



Second Session — Thirty-First Legislature  
of the  
**Legislative Assembly of Manitoba**

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**DEBATES  
and  
PROCEEDINGS**

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26 Elizabeth II

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Speaker*



# THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Thursday, April 27, 1978

Time: 2:30 p.m.

**OPENING PRAYER** by Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER, Hon. Harry E. Graham (Birtle-Russell):** I should like to draw the attention of the members to the gallery where we have four members of the Community Family Centre accompanied by Mr. Bal. This centre is in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Point Douglas.

We have 30 students of Grade 9 standing from Lorette Collegiate under the direction of Mr. Goulet. This school is in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Springfield.

We have 10 students of Grade 12 standing from Red River Community College. These students are under the direction of Miss Karen Bruce. This school is in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Logan.

On behalf of all the members, we welcome you here today.

## PRESENTING PETITIONS

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Brandon East.

**MR. LEONARD S. EVANS:** Mr. Speaker, I beg to present the petition of Brandon General Hospital Praying for the passing of An Act to amend An Act to incorporate the Brandon General Hospital.

## READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

**MR. CLERK:** The petition of St. John's-Ravenscourt School, Praying for the passing of An Act to amend An Act to incorporate St. John's-Ravenscourt School.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees . . . Ministerial Statements and Tabling of Reports . . . Notices of Motion . . . Introduction of Bills.

## ORAL QUESTIONS

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

**MR. EDWARD SCHREYER (Rossmere):** Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the First Minister and while waiting his possible attendance here, I should like to pose a question in the interim to the Minister of Education. I understand that he is responsible for liaison with Ottawa with respect to immigration matters. I would like to ask him, given the fact that Parliament has passed statute law with respect to immigration law changes, and that it is now provided in statute for formal liaison and consultative process, statutory, with the provinces, can the Minister indicate if, in fact, there is confirmation that they are intending to proceed that way and are in fact commencing to do so, and is he actively engaged in that?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Education.

**HON. KEITH A. COSENS (Gimli):** Mr. Speaker, I can assure the Leader of the Opposition, that there have been some discussions to that extent taking place, and they will continue to be taking place.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

**MR. SCHREYER:** That being so then, Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Minister of Education if he will tell us now, or if he is not in a position to tell us now, if he will undertake to table material which will indicate the policy attitude with respect to immigration law that the government of the Province of Manitoba would like to see changed and implemented?

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Speaker, that policy is being developed coincident with the negotiation. I think it would be premature to table it at this time until it has been firmed-up.

**MR. SCHREYER:** a Mr. Speaker, supplementary. Now that the provinces are given a statutory basis in Federal Statute Law for a formal involvement in immigration law and procedures, would the Minister agree that it would be desirable then for the province to be in a position to exercise this function responsibly, rather than on an ad hoc, as we go along in negotiations, play-it-by-ear basis.

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Speaker, I certainly agree that a firm policy is something we require, and I would

hope that this will be forthcoming shortly.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Inkster.

**MR. SIDNEY GREEN:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the House Leader in the absence of the First Minister. Can the House Leader confirm as to whether or not he has been requested, or the government has been requested, by the Federal Conservative candidates to alter the form of administration of this province by the Conservative administration in order to make it easier for those people to get some support from the people of this province?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Government House Leader.

**HON. WARNER H. JORGENSEN (Morris):** Mr. Speaker, I can neither confirm nor deny that suggestion.

**MR. GREEN:** I gather that it may be true.

I direct a question, Mr. Speaker, to the Minister of Highways. Can the Minister of Highways tell me whether it is a fact that, unnoticed to the media, he delivered to the Town of Churchill badly needed funds to the extent of some \$1 million?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Public Works.

**HON. HARRY J. ENNS (Lakeside):** Mr. Speaker, yes.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Inkster.

**MR. GREEN:** Mr. Speaker, can the Honourable Minister tell me whether those funds were included in the Estimates of departmental spending that are now before the House?

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Speaker, I suspect I'll have to ask the Honourable Member for St. Johns.

**MR. GREEN:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to know, Mr. Speaker, from the government, and I ask this quite seriously, as to whether the \$1 million to Churchill is included in the printed departmental Estimates totalling some one billion, six hundred and some odd million dollars, which are now being considered by the House.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Public Works.

**MR. ENNS:** Well, Mr. Speaker, the honourable member deserves a full and complete answer. I suppose one of the last acts taken by the previous administration sitting in Cabinet on October 19, that passed an Order-in-Council indicating that the incoming Minister of Public Works would pick up the tab, so as to speak, for the horrendously expensive operating costs to maintain the complex at Churchill, which were estimated as late as November of 1976 to be some \$225,000, well within the means and the capability of the LGD of Churchill to carry in their normal tax load, but in fact have within one short year of full operation risen to a million plus. It is not correct that I delivered a million dollars to Churchill on that occasion; I don't think the Honourable Member for Inkster expected me to do that. What I did indicate to the mayor and the council of Churchill, that we would honour that commitment made by the previous Cabinet and administration in helping the community of Churchill to maintain and operate and keep the facility open.

We have not budgeted for the item because I am not at all satisfied at this particular moment that the brunt, or the totality of that amount, should be borne by Manitoba taxpayers. I believe that the senior Federal Government, which was a senior partner in this enterprise, to the — I believe the percentage rating of 55-45 or in that area — and I believe the Federal Government has certainly as great a responsibility as does the Provincial Government in terms of almost deliberately moving staff and people out of the community of Churchill which makes the whole viability of that complex so much more out of line in terms of the numbers of people that it serves, the number of taxpayers in Churchill, etc.

