular sphere. It seems to me that a fraction of the money being appropriated here could be spent and could be programmed far more wisely if it were spent on a liaison with the private sector that was aimed at assisting persons who need this kind of assistance through private agencies. And that would provide an opportunity to save several millions of dollars out of this appropriation and either take that right out of the Budget and relieve the taxpayer of it or direct it to some other field of health services which I think in the scale of priorities today might be as considered as more vital, at least in my view, I think I could suggest some that I think are more vital.

I don't want people deprived of the opportunity for experience and activity in work fields but I say to the Minister that surely to heaven if you can't find people in the private sector who can perform specialized health jobs, if you have to go to government bureaucracy and government activity to do that, surely you can find it in a field like this, employment services. There are people in the private sector who work professionally in this field, who make their livings in this field. Why couldn't five people in the private sector be engaged in conversation for a week by the government and produce programs of this kind at the private level and free-up the government and the taxpayer from this kind of a commitment, without depriving anybody, of the 322 people that are engaged, as I understand it, in those five work activity projects without depriving any of those 322 people of the kind of experience that they're getting through those projects, but having it done on the private level. Now if it can't be done and it can be demonstrated to me that it can't be done, then I'll accept that, but I say to the Minister that I believe and I think my colleagues believe that he has a challenge to prove to us and convince us that it can't be done. Has he ever sat down with the private sector and tried to determine whether it can be done? I believe it could be and money could be saved.

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

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MR. DESJARDINS: Well, Mr. Chairman, the day that the private sector wants the key to these things, they can have it and we could use that money somewhere else, but I don't think there's too many people in the private sector that want to train these kind of people. There are some and we're using them, they're on those boards. So, you know, just to think that this could be farmed out to somebody else, we've tried it. We've had another which wasn't dealing with people probably not quite as handicapped as this, in an area in St. Laurent for instance, and the government did everything possible to help them and they found it fairly difficult. So I don't know if my honourable friend is making that pitch for private sector, I think that there's a limit. As I say the day that they want to take over these things and run it like you say, we could use that money somewhere else, they can have the key. Now we will have an increase close to 25 percent this year; by the end of this fiscal year we should have close to 400 people in there. We are looking, I'm not saying that they're approved, we're looking at two other centres.

The question was raised of what incentive do they have. We've increased their pay or what they keep but there is no way that we're going to give them the same money that they're going to do in the private sector, in the competitive field, because we want to give them incentive to leave these places and then to go and get ordinary jobs - so we're doing that. Now it is true that there has been some re-organization in this. For instance, nobody, none of the participants were on these boards. Now there's --(Interjection)-- yes, that's true. All right, I'm told that they weren't required. I must modify that in that there was one board that had this, now they're required to have at least a third, and they can go up to half of them.

Now the situation is that we've discussed that with the boards, they've all approved the re-organization that we've done, every single one of them, the five of them, and now it is true there were a lot of civil servants that were on these boards and there's less of them now, we took an awful lot of them . . . But the Director of each board, the Director of this Board reports to the department - of the project I should say - but they had a contract before, they had to live by the budget and they were if anything, more controlled before than they are now. We also informed these groups that if they felt that some day they could run the project themselves, we would be willing to consider it. And, in fact, one of the reasons why we did that, it was very difficult to get people to make the decisions and so on and, in fact, the Auditor was questioning us and this was one of the reasons why we made this change and we're very pleased that it's working very well.

I would say that the manager information system must be working well. We feel that it is one of the best in Canada, if not the best, and the Federal Government must feel the same because they're working with us to set up a seminar at the end of May, the Federal Government are sending people from the different provinces here to have a seminar and to talk to the people that are running the centres so I think that we're progressing, we're not trying to take anything away from them and if free enterprise want to relieve us from this responsibility and let us use this \$3 million somewhere else, they can get the key tomorrow.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Wolseley.

MR. WILSON: I may have been out but I wondered if the Minister might give me what those five projects are which are mentioned under this section. I couldn't help but want to respond based on the fact that in this book the Minister says that he wanted to see a larger number of Manitobans find work and hold jobs rather than the alternate, to be solely dependent on social assistance. It would seem to me that if any department could cut down that \$395 million budget, this is the one department that could do it. The fact that the Federal Government is participating the way they are is an indication that they recognize that this is the section which could turn around and control some of the spending and problems that exist.

I do feel we need to have more production and incentive and I do feel that the private agencies, like the Member for Fort Garry, would gladly - and we don't mean for the Minister to take the \$3 million and spent it somewhere else, we mean for him

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(MR. WILSON cont'd) to take the \$3 million and support the private agencies to do the job they're capable of doing. I think we should go out and talk to industry about what they need. I remember the garment industry saying they were 4,000 people short and making a plea and what happened? They had to bring people here from Asia because we could not meet or supply the demand. And yet talking to people in the rag trade as they call it, they felt that the work coming out of the Fort Alexander project was some of the best sewing, some of the most skillful made pants that could possibly be made, and many particular clients were actually asking for garments that came from that factory vis-a-vis the mass production line. So I think there is some merit in the government training local Manitobans and Native people to do the work. They are skilled, they're craftsmen, it just takes time to train them.

I did want to comment again, I felt that I had made some suggestions and I didn't mean to appear to be a union buster, but I do know that we have to go hand in hat to the union at the city, at the former municipal level, under the Sheltered Employment program which I touched upon. And what we're saying there is that we can put people in community clubs, every community club needs now what they call a paid volunteer to shovel the rink and what have you, and I think that that program is worth looking at. The first year we had nine people, then we had 25 and finally we twisted the union's arm and they gave us 50. But I'm simply saying that the unions fight us tooth and nail all the way to try to hold down taking people off of social assistance and giving them some formal training. And we cannot pay them \$6.80 an hour and I agree with the Minister there. They are unskilled, they have to learn and I think the union has a responsibility and they've been shirking their responsibility in not allowing governments to expand these programs and train these people without having to pay them union wages.

I do feel also that we talked about the private sector. The Minister has cut off the grants for a project in my area which mainly was volunteers, with two workers that were paid and now he's going to . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order. The Honourable Minister.

MR. DESJARDINS: On a point of order. I know that he's a rookie member but he's been told on every item that he has to stay on this item, and he covers the waterfront, and he repeats himself, and there's some people at this time that are ready to listen to him the first time but not the second time or the third time, especially when he's out of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We're on salaries . . . stay on salaries.

MR. WILSON: Well it says "Assist persons having difficulty in obtaining or holding employment."

MR. CHAIRMAN: We're on Employment Service, Salaries (1) \$87,400. This item deals with the staff in that department. Would the honourable member confine his remarks to that.

MR. WILSON: Would the Minister be kind enough to tell me on which one of the four I may speak about Sheltered Employment and private sector support and resort maintenance by people and stuff like that?--(Interjections)-- Talking about salaries, I hope that all members realize here that we are also on salary and that maybe you would stick to the item as well.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (1)--pass. The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: Well, Mr. Chairman, I'll let the item pass in just a moment but I think the Member for Roblin made a comment which received some assent from the First Minister which I think bears commenting because if the Member from Roblin is amazed at some of the things I say . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable First Minister on a point of order.

MR. SCHREYER: Yes, I think the honourable member should be expected to remain accurate. What did he just finish saying? "Received some assent"? I'd like him to prove that in Hansard.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Chairman, unless Hansard has taken on a visual aspect

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(MR. AXWORTHY cont'd) and shows nodding of heads or whatever, it's a little difficult to prove, but let's pass by that, let's deal specifically with the comments from the Member from Roblin who displayed probably as some others do a total - I'm amazed at their abysmal ignorance of economics frankly.

And one of the basic principles, I suppose, is that it would be better to have someone employed than not employed. It would be better to have someone working than receiving welfare. It would be better to have someone gainfully occupied than being in jail. It would be better to have someone acquiring some sense of purpose and dignity rather than hoisting hub caps or breaking in windows or sitting in a beer parlor. And the fact of the matter is when the Member from Roblin gets up and says, we're spending more money, I agree. I would like to spend more money to get people working. I think that's a proper investment. I think, and as I said in my remarks, I think we waste an awful lot of money now. I think there's enough evidence to show that some of the vast millions we've put into some of the community college projects, there are no results for those coming at the end. That's why I'm asking for it.

Let's take a hard look at what kind of investment we're making in terms of education, manpower training, and if we're worried about where we put dollars, let's put the dollars where they do the most good in terms of getting people into the work force and this kind of program. So when the Member for Roblin gets up and says, he is amazed, and makes it sound like I'm one of the great spenders, I am --(Interjection)-- or this gentleman wherever he's from. Yes. Yes. Because I think he reflects the kind of attitude, you can't have it both ways. You can't make speeches about the drunks and the crooks and the convicts and the welfare bums and at the same time not do anything about it to try and correct it. You can't have it both ways which is what these guys often want. They're always talking about let's cut back, let's cut back but at the same time they're going to complain about social problems and unemployment problems and income problems and not be prepared to do anything about it.

And the fact of the matter, what we're saying is, and when he says that I don't know what the Liberals in Ottawa are doing, I simply say he hasn't been reading very much either because in the Basic Income Paper put down by Mr. Lalonde, he talked about a community employment strategy as being one of the five major principles in the revision of the Social Security Program in this country. So I'm saying I agree with that. I think it's an important strategy. I am saying I want to see what kind of strategy we're going to develop in the Province of Manitoba because many of the ingredients of that strategy are in places like the Department of Labour and manpower and education in community colleges. And as we pointed out last year and as the government's own study - its own study commissioned by that Economic Advisory Board or whatever the heck it is, Dr. Phillips' report that was published last July and August - they pointed out that the program is fragmented, you're not getting good value for your money and there doesn't seem to be any co-ordination of effort and we're not doing anything really in terms of that community employment area. And what was I talking about? And so for the Member from Roblin to get up and sort of saying . . . I'm saying, yes, let's spend money on this and let's take money out of a lot of the other subsidy programs which aren't giving as much value. And I'm very glad to point those out, as I did last night, that we're putting an awful lot of money into subsidizing animals, far more in subsidizing animals than we do subsidizing human beings, and I just think that that's the wrong set of priorities in some cases and we've got to balance those things out.

So what we haven't had yet and, Mr. Chairman, I think it's absolutely essential before much time goes on is that we do need a strategy from this province about employment. We do need something that brings the different departmental efforts together in this community effort. I'm simply saying that the Work Activity Project, and what it represents, could be developed on a much wider base and it could be done to involve in many cases job-training programs with private industry. That's the point of the argument. And I'm glad that the Member for Roblin is amazed because I suppose it shows that he's prepared to at least recognize that the world is changing.

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MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Chairman, I thought that I would exercise great patience and not say anything - but listen. But the comments of the Honourable Member for Fort Rouge simply deal with too important a subject matter to gloss over and particularly I welcome the opportunity to say a few words in the immediate aftermath of what has been said by the Member from Fort Rouge. It is not as though I find myself in basic disagreement with his sentiments and with his sort of general objectives, it is just as well that he points out the obvious, that you can't have it both ways. But clearly for those who advocate harsh, across-the-board restraint, cutbacks in government or public spending, cannot be consistent when they then call for what will amount, I'm sure, to significant increases in public spending in order to try to do a better job with respect to providing employment opportunities or meaningful work for those who are at the present time, or at any given point in time, on public welfare.

I believe that there is need to always proceed on the assumption that in a civilized society that the public if they have any discretionary, disposable income at all, that they are willing to part with some of it in order to proceed with enlightened, always more enlightened public programming, and certainly the employment of those on welfare has to rank among the top priorities. But I do wish that we would at least shed ourselves of the illusion that there is an easy answer. In fact those who think that the private sector can somehow miraculously provide employment opportunity for those who are semi-handicapped or lacking in skills, obviously have forgotten that the lesson was learned back in 1795 under the Speen Hamland system in Great Britain, that if the state or the parish in those days pumps money into employment subsidy that it merely results in a proportionate diminution of payment for services rendered by the individual to the private employer. And that is a dilemma, Mr. Chairman.

There are many dilemmas in life and in our modern day and age there are as many dilemmas as there have ever been in society and this is one of them. That doesn't mean to say that we should despair. I believe that the Honourable Member for Fort Rouge is on to something very important. But I don't believe that there is a solution, if we proceed on the assumption that we have been proceeding with since the passing of the Canada Assistance Plan in 1964, yes, it goes back that far. There have been municipalities such as the City of Calgary in Alberta, the City of Brandon in our own province that have tried to proceed on the basis that if there is welfare being paid out that meaningful work within the ambit of the municipalities whether it is cleaning streets or sprucing up the parks, public parks or whatever, could be the consideration which that individual gives to society, working for the municipality in return for the payment of social assistance. That doesn't exactly square with the regulations under the Canada Assistance Act of 1964, so there's a problem that has to be worked out. I would say to the Honourable the Member for Fort Rouge that indeed he is on to something important when he suggests that there is, at the present time unfortunately, proliferation of social security and social assistance programs as between both levels of government and that any approach that merely tries to set up yet another agency or yet "another program" is not really going to get to the nub of the problem. The nub of the problem I think has largely to do with the fact that both levels of government have a cost sharing understanding, and formula, for the payment of social assistance. It is basically a 50-50 formula, the honourable member well knows. And it would seem strange but true that both levels of government while they are not happy they are prepared to proceed with payment of 50 percent each of the cost of keeping somebody able-bodied or marginally handicapped on social assistance. But you just try, Sir, to enter into some kind of practical work activity in which both levels of government would continue to make the same payment as a minimum as they were paying into social assistance and then have the employee level of government do the topping up. Seems so practical, so reasonable, it would solve much of the problem and without any increase in bureaucracy or Federal-Provincial consultation. Plane trips down to Ottawa, back here, telephone calls, telexes, much of that could be avoided. But it won't happen. At least I should say it hasn't happened up to now,

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(MR. SCHREYER cont'd) because as soon as an effort is made to try and get someone into a meaningful work activity the other level of government pulls back the 50 percent contribution which it was prepared to make, under the guise of social welfare.

Now, I am hoping too, with the Member from Fort Rouge that with the community employment strategy that is being articulated by the Honourable Robert Andras, and with the approach that has been at least in a preliminary way put forward by the Honourable Marc Lalonde, that among other things at least one salient feature will be nailed down clearly and endorsed for once and for all, and that is the concept for at least a 12 month transitional period, that if a government was prepared to put 50 percent of the cost of welfare toward a given human being, that they will continue to do so for a 12 month period even if that person is put into a work opportunity or work activity sponsored by any of the three levels of government. That's not complicated. I believe it is practical. If it could have been done 10 years ago then we wouldn't have had 10 years of frustration, because I think regardless of party, that we can all feel frustrated with the incredible cross purposes of administration that seem to characterize social assistance and all efforts to translate social assistance into meaningful work activity relating to society. I don't think that now is the time. In fact I'm not even so sure there'd be much argument regardless of party as to whether or not social assistance is necessary. It is necessary in given circumstances. There is an obligation by any enlightened society to an individual in difficult straits; but where the missing link comes is that no one seems to assume that there is a reciprocal obligation if there is an opportunity. Now if the onus is on governments, at whatever level, to provide opportunity and if government can succeed in doing so, then it seems to me clear that governments should be willing to undertake at least the same financial obligation for a 12-month period of transition if there is work activity in the municipal, provincial or federal sector that is possible.

The Member for Fort Rouge, I should update him, should know that various efforts have been made, work activity projects at Brandon, Amaranth and I believe Crane River, and three or four other places. Rather expensive efforts made in the so-called L-5 project at Churchill. Dramatic results, but at the same time considerable expense but dramatic in the sense that the number of people that were on welfare rolls that were able to come off of welfare rolls because of work combined with training program run at L-5 at Churchill. It's not cheap, it is expensive, the honourable member is right. But then it merely goes to underline that you can't have it both ways. Sometimes the creation of work and/or training opportunity is significantly more expensive than welfare if measured in the short-run. Measured in the long-run welfare is more expensive because it is perpetuating, unfortunately often, and it is - perhaps the word "degrading" isn't quite the word I'm looking for, but it is somehow I think a negative experience for a human being, if on a prolonged basis. On a short term basis I would like to think that in our day and age it is not looked upon as in any way degrading to a person, but if it goes on month after month and year after year, then it has to have a negative effect on a person who is in all other respects able-bodied. We shouldn't exaggerate the problem in terms of numbers. Not this year so much but a year or two ago there was fearful exaggeration and distortion of the magnitude of the problem. It is severe for those individuals who are caught up in that syndrome, but insofar as trying to leave the public impression that there were literally tens of thousands is inaccurate to say the least.

There are in Manitoba, according to my last recollection of the data on this, something in the order of one-half of one percent of the work force could be regarded as being in the general situation or circumstances of being able-bodied on welfare. Now for those particular individuals, numbers is of no consequence, I readily agree. What this does indicate, I believe, however, is that the problem is a manageable one. If we were in a situation where our economy was running at 8, 9, 11, 12 percent unemployment, then I would suggest it would be largely academic to talk in terms of being able to mount an alternative to welfare program, work activity program. I mean just by definition if there's high levels of unemployment, then it is academic to talk about alternatives to welfare type of creative programming. But where an economy has a

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(MR. SCHREYER cont'd) . . . level of unemployment in the range of 2, 3, 4 percent, surely it is not academic, it should be one of the burning objectives that we should all share. I believe, maybe I am overly optimistic, that the year 1976 may well see a federal-provincial agreement emanating from Mr. Lalonde's proposals and/or Mr. Andras'. We can only hope that it is so, because what we have now and have had since 1964, I cannot find it in myself to say otherwise than that it is essentially an irrational approach, fragmented - as the honourable member says, he's quite right - fragmented and furthermore irrational, because no one can convince me that if a government is willing to finance 50 percent of welfare that they have rational justification to refuse to cost-share the same amount, not more, with respect to a work activity or training program. There's where we're at. It's not that complicated, but it has been made complicated by a Canada Assistance Act festooned with regulations, none of which are compatible with common sense.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 60(e)(1)--pass; (e)(2)--pass; (e)(3)--pass; (e)(4). The Honourable Member for Wolseley.

MR. WILSON: Would the Minister be prepared to comment on those five projects so I could be better informed as to what it's all about.