So what I have asked, in conjunction with the Honourable the Minister of Municipal Affairs to arrange, and we will as soon as time permits, with our federal counterparts, to pursue as aggressively as we can, hopefully some cost-sharing arrangements that have to do with this sum of money that's been mentioned.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, it was difficult to codify or put a precise sum in the Estimates; we do not know the precise sum to put in. What we agreed, and what we told the Town Council of Churchill, is that the Provincial Government would pay the monthly bills which are coming in at — and I would have to check that — at 50 or 60 thousand dollars a month, to keep the centre in Churchill operating.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Inkster.

**MR. GREEN:** Mr. Speaker, lest there be any misunderstanding, I have no criticism at all of the expenditure or how the Minister is dealing with it, but would the Minister agree that if he has the same

success with regard to his negotiations with the Federal Government as we had with respect to them picking up their proper share of the assessment, that we will have to add another million dollars to this year's Estimates, making \$6 million in about eight days — it's going about a million a day.?

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Speaker, I cannot agree to that. It is my belief that that likely is the case, but in the absence of the Minister of Finance, I would have to take that question as notice.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

**MR. SCHREYER:** Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Public Works may find it easier to answer me or wish to take it as notice. Can the Minister indicate if he is aware that with respect to the negotiations, and the spirit of the negotiations as between Ottawa and Manitoba, with respect to the cost sharing of both the construction and the maintenance of the Churchill Centre, that there were undertakings from the late Honourable Arthur Laing with respect to ways and means of the sharing of operating deficits once they became more concretely known. Can the Minister indicate if he will undertake to pursue this personally with the Federal authorities since it seems to require direct personal involvement at that level.

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Speaker, I am happy to answer that question and indicate to him as I believe I had, that that is precisely the course of action that I, in concert with the Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs, am taking. And I go one step further, Mr. Speaker, and I do this with a great deal of sincerity that I invite the good offices of the Leader of the Opposition, to be of whatever assistance he can in pursuing this matter in two ways. Firstly, perhaps in terms of the fact that he was directly involved, or his government was directly involved, in some of the initial and the actual negotiations that he now just referred to, and if indeed there are some gaps in our information that need filling in, I would like to feel free and I see by his nodding of approval that I can reach out to the Leader of the Opposition for whatever information he may have that will be helpful in this pursuit because it is in the interest of Manitoba and in the interest of Manitoba taxpayers generally, and of course specifically in the interests of the community of Churchill that we do this.

**MR. SCHREYER:** Mr. Speaker, this may be unorthodox, it may even be unprecedented, I don't know, but to keep within the rules, Sir, may I ask the Minister of Public Works if he will accept it as notice of intent that perhaps there are no other instances such as this, but in this particular instance, would he take it as notice of intent that I would be most happy to assist my honourable friend, the Minister of Public Works in direct concrete representations, because I am satisfied that the spirit and intent of the agreement between Ottawa and Manitoba as determined by the late Honourable Arthur Laing is now being deviated from, and I am in a position to help.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Meer for Elmwood.

**MR. RUSSELL DOERN:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Health. Has he or his senior officials received a copy of the recent report on Mount Carmel Clinic?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Health.

**HON. L.R.(Bud) SHERMAN(Fort Garry):** Yes, Mr. Speaker. I have received a copy personally.

**MR. DOERN:** Could I ask the Minister then whether he is planning to investigate or examine the operations of the present Mount Carmel Clinic in view of the criticisms made in the recent report.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Well, the situation could well lead to that, Mr. Speaker, and I assure my honourable friend that if such action proves to be justified and warranted that that kind of a review will be undertaken. I'm waiting, however, to receive some reaction and some direction from the Board. I haven't received that yet.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Elmwood.

**MR. DOERN:** I would ask the Minister in conclusion whether he would also consider a personal tour of the facilities such as he made at Snow Lake, and in particular I would like to ask him whether, since some of the problems of the clinic may be related to the present physical facilities and arrangements, would he also consider lifting the freeze on the construction of a new Mount Carmel Clinic.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Mr. Speaker, in answer to the first part of my honourable friend's question, I did make a visit to Mount Carmel Clinic two weeks ago and I did have an extensive and comprehensive tour of the facilities, including the child day-care facilities there.

In answer to the second part of his question I can assure him that I was subject to a great many entreaties while I was there to do precisely what he is suggesting the government should consider doing. I have that question under review and in mind. I hope to be able to do my best, Mr. Speaker, but I can't give my honourable friend any assurance at this juncture. I recognize it as an important subject area though.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

**MR. SCHREYER:** Well, Mr. Speaker, now that the Minister of Industry is here, the Minister of Tourism and Recreation, rather — I suppose he is exactly the right man to ask the following. Given that there has been a fire, reported at least, a fire involving Canada winter games facilities at Brandon, given that there seems to be some rather strange litigation procedures involving certain people who would be principals relative to ski facilities relating to the Canada Games, can the Minister give some assurance that all this is being monitored and that Manitoba stands in no danger of not being able to fulfill its obligations crisply with respect to the staging of the Winter Games.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Health.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Mr. Speaker, I think that that question had better be directed to me as the Minister responsible for fitness and amateur sport. With respect to the fire, Sir, the report that I've received on it to date is that it is relatively minor in the overall scheme of things. It involved the wood being used for the bleachers at one of the athletic sites. There will be a week's delay apparently in final preparation of the site as a consequence but the Games officials themselves don't see that as any significant or major problem.