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

MR. DESJARDINS: There's the Winnipeg Home Improvement Project which repairs and renovates homes for low income residents, currently it has about 75 participants.

Pioneer Services operates a restaurant in an apartment building for the elderly in downtown Winnipeg; approximately 25 participants.

Amaranth Work Activity Project operates a toy workshop and provides agricultural and construction assistance; currently there's about 35 participants.

Westbran Work Activity Project is engaged in park development, recreational facilities and home repairs, Brandon. It has about 110 participants.

And finally, the Manitoba Associated Northern Work Activity Project operates in Camperville, Duck Bay, Crane River, Pelican Rapids and they have about 80 participants.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution (e)(4)--pass; 60(f) Income Security Field Operations (1) Salaries \$2,369,700. The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have just one question on this particular item. It seems to me that we are rather heavy on salaries on this particular item. I wonder if the Minister can explain.

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, there is 228 staff man-years, the same as last year, and there is just the normal increase in this period. If you look at what they spent last year, I don't think that it's that much out of line. It's about 6-point-something percent increase so . . . in fact, we're lucky to get away with that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (f)(1)--pass; (f)(2)--pass; (g) Basic Annual Income Project. The Honourable Member for Wolseley.

MR. WILSON: Mr. Chairman, I stand to be corrected but this would seem to me to be the program which is commonly known as Mincome Manitoba, and I've been one of the fortunate people to be able to, after a great deal of research, come up with some answers on this great mystery, and I would say that this is the one program that, based on my research, that I would be willing to support if it cancelled out all other forms of social assistance. And if it doesn't, then I would suggest that this program should close down immediately because it's one of the most expensive handouts that this Federal-Provincial Government has ever undertaken on the taxpayers back. In my opinion the incentives to work disappear and one could simply quit work and grow food, one that works on tips, taxi drivers, casual jobs or cash jobs.

I read some very negative reports reported in the Star and the Free Press and I was inclined to believe after looking at last year's booklet, that based on this that the family income levels of \$4,000, \$7,000, \$9,000, \$10,000, \$11,000 and \$12,000 would be some indication of maybe being some type of thing which would be counter-productive to people wanting to stay on welfare. However, I have now received a copy

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(MR. WILSON cont'd) of the 1976 levels, and let me read the schedule. The new schedule is \$5,500; \$10,500; for a family of three \$13,000; for a family of four \$14,500; for a family of five \$16,000 and for a family of six \$17,500. That means if I have a family of a certain size and I don't make that kind of money then I'm in a position that I'm praying that I will be chosen by this Mincome Lottery.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Health on a point of order.

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, I cannot allow the member to continue giving false information. What he's saying now is not factual. We should remember that this is a survey that we're doing with the Federal Government, it is not a policy that this is going to be done, at the time we're talking about a survey, there is limited information that will be available until this is all finished. This is a three-year term that we're committed to with the Federal Government. This is not a policy, it's a fact-finding thing that has been done in other areas, but the figures that he's quoting now are definitely not factual.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Wolseley.

MR. WILSON: Mr. Chairman, I am telling the best kept secret. These are documents supplied by Mincome Manitoba, they are from books, and I want to read them into the record because we are talking about a \$20 million program and the item here is \$5,660,800, and I think that we should have to --(Interjection)-- Well if it says that you you're participating for 25 percent, 25 percent of \$20 million is \$5 million. So, I read this schedule, I say that the new levels do not coincide with the Anti-Inflation Program, you can't jump from \$12,000 to \$17,500 without raising some questions. Large families seem to be encouraged under this system because there is a wide disparity, at least \$1,500, in the case of a \$10,500 to \$13,000 for one extra child means a spread of \$2,500.

I would say to you that based on my research that this program which started as a Dauphin-Sifton area program with limited participation has now become a Winnipeg program, and as I pointed out, if you're lucky enough to be chosen in the lottery you will enjoy the benefits of this experiment. I say I have to look at the overall federal thing because I do realize it's a \$15 million shot in the arm for the economy of this province, but I don't think that's an excuse for accepting the program.

I really object, upon reading the booklet, that it's an honour system. I don't see anything in here again under the Canada Evidence Act that would allow for penalties under abuse, and possibly the Minister will explain the collection system for over-payments, and I'd like to bring to the attention that in the letter that the Minister sends out with this, signed by himself, he says it's a provincial agency. The give-out of money of this nature, of course becomes sort of politicized in a way, and it says that it's not taxable. It says here that it will continue to December 1978, but Mr. Henkel in an interview says it will go to 1979. It says that it will not affect, all the information is confidential, that other government benefits will not affect your income payments. Apparently you can get family allowance and things like that. I pointed out that I would like if he'd explain the overpayment situation and while the reports and everything from the interviewers indicate that people won't be penalized if they give out information, after they give out the information they find that under the net worth section of the booklet, they can be reduced either by four percent, eight percent or 16 percent. However, I would like to point out that someone, who it says here could be fined \$5,000 for giving me this information, simply quit work and is now farming and growing vegetables because he's going to make a certain amount of money, and he's going to be able to have the utopia that all of us dream about.

I don't know - as I say I would support the program if I thought that it would eliminate all other forms of social assistance. Obviously these huge bureaucracies, people with vested interests and jobs will never be dismantled so Mincome should be immediately halted because it's obvious that no one intends to dismantle their social empires.

I'd like to know, when I get into the Public Accounts, I'd like to know what it means by professional fees \$100,000, and automobiles \$42,000. I'd like to know the number of contracts because it seems to me the criticism from people that I've talked to is that most of these or some of these people are contracted people that are Americans, mainly from one university, who are holding themselves out to be experts because they told somebody they were.

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(MR. WILSON cont'd) I fail to see how managing a program like this calls for the importation of intelligence from south of the border. I agree that the Minister's press release under News Services said it was a three year test but it intends to be universal. We all know it's not going to be universal so who's kidding who.

I think Ottawa, through the Member from Fort Rouge after he hears me talk will probably send a message down to Ottawa and tell them to wisen up, that they are supporting our province to a tune of \$15 million and it's the current government that's getting the political credit for it.

As I say, I'm very shocked that this program of \$5 million, which is in his budget, has been kept secret. I'm surprised that no one has thought about the fact that besides the budget that the First Minister brought down last night, he has had an extra \$15 million in revenue poured into this province by the Federal Government. If these figures aren't correct, somebody can stand to correct me.

I'd like the Minister to indicate, is my suspicions true that this has become a Winnipeg program. There was a national television program I believe on - I'm not sure of the program, I thought it was W-5, on which they talked about and showed a film on Dauphin. I'd say it's become a Winnipeg program and those that are lucky enough to be chosen in the lottery, with these figures, still can make money based on an honour system and it discriminates against all of us that are unlucky enough not to be chosen.

And I say, I don't mean to keep repeating myself, but I would support the program if the Minister could indicate to me that he would dismantle his department, a large portion of that \$395 million would be a saving and we would go on a guaranteed system, because if the people want to go out in the country and collect . . . well I'll go back to the other schedule - if they want to go out and collect the full complement for the size of their family, namely they have to live on \$4,298 for a man and wife and child, they could live pretty good in the country if they grew vegetables and what have you, but now they are able to get \$6,252.00.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please.

MR. WILSON: They have, a family, a man and wife and a child have gone from \$4,298 to \$6,252, now that's against the Anti-Inflation guidelines, it's an increase of almost \$2,000 and a fellow who grew his own groceries, that was living in the country, wouldn't have to lift a shovel and would get \$6,252 while the rest of us are working. Now I'm saying that if that's the way the future of this country is going, so be it, but promise us you're going to dismantel these huge social programs, these huge social handouts and go into this program full hog. But don't spend all this money on the taxpayers of Canada with a so-called experiment brought in with some dreamer from south of the border who obviously, if my figures are correct, a lot of his colleagues have been hired, and I understand that the Free Press has carried on some crusade to attempt to get information and has been unsuccessful.

I must say that I did this with about one week of hard work and I'm very pleased that I was able to bring some of these points to this . . . to be able to record them and I do so because if this program is going to be implemented, fine; if it isn't, please scrap it right away and stop trying to hoodwink the public and maybe the Member from Fort Rouge will ask some questions of his Ottawa colleagues. Again I don't know what professional fees are of \$100,000; it comes to \$2,231,642.61, these are the expenses of running this operation.

I'll close with these comments. My research in the country indicated that it was costing, and again we should be conservative and say \$1.00 to give away a \$1.00, but I'd like to use what the Minister uses. When he talked about his \$90.00 rent then I'll say it cost \$1.25 to give away \$1.00. Now isn't that something for the taxpayers of this country. You can't even give away money without having it cost more than the money you're giving out.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 60(g)--pass. Resolution 60. Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$76,772,400 for Health and Social Development --pass. .

Resolution 61, Fitness and Amateur Sport. The Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie.

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MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to say a few words on this item. I think all members of the House look with some dismay and perhaps even disgust on the way the World Hockey Association has been conducting its affairs in the past season, and of course, we read now about the final set of events which are coming very close to destroying their league. I'm sure that parents of boys who aspire to play either amateur or professional hockey are concerned when their boys enter the system that now exists for professional hockey in Canada and the United States. And I raise this matter because government is now offering financing through public funds, either by way of lottery or by way of taxpayers' revenues, to encourage and promote amateur sports in all fields, not only hockey but all other sports, both boys and girls, and I think that government does have a duty here when they offer assistance that they offer the assistance under certain conditions that the amateur sports people must work towards.

I know as one who was in the hockey field for some years myself, like my friend the Minister of Health, he was heavily involved with junior hockey at one time, so was I, and we did notice because of our involvement that there was certain distasteful aspects of the amateur system which was feeding the professional system. And I think when government is involved by way of grants and by way of encouragement that they can offer some guidelines by way of coaching clinics, ethics for coaches, encouragement, sets of ideals and so on. This is not to say that government is big brother and tells people how to do things but obviously when the professional system in certain sports is at variance with what parents want for their children and what taxpayers want out of the system, that I think the Minister has an obligation here to sit down with the various sport bodies and work out a set of guidelines that are compatible with human decency and the enjoyment of our young people in certain areas of sport.

And of course I have referred specifically to hockey tonight. I can't think of any other sport where there's such a sorry situation as exists in hockey today in Canada, so therefore I'm directing my remarks to the hockey scene. I believe that any assistance given by government to amateur sport should be given in a spirit of co-operation that insists upon certain guidelines, that insists upon a high level of sportsmanship, a high level of ideals and, of course, a competent and an ethical coaching and managerial system.

We read now where young boys are travelling, seven and eight or ten or twelve-year-old boys are travelling out of the province, some of them are even going overseas and of course the aim is to feed the professional system. I don't think we should be concerned any longer about feeding a professional system that has distorted their values so much that the only objective is to win at any cost. The paying of large salaries for services rendered used to be accepted as a reward for a short career, but now we see large salaries paid in professional hockey for out-and-out thuggery or "goonism" as it is known as, and it's destroying the sport. It's destroying the sport of hockey, and I would hate to think that any government money, whether direct or indirect, is going to support a system that is heading in such a direction.

I would hope that the Minister through his background of experience would sit down with the people that he's dealing with at the amateur level and if the ideals are not already there, they should talk about them and try and hammer them out, and try to direct our young people into a different outlook on the sport of hockey - again I'm talking hockey - and if they're good enough to be professional well let them pursue that course, but let us not, through the system that we have grown with over the years, be used by the professionals in hockey. I think it's a bad thing.

The junior hockey system, of which I used to be associated with, has developed over the years into a system of peonage where 14 and 15 and 16-year-old boys are encouraged to take a course where they neglect their studies, where if they progress to another team, they are given great promises about how they'll be an NHL star or a WHA star. So more than ever now, we're having what is known as the "hockey bums", they get a Grade 10 education and that's about all; one in ten or one in 20 or one in 30 will progress a little bit higher and feed the professional system.

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(MR. G. JOHNSTON cont'd)

I would like to see junior hockey in Canada absolutely done away with and I have some experience in that field. I would like to see hockey at that age level go back into the high school system and then into the university system or the college system. The junior hockey that we know that feeds the professional system, I think, is doing young boys quite a disservice who start out down that road.

And I've talked to many parents in my association in this sport where they have been misled. I know of one particular case where a boy showed great promise. He could play in the two levels of junior hockey in Manitoba and he had his eye on a scholarship with one of the American universities. He had been talked to by the American university, and in one of the junior teams in Manitoba, he was lured to play and given quite a few promises. And he played one game and that one game was enough to destroy his amateur status, and that was the end of his university offer for a scholarship. The team that employed the boy for that one game didn't even have the decency to tell him that if he played one game in that league he would be disqualified in the American college circuit as a professional. Now I only mention this one case. I could mention many many cases where I know of boys who have been encouraged by scouts, have been encouraged by this system to neglect their studies, to go to a different level of junior hockey and try and end up in the big league. Of course the promises in many many cases, I would say nine out of ten turned out naught, the boy didn't make it, he ended up with a Grade 10 education and many many of those boys today are unskilled labourers where they could have used their hockey abilities to keep in the school system and progress or even to turn away from hockey and pursue an education or a trade and at a better station in life today.

I hope the Minister will give us some indication of what he is doing in this particular department. There's a sum of \$737,000 being expended this year and I would like him to tell us what he is doing with this money and how is it being spent and what are the programs, what are the ideals and what is he trying to do in this field.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to add my voice to that of the Member for Portage la Prairie with respect to the main subject he just raised. I don't know whether the Minister of this particular department is going to find himself in a position to respond to the points raised by the Honourable Member from Portage la Prairie having to do with violence in hockey in the general sense because I know the Minister's colleague, the Minister of Tourism and Recreation has had a responsibility in that area, and in response to some pressures and anxieties raised on this side of the House last year, did take the initiative and strike a committee to look into the matter of violence in hockey, particularly at the minor level and particularly in the Greater Winnipeg area. I don't know to what extent he was able to look into it on a province-wide basis but I know he did undertake that initiative in the Winnipeg area, and it may well be that we have to wait for a report on that investigation until we reach the Estimates of the Department of Tourism. But like the Member for Portage la Prairie, I hope the Minister of Health will be able to respond at least in some degree to the comments made by the Member for Portage having to do with the overall problem of the philosophy that seems to have been encouraged and now engendered among our young people in the field of sport and by the example and a sad and sorry example it too often is, that is presented to them by the professionals operating in the field of sport and particularly in the hockey industry.

But over and above that, I join with the Member for Portage in calling upon the Minister to strike a posture of at least a moral pressure and morale influence that will be conveyed to those who administer and participate in the hockey industry. But more than that I would like to call on the Minister for a general overview at this juncture of the sports directorate and in particular a description of where the salary item is being spent. There is an increase of some \$66,000 under this item of salaries in the sports directorate. I know that a new full-time director has recently been appointed. I would hope that for the additional \$66,000 being spent or for whatever part of that is not related directly to inflation, that the Minister can report on programs and undertakings that will deliver an equivalent value to the recreation and sports community in the province.

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(MR. SHERMAN cont'd)

One of the things that is most crucially needed is a general approach to fitness, a general fitness program among our young people, and no better place to start it than in the schools. I know that the Minister of Education has had some things to say about fitness programs being incorporated into the overall curricula of our public school system, and no doubt we can get at that specific on his Estimates. But this Minister, the Minister of Health has responsibility for fitness and amateur sport under his aegis in the general sense, and I would invite the Minister's comments with respect to that kind of a fitness program at young age levels and invite his response as to whether any initiatives are being undertaken to get fitness programs under way on a wide scale, on a fairly widespread basis among our young people.

I would hope the Minister might also comment on the university sport situation, particularly on the inter-collegiate inter-university as opposed to intra-university aspect of sport.

I've heard some reports that there is a de-emphasis of inter-collegiate sport being encouraged in the Province of Manitoba. These may be ill-founded reports but I would present them to the Minister and ask for his comments. I'm talking not of inter-faculty sport but as I say of inter-collegiate sport. I think that provided universities can afford to engage in inter-collegiate sport, that that kind of activity recommends itself because of the effect it has in creating spirit, in creating a sense of community and in creating a sense of pride in an educational institution.

And along the same lines, it seems to me we get into a situation almost annually now where we reach a crisis with respect to the high school, the high school football league and its operation in the City of Winnipeg. Once again I think that all things being equal, provided academic services aren't suffering that that kind of inter-scholastic athletic activity is valuable for the overall effect it has in creating pride in the part of student bodies in their schools and in generating a sense of co-operation and team work and commitment on the part of those who participate. I don't think that big sport either at the university or the high school level should be encouraged to the detriment of inter-room or inter-faculty sport where you have mass participation. It's the mass participation aspect that must be encouraged and increased. But at the same time I would hope that we would not be in any danger of downgrading or losing the inter-school and inter-collegiate activity for the reasons that I have mentioned.

Basically I think that what we hoped to get from the Minister and from the sports directorate is an attitude and a posture that will help to foster a new approach and a new philosophy in the field of sport: (1) that will put an emphasis on the value from the point of view of the well-being of the public - in other words, an emphasis on broad participation and (2) that will put an emphasis on the values that we seem to have lost due to the influence of professionalism as alluded to in the remarks of the Member for Portage la Prairie. If a sports directorate is going to have any real value for society today, it has to pursue those two objectives to rebuild the philosophy and encourage us to look for the good things in sports, win or lose, not emphasize sport from the point of view simply of winning and from the point of view simply of the professional career that it can provide. And along with that, as I've said, it must emphasize the value of overall broad participation by the public generally. So it's that challenge in charge that we put to the sports directorate and to the funding that is being appropriated and requested at this time. And it's in that context that I would appreciate an overview from the Minister of the directorate and the goals that he has established for us.

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

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, I was going to deal with No. 1, with the Salaries and then go down to Financial Assistance, but I guess it might save time if I try to answer the comments that have been made so far.