As far as the ski hill situation is concerned, Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Leader of the Opposition will recall that this government reconfirmed the decision taken by his government to authorize the application of \$190,000 out of lottery funds for the construction of ski facilities at Mt. Agassiz for the Alpine Ski events in the games. That work is proceeding and it is my understanding that it will be completed well ahead of schedule. The necessary procedures were followed very carefully by the government to ensure the protection of the funding that is coming from lottery trust accounts. That funding is being advanced into a trust category and is being held "in trust" to be disbursed upon completion of the facility.

**MR. SCHREYER:** Is the Minister indicating then that the litigation which is current which may have real basis or which may be completely unjustified, we don't know, but this, in any case, will have no bearing on the pace with which the ski facility is brought to completion.?

**MR. SHERMAN:** I am assured that that is the situation, Mr. Speaker, because of a change in principals in the Agassiz Corporation itself. I think I can assure my honourable friend that that event will have no effect on the pace of completion of those facilities.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Ste. Rose.

**MR. A. R. (Pete) ADAM:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Northern Affairs and by way of a preamble, it appears that there has been some market for the less marketable species of fish this winter — I am referring to mullets — and I would ask the Minister if there were any alternative proposals discussed with the Federal Minister — LeBlanc, I believe it is — in regard to providing a subsidy to fishermen to cover the market price and the cost of production in order that fishermen may receive at least the cost of production for their raw fish which is about 10 cents a pound, a similar program that has been provided to the livestock producers.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Northern Affairs.

**HON. KEN MacMASTER (Thompson):** Mr. Speaker, that particular point wasn't specifically discussed. I would like to believe the member could appreciate that it took us the 12-14 hours to establish the two basic principles: (a) being that there was a need for a review of the marketing procedures which could encompass this and, (b) that there was a possibility of negotiations for a new structure, a new method of structuring the FFMC board. It took us, in fact, I say to you very honestly, it took us the entire day to establish those two principles and get them in print.

**MR. ADAM:** By way of a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, would the Minister take this as notice and perhaps discuss this at some future time with the Federal Minister in order to . . .

**MR. MacMASTER:** Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to accept any suggestions in anyway, shape or form, that would improve the fishing industry and the return of the fishermen to Manitoba.

While I'm on my feet, Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Leader of the Opposition asked me a question yesterday whether in fact Pakwagan was to be sold on three days notice. This is totally, absolutely incorrect. I have no idea where he got the information but the original notice went in the papers on April 21st and tenders are being opened, proposals looked at on May 10th, which is approximately 20 days.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

**MR. SCHREYER:** Mr. Speaker, I received an answer to a question that I didn't really anticipate and that is, is the Minister indicating that tenders have been called, are now in process of being, presumably, prepared, will be received — if any — and opened in early May for the sale of the Pakwagan assets or simply for the sale of the finished production?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Northern Affairs.

**MR. MacMASTER:** There is an appendix A and an appendix B and the appendix B is all the associated equipment and appendix A is the plant. If you would like, I can get you a copy of the breakdown but it's been advertised as such.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Ste. Rose.

**MR. ADAM:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question to the Minister responsible for Manitoba Housing. I would ask the Minister in relating to questions posed to him yesterday, could he advise how many applications for the Critical Home Repair are now being processed on a per week and on a per monthly basis?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister responsible for Housing.

**HON. J. FRANK JOHNSTON (Sturgeon Creek):** Mr. Speaker, I'll have to take that question as notice and get the honourable member the answer. I'm not just sure how many they're doing a week, per month but I can say to him that now that the snow is off the ground and off the roofs and everything of that nature, we'll be moving much faster than we have been.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Industry and Commerce.  
The honourable member has had three questions.

**MR. ADAM:** A supplementary question to this Minister.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Ste. Rose.

**MR. ADAM:** Yes, a supplementary question to the same Minister. Yesterday he mentioned that perhaps the banks would be delivering the Critical Home Repair Program in the future and I would like to know what expertise they have in this field or are the banks going to be replacing the trades in delivering this program?

**MR. JOHNSTON:** Mr. Speaker, the honourable member wasn't listening or he has listened to my comments on the media after I mentioned it in the House. I said that applications could be available through the banks or at the banks, which is a very logical place to have them. Maybe they can assist us the way they have assisted other people when people are making applications, or picking up applications. Maybe we'll put them at the Post Office if it's better — (Interjection) — but, no, I mean, Mr. Speaker, if the honourable members on the other side want to be cynical about the thing, fine, but we're looking at it to do the most efficient way.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Tourism.

**HON. ROBERT (Bob) BANMAN (La Verendrye):** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday the Member for Logan asked me a question with regard to cottage lots and I would just like to very briefly, because we can elaborate on it more during the Estimates, but I am informed that plans are being completed by my department and we will be requesting funds for cottage lot sites at Little Grindstone, Lake of the Prairie, Beresford Lake, Long Lake, Waterhen River, Wekusko Lake, Egg Lake, Dawson Lake, Setting Lake, Steep Rock and Birse Lake. There are between 500 to 700 cottage lots included in this list.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

**MR. SCHREYER:** The Minister of Tourism having indicated Egg Lake, among others, would he consider it advisable to have a cottage lot subdivision in the near proximity to a minimum security detention facility which exists at Egg Lake?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Tourism.