Maybe I should start with the question of violence in hockey, and I might say that I agree with the comments that have been made. I'm quite concerned with this. I've been associated with hockey for many years and I don't think that I've seen this kind of violence that we have now. Sure there were fights, the people that drop their gloves and go at it for

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(MR. DESJARDINS cont'd) a while - there wasn't too much damage; very seldom were there any injuries. In fact, most of it was shadow boxing, the players used to wait until somebody was on their back holding them and then pretend they wanted to go at each other, and it wasn't too serious. And I think that if we're going to be realistic when we have body contact sports, of course we can expect some of that. But now it is completely ridiculous. Players are taping their hands now to fight, to really have hard fists. Goons - and there's no other word but that - goons are hired with all these leagues, and I don't know if it's because there's more American cities in there, and I know my colleague the Attorney-General is quite serious in this and I'm sure that he would not allow an episode like they had in Quebec not too long ago to happen without being punished. But my responsibility as you know is with amateur sports not the professionals.

I might say that there was a committee, the Minister who was responsible before, the Minister of Tourism and Recreation and Cultural Affairs, had set up a committee. That committee is not functioning now but there was some good recommendations that came from that committee and the Minister of Tourism started a good program. I think first of all, he seconded one of his staff for at least 50 percent of his time, who is now working and he's doing very well, he's working in the communities in the province with the referees and the coaches and young players, and so on. And besides that - this is something that the government will not do too often is make a grant directly to a sport, usually it goes through the Advisory Committee, but it was felt that this was so important that there was a \$20,000 amount given to the Manitoba Amateur Hockey Association to help in that program.

I am very pleased with the Amateur Hockey Association of Manitoba, I think that they are doing a good job. Remember that they haven't got that much to do. My honourable friend from Portage was talking about the juniors, and I think he's talking about the juniors, the people that are practically pros. I know he's talking about that because he was talking about farm team people that have one thing in mind is to make a career out of hockey.

There was a certain suggestion I was asked one day, and we discussed that at the Ministers level in the western Canada and I, just off the top of my head, I said that one of the ideas that I had, I had suggested that maybe if the television did not show the fights I think it would be at least a small step but a step in the right direction. The Free Press thought that was quite funny and ridiculed that, but I still think that . . . I've seen that done in the pro football league. They never showed fights and this is something that at least the kids at home who are watching the pros, because there's not that many that can go and see the pros, and we would not single out this business of the fights as the most important part of the game, and where people like Schultz and Gallant, and so on, will become the stars instead of Tardiff and Bobby Hull and LeFleur and people, good hockey players such as those.

Now to finish in this area, there was a committee that was left dormant, there were no members. We reorganized the Advisory Council on Fitness and Amateur Sports chaired by a person who is very active in sports, and in amateur sports I think he's always been very outspoken. I'm talking about Don Whitman, and I've had a meeting with them, with the members, and there'll be more members added to this committee, and I've asked them to work with the new Director of Fitness and Amateur Sports and I've pretty well given carte blanche to give any recommendation. I've asked them to familiarize themselves with our programs, to comment on it including our administration centre. And one of the specific things that I've asked them in the letter that I sent just last week to them, is to look at the situation of violence in sports, and so on, and asked them to set up a committee to give us more, not just study but suggest action that we might take with the young players.

My honourable friend from Fort Garry has mentioned a philosophy that he has on sports, and I agree with what he's said. I think that the Member for Portage, who emphasized the violence in sports but also has pretty well the same philosophy, I think that we'd have no disagreement there. And this is exactly what we're trying to do, to work in that direction. For instance there was \$400,000 that came from the lottery that is spent on the first Manitoba games that we have. And the Manitoba games are exactly that,

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(MR. DESJARDINS cont'd)to have many many participants. You're not looking in at the stars and at the greats, and so on, because those that compete in Manitoba games are those that could not - those that participate in Olympics or Canada games, and so on, would not normally participate in Manitoba games. And we can go in all the districts; there's an organization in all the regions, and so on, and I think they will discover some great athletes. You know they might find somebody up north who can throw the javelin for miles, or that could run like a deer, and so on, and this has happened, but it is participation that we want, it is as many as possible, and then of course this will encourage them in their region. There will be regional games and then that'll end up this year in Neepawa where the games will be held.

Now there is a Games Committee, volunteers, all businessmen or professionals, and so on, that are working and they have pretty well carte blanche to run that. They know what we want to achieve and so on by that, and they're working with us and then they have, I would say, a pretty generous budget in \$400,000.

Now there will be more and more games. We have the Canada Games every two years. There's either the winter or the summer games, and then of course the Olympics, that is only the top athletes. There will be the British Empire Games, the PanAm Games, and we've encouraged the known athletes also, such as Sylvia Burka and that young diver, and so on, to participate in the World's Championship, and then of course last year we started the Western Canada Games, which was very very successful in Regina. So those games are there for participation to get everybody involved and to get the people participating in games more than watching. And of course you've got, as I say, the Canada Games, we'll go for excellence also, we'll get the top athletes, although there's still quite a few athletes participating, and then of course the Olympics, well that's the big time.

So our program is not geared at forming players for the professional, especially the hockey team. We are not doing anything for professional sports, professional hockey; we're not doing anything for the Junior League or the Western Canada Major League.

I'd like to give you now some of the members of the staff. It was mentioned that there's more money for the staff that is true, and this is one area that we've had an increase in staff; we had twelve and we're going to 19. Now the staff of the directors, there's the director, there will be four professionals, that is an assistant director, a sports consultant and two games consultant, and a clerk steno, that's six. So that is part of this No. 1 in the Salary.

Then also the civil servants that are working in the Administrative Centre for Sports. I believe that you know what this is all about. This is something that was requested by the committee at one time, the Fitness and Amateur Sports, there was a report they brought in in '72, and then when I was Minister of Tourism I had a committee that looked at the situation again and they recommended a director of sports, in fact people were talking about a Minister of Sports, just sports, nothing else, and then the Administration Centre. Now the Administration Centre has had some growing pains and I think that's good. There has been some complaint, the Advisory Committee has been asked to look at it. I know that in Quebec when they started their Administration Centre they were under a swimming pool and every time somebody dived you'd hear the board and then there was water leaking on their heads and now it's quite big. The major sports, the big sports, the large sports are not too interested in the Administration Centre. You know hockey, for instance, curling and that, because they can do that work and they do that work themselves. I think that, all in all, in the meeting that I held in Gimli with all the sports participating, especially the minor sports, the smaller sports, less affluent sports are very pleased with that because it gives them a chance to get this administration and so on that they haven't got.

So part of the staff also, there's 13 there, there's a Manager of the Administration Centre; there's a clerk; six clerk-stenos because they do a lot of this work; two print shop personnel and three term staff, that's 13. Now beside that - this would be covered under Number 2, under Expenditure - there is the grants for the hiring of full time sports administrators. There are ten now and there probably will be two. Now

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(MR. DESJARDINS cont'd)these people, we can't afford one for every sport. The sports are organized into ten different groups, I think about three or four or five sports to a group and they share this co-ordinator. So we will review that, it's been going on for a couple of years, we will review the Administration Centre but the Administration Centre costs us now - well there's \$125,000 for the salary grants, there's \$133,000, that is out of Number 1 for salaries. I guess that's it for the Administration Centre. Of course there's the printing the supplies and all the things to run the Administration Centre and the director's office also.

Now my honourable friend asked me about some of the programs that we've had. I've already told him about the Manitoba Games and the rural regional communities named to host Manitoba Regional Finals. I might say in Norman it will be Flin Flon; in Parklands there's Dauphin; Westman, Souris; Pembina Valley, Morden; Central Plains, Portage la Prairie; Eastman, Pinawa; Interlake in Gimli and of course the big finals will be in Neepawa. In Neepawa we should have the winners of ten sports from each of the 13 regions and there should be 2,268 athletes participating in that. So as you see there'll be a lot of involvement.

Some of this is the lottery money. There was \$400,000 from lottery for the games and the coaching certification and leadership program, the implementation in Manitoba of the Canadian Coaching Certification Program, this is \$44,000 and I think that is helping, doing some of the things that my friend was talking about.

There is also the Man Plan which is a good program and we've been participating with the Manitoba Sports Federation and the amount of \$104,000 was spent for that. This is helping the athletes that are Olympic calibre or World Championship calibre. This is where we've helped many of the speedskaters to participate in world competition and there's been divers and there's been people in the Pam Am Games, I think Pierny is the shotputter. In all there's been 62 athletes in 17 sports participating in that also.

On the question of fitness there is an amount of money from the program RENEW that we covered earlier that will be administered, the funds will be found in the department not in this. Maybe next year it'll be transferred but it will be administered by this directorate.

We're very pleased to say that there are some people that are quite concerned, quite interested in fitness who are giving much of their time to try to work on these programs. I can't tell you the policy or the programs that we have on that now, this is something that we want to develop. The Fitness and Amateur Sports Advisory Council will work on that. They will establish some of the sub-committees and I know that this will be one of them and we're very pleased to have Dr. Mina, I don't know if anybody knows Dr. Mina, he's on the heart team at St. Boniface Hospital, he's well known all across North America. He's an excellent, very valuable member of the medical profession and on the heart team. He has been working at the university and the university has been good enough to let his people use the facilities. I think that some of them have to wear a surgical mask it's so dusty, it's an awful track and he's been working with people that have had cardiac history and so on. There's always a doctor there, there's a director besides that, they're monitored and they're tested before they go and they've really been working.

Now they are going on a project to raise money to have one of the facilities - and I think that Manitoba is way behind some of the other places. We should have a centre, I would like to see a centre that would house and probably be run by the Manitoba Sports Federation, where the Administration Centre would be there, where they would have maybe a swimming pool, a track, and so on. I've seen that in many other countries, I've seen it in Edmonton, I've seen it in other areas and this, by the way, we had heard a little bit about a corporation or group of Mr. Cohen and I think Vaughan Baird, and so on, have been participating in that to try to raise money and Mr. Cohen, it's been his dream to try to raise money to have such a centre. I was disappointed, I was aiming high, I was discussing this with the Minister of Defence, the Honourable James Richardson, and I was thinking of - what is the name? Lipsett Hall, I thought this would be a fantastic place. We've explored with the city that curling club that they bought, what is it, the

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(MR. DESJARDINS cont'd) Highwayman and so on, and so far there's not too much. I know that there's some of the --(Interjection)-- It burnt down. Oh, Highwayman, I'm thinking of our drinking days Gord. So at least there's interest, there's one or two service clubs who have pledged support to Dr. Mina and his group. There is a committee of people from the university, and so on, that are certainly interested and who were looking at that, and I think that I can go on record that if the private sector and the other levels of government want to participate in creating such a service that is needed, and that would be the hub in Manitoba, and from there you would develop programs. We want to work with the private sector; we've been approached by some of them, by the government and different groups. I think that the MHO has started a group, they give 15 minutes or so a day to their people to work on the program; they offer a program, and they had a young lady that was an expert who used to work in that field. So it's a real challenge. I was given this challenge, and the director also was given this challenge by the Honourable Member for Fort Garry. This is a challenge that we certainly want to pick up, we want to work in that direction, and we're looking at the whole program, including fitness and so on, and we're asking this Advisory Committee to advise us on that and we want to move in that direction.

Now the grants. On number (3) you will see Financial Assistance. There are 50 provincial sports associations and we have a committee now that will be discontinued. It is a committee, an advisory committee on grants that look at all the applications. There is no way that we can start dealing and I say to the members, please don't come to me and ask for a grant and so on to help a local hockey club or baseball club, or any kind of a club in your constituency and so on. We haven't got that much money and we will deal only with the sports bodies themselves and it is up to them. This will be the priority and if we have so much money that we can help football or hockey or anything, this is what we will do.

We've met with these boards and we will meet with them again, these groups, to see where the needs are. But the needs are not the same. Certain people, for instance, are looking in the coaching - this is one of the areas that we want to look at. For instance, the swimmers are very interesting, they have a professional coach, a very good coach, but there is no way that we can single out a coach of one team, but he could be their provincial coach and work in areas up north and in the north, and this is one area that we would like to work. We want to co-operate and we don't want to have duplication with the Manitoba Sports Federation, and they had announced at one time a program and I've asked the directorate to check with them to see if they're going to work on that program, and I might say that we're certainly willing and anxious to work in co-operation with the Sports Federation so that we don't have any duplication and in fact, to work together to join our efforts in certain programs such as the Man Plan Program that we work together. So this is to try and give you a . . . of the whole thing. There might be some other questions.

Oh yes we have the Sports Development Assistance Finance, that's the one I was talking about, the 50 provincial sports, and there's upgrading clinics, some of them want to spend their money in travelling for championships, they feel that this is the best thing. Hosting of championships and special projects, or coaching. Some of them need money to rent facilities and some of them need a lot of costly equipment, so what we try to do is have different pies, we might say, and try to give them a system of points where the swimmers might say, "Well we want money to rent the pool," so that's more important than anything else, and somebody else might need the equipment, and somebody else might need travelling money where they can get the competition. So that has to be varied and it is not easy, but there has to be some flexibility and let the people choose the pie, not impose on them certain things, give them a choice. And this is what we're trying to do.

As I say the Administration Centre is something that we start, that's the minimum, the way we start, and at least the smaller sports and organizations that cannot afford to do their work or they're not big enough, I think that they will participate in that. Some of them might get a grant to help them pay towards their full-time administration - for hockey, for instance they have a full time executive director and we give them a grant, a portion of it, and that's it.

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(MR. DESJARDINS cont'd)

We've encouraged this Administration Centre. We will review it mind you but I think that all in all it is doing a good job to at least give this administration. When we started there was nothing. A few years ago I think there was about \$15,000 or so that was spent in this field for everything. I think one of the urgencies that was needed was an Administration Centre where these people could co-ordinate their efforts and organize their sports and send material and so on. So this is the need that we're trying to answer.

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

MR. GRAHAM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well we heard a lot of words from the Minister on this and when he talked about enlarging the operation of the Sports Administration Centre, I believe he said that they had enlarged the staff from - was it 12 to 19? And he also said that they had 10 or 12 co-ordinators. Now I would like to ask the Minister if those co-ordinators, if their remuneration will be covered under Other Expenditures rather than Salaries. Is that right?

MR. DESJARDINS: That's right.

MR. GRAHAM: And will there be any additional money coming from the Department of Tourism and Recreation towards that? Then the grants that appear in the Report of Tourism and Recreation from last year will now be under this part of it. I'm referring --(Interjection)-- Maybe I'd better explain. I'm talking about the Aries Sports Association the Taurus Sports Association, Gemini, Leo, Libra, Virgo, Pisces, there's a \$125,000 for that. Now you have enlarged it. It was seven, you've now brought it up to ten, is it?

MR. DESJARDINS: It was ten, it goes to twelve.

MR. GRAHAM: Well, the latest report we have from Tourism and Recreation, I guess, would be '74. It was seven at that time. You're now up to . . .--(Interjection)-- It'll go to 12. You won't go the full 13 signs of the Zodiac in it then? Or have you abolished the Zodiac sign?

MR. DESJARDINS: We'll have to go with the Alphabet, because there's 50 different sports.

MR. GRAHAM: Well, Mr. Chairman, we noticed the grants that were listed here before, and they were various denominations. Does that mean that the various co-ordinators of these sports will be getting various salary ranges? They won't be all on a common salary range.

MR. DESJARDINS: You might have a group for instance, like hockey, that will have their own for their own sports, but the grants will be up to \$2,800.00. That's per one sport. Now the others, I think that the total is \$10,800., and so on, so it depends. This is the grant that we do. Now if other sports want to use part of the grant and hire somebody else, this is up to them.

MR. GRAHAM: Well, Mr. Chairman, I was down at the Sports Centre not too long ago, and I was talking to some of the people there. I believe they're still operating under the impression that they have about six different sports under each director, and you now have twelve --(Interjection)-- Ten, and you're covering 51 sports at the present time, is that right? I believe you said 51. So that some will be handling four sports, some will be handling five, and some will be handling six. Are they going to be getting various sized grants then, according to the number of sports they handle. Would that be a logical assumption to make?

MR. DESJARDINS: That is right, Mr. Chairman. There is a grant to each sport, and the sports, we have the facilities also, we pay the rent, and we have staff printers, and so on, and then they get together. For instance, one group is rowing, canoeing, squash, badminton, lawn tennis, racket ball, and the total grants come to \$11,700, and that is what they pay their co-ordinator. Then there is diving, water polo, swimming, synchronised swimming. There's four, that's \$10,100. The next one is soccer, gymnastics, orienteering, (whatever that is) modern gymnastics, parachuting, \$17,600; and then I can go down the line. Now you will have sports that are alone, like hockey, and they would get \$2,800 for a single sport, and they will pay the difference, because they have a full-time man.

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MR. GRAHAM: The point I'm trying to make in the whole thing, Mr. Chairman, is that while it appears as though these are grants to sports, actually none of that money goes to the sports at all. It entirely goes to the co-ordinator and that goes to the salary of the man that is going to co-ordinate those six sports. . .

MR. DESJARDINS: You don't consider that going to sports?

MR. GRAHAM: None of it gets to the sport at all. The reason I raise this, Mr. Chairman, I think it's a very valid reason. The Minister has attempted to drastically change the amateur sports picture in this province. He's come along, he's set up an entirely new organization in the last three or four years and it's all supposed to help amateur sports in the province. We've got a bunch of people on salary, we've got \$737,000 in here; we've got grants coming from lotteries, and we've got other grants in the Tourism and Recreation - I'm sure we'll find some money there too. All in all we're spending maybe double or triple the amount of money that has been spent in the past in amateur sport in the province, but are we getting the benefit from it? We're building up an administration, but there is less money getting to the actual sport today than there was before. The money is all being eaten up in administration and the Minister can sit there and talk about BS if he wants to. You go to any man in the sports field and he'll tell you that there's less money going into that sport today than there was before. So the Minister can talk all he wants, and all the BS is sitting right there, and there's lots of it. So if the Minister wants to show us how much money is getting into the actual field of sports, direct into the field of sports, I would imagine it comes under the financial assistance, which is \$348,800. How much of that goes directly to the various sports? I will be glad to sit down and let him tell us.