**MR. BANMAN:** Mr. Speaker, I think with regard to details as far as the cottage lot sites, I will be willing to discuss them during Estimates.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Logan.

**MR. WILLIAM JENKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to address a question to the Honourable Minister of Public Works, since he is in charge of washrooms and toilets in this building.

And I ask this question also, Sir, on your behalf, since I understand you have a suite here in the building with a shower and a bath. Is it part of the government restraint program that we had no hot water here in the building for the last four days?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Public Works.

**MR. ENNS:** It's a matter of providing you, Mr. Speaker, with an invigorating start every morning as you shower with cold water.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Transcona.

**MR. WILSON PARASIUUK:** Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Honourable the Attorney-General. In light of the acknowledged effective job of representing consumer groups at the Manitoba Milk Control Board hearings the other day, will the Minister confirm that Legal Aid lawyers will not be prevented from representing consumer groups at administrative tribunals of the province or at Law Amendments Committee.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Attorney-General.

**HON. GERALD W.J. MERCIER (Osborne):** Mr. Speaker, I would advise the Member for Transcona to read the regulations pursuant to The Legal Aid Society Act which gives the discretion to the Board to allow counsel to represent such groups in whatever instances they deem should.

**MR. PARASIUUK:** Mr. Speaker, I asked that question because the present Chairman of the Legal Aid and the Task Force Report itself on Page 33, Volume II, recommends that Legal Aid lawyers not represent consumer groups, or other groups, at administrative tribunals or before Law Amendments Committee, therefore, Mr. . . .

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please. Can the member bring forward his question?

**MR. PARASIUUK:** I'm just getting there, Mr. Speaker. Given that other Task Force Reports have been implemented by the government, is this Task Force Report going to be rejected by the government and therefore will Legal Aid lawyers be allowed to represent consumer groups at administrative tribunals?

**MR. MERCIER:** Mr. Speaker, that recommendation has not yet been resolved.

**MR. PARASIUUK:** Final supplementary to the Minister. Can he confirm that the Legal Aid lawyers who were representing consumer groups before administrative tribunals and who appeared on behalf of groups before Law Amendments Committee will have their services terminated as of June 30, for their efforts?

**MR. MERCIER:** My advice, Mr. Speaker, from the Legal Aid Board, is that the Legal Aid Board on their own have decided not to renew those gentlemen's contracts.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for St. Johns.

**MR. CHERNIACK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to address some questions to the Honourable the Acting Minister of Finance. Having reviewed his response as reported on Page 1243 of Hansard to my questions regarding the Pensioners' Property Tax Credit Special Proposal, I find he did not respond to that portion of my question dealing with the percentage of pensioners at various income levels who were receiving all their education and property taxes paid under the existing system, and I'm wondering therefore if he could give us that information and possibly — I think it would be more helpful — if he could actually distribute the schedules which he probably has which indicates the before and after picture in regard to pensioners in different income groups. That's one item.

The other one is, I was not here yesterday, nor have I had an opportunity to review Hansard, Mr. Speaker, I am asking the Honourable Minister if he has responded to my request to give us information regarding non-authorized or non-spent Capital Supply accounts in previous years. If he responded yesterday I apologize for troubling him and will read it in Hansard, but if he did not, I would ask him when he would.

And finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to address to the Honourable Minister an inquiry as to whether or not he, his department, or the First Minister have reacted to the fact that, having taken on the proposal by the Federal Government on the sales tax contribution by the Federal Government, and then having done so, having complained bitterly about the fact that they did not have adequate consultation, and considering the fact that Quebec has now received special consideration recognizing its bargaining position, is the government prepared to attempt to re-open the negotiations with the Federal Government to obtain a better deal for the citizens of Manitoba?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please. Before we go any further I want to tell the honourable members of the

House that there is a little problem with the production of Hansard. We've had a little foul-up or whatever it is, and there will be a slight delay, so if the Honourable Member for St. Johns is looking for yesterday's Hansard it might be a little late.

**MR. CHERNIACK:** Mr. Speaker, may I, in response to your statement, indicate that it appears from Hansard, Page 1243, that the Minister of Agriculture responded to my inquiries about property tax credit, but I assume that it was indeed the Acting Minister of Finance maybe posing as the Minister of Agriculture.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Consumer Affairs.

**HON. EDWARD MCGILL (Brandon West):** Mr. Speaker, I hardly know where to begin. There were so many questions . . . First of all, the Member for St. Johns referred to a question which he placed to me the day before yesterday; I am not in a position to respond to that question. I do anticipate that that information will become available. He has also indicated that certain of my answers, Mr. Speaker, were deficient in terms of technical information, and I will have to review the Hansard to which he refers, and if indeed we have failed to provide all of the information that the member requested, and it is available, then we certainly will attempt to do so.

The Member for St. Johns also referred to a question which he put to the Minister of Finance, I believe, on April 13 in relation to sales tax arrangements with the Federal Government. Some of the subsequent questions which he has now placed relative to that subject, I would think could be taken as notice for the Minister of Finance, who I anticipate will be in the House on Monday and would perhaps prefer to respond directly.

But Mr. Speaker, with respect to the question placed by the Member for St. Johns on April 13, I believe the question read: "The amount by which equalization payments to Manitoba by the Federal Government will be increased or decreased because of the reduction or the proposed reduction of the sales tax." A general answer to the member's question can be found in the April 10 Federal Budget where it was stated that equalization payments will be insulated from the impact of the retail sales tax and the personal income tax changes. By way of further explanation I can advise the member that current Estimates indicate the sales tax reduction across the country will reduce equalization payments in respect of sales taxes.

On the other hand, the fact the provinces will be compensated in part through an income tax transfer will mean that equalization payments related to income tax should go up. However, the ups and downs in equalization payments will both be calculated and an adjustment will be made in the total compensation payments to each province for the sales tax reduction so as to cancel out any positive or negative equalization and effect.

Preliminary calculations suggested that Manitoba would gain slightly more in income tax equalization than it would lose in sales tax equalization, but those calculations were of technical interest only since, as I said earlier, any equalization benefits apparently will be deducted from the amount of total compensation our province will receive. If the member wishes he can, of course, pursue this matter further when the Minister of Finance returns or when Finance Estimates are before the House.

Similarly the Minister of Finance indicated when the question came up that he felt it would be most appropriate to wait for Estimates to deal with the questions about sales tax collections and vendors' commissions which were raised by the Member for St. Johns.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Brandon East.

**MR. EVANS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to address a question to the First Minister. Can the First Minister advise the House when the government will set in motion proceedings to begin the redistribution process as required by the Electoral Divisions Act?

**HON. STERLING R. LYON, Premier (Charleswood):** Mr. Speaker, in response to the Honourable Member for Brandon East I believe the Act — and I'm only going from memory, I don't have it in front of me — the Act provides that those actions are begun almost automatically by the Clerk of the council and it is my understanding that some very preliminary work has been undertaken and my expectation that it will proceed in the normal way this year pursuant to the statutory requirement.

**MR. EVANS:** It is my understanding and I thank the Honourable Minister for that information, my understanding from reading the legislation is that the Electoral Boundaries Commission, I believe it's called, shall be convened in this tenth year after the year 1968 and shall prepare a report to Cabinet in this year with recommendations, and that the Cabinet shall then present this report to the Legislative Assembly. So my question then very specifically is whether the First Minister sees the process continuing in a fashion that he will be able to present this report to the Legislative Assembly this year?

**MR. LYON:** Mr. Speaker, my expectation, and it's only an expectation based upon the work that the Electoral Boundaries Commission would do, but based on previous experience, my expectation would be that the Boundaries Commission would proceed with its work during the course of the present calendar year and that in all likelihood, and it's only a projection at this stage, the next regular

sitting of the Legislature in 1979, that report would be available then to the Legislature.

**MR. EVANS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I gather then it is the government's intention not to be able to see this work proceed as expeditiously as to be able to present a report this year but there will be one presented next year. I just might add that my understanding is that it would be presented then within seven days of the next sitting of the Legislature so therefore, and am I correct in this interpretation that within seven days of the sitting of the Legislature in 1979 that the First Minister on behalf of the government will submit this report to the Assembly?

**MR. LYON:** Mr. Speaker, if that is what the statute requires, that is what will be done.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Selkirk.

**MR. HOWARD PAWLEY:** Mr. Speaker, my question to the Attorney-General. The Attorney-General has taken as notice some time back questions pertaining to whether or not he was considering a probe into alleged break-ins of offices of one Julius Koteles by the RCMP. Has the Attorney-General now completed his investigations and considerations as to a probe?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Attorney-General.

**MR. MERCIER:** No, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. PAWLEY:** Could the Attorney-General advise the House as to when he contemplates that he will be able to provide me with an answer to my questions pertaining to this issue of a probe?

**MR. MERCIER:** As soon as I receive the report from the department, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. PAWLEY:** Could the Attorney-General advise whether or not the report is being prepared within the department or is it being completed by persons or a person outside the department?

**MR. MERCIER:** The report, Mr. Speaker, will be made by the department in conjunction with the RCMP.

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Government House Leader.

**MR. JORGENSON:** I move, seconded by the Minister of Labour, that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee to consider of the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Elmwood on a point of order.

**MR. DOERN:** Is the question period over or is there still time?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Yes. — — — .

**MOTION presented and carried** and the House resolved itself into a Committee of Supply with the Honourable Member for Radisson in the Chair for the Department of Education and the Honourable Member for Crescentwood in the Chair for the Department of Agriculture.

## CONCURRENT COMMITTEES OF SUPPLY

### SUPPLY — AGRICULTURE

**MR. CHAIRMAN, Mr. Warren Steen:** Committee come to order. I recognize the Member for Ste. Rose.

**MR. A.R. (Pete) ADAM:** Mr. Chairman, I guess we could have probably finished the Department of Agriculture Estimates by 5:30 last night had it not been for some procedural foul-up in the House when they went into Private Members, otherwise we could have completed it last night, I am sure. I haven't got much more to say.

I have a few concerns that I want to again bring to the Minister's attention on what appears to be changes in the policy direction of the Minister and this government, policy changes that I believe will be a detriment to such areas as the constituency I represent, and also, I believe sincerely, to some of

the other constituencies represented by members of the government as well.