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, the honourable member is showing his ignorance when he says that this money is not going to sport. Where the hell does he think it's going? Now the request the request has been by the majority of sports, and I've explained that, especially the smaller sports, that what they need more than anything else is somebody to co-ordinate their efforts, to do exactly what these people are doing, and that money is going to them, if they don't want to participate they don't have to participate

I had a meeting with the 50 sports representatives in Gimli, the odd one felt that they would have liked to have had the money directly, the majority of them said, "No, we must retain the Sports Administration Centre." And I just finished telling my honourable friend that I've asked the council, the Advisory Council on Fitness and Amateur Sports to look at that, to discuss it with them, and I have no hesitation at all, if it is not doing the work and if they don't want it, if they want to change, to do it. It is so much money, and it is to help sports, and so far - whatever my honourable friend is saying, wherever he's getting his information - that the majority of them want a Sports Administration Centre. It was recommended by the . . . It wasn't a scheme thought of by the government, it was recommended by two committees, the Fitness and Amateur Sports Committee and then another committee that was set up. And the day that they feel that this is not doing the work, then I would invite the gentleman to ask these sports if they want it.

Now as I said it has growing pains, some of them felt that one co-ordinator between . . . they've grown and that is not enough, and that is a possibility, and this is why we started with seven and then ten, we're talking about 12. The man is talking through his hat, Mr. Chairman, when he says that money is not going to sports. Where is it going? Is not administrating and co-ordinating that, isn't that sports? There are grants; these administrators are getting \$10,820; there is another grant; they get some credit for printing. They need that, they were paying for that before, they had to hire people. They want that; this is their request. It's not something that the government says you must take this, you must take that. And the day that there is no demand and no need for that we will gladly look somewhere else. But that is one - this is one thing, and especially, as I explained, the smaller sports, those that are not as rich and so on, demand and are saying that they're doing a good job. And if not, they're talking one way to my honourable friend and then they're talking a different way to me because I've asked them that in Gimli at a meeting that we had, and the consensus. It's not everybody, of course, the people in hockey, and so on, would sooner. . . they want the money, they're big, they've

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(MR. DESJARDINS cont'd) got a full-time administrator, executive director and they can administer it better. There's some people like golf, they don't get as much out of that as others, but archery, bowling, water skiing, weight lifting, or wheelchair, women's field hockey, wrestling, they're very happy with that. Okay, this is their request. That is one.

Then there are other programs, there are other programs as I stated that we have, and there is help and that comes under Financial Assistance. And that, they apply, there's certain criteria, they apply to an advisory committee and then they receive a cheque.

And then there's other programs, as I say, like \$400,000 to the Games. And my honourable friend can stand there and say that there's less money going to sports now. Do you know how much they were getting about, well not that long ago, about four years ago? They were getting . . . the whole thing was about \$30,000. He's got the nerve to stand up and say that there's nothing happening, that there's not more. It's a ridiculous statement that he's made and he should be ashamed of it. It's okay to play politics but damn it bring the facts and be correct and be factual.

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

MR. D. JAMES WALDING (St. Vital): Mr. Chairman, I move the Committee rise and report.

MOTION presented and carried.

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, I wonder, we have a staff who've been waiting for a long time, I wonder if we can finish just that area, then there would be only the Manitoba Health Services Commission to deal with.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The motion is not debatable. I'll call for the question.

QUESTION put and carried.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Committee rise.

Mr. Speaker, your committee has considered certain resolutions reports progress, and asks leave to sit again.

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MR. CHAIRMAN (Mr. Walding): Order please. There being a quorum, the Committee will come to order. I refer honourable members to Page 54 in their Estimates Book. Resolution 108(b)(4) - the Honourable Member for St. James.

MR. MINAKER: Yes, Mr. Chairman, through you to the Minister. When we adjourned for supper I asked a question if he could advise where the moneys would be coming from in terms of departments. I wonder if the Minister can now advise. I understood that it came from various departments within the government and I wondered if he had a breakdown of the expected revenues from the different departments that would be utilizing the air force.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. BOSTROM: Yes, Mr. Chairman. We have an estimation of how much we will be obtaining as a total right on the estimates page, which is \$1,967,700. That is the amount that we are estimating as recoveries from all government departments and agencies that are served by the Manitoba Government Air Division. Last year we had estimated the recoverable of \$2,076,200 which is the amount shown on the other side of the column. The biggest user of the Manitoba Government Air Division is the Department of Northern Affairs; the second largest user is the Department of Renewable Resources and Transportation Services. Our main use of the aircraft is for forest fire surveillance and protection, as well as transportation of public servants within the department and, of course, the wildlife surveys that are done as part of the ongoing activities of the department. Geological surveys for the Mines Department are some of the services provided by the Air Division.

I could give you a detailed list in dollar figures. I don't have it here, but I could supply you with such a list if you wish.

MR. MINAKER: That's what I was asking, if the Minister did have a detailed dollar list of expected revenue for this year and I would appreciate receiving a copy of that if you can make it available to members of the Committee. You might not be able to deliver this information tonight but we would like to receive it.

MR. BOSTROM: Right. I will obtain a copy of the dollar figures from last year and the honourable member may extrapolate from that the same as we do when we're estimating what our returns will be for the coming year.

MR. MINAKER: Mr. Chairman, through you to the Minister. He has answered part of my question. Is the Minister using last year's anticipated revenues, or known revenues from various department, and then just trying to estimate and extrapolate what he presumes will be the revenue that the department will receive for this year?

MR. BOSTROM: Well that's just about the only basis on which we have information on which to base our estimate, Mr. Chairman. It is the use of the department that has been traditional over the last few years. It's been fairly accurate to date using that method. We are in fact estimating a reduction in air travel this year because we are hoping to co-ordinate the flying of government departments more efficiently. We're hoping to route more public service travel by way of scheduled carriers than by charter and just generally the tightening up of the budget this year. We don't anticipate an increase in the amount of aircraft usage. As you can see, Mr. Chairman, from the budget we are anticipating a lower recoverable and we're also anticipating a lower expenditure, and as I was indicating to the Committee earlier today, we are at the present time looking at a rationalization of the Government Air Service. We've already made a commitment to cut back at least five aircraft and relevant staff, associated staff, and we may be making further cuts even as we see the need.

MR. MINAKER: Yes, thank you. Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister can advise what communication does his department have with other departments that use his air force when he estimates this figure. In other words, does someone in his department have communications with say the Northern Affairs Department and the Mines and Natural Resources Branch and find out what figure they are using in their estimates for this year as far as expenditures for transportation or travel. Is there this communication and is this how you arrive at this particular figure that you have in the book before us right now.

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MR. BOSTROM: Well there is the informal communication between departments which is available at any time for the senior staff, the flight co-ordinators of our department, to make estimates of what the anticipated usage of aircraft will be over the coming year. Some things can be fairly accurately estimated, such things as forest fire protection requirements, forest surveillance aircraft and departments concerned give quite accurate figures of what their requirements will be for the year. The same with mineral surveys, with wild life counts and so on. Other departments that use the Air Division on a more casual basis, of course, have to be governed by their own internal economies, and to this end the Premier has sent a directive to all departments indicating that there is to be a serious effort made to curtail any air travel that's not absolutely necessary.

MR. MINAKER: I might cite an example on Page 41. I appreciate that we're not dealing with this particular item on tonight's agenda, but an example would be under the Mines, Resources and Environmental Management. Under exploration they would have an expenditure of say over half a million dollars, and I would think that in that expenditure they know or have allowed for so many thousands of dollars for air travel or air expenses. Would the Minister in his department have knowledge of this information and include that as part of the revenue or how do you arrive at this figure that you have of \$1.9 million.

MR. BOSTROM: Well that is part of it, Mr. Chairman. As I was indicating some of the items that are used in the extrapolating and estimating of this figure are accurately or comparatively accurately determined. In specific terms those items that are in those departments such as you have just mentioned, where they have a fairly definite budget for a specific purpose, we know how much they will require. They make application to Air Division for the aircraft that they require and they tell us what the budgeted amount is for the aircraft and we co-ordinate and act as agents for this department in obtaining the aircraft they require.

MR. MINAKER: Mr. Chairman, now I think we're getting closer to the information we're seeking. If for instance the Northern Affairs Department or the Mines Department has in their budget \$250,000 - I'm just using arbitrary figures because I don't know what they actually are. But if they have in their budget for the coming year \$250,000 of air service with the department, would the Minister then include this as part of the recoveries and also would the department be automatically billed this quarter of a million dollars whether they utilize the aircraft or not. Are they committed to transfer these amounts of money over to his department?

MR. BOSTROM: No, Mr. Chairman. As I was explaining this afternoon, the Manitoba Government Air Division acts on a fee-for-service basis so that when aircraft are required for charter service and they're the ones that are owned, leased and operated by Air Division there is a standard charge. This charge is one which is comparable to other air charter services operating in the province. The requirements of the departments are not always met by Air Division however. If a departmental official phones Air Division on a Monday morning and says on Wednesday morning he wants to go to The Pas, that person would be advised that there is a scheduled flight leaving Winnipeg and what flight it would be, if there is a scheduled flight available, and he would be advised to use that scheduled flight. If circumstances were such that he was going to another location where there wasn't a scheduled flight available, then Air Division would obtain the most economical charter for that person. That may be a Manitoba Government Air Division aircraft, but it may not be. It may happen to be a private charter, one that is, in the opinion of the flight co-ordinator, the most economical way to transport that individual or group of individuals. In some cases the person may require a helicopter for a specific special transportation purpose. Well Air Division then acts as the agent in obtaining a helicopter, and these are all, by the way, obtained from private aircraft companies because Air Division does not own, lease or operate helicopters. So for the special cases such as helicopters, water bombers and flight requirements of this nature, Air Division only operates as the through-put, as the agent for those departments and agencies.

MR. DILLEN: Mr. Chairman, a point of privilege.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Matter of Privilege.

MR. DILLEN: Well, I don't know how else to get this information onto the record but the Air Division may have only an Aztec available at a given time when a

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(MR. DILLEN cont'd) passenger is required, where a 180 would have done, but the rate per air mile of the two aircraft are different and if the 180 is owned by a private company the 180 would be used and not the more expensive aircraft for the same

MR. CHAIRMAN: I'm sure the member is aware that is not a matter of privilege. The Honourable Member for St. James.

MR. MINAKER: Mr. Chairman, through you to the Minister. If there is a department, it doesn't matter what government department, that comes forward at the present time and says we need the use of a quarter of a million dollars worth of air service this year. . . .

MR. BOSTROM: Well, they don't say it in that way. This is what I'm trying to explain. They may have \$250,000 in their budget for transportation. We don't know at the beginning of the year how much of that they will be using for air charter transportation which is the only specific kind of service that the Manitoba Government Air Division provides from its own fleet. Part of that \$250,000 may be spent on the scheduled carriers which we direct them to; part of it may be spent on private charter aircraft which we direct them to. Air Division would operate as the agent for obtaining the most economical air service available for the department in question but they will only pay us for the use of those aircraft in the Air Division that they utilize and they may only utilize a quarter of their budget, their total departmental budget for Air Division aircraft.

Just to take an example in the patient air transportation area as I was describing this afternoon, only about five percent of the patient air transportation flights are handled by the Manitoba Government Air Division. A larger percentage of the charters are handled by private carriers and the bulk of the patient air transportation is handled by the scheduled air service.

MR. MINAKER: Well, Mr. Chairman, then I'd ask the Minister: how does the Minister arrive at knowing how many aircraft to maintain for the coming year either through lease or ownership and how many pilots to maintain on staff. How does he arrive at that decision and put it in his Estimates?

MR. BOSTROM: As I was saying, Mr. Chairman, this kind of thing is done on the basis of past experience, on the basis of the use of the aircraft, the demands that have been made over the past number of years. You use that to extrapolate to estimate what will be the use pattern for the coming year. Some things, as I said, are fairly easy to estimate because the departments concerned can give you an accurate estimate, but some departments who are, for example, just using the air service for public service personnel travel, they can't give us an accurate estimate of how much they require. They may not be using Air Division all that much, they may be using the scheduled carriers far more. As the Honourable Member for Thompson was saying this afternoon, as the north is being opened up more and more to scheduled air carrier service, the requirements for charter service, both government and private, is becoming less the rate of increase at least is much reduced.

MR. MINAKER: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Through you to the Minister. Does the Honourable Minister know at this time how many dollars are anticipated to be spent through air service, Manitoba Air Service, by the Northern Affairs Division in the coming year.

MR. BOSTROM: Well, we would have at least a guideline to follow in that respect and that would be no more than eight or ten percent of what they spent last year because that is what their budget has been limited to, the budgetary increase. In my department, for example, we haven't had an increase at all in the total overall departmental budget so in the Renewable Resources part of my department we don't anticipate any increase in the utilization of government aircraft by public service personnel in the department.

MR. MINAKER: Through you, Mr. Chairman. Would the Honourable Minister then confirm if my reasoning is correct that if last year - and I'm using again arbitrary figures - the Northern Affairs Department spent \$300,000 as expenditure that came as revenue to your department, that you anticipate this year that it could be \$324,000, or an eight percent increase.

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MR. BOSTROM: That's right.

MR. MINAKER: Then that way you would estimate from the various departments in the last year how much they expended through your department in use of your airplanes and arrive at what you feel will be the revenue that you're coming up with this year.

MR. BOSTROM: That's right.

MR. MINAKER: That's the way that it's been worked out. Then the next question is: do you charge a minimum billing to that department? In other words, if you have to allot so many man hours in your estimates for pilots and operators, and so many hours of flying time you have to have vehicles on hand, is there a minimum billing that if in fact a department only spends a third as you say, as could happen, would you charge them a minimum billing for their service.

MR. BOSTROM: No. No, Mr. Chairman, there's no minimum billing. It's strictly a fee-for-service basis like any other air charter service. If a department calls up on a Monday morning and says they have to have an aircraft for Wednesday, if the decision is made that they require that Manitoba Government aircraft for that Wednesday, they're charged on a per mile basis if they're going to a particular destination or they may be utilizing it on a wildlife survey or something in which case they would be charged on a per hour basis. But it would be a charge on the utilization of the aircraft during the time that they have the aircraft for their particular use. They are under no obligation to make any prior commitment in financial terms to the department, nor are they required to spend a minimum amount in the department. They spend as they require, and we supply as they require.

MR. MINAKER: Mr. Chairman, I would then ask; in last year's Estimates I would presume you operated in the same manner of going to the year before's use of aircraft and in looking at what the general increase was in different departments' Estimates, came up with the figure of \$2 million-plus for recoverables.

MR. BOSTROM: Right.

MR. MINAKER: Can the Minister advise of any known departments where there was a great reduction in the use of the Manitoba Air Services, that his Estimates were off to any degree.

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, the estimation of the anticipated use of the Government Air Service has traditionally been low. That is, the amount that is submitted here in the Budget as anticipated recoveries has traditionally been low and in the year 1975-76 it has been low again. We're just getting the final billings now processed and as we calculate out the total amount of recoveries for this year, it will be slightly in excess of the \$2,076,200 that's on the page here.

MR. MINAKER: Does the Honourable Minister know what that figure will be approximately?

MR. BOSTROM: I am informed that it is roughly \$2,300,000.

MR. MINAKER: Can I ask, through you, Mr. Chairman, does the Honourable Minister anticipate getting paid the extra \$230,000?

MR. BOSTROM: I'm sorry.

MR. MINAKER: Mr. Chairman, through you to the Minister. He now has indicated that there is \$230,000 in accounts receivables from other departments. Does he anticipate that he will be paid that amount of money?

MR. BOSTROM: We are anticipating recoveries of most of it, yes. There is one or two doubtful accounts. One of them is the Saunders Aircraft expenditures that we had through the Skywest Program, which we anticipated about \$100,000, \$150,000 recovery and we're negotiating now to recover same. But we have not yet been assured that this is forthcoming.

MR. MINAKER: Through you, Mr. Chairman. Who is the Minister negotiating the \$150,000 with, what department? Is it a Provincial Government department or is it through the MDC company, or who?

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, I believe the problem is associated with the negotiations that were ongoing between the Provincial Government and the Federal

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MR. BOSTROM cont'd) Government. You will recall that the Federal Liberal Government made a commitment for a Skywest Program, which the province geared up for and had certain expenditures associated with the gearing up for that program, and now they seem to have welshed on their promise and they appear to have also welshed on the amount of money that we have spent gearing up for the program, so that there is some Federal Government involvement here that complicates matters.

MR. MINAKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The last question I would ask is that if in past years, and I appreciate the Honourable Minister wasn't responsible I don't believe for this particular department two years ago, but I'd ask where you have underestimated the use of the aircraft and you have a greater revenue, it obviously means probably in some cases that a department has under-estimated their expenditures as well and could be short of funds. Does the department always get the revenue paid from the department that's over-expended or does it end up showing as a deficit and written off as say funds not collected.

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, I don't believe there are many occasions when a department doesn't pay its bills to Air Division. There is one way or another collections can be made. It's a transfer within government so that in the event that the department does have a deficit and cannot make the payment, then it doesn't really matter where the deficit shows up, whether it's in the department or within Air Division.

MR. MINAKER: I think it does, Mr. Chairman.

MR. BOSTROM: We have this year, as I indicated, anticipated recoveries such that the net deficit, which is indicated in last year's Estimates will be approximately the same as on the page here, even though the recoveries are higher. The expenditures and recoveries balance out such that the anticipated deficit will be about the same.

MR. MINAKER: Mr. Chairman, I would just point out through you to the Minister, that I believe it does make a difference where it shows the deficit because it does not give a true figure of the operation of the Minister's Department. If he has to take the brunt of wrong estimations of different departments and not get paid for the services that his department pays and has to show it as a deficit because he wasn't able to collect the bills, and I think it would be very important that his department did collect the funds owing to the air force, whether it be the Northern Affairs, Department of Mines or whatever. They are the people that have over-expended, not his department. To me it does make a difference where it shows up on the books.

MR. BOSTROM: Well it certainly makes a difference as far as the Air Division is concerned granted. We make every effort to collect and in most cases the collections are made. As I indicated, the only anticipated department - the only anticipated uncollectable account that we may have this year seems to be the one associated with the Skywest operation and there we have the added problem of having a Federal Government involvement here where we had anticipated some revenue to the Provincial Government as a whole that are not forthcoming, so that in this case, some added deficit may have to be shown in the Air Division account.

MR. MINAKER: Mr. Chairman, then I'd ask the Honourable Minister, was it MDC who had the contract with his Air Division or was it the Industry and Commerce Branch that had the contract with the Air Division on the Skywest, or was it the Federal Government that had the contract with your department on the Skywest.