I'm quite sure that the changes in the policy of the land lease, freezing that program, that will definitely be a detriment to young farmers getting into agriculture in my area, and I'm very, very disappointed that the government has frozen that program because it is a good program. It's not a thing that's going to perhaps bring prosperity back to the agriculture scene, but it will at least assist many young farmers to get into agriculture whereby they would not get into agriculture otherwise. Now, the Minister has mentioned that he intends to bring in programs, perhaps low interest loans and so on, b, I remember the Premier's often-uttered comments when he says, you know, that he doesn't want to see the young generation of this province with an albatross around their necks. And the same thing applies here. When you ask a young farmer to put an albatross of \$100,000 or \$200,000 around his neck without knowing whether he's going to be successful or not, that's also an albatross, so I'm sorry that that program is discontinued, that is, the land lease program.

The other main concern that I have is that any changes in the agriculture Crown lands, that's the ones whereby if the Minister intends to sell these lands, I think that would be a serious situation for areas such as ours. I am also saddened by the fact that the policy direction will be aimed not directly at the lower-income groups to try and alleviate their situation. I hope that the Minister will bear that in mind because the whole area is depressed, you know, most of the area is depressed, such as Emerson and part of Ste. Rose — not all of Ste. Rose. It's like Alsona, you know, communities like Alsona where the farms are only 150, 200 acres, 300 acres, those kind of areas need special attention.

So with those few comments, Mr. Chairman, we are prepared to pass the Estimates but I would hope next year that the Premier doesn't have to come and do battle for the Minister, that he's able to do his own battle. We didn't listen to him; he was quite silent here from 8 to 10 o'clock and if it had not been for the Premier, I don't know what the Minister would have done.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Minister of Agriculture.

**MR. JAMES E. DOWNEY (Arthur):** Mr. Chairman, on the particular item that we're on now, on behalf of myself and the department, I would like to thank the participation from the members opposite in their in-depth look at the voted Estimates. It certainly gives myself an opportunity to discuss them with them. I am sure their participation, as the participation of the members on the side of the government, certainly has shown the importance that agriculture is to the Province of Manitoba.

I would also like to thank the department staff for their participation in the debate on the department Estimates. I would also like to thank the one lone news reporter for bearing with us for as long as she has. I'm sure that she has sat through the whole discussions to get the whole and complete debate.

I would look forward to in the coming years of development an ongoing program or a new program, to work with the Federal Government to introduce new programs which will assist the development of agriculture in the Province of Manitoba, and of course, as I said in my opening statement, emphasizing the use of water and soil development and diversification of livestock and crop specialization. We certainly look forward to development of new markets and emphasis towards a market thrust, and introduce certainly new work in the area of new research projects and to provide the farm people with information from the department and from the agricultural part of our government — I am sure with the emphasis on production, enabling the producers to go forward as individuals.

We emphasize the importance of the family farm in Manitoba, that it is they that should be the people that are doing the producing; that the service industry to the farm people should take place from the small community towns. We look forward to the growth of these communities, that they be major service centres for the farm communities. We do not, in fact, want to see the number of farm people decrease in Manitoba, we want to see the development of more farm units, prosperous farm units, and also see the development of small agri-service business in rural Manitoba. It is this kind of relationship and teamwork that the private sector and the farming community, the people within the farming community, will certainly help all of Manitoba grow and prosper, and we should look to agriculture as the main and most important industry.

I think that with the individuals that are involved with the production of food, that we can look forward to working with them to the development of policies that are meaningful for them, and programs that are meaningful for them. They will have the opportunity through the farm organizations to have input into what direction they would like to see the province go, and as I stated earlier, I feel that with the communications with the department and the people in the farm community and the servicing to the industry that we can see Manitoba grow and expand and become a more prosperous province for all of Canada.

I would just like to close my remarks by re-emphasizing the participation by the members opposite, and our members of the government.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for Lac du Bonnet.

**MR. SAM USKIW:** Mr. Chairman, just one small observation. I would like the Minister to correct me if I am wrong, but as I see it, I believe we have approved, once we have passed this last item, pretty well the same program that we had ongoing for the last number of years, but in particular last year, with virtually the same staff component. As I understand it, there's a reduction of about 10 staff man years in total from this department, which in effect is not a reduction at all because there have been

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somewhere in the order of between 50 and 70 vacancies consistently over the last two or three years so that there's no real reduction in staff as I understand it. And if I'm not correct I would appreciate if the Minister would correct me.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Minister of Agriculture.

**MR. DOWNEY:** Mr. Chairman, there are some staff positions that have been deleted. The total numbers of individuals, I don't believe have changed very much. I think under review all the programs and the projects that are under way are being reviewed and we hope to re-employ the people that are now employed with the department in any new programs that we introduce to the province.

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

**MR. ADAM:** Mr. Chairman, when I made my comments a while ago I didn't have my notes that I had prepared last night. There's one more concern that I'd like to bring to the Minister's attention and that is the changes which I feel are very important, and that is the changes in the Manitoba Farm Land Protection Act, and I would caution him very seriously that he will be endangering the viability of the farming industry if he does allow Canadian corporations back into land speculation, and you know, for one example, there are a number of Soviet Union companies in Canada which may well start buying land if he opens Canadian corporations. They are Canadian Corporations as such and they may even set up a company to start buying land. You're allowing moneyed interests to compete with family farms and I think that this would be very dangerous, to do this.