MR. BOSTROM: I believe Industry and Commerce were making the arrangements with my department.

MR. MINAKER: So that in the actual fact it's Industry and Commerce that owes you the money, not the Federal Government. The Federal Government may owe Industry and Commerce, but in actual fact it's Industry and Commerce that signed the contract or made the commitment with your division.

MR. BOSTROM: I believe that is the case.

MR. MINAKER: Thank you.

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

MR. GRAHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you to the Minister,

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(MR. GRAHAM cont'd) Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask, the transfers from various departments, are they made on a monthly basis or are they made at the end of the fiscal year.

MR. BOSTROM: It's made on the basis of invoicing of the bills and the time required for payment is the time in which it is required for processing the invoices, the vouchers and the billings to the various departments. The time limit is determined on the accounting processes in each department. At this time of the year every effort is made, as the administration is now doing, to collect all of those accounts that are owing by various departments. We are getting very good co-operation and as I indicated earlier, it appears as though we will be having a break-even position as estimated on the last year's Estimates here.

MR. GRAHAM: Well then if you are collecting on a regular basis, then in fact the \$2,268,100 that is shown for air operations for this year might in fact be \$4 million or \$5 million dollars. Would that be the case or is that the total amount that you anticipate would be used?

MR. BOSTROM: No. Traditionally, Mr. Chairman, it has never run over ten percent above the estimation. This last year is a good indication in that we had estimated a recover of \$2,076,200 and our recoveries now appear to be in the neighbourhood of \$2,300,000.

MR. GRAHAM: Well then your operations would probably run in excess of \$2,305,800 for the year, would they? If you expect to recover \$2.3 million.

MR. BOSTROM: We anticipate that on the basis of the billings that we have made. I don't have the complete accurate figure here on what we anticipate but it's in the neighbourhood of \$2,300,000, yes.

MR. GRAHAM: What I'm getting at, you had an anticipated revenue or expenditure of \$2,305,800 for the year and now you're expecting to recover \$2,300,000, which is about \$225,000 in excess of what you used.

MR. BOSTROM: In excess of what we had anticipated or estimated, yes.

MR. GRAHAM: So then your operations would probably be in excess of what you anticipated, would they? Your total operations. They would be in excess of \$2,305,800?

MR. BOSTROM: Well no, what I'm talking about, the 2,300,000 is the actual but the estimated for last year was \$2,076,200.

MR. GRAHAM: That was recoverable.

MR. BOSTROM: That was what we had estimated to recover. Now we are finding out right now, as the result of all the billings that are coming in and the billings that we are processing, that we have actual anticipated recoveries of \$2,300,000 which is about a ten percent increase over that which was estimated.

MR. GRAHAM: But you had estimated the total expenditure of roughly \$2,305,800?

MR. BOSTROM: No, Mr. Chairman. We had anticipated a total expenditure last year of \$2,794,800.

MR. GRAHAM: I'm just talking about air operations.

MR. BOSTROM: Oh, yes.

MR. GRAHAM: So you would be in excess.

MR. BOSTROM: We would be in excess of our anticipated.

MR. GRAHAM: Was that covered by Order-in-Council, the over-expenditure?

MR. BOSTROM: No.

MR. GRAHAM: It would then be carried as a deficit or a surplus expenditure at the end of the year. You would be over-expended.

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, the net figure on the page is the one which governs the operations of the division in that we are allowed to use the extra recoveries to cover the extra expenditures. In this case where we have had extra recoveries of \$225,000 there is some associated expenditures with those recoveries. There are expenditures that are associated with those recoveries that we must cover and we're allowed to use that money to cover those expenditures within the operation?

MR. GRAHAM: Mr. Chairman, once a year we examine the Estimates of each

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(MR. GRAHAM cont'd) department and those Estimates are approved by the Legislature. Now if there is an over-expenditure, that has to be covered in some manner. Is it covered by Order-in-Council or by Supplementary Estimates? I'm just trying to ascertain what method is used to cover the over-expenditure.

MR. BOSTROM: It's a simple authorization in this case, by the Department of Finance, Mr. Chairman. The money is in the budgets of the various departments. It has already been through the Estimates process; it has been approved as an expenditure within the individual department and the operations of the Air Division are simply a credit and balance operation of a service that's provided to the various departments.

MR. GRAHAM: Now, I'd like to go on then to some further questioning. Does it lie within the authority of the Emergency Measures Organization to authorize aircraft in their operations, if they're required?

MR. BOSTROM: Well like any other government agency, Mr. Chairman, they are authorized to use their moneys that are provided for expenditures of this sort, to charter Air Division if required or other private carriers as required.

MR. GRAHAM: Would those authorizations, would they be carried by your department or would they be charged back to EMO?

MR. BOSTROM: Our department, Mr. Chairman, operates on a fee-for-service basis. If any agency or department of government requires service of an air transportation nature, we either provide the service or act as agents for provision of that service. If it's provided by the Manitoba Government Air Service, the department or agency in question pays the Manitoba Government Air Service directly for that service. If it's provided by a private air carrier we act as the agents to make the deal between the department in question and the private air service and we assure and certify that all accounts, all billings are fair and just.

MR. GRAHAM: If EMO authorized the use of your services, the recovery then would be made not from the operations of EMO but from the emergency funds that they use. Would that be correct?

MR. BOSTROM: Whatever funds they have available for provision of air service they would utilize to pay and reimburse the Air Division for services provided. I can't answer for the Emergency Measures Organization as to where they obtain their funds. But wherever they obtain them those funds would be used to pay for the service if it is supplied by the Manitoba Government Air Division. If it's supplied by a private carrier we would make a deal for them but they would pay that private carrier directly.

MR. GRAHAM: Mr. Chairman, before supper I believe the Member for Thompson indicated that there was indeed a preference shown by federal civil servants to use the Manitoba Government Air Service. They had that much faith in it, they preferred to go with the Government Air Service than with any other. In this recovery here is any of that recovered direct from the Federal Government for use of the services by federal civil servants.

MR. BOSTROM: I believe it's mainly on the shared provincial programs. There was a total flight mileage recovered here for the last calendar year, January 1975 to December 31st. I don't have the dollar figure but total Federal Government utilization of the aircrafts, Manitoba Government aircraft, in flight miles was 23,965 out of a total of 2.3 million flight miles. So it's about one percent, Mr. Chairman.

MR. GRAHAM: That would mainly be covered in shared programs under other department authorizations.

MR. BOSTROM: That's what I understand, Mr. Chairman.

MR. GRAHAM: Mr. Chairman, then is there any reciprocal agreement where the Government of Manitoba may require Government of Canada air services? Is that arrangement through this organization as well?

MR. BOSTROM: There's no arrangement of that sort to my knowledge, Mr. Chairman.

MR. GRAHAM: Mr. Chairman, I was just wondering where authorization - for instance maybe a Committee of the Legislature might want to go and view the flood situation in an armed forces helicopter, maybe tomorrow, for instance, I don't know.

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(MR. GRAHAM cont'd) Would that be arranged through Air Services or would it be done through EMO?

MR. BOSTROM: No, the Manitoba Government Air Division could act as the agent in this case and would acquire the most economical transportation available for that purpose.

MR. GRAHAM: Mr. Chairman, if members of the Legislature or a member of the Legislature, or members of the Civil Service required a government helicopter tomorrow morning, would that be arranged through the Government Air Service?

MR. BOSTROM: That's right. Manitoba Government Air Service in that case would arrange for a helicopter if required. It may not be an armed forces helicopter, it may be a Midwest or Aero Trades helicopter, depending on what is available at the time. If it's short notice there may not be an opportunity even to choose the most economical method but rather to choose the one which is available.

MR. GRAHAM: Can the Minister tell me whether the rates charged by the Federal Government are in any way comparable to those charged by charter service?

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, I believe the rates could be considered comparable, but the fact is that the armed forces would not supply one if in fact there was one available in the private sector.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Radisson.

MR. HARRY SHAFRANSKY (Radisson): Mr. Chairman, on this figure of \$1,967,700 which is recoverable from other appropriations, if the other department did not use the Government Air Services, if they were not available, would there be any kind of a saving to the Air Service Division if this was not available from Government Air Services.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. BOSTROM: Well, Mr. Chairman, I'm not quite sure what the honourable member is asking.

MR. SHAFRANSKY: Well, I'm just stating if the government did not have the airplanes available for government use and they would all have to be used or hired from private agencies, would the cost be the same as the estimated cost, using private air services as compared to government air services?

MR. BOSTROM: The cost would be comparable, Mr. Chairman, since the rates charged by the Manitoba Government Air Division are approximately the same rates per hour or per mile for a comparable aircraft with private charter companies.

MR. SHAFRANSKY: If the other departments did not use Government Air Services and used the private air carriers more, would there be any kind of saving? Because the government does have certain aircraft and they would have to be standing by. Would there be a saving or a greater increase in the total operations?

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, I don't believe there would be a saving to the government operation, the government requirements for air transportation as a whole, no. I believe that the rates charged are comparable in both cases and if anything the service provided by the Manitoba Government Air Division is, I believe, a superior service and the Manitoba Government Air Division provides co-ordination which the private air charter companies do not do. For example, it would be to the advantage and to the benefit of the private air charter company if there were five public servants going to Berens River on a Monday morning, it would be to their advantage to take them there in five trips rather than to take them all in one trip. The Manitoba Government Air Service at the present time provides a co-ordinating function so that if there are five public servants going to any one place in one day they all go in one aircraft. Whether it be public, whether it be the Manitoba Government Air Service aircraft or the private carrier, the cost is similar to the government as a whole but the co-ordination function is important in that it costs the government one-fifth as much in that way as it would if there was no co-ordination.

MR. SHAFRANSKY: This amount recoverable from other appropriations includes the amounts recoverable from Manitoba Hydro and Manitoba Telephone and other Crown agencies which may happen to use the Government Air Service?

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MR. BOSTROM: Yes. The other Crown agencies like Hydro and Telephone service utilize our Air Service. I'm not sure that the Crown corporations are required to go through our co-ordination system, I think it's voluntary on the part of the Crown corporation. They do do it but they're not required by government directive as the government departments are. Government departments in obtaining aircraft must go through the Manitoba Government Air Division so that the co-ordination function can be carried out.

MR. SHAFRANSKY: Mr. Chairman, what the Minister means is that when the Manitoba Hydro makes a request for a government aircraft it would mean that they require an aircraft of a certain size and they will be concerned about - they would be hiring it by the hour or by the day, whatever, and there would be a set rate. So how they utilize that aircraft would be up to Manitoba Hydro or Manitoba Telephone System.

MR. BOSTROM: That's exactly correct. All we are is a delivery agency and a co-ordinating agency. The departments determine what service they require. They tell us how many people are going and where they want to go and how long they will need an aircraft for example. Then based on that information the Manitoba Government Air Service will provide them with the most economical aircraft available for the purpose that they require it.

MR. SHAFRANSKY: Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Thompson.

MR. DILLEN: The Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell may have left the wrong impression on the record when he raised the question of the Government Air Division's activity in obtaining aircraft for a specific purpose and he referred to viewing the flooded area tomorrow. If for example, members of the Legislative Assembly required an aircraft to view a particular area of the province, were you correct in saying that the Government Air Division would attempt to obtain a Department of National Defence aircraft to fulfill that purpose.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, the point I was trying to make is that the Manitoba Government would obtain a forces aircraft if it were suitable and available and at an economical rate. I have no idea what the rate is for Federal Government aircraft but if it's a comparable rate, if it is a suitable aircraft and it may be the only one available, so that the Manitoba Government Air Service would obtain one. Their first priority would be to obtain an aircraft that is suitable at the most economical rate.

MR. DILLEN: The other criticism that I've heard about, particularly from the private carriers from Northern Manitoba, is that they sort of condemn the growth of the Air Division since 1969. I wonder if you could give this committee some indication of what the comparative growth has been of other air carrier companies operating in the north and their growth as well in terms of the number of aircraft they started with as compared to the number of aircraft that they presently have in service.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, I did have some information on the growth of Transair over a comparable period. I'm not sure if I have it with me here today or not. But just by way of comparison - well just looking at the number of employees over one year's spread from 1974 to 1975 Transair increased their staff from 700 to 855, an increase of 155 staff. They did this in light of the fact that their number of passengers carried actually declined from 484,000 to 409,000 and the revenue passenger miles also declined from 342,000,000 to 276,000,000. So that their utilization is down but their staff is up and I don't believe that the Manitoba Government Air Division looks too bad in comparison with this kind of thing.

MR. DILLEN: Could you give us some other comparisons that are occurring in the north, particularly west of Thompson, the westerly operation of private charter carriers and regular scheduled service operators?

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, I think the significant factor is that Air Division hasn't grown in proportion to the number of commercial carriers in Northern Manitoba. I don't have the statistics right with me today but I think it's obvious from just looking around at what's been happening in the air industry in Northern Manitoba, particularly when you consider the developments that have taken place and airstrips and the

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(MR. BOSTROM cont'd) air service to Northern Manitoba in the last four or five years with the development of those airstrips, that the air companies, the air-craft service companies have grown probably three or four times as fast as Air Division has grown in the same period of time.

MR. DILLEN: Could the growth that has occurred in Northern Manitoba, compared to the growth of the Manitoba Government Air Division, be compiled and given as information to this committee?

MR. BOSTROM: Certainly. I could try to obtain the other information. I'm not sure how available it is. The report I mention to you here on Transair comes from the Auditor's report to the shareholders of Transair. It's entitled "Ten Years With Transair". I didn't go back any further but if you were to go back to 1969 they have approximately doubled their number of employees over that period from 468 to 855. They don't have a figure here on the number of aircraft but certainly if you look at their air-craft miles they have increased considerably from 78,000,000 revenue passenger miles to 276,000,000 revenue passenger miles in that period of time. So that's quite a significant increase.

I believe that other carriers would have faced a similar increase. Some that come to mind are St. Andrews Airways that serves the northeast; the Island Lake area, they're now operating three flights a day with the Saunders out of Gardenhill. Comair has increased very considerably in the last number of years as any person who knows the situation in Northern Manitoba can readily see just by the size of the fleet. Lambair I believe has done very well for themselves over the years. They have changed almost completely to wheeled aircraft since we have put in airstrips all over the north, and larger aircraft, more scheduled services. So that in the light of this kind of information I don't believe the increases in the Manitoba Government Air Division are out of line at all. I could try to obtain the kind of information the honourable member has mentioned, to the extent that it is available from these private companies. I don't know if they all would print a sheet like Transair has done or not. But I'd certainly be willing to make that available to the committee.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 108(b)(4). The Honourable Member for Brandon West.

MR. MCGILL: Mr. Chairman, this afternoon we got some rates that were used on a mileage basis or an hourly basis for the charge to departments of government for the use of government aircraft and I believe - I copied for the Cessna 337, that's the Super Skymaster, a rate of \$120.00 an hour. I wonder if the Minister could confirm that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. BOSTROM: That's correct. Sixty-five cents per mile or \$120.00 per hour.

MR. MCGILL: I understood too from the Minister's explanations that the Government Air Service was providing these aircraft, these specific models at approximately the same rate per hour or per mile, as could be obtained from the private operators, the licensed carriers in the area, is that correct?

MR. BOSTROM: Well, they're comparable rates. I didn't say they were exactly the same in all cases. They're comparable rates. There may be one or two carriers that are lower in there, and one or two that are higher. They're comparable though. They're certainly not the highest rates and they may not in all cases be the lowest rates, depending on the aircraft and also depending on the location of the aircraft. Aircraft operating out of Thompson or Norway House or The Pas face a higher operating cost than one which is based in Winnipeg International Airport, just by virtue of fuel costs and associated repair costs from landing on northern airstrips.

MR. MCGILL: Mr. Chairman, would the Minister confirm that this \$120.00 an hour was for a 337 based at Winnipeg Airport available to departments of government?

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, that is one price for all over the province.

MR. MCGILL: Mr. Chairman, I have in front of me the tariffs filed by Aero Trades which I understand operate from Winnipeg Airport and maybe from other places. They have two rates depending on the zone and I imagine the two zones cover Manitoba.

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(MR. MCGILL cont'd) The two rates per hour are \$70.00 and \$80.00. Now how does the Minister reconcile a rate of \$120.00 for a 337 when Aero Trades are making them available at \$70.00 or \$80.00 an hour?

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, I'm not sure what the per hour rate is in comparison here. But . . .

MR. MCGILL: Well you gave me \$120.00.

MR. BOSTROM: . . . Aero Trades' charge per mile is 60 cents per mile, our charge is 65 cents per mile. The aircraft can be rented on a per mile basis if that is the desire of the agency which is using the aircraft. The Comair charter service which operates in the north, I understand operates a Cessna 337 for \$1.00 per mile. So that the Air Division rate is somewhere in between those two extremes.

MR. MCGILL: Mr. Chairman, on the per mile rates I note that Aero Trades offer 55 cents a mile and 85 cents a mile depending on the zone. So your 65 cents is in between those two. But certainly your hourly rate is 50 percent higher than Aero Trades so that I don't see that there would be any real saving to any department of government by using Government Air Service aircraft out of Winnipeg.

MR. BOSTROM: Well most of these flights do originate in Winnipeg and most of the billings are made on the basis of destination, so that the charge is made on the basis of mileage rather than by the hour. The hourly rate in that sense is almost academic in that if an aircraft is used from Winnipeg to The Pas or Winnipeg-Berens River or Winnipeg-Norway House, it is charged out on a per mileage basis so the rate is 65 cents as opposed to 60 cents.

MR. MCGILL: Well, Mr. Chairman, let's look at the Aztec then. You gave me a rate per hour of \$130.00. Is that correct? I asked the Minister, Mr. Chairman, if the rate of \$130.00 an hour was correct for the Aztec?

MR. BOSTROM: Yes, that's correct.

MR. MCGILL: Aero Trades offer the Aztec at \$95.00 an hour or in remote areas, I presume, the other zone, \$110.00. So they're still well below the Government Air Services rates per hour. How can you justify this difference in rate?

MR. BOSTROM: Well, Mr. Chairman, as I was saying, the hourly rate is something that can be manipulated one way or the other I would think, in that the number of miles that the aircraft operates can be used as the basis for determining the rate. In this case it's more accurate to use the per mile charge than the per hour charge, and if you compare the per mile charge the rates are very comparable. In the case of the 337, as I indicated, the rate is 65 cents as compared to 60 cents for Aero Trades; and our 65 cents as compared to \$1.00 per mile for Comair. I don't have the rates for the other company for the Aztec, but I believe our rate of 75 cents per mile is comparable. The Aztec is almost always charged on the basis of destination so that the charge is made on the basis of miles flown. I have flown the Aztec personally frequently myself and I've never been billed on the basis of a per hour charge.

MR. MCGILL: Well, Mr. Chairman, it's probably a minor point but the Minister quotes 60 cents a mile for Aero Trades, I have 55 cents a mile according to the rates filed June 6, 1975 with the Air Transport Association. But, you know, it's 10 cents a mile below the rate that you're stating for the Government Air Service.

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, I stand corrected on that. I was speaking from memory there. I don't have the rates in front of me. I thought you had brought the rate of 60 cents to my attention.

MR. MCGILL: No, I didn't mention 60 cents. It was 55 and then for another zone in the province it was a higher rate per hour but 60 cents was not involved.

Well, Mr. Chairman, what I'm really trying to prove here and I'm not going to go through the whole list of aircraft, but the evidence was given this afternoon by the Minister that the rates were comparable to those being offered by the private carriers in Manitoba and the few that I've checked seem to indicate that the rates being charged to other departments of government by the Air Service are somewhat higher. In the case of the 337, 50 percent higher which is a fair chunk per hour. So my point is that really there is not a significant saving for the government operation here by the use of

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(MR. MCGILL cont'd) Government Air Service. I think the taxpayers need to know that by operating a Government Air Service there is a reasonable opportunity for some saving to be involved. Otherwise why shouldn't they patronize the private carriers who are paying the taxes, who are contributing to revenues in other ways. So really, Mr. Chairman, I think there is a point here and this is the major issue involved in the whole operation of Government Air Services.

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, the honourable member did quote the higher rate for the same aircraft service in the north, which is higher than our rate I believe. As I say, I don't have the rates here in front of me to compare. But our rates are comparable in that they're averaged from the north to the south. Most of the Manitoba Government Air Service flying is done in Northern Manitoba and it's done on the remote strips of Northern Manitoba where the costs are higher. There's more maintenance associated with take-offs and landing on gravel strips and so on. So that what I said this afternoon holds and the rates are comparable. They're not exactly the same but they are comparable. They are not the highest but they may not be the lowest either.

MR. MCGILL: Mr. Chairman, I'm not familiar with these zones but perhaps Mr. MacDonald is. There's a Zone A to J showing a rate for the 337 of \$70.00 an hour for Aero Trades and K to R of \$80.00 an hour for the 337. I presume this covers pretty much the whole of the Province of Manitoba but even \$80.00, their highest rate quoted, is considerably below the \$120.00 an hour which you have given me as the rate charged to other departments of government for the use of that airplane.

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, the honourable member persists in comparing the hourly rate when, as I was indicating, 99.9 percent of the billings are made on the basis of the mileage charge. So that if you're going to compare the rates I would suggest that you concentrate on the per mile charge which is not 50 percent higher.

Even the rate that you indicated as the low rate for Aero Trades and if I'm quoting you correctly you said 55 cents, our rate is 65 cents all over Manitoba. Now I believe you indicated there was a higher rate in the north for that same aircraft. So that our rate of 65 cents is somewhere in between their lowest rate and their highest rate. Most of our flights are originating and occurring in Northern Manitoba where the highest costs are associated with the operation of the aircraft. So that I think it's reasonable for us to charge somewhere between the lowest rate of aircraft based in Winnipeg and those that are based in the north.

MR. MCGILL: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the Minister, what is the principal use of the 337, in what particular type of flying is that used?

MR. BOSTROM: Well it's used for a number of purposes. It's used for general transportation; it's used for fire detection surveillance; it's used for wildlife surveys and things like this depending on the requirements of the department. In every case that I've used the aircraft, it's been for public service transportation.

MR. MCGILL: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to suggest to the Minister that quite a major use of the 337 is on fire detection. Is that correct?

MR. BOSTROM: Yes, that is one of its principal uses, yes.

MR. MCGILL: Mr. Chairman, would it not be correct to say that all that usage is charged on an hourly basis and not on a per mile basis?

MR. BOSTROM: It's on a monthly guarantee for the summer, I'm informed, for the forest fire protection.

MR. MCGILL: Yes but on an hourly basis or a per mile?

MR. BOSTROM: Last year the Fire Service was charged \$75.00 per hour, I am told.

MR. MCGILL: Well we didn't have that rate here, we were given a rate of \$120.00 an hour.

MR. BOSTROM: Well that is the charge that was made to Forest Fire Service.

MR. MCGILL: Well then if the same aircraft had been leased by Aero Trades it could have been gotten at \$80.00 an hour, right?

MR. BOSTROM: I don't know what their rate is offhand.

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MR. MCGILL: Well I've given it to you from their filed rates here.

MR. BOSTROM: I can't speak for the other air charter services, Mr. Chairman. I don't have the rates in front of me. So that the honourable member may be quoting a rate which is comparable and he may not be.

MR. MCGILL: I have no further questions, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. MINAKER: Mr. Chairman, through you to the Minister. The Minister indicated that I think Transair had grown from 700 to 850 employees. Was that in one year? If not, advise me the number of years involved. He indicated they had grown at this rate but he did not indicate at what similar or dissimilar rate that the Air Division had grown at. Does he have that figure available in terms of manpower in the same period of time that the Air Division expanded at?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. BOSTROM: Well, Mr. Chairman, the Transair rate of 700 to 855 was over a one-year period from 1974 to 1975. From 1969 they grew from 469 staff to 855 in 1975, which is almost a doubling in that period. The staff for Air Division for 1976 is about 115 and in 1969 it was 90.

MR. MINAKER: Mr. Chairman, through you to the Minister. I'm wondering if the Minister could advise if his division, where it provides a service for other departments to go out and rent a private aircraft or arrange for renting of a private aircraft for another department, does his department charge a fee for this service?

MR. BOSTROM: No, there's no fee for that service. This is what I was indicating earlier in the day, that it's difficult to compare the operation of Air Division with other private charters because we do provide that co-ordination function for all government departments and agencies at no charge to them. They are only charged on the fee-for-service basis for the aircraft that they utilize from the Air Division fleet. They do not pay for the other services that are provided to them.

MR. MINAKER: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I understand that the Minister will be still seeking the information that we requested earlier that he will have a dollar breakdown of the recoverable from other appropriations for the committee. We will be receiving that. Not from last year but from what is included in this proposed estimate of 1.96 million. It's my understanding that this information will be presented to us or available to us even if we close down the committee on this particular item.

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, I made no commitment to supply the honourable member with the breakdown of departmental expenditures for the coming fiscal year. I've undertaken to supply him with a copy of a breakdown for the last calendar year which is available. We are not able to give you a breakdown for the calendar year which we're just coming into. We can give you an anticipated usage based on the breakdown from last year and the honourable member can make that same estimation himself as we do, by looking at what the government utilization was and adding about eight or ten percent.

MR. MINAKER: Mr. Chairman, I would ask the Minister would he not make available to the committee the breakdown of this \$1.96 million because obviously the department has come up with that figure based on estimates of last year's department-by-department, whether they've applied a reduction or an expansion of that department. I would hope that this would be made available to the committee because we don't know how the department arrived at this figure. If it was simply by taking the \$2.3 million or whatever it was for this year and multiplying it by 85 percent, fine, but put it down on paper so that we know. Because it will have no meaning to us to have last year's expenditures, department by department, because we're approving this year's appropriation recoveries, not last year's. I would hope that we will be advised of how it was arrived at, hopefully by department-by-department estimates. I'm not asking for the Minister to provide the expenditures of the other department, I'm asking him to provide us with the information on what he anticipates the revenue will be from each department for this year.

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, we can give you an estimate of that but it would be an estimate that the honourable member could make for himself from the list which I can provide him with from last year's usage of aircraft.

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(MR. BOSTROM cont'd)

The Annual Report which I tabled in the Legislature has a list of flights by the various bases within the Air Division. The Air Division aircraft from each base that were utilized by Manitoba Government departments and agencies, the total mileage flown by each department and agency and where the flights originated so that the honourable member can take some information from there. But I will undertake to supply him with the list of expenditures by departments for the last calendar year and from that our estimate of what we anticipate the departments to expend in the next coming year.

But I must point out, Mr. Chairman, that the Manitoba Government departments do not supply us with a list of what they anticipate to spend within the Air Division. They make their estimates on the basis of what they require for air transportation in general. Some of that may be Air Division; some of it may be private charter; some of it may be scheduled carriers. The breakdown of the three uses will be determined by the requirements of the department over the year. It's impossible to estimate that exactly. We have been estimating within ten percent over the last few years. We've always been low in the estimates and it must be pointed out that we're now dealing with government Estimates and these are estimates for the coming year. They're not actual expenditures, but they're estimated expenditures in each department. Some may over-expend, some may under-expend. But that can't be determined until the expenditures are made.

MR. MINAKER: Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the Honourable Minister's explanation of how other expenditures in other departments operate, which we're fully aware of. But what we're dealing with right here and I'm sure the Minister is aware of it, is an item that is revenue for his department. It's been estimated by some means and I am asking, as a member of this committee, how did he arrive at the estimate of \$1.96 million? If it was simply by taking last year's revenue and multiplying it by a simple percentage one way or another, fine, tell us if that's how he arrived at it. I would presume that it would be estimated more accurately because then I would ask the Minister, if that's how they've arrived at it, how does he co-ordinate the use of his aircraft for the coming year for people like the Mines Department who is planning a survey of the province at certain times of the year. How does he co-ordinate this? Has he any idea for the amount of hours of aircraft time that Northern Affairs will have or what the Mines Department will require. If he's arrived at it simply by taking the \$2.07 million last year and multiplying it by it looks like 98 percent and come up with this figure, fine, then we'll know. Then I ask him how does he arrive at the organization of his aircraft fleet for the various departments in the coming year and know that he is going to be able to provide the services that they require?

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, the Manitoba Government Air Service fleet provides a core service to government departments and agencies, a core service of air charter service. There may be additional service required. If it is required then it will be obtained outside of the use of the government aircraft depending on the requirements of each department. It can't be determined in every case ahead of time because government departments don't plan their flights a year in advance. They plan them, at most, a few days ahead of their requirements. Only in the exceptional cases, where you have the forestry people who have a pretty accurate idea of when they want to do their forest inventory; the wildlife people who do inform us ahead of time that they need an aircraft for wildlife surveys at a particular month. The Mines people who tell us that they have certain mineral surveys to do at particular times of the year. We can make every effort to obtain the proper, most economical aircraft for their purposes. But for general transportation of government personnel it's not possible to estimate that exactly. We will have enough aircraft to provide a core service to the Manitoba Government public service. That which is required in addition to those aircraft then we will provide that through the scheduled and chartered carriers of the province.

What we want to try to achieve and what we're determined to achieve is full utilization of the existing Manitoba Government aircraft. We don't want to have excess capacity and one of the reasons that we're cutting back on aircraft this year is to make

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(MR. BOSTROM cont'd) sure that we have the most economical use of the aircraft that are owned and leased and operated by the Manitoba Government Air Division. But there will certainly be requirements for aircraft outside of the Manitoba Government fleet. They're required on a daily basis and we arrange for those aircraft as required on demand from the various government departments and agencies.

MR. MINAKER: Mr. Chairman, could I ask the Honourable Minister; did his department arrive at the figure \$1.967 million by simply multiplying the \$2.076 million by 95 percent and putting that figure in the Budget?

MR. BOSTROM: No, Mr. Chairman. Part of the estimation was certainly based on past records, what various government departments have indicated their requirements will be. The other thing is that we are determined to cut back on the government fleet so that we have a fair idea of what the revenues will be to the Manitoba Government fleet with full utilization. This figure that is in the Estimates here is based more or less on a good full utilization of the Manitoba Government fleet. There would be a possibility that there would be some amount in excess of the amount that's in the Estimate Book here but that would be the government fleet is even more fully utilized than we anticipate it to be.

MR. MINAKER: Yes, Mr. Chairman, then through you to the Minister. If I understand the Minister correctly now, somewhere there's a list of amounts of money coming in from different sources last year and from different departments and to that was applied a multiplier to each department, whether it was an increase or a decrease, estimated by his department and that was then summed up and came up to a figure of \$1.967 million. Is that correct?

MR. BOSTROM: That is not quite as simple as that, Mr. Chairman. The honourable member is not listening to my answers. What I'm saying is that in the process of estimating what the recoveries will be to Air Division, we look at what the traditional record has been of the various government departments. We know certain core functions will have to be supplied. We know certain things that are needed by various government departments because they have traditionally required them and they indicate to us that they will need them again this year. I've outlined those several times today so I shouldn't have to do it again.

There are certain general transportation requirements of various government departments that we anticipate. If you simply take last year's Estimate of Manitoba Government personnel use of Manitoba Government aircraft and add a 10 percent figure to it well you'll have a figure considerably in excess of the amount we have estimated in this book. Because, as I indicated earlier, our anticipated recoveries for this year are \$2,300,000. But we have been in a process of rationalization of the Air Service. We want to get the fleet down to a core fleet that will provide an economical service at comparable rates to other carriers and that will provide the core services that are required to the forestry, wildlife and the surveys of the various government departments. Whatever is required in excess of those core uses we will provide from the commercial carriers of the province. Certainly they will be in excess of the amount that is estimated in here. But that's not a recovery or an expenditure directly of the Manitoba Government Air Service, it's an expenditure of government departments in general on air transportation. The honourable member seems to be getting confused about the requirements of government departments for air transportation and the amount of money that is estimated in this book for the expenditures and recoveries for the Manitoba Government Air Division. The two are not the same.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Before I recognize the honourable member again, the Chair does like to give members as much latitude as possible but I would remind him we do have a rule against repetition. The Chair is of the opinion that the same question is being asked several times. The Honourable Member for St. James.

MR. MINAKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I appreciate your concern. What I was trying to get from the Honourable Minister, Mr. Chairman, was his work sheet on how he arrived at this figure. Obviously the Honourable Minister does not want to provide that information for the committee. Why I raise that is if I understood what the

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(MR. MINAKER cont'd) Honourable Minister said earlier today, he's looking at something like \$2,300,000 in revenue from last year rather than the \$2 million that we're looking at. If I understood him correctly too that he has said that he's looking at an additional ten percent increase this year which would make it somewhere about \$2,500,000 in revenue. But we're looking at \$1,967 million in the book. If we subtract the difference we've got about \$666,000. Where is it?

What we're looking at is \$666,000 in slush fund for the Minister and this is why I'm trying to find out where the money is, because if in actual fact what the Minister has been saying to us today - and I would ask him to deny it, I'd ask him to deny it - that he said that you're looking at \$2,300,000 in actual fact for last year, he said that you're looking at a ten percent increase this year in all anticipation and that's \$2,500,000. You subtract the difference and what we've got shown here, it's over \$600,000. So instead of looking at that deficit of \$709,000 in actual fact it might be \$100,000. But the Minister has approval for \$700,000. We're looking at a slush fund here of close to \$700,000. So this is why I'm wanting to know where are these work sheets and figures so we can see and tie into what the Minister has been saying today.

MR. BOSTROM: Well the honourable member couldn't have substantiated my claim any more completely, that he doesn't understand what we're talking about. Various government departments have certain moneys available for Government Air Service.

If you add them all up it may be considerably in excess of the \$1.9 million anticipated recoveries of the Manitoba Government Air Division. We only anticipate providing 1.9 million of the service required for the Manitoba Government departments from the Manitoba Government Air Division fleet. Anything in addition to that will be obtained and provided by other carriers whether it be scheduled or other commercial carriers.

I'm sorry I don't have the work sheets from all the government departments as to how they have anticipated their recoveries but our recoveries are fairly simple to estimate. We have a certain number of aircraft; we anticipate usage of those aircraft over the year at a certain optimum number of hours per aircraft and that will give us the recoveries anticipated in this book.

MR. MINAKER: Mr. Chairman, I thank you for your patience. It's obvious the Honourable Minister will not give us his work sheet on his revenue for his department. So thank you for your time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Thompson.

MR. DILLEN: I want to get back to some of the questions raised by the Member for Brandon West. He makes a comparison between the hourly rates charged by the Government Air Division and those which are charged by Aero Trades. I'm wondering, Mr. Chairman, if the Manitoba Government Air Division has to file its rates with the Air Transport Committee.

MR. BOSTROM: Yes.

MR. DILLEN: I know it's difficult to pursue this line of questioning because we don't have Aero Trades here to question as to how they arrive at their rates and how they compare with the Air Division. Could I ask how the Manitoba Government Air Division arrives at its hourly rate for aircraft.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, the rates are determined by ministerial order. They go through the regular process of government. If for example the Manitoba Government Air Service at this time were to propose an increase in rates, those would have to go to Management Committee of Cabinet and subsequently to Cabinet with the recommendation from Management Committee to increase or not. The Management Committee would, in the process of checking on the proposed rates of the Manitoba Government Air Division, check the rates that are published, the tariff rates of all the other carriers in the province, and they would make comparisons and on the basis of those comparisons make their recommendation to Cabinet whether or not to accept the Minister's recommendation or to in fact, recommend an amendment to the Minister's recommendation if they saw that the other carrier rates were out of line one way or the other with the Manitoba Government Air Division rates.

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MR. DILLEN: Would I be safe in saying that the Manitoba Government Air Division has a very limited number of occasions when they would rent an aircraft on the basis of an hourly rate.

MR. BOSTROM: Well they are limited to those departments that require an aircraft on a certain purpose where they would request that it be on an hourly rate.

MR. DILLEN: There are very few occasions then when a government aircraft would be on an hourly rate. What I'm trying to establish is simply this; that if the rate was half as much again as what Aero Trades is charging it wouldn't make any difference because the government aircraft are not being charged by the hour.