**MR. DOWNEY:** The member opposite, I believe, indicated at some time in earlier talks within the Committee that he owned land in quite a few municipalities, and I hope it's for the concern of all of the Manitobans that he's concerned about and not particularly for certain individuals that are large landholders now or wish to be. But I think he's strictly assuming certain things when he makes those comments that it could happen.

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

**MR. ADAM:** Yes. Well, Mr. Chairman, the Minister insists on stating repeatedly that "I own land in many municipalities," and I think that perhaps I should clear the record that I have 960 acres of farm land, agricultural land, in the municipality, which is below the average, by the way, Mr. Chairman, which is below the national average today. I think the average is close to 1,000, but I have 960 acres in Ochre River and I have a lot in Ste. Rose, a building lot in the municipality of Ste. Rose, and a building lot in the municipality of Lawrence. That is the extent of my tremendous land holdings. And I am sure the Member for Lakeside has 1,700 acres of Crown land which he hasn't paid anything for since 1975 and which he leases out to other farmers — and you know, my land is all privately owned, I haven't been bestowed any favours by the Crown, I have no Crown lands at all, whatsoever. And I believe even the member opposite has very little Crown land. And so, I just want to clarify that.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Item 1.(a)—pass.

Resolution No. 8: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$10,055,900 for Agriculture General Administration—pass.

The Committee will recess for a few moments before we start another department.

## SUPPLY — HIGHWAYS

**MR. CHAIRMAN, Mr. Warren Steen:** Committee come to order again. We are on Page 45 in the Estimates Book under Highways, under 1.(b) Administration. 1.(b)(1) Salaries.  
The Member for Ste. Rose.

**MR. ADAM:** I wanted to get some clarification from the Minister responsible for Highways in that he did mention that all funds allocated in the Estimates, \$160.5 million, have all been allocated; it's all committed, and the cupboard is bare, there isn't a dollar left. To get some clarification, when he made that statement was he referring that there are no moneys in the cupboard to complete those projects that were started or is he saying that those funds are set aside as we have for other programs or other departments?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Minister of Highways.

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, I believe that statement was made in the context that we were discussing the other evening as to whether or not the Department of Highways had additional unused capital funds or carryover of any description. My information is that — and my Deputy Minister will be here shortly — is that there is no carryover in any capital account available to Highways and that's when I made my statement, there are not capital accounts with moneys dedicated for Highways that are not

shown in these estimates.

**MR. ADAMS:** Yes, I thank the Minister for his explanation. We were left with the impression that there was no more money left, that all was committed and that there was no money, in other words, when we left and I discussed this with the Member for Seven Oaks, and he was under the same impression that there was no money left to complete the works that had been started last year.

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, let me just expand on this. It has always been the tradition, the carryover work is part of the \$160 million, and is being proceeded with in the normal manner. The references to not having capital dollars in no way inhibits the Department of Highways from carrying on or completing those projects that were undertaken and that have been re-identified if you like, as being of the type that ought to be completed. Any of the carryover projects that you will see in your pink slips — pardon me, I shouldn't use that word I guess — the pink sheets of paper in front of you. . . sufficient dollars are there, it's included in the \$160 million.

**MR. ADAM:** Yes, then would I be correct in saying that is there a carryover of \$25 million that is not shown on the \$160 million.

**MR. ENNS:** No, I believe the information given to the Committee the other evening was that of the new construction program listed in the Highways, there is possibly some \$23 million or \$24 million carryover, which is part of the \$75 million of new construction to be undertaken this year.

**MR. ADAM:** So that figure appears in the 75 million?

**MR. ENNS:** Uh huh.

**MR. ADAM:** So therefore, we are going to have roughly 50 million of new construction this year? I'm just trying to get at the. . .

**MR. ENNS:** Let's not confuse terminology. We're now talking about real things, like highways. To you, to the Member for St. George, or to the Member for Virden, because the Highways program refers to a program as being a carryover, when that road actually gets built and surfaced in your constituency, that's new construction and that's part of the new construction program, that's part of the \$75 million.

**MR. ADAM:** The Minister is indicating that there was 23 to 24 million carryover and that it now appears in the 75 million. I want that clear; that's where it is, it's not set aside such as the case in the Department of Agriculture. He did mention I believe that in order to spend \$160 million, that they would have to commit 225 million.

**MR. ENNS:** Perhaps by way of greater clarification, the 160 million total highway expenditures is roughly made up of the 85 or 80 odd millions of dollars for maintenance carrying on with the Motor Vehicle Branch and all the other functions of the department, and the \$75 million as broken out, is the new construction program and what the information given to the Committee the night before was, in order for us to spend or come close to that spending of \$75 million, we in practice over the years have over committed ourselves. We actually look out and award very often, you know, work to the extent of maybe. . . I believe we have committed ourselves to some \$118 million worth of work this year, because past years of experience have shown us through one delay or another, acquiring of land very often being the major one, or weather, poor construction weather, if we simply contracted for the \$75 million, we'd never spend it. Some delay would stop and then we would be carrying on with a much lesser Highways program. And that of course I might add, that's what leads to the annual, and it is part and parcel of the Highway programs way of doing business, the annual carryover. Obviously when I am authorized, the Department of Highways with concurrence of this Committee, will authorize, and the House will authorize Highways to spend \$75 million. If we have unusually good weather and everything is smooth sailing, then as we reach that figure, or close to that figure of \$75 million, then we will have to put into next year's carryover program, some of those road projects that you see listed in your pages just as was the practice in years before.