MR. BOSTROM: Well most of the general transportation is charged on the basis of destination, mileage. The charge for surveillance during the fire season where fire patrols are made by Manitoba Government aircraft, that's generally charged on an hourly basis. It's a rate that's negotiated between the Manitoba Government Air Service and the department in question. The Manitoba Government Air Service obtains the most economical service for that department in question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Radisson.

MR. SHAFRANSKY: Mr. Chairman, through you to the Minister. I just wonder if the Minister can give us an indication what the actual billing cost would be for say a flight from Winnipeg to Brandon by Government Air Services. I know then the Government Air Services would bill the particular department that is using that aircraft.

Now would he have any knowledge of what the actual billing cost would be for the same route from Winnipeg to Brandon from Aero Trades which would then bill the same department. Does the Minister have any comparison of the actual billing costs say to the Department of Agriculture, from Winnipeg to Brandon by Government Air Services, and from Winnipeg to Brandon by Aero Trades.

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, it would depend on the aircraft used.

MR. SHAFRANSKY: Well I'm talking about the same kind of aircraft, and Aztec, twin-engine.

MR. BOSTROM: Well then it would depend on the rate charged in each case. If the rate charged by the Manitoba Government Air Division was more than the rate charged by the commercial carrier, then the total bill would be more from the Manitoba Government Air Services.

MR. SHAFRANSKY: Mr. Chairman, I am asking the Minister if he is aware what the actual billing cost is from Winnipeg to Brandon return by Government Air Services, and Winnipeg to Brandon return by Aero Trades to the same department, say the Department of Agriculture.

MR. BOSTROM: Well just to use a specific example. If the rate were five cents different with the mileage in question it would be approximately \$5.00 one way or the other depending on the rate by each carrier.

MR. SHAFRANSKY: Mr. Chairman, I think the Minister is trying to estimate. I'm sure that bills have come in from the Government Air Services to the Department of Agriculture where, let's say it's \$150.00 or \$200.00 for a return flight on an Aztec and I'm sure that the Department of Agriculture has, on occasion, because of the fact that the Government Air Services was not able to supply that aircraft, used a similar type of aircraft or the same type of aircraft, and through the Government Air Division, because they were not able to obtain the government aircraft, obtained the services of the Aero Trades aircraft on the same flight.

Now does the Minister have any way of knowing what the bill would be to the Department of Agriculture for the same type of flight?

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, the instructions that the Manitoba Government Air Division has is that they are to obtain the most economical air transportation service available for the requirements, the demands of the department. So that if a department such as Agriculture were to call the Air Division on a Monday morning and they wanted to go to Brandon, then if the Aero Trades aircraft which would be the best one to provide the service were available, and less money per mile than the comparable aircraft or the available aircraft within the Manitoba Government Air Service, then that is the one that

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(MR. BOSTROM cont'd) should be chartered for that flight. That is the instructions that the Manitoba Government air flight co-ordinators have from the government.

MR. SHAFRANSKY: Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the concern and the desire on the part of the Air Services Division to provide the best, most economical service for that destination. But presuming that the Government Air Services, there are no aircraft available, and if it was available you know what the costs would be involved in flying from Winnipeg to Brandon, but now there are no aircrafts available because they are being used by other departments so the Air Division would have to look for other private services. Say, it's Aero Trades and they have the aircraft and it is the type of aircraft required which is the same as was originally requested by the Department of Agriculture from the Government Air Services. Now would the Minister be able to give an indication what the billing cost would be from Aero Trades as to what the cost actually is or the billing cost to the Department of Agriculture by the Government Air Services?

MR. BOSTROM: Well, Mr. Chairman, I couldn't give you offhand the actual dollar figure of the bill in question. If the honourable member wishes to obtain that I will try to get it for him.

MR. SHAFRANSKY: I'll be very interested. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. USKIW: Well, Mr. Chairman, I think some of the points are already put, but notwithstanding, I wanted to know whether there is a basic rule or criteria that the Division uses with respect to experience required for the hiring of pilots. Is our standard similar to the private sector or is it higher than the private sector? Where do we fit into the question of criteria for hiring of pilots?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, the high criteria for the Manitoba Government Air Service is probably one of the principal reasons why the Manitoba Government Air Division has only had one fatality in 44 years of service to the Province of Manitoba. Two thousand hours is the minimum required air time for a pilot employed by the Manitoba Government Air Division. The private carriers, I am told, frequently employ pilots who have much less than that, as low as 500 hours. So that the pilots that are in the employ of the Manitoba Government Air Division are in the main much more experienced and in that sense more qualified pilots than those in the private sector.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Chair does like to give honourable members some latitude but I would remind the honourable member and the Minister that we are on Item 4, Recoverable from Other Appropriations. The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. USKIW: Well, all the same, I am one of those areas from which the department is recovering because I think, Mr. Chairman, that my department probably has a fairly extensive use of Government Air Services. It was often a concern to me as to the standard that we do maintain.

The other question I wanted to follow on that one, was whether or not there's a difference in the salary range of personnel working for the Air Division versus the same type of personnel working for the private sector, because of the higher requirements in the hiring process.

MR. BOSTROM: I don't have the salary figures here, Mr. Chairman, but I'm told we're in the same ball park so to speak of other comparable services. We're not that much higher or that much lower.

MR. USKIW: It seems to me, Mr. Chairman, that there is something to be examined there because if we require a minimum of 2,000 hours of flying time versus 200 to 500, which is commonplace as I am advised in the private sector, then it would seem to me that our pilots are probably underpaid if we're paying them the same rate.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. The Chair is aware that the Minister is one of those departments which is making the recoverable appropriations. But even so these questions that he is asking I am sure would have been more appropriate under Air Operations, which was passed this afternoon. The Honourable Member for Brandon West.

MR. MCGILL: Mr. Chairman, if I might be permitted a brief observation. Obviously the Minister places his trust in hours in the log book and I might have a

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(MR. MCGILL cont'd) private conversation with him about some other qualifications of pilots that he might consider.

But, Mr. Chairman, to the Minister, I was impressed with the Minister's assertions of his objectives in streamlining the fleet at Manitoba Government Air Services and he used the expression "full utilization" of the aircraft owned by the MGAS and I would like him to be more definitive in that term. What does he mean by "full utilization" of an aircraft? What's he looking for in terms of an objective for the utilization of the aircraft fleet?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, I believe we would be aiming for those standards of utilization that are acknowledged in the industry to be the most efficient use of an aircraft and the most economical use of that aircraft. Something in excess of 600 hours per aircraft is considered in the aircraft industry to be a standard of utilization which provides for the most economical use of the aircraft.

Some of our aircraft we may not be able to achieve that standard of utilization, some of them are for very specialized uses such as the Otter and the Piston Beaver. As I indicated this afternoon, the two Otters that we operated last year were somewhere in the ball park of 400 hours per year. These are used for water bombing and transportation more in the summer season than in any other season of the year. They don't receive that much utilization in the winter season.

On the other hand the Aztecs that are operated by the Manitoba Government Air Division are all in excess of 600 hours. There's some as high, as I indicated this afternoon, as 881.3 hours per aircraft. That is the standard of utilization that we would be aiming for for the entire fleet that we would own and lease and operate.

MR. MCGILL: Mr. Chairman, you own one Piper Aztec and you lease five. Is that on a total of six you're averaging 881 hours?

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, I indicated that was the highest utilization of an Aztec, 881. They range downwards from there to the two others in the 800s, one in the 700s and one in the 600s. We own one and at the present time we are leasing three Aztecs. But these were five that we operated last year.

MR. MCGILL: Well I don't want to prolong this, Mr. Chairman, but can the Minister just give me a statement as to the reduction of the fleet from the present 17 owned - what is his objective now in reducing it? How many will you own when your new program is fully effective?

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, we will own 17 aircraft and we will lease approximately eight aircraft. Now the way in which I have given the department instructions to reduce the number of aircraft in the fleet is to work on the basis of a maximum of 25 aircraft multiplied by the 12 months of the year that the aircraft are used. In other words, I think it works out to about 290 aircraft months. Now there may be a period in the year when we would operate more than the total of 25 aircraft but they would be aircraft that would be leased and used for only a seasonal period. That average of 25 aircraft is the maximum that the Air Division now has the authority or instructions from me to operate. We are looking further at this. As I indicated earlier today we are still reviewing the operation of Air Division. If possible I would like to reduce the fleet even more if it seems feasible and economical to do so.

MR. MCGILL: Mr. Chairman, you say reduce the fleet further. To me this represents no reduction at all because that's what you're showing here in your last year's report, as owning 17 and leasing eight. You're saying we're going to maintain the status quo. You're also saying that you're going to increase the utilization from the present approximate 500 hours per unit to around 881 hours, which you said was full utilization as indicated by the utilization of one Aztec aircraft. That's what you're shooting at. Do you think that you're going to increase the total hours of flying that much to maintain the same fleet and up the average by 300 each?

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, to the extent that we can reduce the fleet - last year we operated on the average approximately 30 aircraft - so that the aircrafts that I'm indicating is an approximate reduction of five aircraft.

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(MR. BOSTROM cont'd)

Now some of the aircraft were only used on a seasonal basis, some were only used some months of the year. All of the aircraft were counted in the figures to come to the figure of an average of 30 aircraft. For example, MU2, we only had one on a lease-purchase arrangement but another aircraft was required for the down time of the MU2 so that if you calculate the number of aircraft that were on either standby or that were in the operation of the Manitoba Government Air Division, at all times of the year and you multiply it times the number of months that they were in operation, it worked out to about an average of 30 aircraft last year. Now we are hoping to reduce that considerably this year. As I have indicated I have given instructions to immediately shoot for a total of 25 and we're looking at a further rationalization downward from that number even.

The honourable member is making a good point. If we were going to operate every aircraft at 800 hours that certainly would indicate a significant increase in the total flying time by Manitoba Government Air Division. But we are not aiming for 800 hours. As I indicated that is an excellent utilization of that aircraft, that particular aircraft, and it indicates the demands placed on that particular kind of aircraft for the flying services that are demanded.

There are other aircraft, however, that were not used that fully. So that by reducing some of the fleet we can utilize the remainder of the fleet more fully and that will not necessarily mean an increase in the total number of flying hours by the Manitoba Government Air Division as a whole. If you reduce five aircraft by 600 hours per aircraft, that's a significant reduction.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The honourable member should bear in mind that we are on (b)(4) Recoverable from Other Appropriations. The Honourable Member for Brandon West.

MR. MCGILL: Well, Mr. Chairman, I have no further questions on this. I was attempting to get a more definitive figure for full utilization on aircraft and I thought I had one in the 881 hours but the Minister is rationalizing a bit there. Has he any other figure that I might note as what he would consider as full utilization of the fleet, so that we can use it as a comparative figure next year.

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, as I indicated the 600 hours was an industry average, an industry norm or industry recognized norm, that is an acceptable utilization of an aircraft, an efficient utilization of an aircraft, and that is one that we would be shooting for, yes.

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

MR. ADAM: Mr. Chairman, the questions I want to ask were related to the leasing of aircraft and since we're out of order on that particular topic, I'll have to pass.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 108(b)(4)--pass; 108(b)--pass; Resolution 108 (c) Marine Transportation and Construction - the Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell.

MR. GRAHAM: Mr. Chairman, this is a relatively new department as far as I can ascertain. Can the Minister indicate or has he got a map to indicate the scope of the activities that he anticipates using this service in? Have you a map that you have charted out on or anything?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. BOSTROM: No, Mr. Chairman, we haven't mapped it out yet. As I was indicating in previous response to the Honourable Member for St. James, these are Estimates and we have not fully entered into the new fiscal year. We have some activities which we are planning in terms of resource roads, in terms of barge connection to some remote communities. Plans are under way but they're not mapped out. There are no definite announcements to be made at this time with respect to the new programs that will be ongoing in this section.

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

MR. GRAHAM: Mr. Chairman, we're being asked to vote some money and

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(MR. GRAHAM cont'd) yet he says he has no definite programs. Perhaps he can give us a little more elaboration of what he anticipates in this field.

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, this section of this department will be responsible for the construction of resource roads. That is roads which are off highway which are the type which are not necessarily up to highway standards, they are of a more resource road standard, pioneer standard may be another term used. They would be roads which the Manitoba Forestry Resources would require for the full utilization of the forest in The Pas area; they may be roads that Abitibi require on the east side of Lake Winnipeg to open up new areas of forest harvesting; they, in many cases, will be roads that would have a multi function. They may open up a new access to resources but at the same time be utilized to open up new lakes in certain areas or access to communities in some cases. Now there's a number of roads that are under discussion. Some we will be cost-sharing 50-50 with Abitibi; some we will be cost-sharing 50-50 with ManFor as a provincial and company arrangement in each case.

The other projects - I shouldn't say we don't have a program, Mr. Chairman, but we don't necessarily have the specific projects all outlined for this section. We are looking at the possibility of hooking up three at least, or four or five remote communities with a motorized barge operation which will provide, with the combination of barge access and winter connections, will provide almost year round surface transportation to these communities. That is, the barge will be used for freight, general freight and passenger vehicle transportation. There are three locations that we're looking at. One location will hook up three communities with one barge.

MR. GRAHAM: What three communities?

MR. BOSTROM: As I indicated in my opening remarks on this department, Mr. Chairman, one area that we are looking at definitely is the Bloodvein, Princess Harbour, Matheson Island end-of-the-road connection. Another one we are looking at is the Cross Lake, Whiskey Jack, Portage connection or Jenpeg connection. Another one is the South Indian Lake, South Bay connection. We're also tentatively looking at a connection with Split Lake. None of these are firm. I'm not announcing them as firm projects at this time but there are three possibilities that are under consideration in this section.

MR. GRAHAM: Mr. Chairman, perhaps we can get some rough breakdown. The Minister indicated several roads: has he got a figure what he anticipates spending on roads in this fiscal year?

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, the amount of money voted in this section won't build very many roads. The \$490,000 that is in this section would be mainly for the staff associated with the construction of these projects, the administration, the engineering, the drafting and all associated expenses with construction projects both dock and ferry landing construction where required, and resource road construction where required.

MR. GRAHAM: Can we expect to get the figures for the roads and the wharves and docks and all that in the Capital Supply Bill that will be coming forward shortly? Will the figures be in those Estimates?

MR. BOSTROM: Some of the money required for road construction, capital construction for barges and so on, would be in that Capital Supply Estimate, yes.

MR. GRAHAM: Just some of the money for the roads.

MR. BOSTROM: Well whatever is not in here. There's not very much in this section, as I indicated, that could be used for actual construction.

MR. GRAHAM: Well can the Minister tell us how much of the \$490,000 in here is for roads. Is there any?

MR. BOSTROM: That is still being worked out as to the specific detail.

MR. GRAHAM: Mr. Chairman, we are being asked to pass Estimates here now, plans of the government for the coming year, and the Minister can't even tell us what it is he wants the money for. But he wants the money. Now surely he can give us some more definite plans than what he has given us to date.

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, as I'm indicating to you, we have three major construction projects that we are in the stages of planning and implementing and these are

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(MR. BOSTROM cont'd) the three barge connections to northern communities. Each of those require a significant amount of expenditure on engineering, drafting, and all the associated planning activities that go into those. There are a number of resource road projects that we're looking at in connection with Abitibi and ManFor to open up new areas of resource harvesting in this province.

To be specific, one project that we are in fact already started on is a small road into a resource area east of Lake Winnipeg, into the English Lake area. I believe it's English Brook Road or English Lake Road. That's on a 50-50 basis with Abitibi. Now the money that is being spent on that road I believe is in excess of the amount here.

MR. GRAHAM: Where will that money be coming from then?

MR. BOSTROM: The money voted for that is in the Capital Supply.

MR. GRAHAM: In the Capital Supply will we then see the recoverable from Abitibi?

MR. BOSTROM: Yes, I believe that's where it would show up.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, as I recall it, I don't recall . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister have a point of order?

MR. USKIW: Yes. Well just on this point, I don't believe that Capital Supply is presented in that form which would show recoveries. I may be wrong.

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

MR. GRAHAM: Well can the Minister then indicate how much he anticipates to recover from Abitibi on a cost-sharing basis on the road into English Lake.

MR. BOSTROM: Well it would be 50 percent of the total cost of the project. It's a \$118,000 total project there.

MR. GRAHAM: So the recovery will be 50 percent of that.

MR. BOSTROM: Yes.

MR. GRAHAM: Mr. Chairman, on the barges that the Minister is talking about, will they also be covered by Capital then? There'll be no money in here for the barge construction.

MR. BOSTROM: Not the barge construction, no. There's money in here for the staffing of the barges once they're in place, the staff man years that will be required will be in this section.

MR. GRAHAM: Can the Minister indicate how many staff man years . . . ?

MR. BOSTROM: We have no staff man years established in this section yet. I'm saying the staff man years will be established in here but there's no need to hire staff for barges that are not yet constructed. It's anticipated that we will have them in place by the summer and it goes through a process of approval through Management Committee and so on to approve for staff man years against the appropriation that's voted here.

MR. GRAHAM: Mr. Chairman, we have \$490,000 here. Can the Minister indicate how many staff will be covered by this department.

MR. BOSTROM: Well there's no way of telling exactly how many staff will be required at this point, in this section. We hire staff as required in here on an as required basis, demand basis for specific projects that would be under way. For example, if engineering is required for a project such as the Abitibi road in question or the other resource roads that will be under construction, the drafting, the engineering people would be hired in this section on a contract basis as required. But they wouldn't be staff man years as such.

MR. GRAHAM: Can the Minister then indicate how much money has been set aside for salaries in the \$490,000, for salaries of civil servants and contract employees.

MR. BOSTROM: Most of the money in this section here would be for the salaries and associated expenditures, associated with the projects that will be under way in this section. That is engineering people, consultants and so on who are required in the process of designing, planning and building the ferry barges and in the designing, engineering and planning of the roads in question. For example, we now anticipate having a Director of Construction and Marine. We don't have a person acting in that capacity at this time. The staff man year has not been established as such but we already have some projects under way and this person is an acting capacity right now.

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MR. GRAHAM: Can the Minister indicate if that Director of Construction will be in the \$12,000 to \$15,000 range, the \$15,000 - \$18,000 range or . . . ?

MR. BOSTROM: The particular individual in question right now is a director status, a senior officer status. He's seconded to this section from the other side of my department, from Renewable Resources, and he's just in here in an acting capacity.

MR. GRAHAM: Would he be in the \$25,000 range?

MR. BOSTROM: I believe he's in the \$20,000 range somewhere. In the \$20,000 range.

MR. GRAHAM: Mr. Chairman, then can the Minister indicate, out of the \$430,000 - well we'll take the \$20,000 out - of the \$410,000 that's left how much will be for services and how much will be for salaries?

MR. BOSTROM: There will be salaries for the captains who will be needed for these . . .

MR. GRAHAM: You won't need those this year though.

MR. BOSTROM: Well we may have them in place some time during the . . .

MR. GRAHAM: Have you set aside a sum for that?

MR. BOSTROM: Well it's in this estimate.

MR. GRAHAM: How much?

MR. BOSTROM: The salary for the captains has not been established as yet because the staff man years haven't been voted and it's not known at this point exactly what that salary level will be. It will have to be whatever is comparable in the industry.

MR. GRAHAM: Can the Minister indicate how much has been set aside for the salary of captains? Is it \$5,000?

MR. BOSTROM: Well these are estimates, Mr. Chairman.

MR. GRAHAM: That's what we're asking.

MR. BOSTROM: We have anticipated that there will be staff man years required to operate this division. I don't have the detailed breakdown of them here. This still has to go through the Management Committee process where we outline the requirements, the staff man years that will be required for the various activities within this section and each staff man year will have to be justified and it will have to be based against the appropriation voted here.

MR. GRAHAM: Mr. Chairman, then if there is additional money required above the \$490,000, can that money be transferred from some other section within the transportation services without asking for additional authority?

MR. BOSTROM: You mean to move money around within this appropriation?

MR. GRAHAM: Yes.

MR. BOSTROM: I'm not sure how that operates. I'm informed that the administration can recommend moving surplus moneys from one section to the other if there are surpluses. But given the amount of travelling and so on and the anticipated recoveries that we have in Air Division - it's not anticipated that we will have any surpluses there so that's a rather academic question.

MR. GRAHAM: Mr. Chairman, I don't believe the Minister has even taken his proposals in this to Cabinet yet so it's rather meaningless to ask any further questions on how he anticipates spending this \$490,000. We do know there's \$118,000 - 50 percent recoverable - will be spent on one road but the rest of it perhaps might better be left until next year. I can't see any point in going too much further with it if the plans haven't even been passed by Cabinet yet.

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

MR. MINAKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the Minister advise, will the operations of the ferry barges and maintenance of them, etc., be the responsibility of his department.

MR. BOSTROM: Yes.

MR. MINAKER: Through you, Mr. Chairman. Would the Honourable Minister advise the committee; has the contract been let for the ferry barges?

MR. BOSTROM: No.

MR. MINAKER: Can the Honourable Member advise the committee how long he

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(MR. MINAKER cont'd) anticipates it will take to build the ferry barges?

MR. BOSTROM: Eight weeks.

MR. MINAKER: I wonder if the Honourable Minister can advise if there'll be any channeling required in Lake Winnipeg for some of these services, that he's proposing, to take effect.

MR. BOSTROM: That's an unknown at this point. That is one of the specific things that will be carried out with the moneys voted in this section. If there are channels to be studied and some channelization to be done the engineering costs and so on would be covered by the appropriation that is under consideration here right now.

MR. MINAKER: So that in this particular figure, Mr. Chairman, there's no dollars included in this figure for any channeling work?

MR. BOSTROM: No.

MR. MINAKER: Could the Honourable Minister advise if there is any anticipated money in Capital for channeling work?

MR. BOSTROM: Not at this point that I'm aware of.

MR. MINAKER: Mr. Chairman, can the Honourable Minister advise if under this department he has applied for any money from the Northlands Agreement?

MR. BOSTROM: Not for this section, no.

MR. MINAKER: Not to deal with this proposed marine transportation . . . ?

MR. BOSTROM: There was some discussion with Manitoba Northlands with respect to cost-sharing on the ferry barge but there's been no agreement on that. We may try to get it into the Manitoba Northlands Agreement which is not yet signed but we're not anticipating in this Budget here recoveries from them.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member from St. James.

MR. MINAKER: Can the Honourable Minister advise the Committee, Mr. Chairman, how many ferry barges he plans to have in operation this summer on the lake?

MR. BOSTROM: We're looking at three.

MR. MINAKER: I wonder if the Honourable Minister can confirm, is it a total of six eventually for the complete operation?

MR. BOSTROM: We're not looking past three at this point. There's some other locations under discussion but there are no definite plans for any other. We're only looking at three for the immediate future.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. OSIAND: Mr. Chairman, through you to the Minister. Will there be native northerners actually trained and working these barges?

MR. BOSTROM: That is the objective, Mr. Chairman. We are already in discussions and negotiations with Canada Manpower and with the Federal Ministry of Transport to see what requirements and what possibilities there will be to establish training right in the province for the people who will operate these marine transportation facilities.

MR. OSIAND: That will be for the captain status, I presume.

MR. BOSTROM: That's right.

MR. OSIAND: Deckhands and the crew itself. Are there plans to train them too?

MR. BOSTROM: We would try to obtain, as a first priority, people from the community to be understudies wherever possible to a captain, like a person who requires skills in the operation of the craft. If there are people who can take on the other jobs immediately we would have as a first priority to hire people from the local communities.

MR. OSIAND: With regards to the building of docks. Anything that has to do with this, is there any way that the whole exercise can be meaningful to the local communities as far as jobs are concerned?

MR. BOSTROM: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Wherever we are going to construct facilities, for example, we are following a policy of buying materials locally wherever possible and to utilize local labour in the construction of these facilities whether they be storage sheds at the one end of the ferry run or a ferry landing dock, or whatever. We're already negotiating with some of the communities to supply the timbers required for their ferry landings.

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MR. OSLAND: One further one. Has the Department of Indian Affairs been contacted so that as their - at the moment it's welfare funds - and is it possible to utilize welfare funds in say a cost-sharing program with the province in a project of this nature.

MR. BOSTROM: We've had some discussion with Indian Affairs but no success to date in involving them in this project.

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

MR. ADAM: Mr. Chairman, with regards to channeling and dredging. Will there be any on Lake Winnipeg?

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, we are looking at the channelization of the areas where the ferry will be operating on Lake Winnipeg and the engineering analysis will dictate what dredging is required if any. We have no facts at this time to peg a number on in terms of the anticipated costs.

MR. ADAM: Does the Federal Government provide channeling at Federal cost such as they do on Lake Winnipegosis?

MR. BOSTROM: The Federal Government will, as I understand it, provide certain dredging requirements, certain dredging work for us if we get our estimates in to them, yes.

MR. ADAM: At our cost?

MR. BOSTROM: At the Federal Government cost.

MR. ADAM: What about the docks?

MR. BOSTROM: The docks we have not been able to obtain any federal cost-sharing on. We are already negotiating with them but we haven't obtained any final figure from them.

MR. ADAM: What about dredging on other lakes, other than Lake Winnipeg where there is no dredging facilities?

MR. BOSTROM: We are looking at a number of possibilities in this area. We're at the present time mainly fact finding though, to determine what dredging would be required if we do put a marine transportation facility in.

MR. ADAM: Does the province have to do that, or is that a Federal responsibility? A contour, a lake contour.

MR. BOSTROM: We are doing the hydrographics, or whatever you call it and hydraulic studies to indicate to us what would be required. We will be using those facts to back up our case with the Federal Government as to what is required in the Province of Manitoba.

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

MR. ADAM: I think that's all, Mr. Chairman, for now.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Radisson.

MR. SHAFRANSKY: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister can indicate what has happened to the ferry that was used between the mainland and Hecla Island? Is it being utilized today, and where?

MR. BOSTROM: Yes, Mr. Chairman. That ferry is now in the boatworks at Riverton being lengthened and refitted for use on Lake Winnipeg. That is one of the ferries that we will be operating under this program.

MR. SHAFRANSKY: Is it the plan of the department, Mr. Chairman, to use the ferry system from Hecla Island to Black Island and then to Manigotagan?

MR. BOSTROM: That is one of the areas under discussion at this time. It's not one of the projects that we're working towards for this coming fiscal year but it's one of the ones that are being considered.

MR. SHAFRANSKY: I was wondering what had happened to the ferry that was in use on the Lake Manitoba Narrows.

MR. BOSTROM: I have no idea. I believe it was condemned.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 108(c)—pass. Resolution 108—Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$1,266,300 for Renewable Resources and Transportation Services—pass. —(Interjection)— One dissenting vote. I refer honourable members now back to Page 15. Resolution 106(a)(1) the Minister's Compensation -

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(MR. CHAIRMAN cont'd) the Honourable Member for Radisson.

MR. SHAFRANSKY: Mr. Chairman, I just want to bring up a question with regards to the Oak Hammock Wildlife Management area. What is the purpose - and I understand that there are other areas set aside for Wildlife Management, specifically ducks and geese - what is the reasoning behind it? What is the limit set for people who are hunting in the area during the hunting season? Is it on a per diem or what is the maximum allowable in these areas?

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, rather than take up the time of the Committee with a lengthy answer to that, I would undertake to get this specific information the member requires on all of the Wildlife Management areas in the province, including Oak Hammock, and specific answers to the questions that he's raised.

MR. SHAFRANSKY: Mr. Chairman, I would appreciate that, and I'd also like to find out what is the limit set in the United States. It seems earlier in the discussions on the section dealing with wildlife, Delta Marsh Development and so on, it was indicated that the American Wildlife Federation is very much interested in the development of these Wildlife Management areas. Do they have the same type of management areas? What are the bag limits set, in the various states in the pathway of the flight of the geese and the ducks? Is it the same or is it greater? It seems that in Manitoba we have only about, as I understand, about 20,000 hunters and that is in one Province of Manitoba, of one million. When you take into consideration that some 225 million population - I'm taking it on a percentage basis - it would mean that about 20 million or more people are involved in hunting geese and ducks in the United States. I would like to know what is the bag limit in the various parts of the United States as compared to the bag limits set for Manitobans, especially the management areas such as the Oak Hammock, and there's another one, Oak Point, I believe along Highway No. 6 starting at Oak Point to Lundar along the shores of Lake Manitoba on the eastern side. Now these are fairly extensive areas set aside. I understand the reasoning is for protection but it is protection for whom? Is it 20,000 Manitoba hunters or is it to preserve and ensure that some 20 million American hunters are going to continue having the opportunity to continue hunting in their areas? I'd just like to find out what is their bag limit. If the Minister's able to get that information I would certainly appreciate it.

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, I will try to obtain that information for the honourable member.

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

MR. ADAM: On that particular point, Mr. Chairman, I would like the Minister to undertake to find out what the bag limit would be in Mexico. I believe that the majority of our duck population end up in Mexico and my understanding is that they don't have a bag limit there. They can shoot all they want. I could be wrong on that.

MR. BOSTROM: We have estimates, Mr. Chairman, on how many ducks are killed in Manitoba of those produced in Manitoba. I'm informed that the majority of the ducks that are hatched in Manitoba are consumed in Manitoba. But I'll get the specific figures for the honourable member as to the estimates of the duck harvest as opposed to the estimates of the duck production in Manitoba.

MR. ADAM: What co-operation does the department have with Ducks Unlimited?

MR. BOSTROM: We have co-operation in the sense of cost-sharing, financial cost-sharing on some projects. Ducks Unlimited, as you well know, is an organization which has as its objective the increase of the production of ducks for whatever personal reasons or philanthropic reasons they have. They do spend a considerable amount of money in Manitoba and my information is that they intend to spend more if we can identify areas in which they can spend money making areas available for production of waterfowl, in general. We are working with them to outline areas in which they could spend some of their money.

MR. ADAM: On what basis would you cost-share? On a percentage basis for what? Would you undertake to cost works of some type, damming? Or would you purchase land or allocate Crown lands or what-have-you? Could you give us some

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(MR. ADAM cont'd) information on this?

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, the details of the future types of co-operation that will be outlined between the Provincial Government and Ducks Unlimited is unclear as yet. We still haven't worked out those details. In the past, however, Ducks Unlimited have been involved in providing some financial contribution to some of the existing wildlife waterfowl areas that the province has developed or is in the process of developing such as Oak Hammock, such as the Saskeram area, in The Pas, such as Oak Lake in southwestern Manitoba which is under consideration right now for development. They are contributing in a financial sense to a project which is a provincial priority, not a Ducks Unlimited priority.

MR. ADAM: Mr. Chairman, the Minister indicated that he was going to distribute information on all the Wildlife Management areas. Could he give me any information on any prospective development for the Turtle River marsh?

MR. BOSTROM: I could give you the detailed information that is in the hands of the department. I would supply that to you if you wish.

MR. ADAM: You're unable to do that tonight?

MR. BOSTROM: I don't have the information here, right now.

MR. ADAM: I only have one further question. It has to do with wearing apparel for moose hunting. Is the wearing apparel all white at the present time?

MR. BOSTROM: Well, I believe it's all white with orange cap or whatever.

MR. ADAM: Is there a combination of colours? Is that definite?

MR. BOSTROM: The blaze orange and white has been the traditional. I know of no proposed change in the regulations but I could - check that.

MR. ADAM: Is it compulsory to have two colours? The blaze orange or whatever it is?

MR. BOSTROM: I'm not sure about that. I would have to take that question as notice.

MR. ADAM: On some occasions where hunters are dressed up all in white, if it happens to be very very stormy, on a stormy day, that hunters are on a line or something, or on a road allowance that they're very hard to see. I was just wondering if the Minister could look into this and if in fact hunters can hunt with only a white uniform or a white hunting apparel, whether you would not consider to have at least some stripes, other colour - I think it's the orange colour or something that they use. I think that this is perhaps a dangerous way to hunt.

MR. BOSTROM: Well, I will take your suggestion under consideration, Mr. Chairman, and make an effort to change the regulation if it's required.

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

MR. MINAKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to make a brief comment with regards to Ducks Unlimited. I think, if I understood some of the comments made earlier and right now, that it would appear to be some confusion on what authority Ducks Unlimited might have. I'm sure the Honourable Minister is aware of it. There is two Ducks Unlimited. There's Ducks Unlimited Incorporated which is the American Ducks Unlimited that raises the funds but there is also Ducks Unlimited (Canada) whose directors are primarily Canadians and who decide, with the co-operation of the province, where they will spend the funds in Canada. So it's not an American-controlled operation other than they do raise funds for the Canadian Ducks Unlimited. It's always been my understanding, Mr. Chairman, that it's the Provincial Government that decides where the reserves will be and what the limits will be that can be shot here and how often you can shoot ducks. I thought it should be put on the record and clarified that the Americans don't control the situation other than they do contribute money towards the conserving of wildlife in our particular province. --(Interjection)--

A MEMBER: Outside of advising the department to set the limits lower.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. Order please. The Honourable Member for St. James.

MR. MINAKER: Thank you. It's still, Mr. Chairman, within the powers of the Provincial Government and the Honourable Minister's Department to set these limits

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(MR. MINAKER cont'd) and to decide when the season will be opened and when it will be closed.

I wonder, Mr. Chairman, if the Honourable Minister could advise us - it's a minor thing, I was in the Northern Affairs Committee so I didn't have an opportunity to deal with it when we were in that particular section - if the Honourable Minister could advise where you have a boy under 16 years of age fishing, does he require a licence?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. BOSTROM: I don't believe a licence is required.

MR. MINAKER: When the question comes up. I know in Ontario . . .

MR. BOSTROM: I'm not a fisherman.

MR. MINAKER: Mr. Chairman, I know in Ontario that children under 16 do not require a licence. But if they're fishing with a parent or an adult with a licence they can only take a limit in fish equivalent to what one licence can bear. I'm wondering if that same applies, that if I go fishing with my son who doesn't have a fishing licence, am I limited to the catch that a licence holder can catch or can the boy have his own limit as well.

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, I will undertake to supply the honourable member with a fishery booklet that we put out which outlines all the regulations and that will answer all of his questions.

MR. MINAKER: Well, it doesn't clearly answer one other question, Mr. Chairman, would be if the Honourable Minister would also check and get clarified - and the last regulation book I saw didn't make it clear - if you have two boys fishing under the age of 16 are they allowed their full limit, both of them, in the various species of fish, if they should hit it lucky? If they're not in attendance with a licence-holding fisherman?

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, if that question is not clear in the booklet provided by the department, I will undertake to get clarification for the honourable member.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Gladstone.

MR. FERGUSON: Mr. Chairman, most of my questions were asked by the Member for St. James. There's one question I would like to ask though. How much money is involved through the cost-share between the province and the American sportsmen, I guess you would call it, the Ducks Unlimited.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. BOSTROM: I don't have the figures offhand, Mr. Chairman. I understand they were interested in spending several millions of dollars in Manitoba, but I can't give you the specific figure. That is not contained in my Estimates. I was just speaking from memory the other day when I indicated how much they were prepared to spend in Manitoba.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Gladstone. The Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. OSLAND: Mr. Chairman, through you to the Minister. I would like to just say a word of support in what I feel is the new direction the department is taking. I feel that this next year is going to be an exciting one in this department and it's going to be worth really watching and monitoring to see how we go about developing the resources surrounding the different communities in order to change their complete way of life which has been what has so often been said to me, that different communities are unviable. With your change of thrust with the department and support of these communities in developing the renewable resources that surround these communities, I certainly look forward to seeing a reduction in welfare and a far better way of life for the majority of the people in the north. That's all. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 106(a)(1)--pass; Resolution 106 - Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$699,700 for Renewable Resources and Transportation Services -- pass.

That concludes the consideration of the Department of Renewable Resources. Committee rise.

IN SESSION

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Vital.

MR. WALDING: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Ste. Rose, that the report of the committee be received.

MOTION presented and carried.

COMMITTEE CHANGES

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Brandon West.

MR. EDWARD MCGILL (Brandon West): Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Opposition may I make one substitution on Law Amendments for tomorrow. The name of the Honourable Member for Riel substituting for the Honourable Member for Souris-Killarney.

MR. SPEAKER: Agreed? (Agreed)

The hour of adjournment having arrived the House is adjourned and will stand adjourned until 2:30 tomorrow afternoon. (Thursday)