**MR. ADAM:** The work that's uncompleted will then lapse and be brought forward, as it has been this year?

**MR. ENNS:** It will be drawn forward in the same manner as it has been drawn forward this year.

**MR. ADAM:** And there will be no carryover. Could the Minister indicate, of the 20.5 million of capital last year that was voted for Highways, what happened to that 20.5 million?

**MR. ENNS:** I'll wait for my Deputy Minister to give me some advice on that but my understanding is that we have exhausted the total capital supply that was allocated for Highways in this year's estimates. This is the final amount of capital that was available to us as was the case in other departments over the years, but in the case of Highways, we have with set of estimates, with this

year's program, no further capital authority in any carryover position in the Department of Highways.

**MR. ADAM:** That figure is correct then, my figure of 20,573,000, is that the capital appropriation? Was there any capital carried forward from previous years? Is that the inclusive figure?

**MR. ENNS:** That's the inclusive figure, . . . back three or four years. I think I read the list, I read it out the night before. Mr. Chairman, I have no objection to continuing on with this debate but I felt we dealt with it rather conclusively Wednesday night, or the other evening, but however it's up to the members of the Committee to ask the questions they wish to ask.

**MR. ADAM:** I hope the Minister is not going to have a closure on it.

**MR. ENNS:** I never do that.

**MR. ADAM:** Could the Minister advise when the commitments were made for the \$20.5 million, the commitments, when were these . . .

**MR. ENNS:** The commitment to use any carryover capital was done during the compilation of this year's Estimates. We received no further commitments from the Department of Finance with respect to capital financing for the next year. I'm advised that the commitments made, if that's the information that the honourable member seeks, as to the committing of dollars into the capital programs of Highways was made in previous years by the previous administration. What I'm indicating to the committee now is that we have spent that money and we do not have further ongoing capital carryover.

**MR. ADAM:** Yes, I have figures for 1976-77 but I don't . . .

**MR. ENNS:** Yes, dating back to 1973-74, we had a Capital Supply Bill of some \$16.5 million. In 1974-75, a Capital Bill of \$28 million was spent and a remaining \$15 million remained in the Capital Supply Bill. In 1975-76, some \$7 million was spent from the Capital Supply Bill still leaving a \$15 million reserve in the Capital Supply Bill. In 1977-78, there was \$15 million spent out of the Capital Supply Bill and no other allocation allotted.

**MR. ADAM:** I'm not sure whether I heard the Minister on 1976-77. Did you give me a figure for that?

**MR. ENNS:** In 1976-77, \$4,300,000 was spent, still leaving the Capital Supply Bill standing at \$15 million. Then in 1977-78, \$15 million, or the entire amount, was spent and that's what the reference was made to the bare cupboard in terms of the last . . . The previous administration in their last year, exhausted the Capital Supply that was allocated to Highways — \$15,000,246.00.

**MR. ADAM:** I don't know whether these figures here are authentic or not, but I have figures for 1976-77 that show a proposed projects estimated cost of \$52,405 and a carryover of \$35,577 for 1976-77. I don't know where these come from. The previous Minister's files. While I'm looking at this sheet' Mr. Chairman, I can't help but comment that the Member for Roblin was belly-aching here like he usually does and —(Interjection)—

**A MEMBER:** Complaining.

**MR. ADAM:** . . . I prefer to call it belly-aching because the figures I have here, the estimated projects in Roblin was \$2,790,000 which there was a carryover of \$356,000 and I know that a lot of the members here are continually harping about the amount of work being done in Ste. Rose. For that year, it was less than half of what went into Roblin according to the figures I have — \$1,226,000 — but this was just only estimated. You know, it could have been changed. But I just want to get that on the record for the Member for Roblin who is always complaining that he's never getting any roads and what a terrible government we had and things.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 1.(b)(1)—pass — the Member for Lac du Bonnet.

**MR. USKIW:** Mr. Chairman, unless other members have general comments to make, I wanted to get into specifics and if that is all right, I wonder if the Minister could tell me just what the intention is with respect to the reconstruction that is under way on No. 11 north of Highway 44. That particular project was under way all winter. I suppose the question is: Is there going to be a resurfacing? I don't see anything in the new program; I just see mention of the existing carryover program but which is essentially complete, as I understand it, or practically completed.

**MR. ENNS:** Well, there is some completion of shoulder widening, grade widening, and shoulder improvement, as shown in the . . .

**MR. USKIW:** In the carryover.

**MR. ENNS:** . . . in the carry-over portion of the program.

**MR. USKIW:** Yes, this is the point, Mr. Chairman. I am aware of that and I believe there isn't much work left to be done there. I believe it was the intent of the department to resurface after the shoulders were built because that road needs resurfacing but I don't notice anything in the Estimates with respect to the upgrading of the surface of that particular highway. Perhaps there's a good reason for it.

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, I invite the honourable member to make representation to the Ministry of Highways in the normal manner for work to be done in succeeding years. There are no plans in this year's budget to resurface. The program has been designed and chosen as before you and I don't doubt for a moment that every member on either side of the House will have a number of roads or places where he would desire to see some road work. We have attempted, just by general way of explanation, to share the work reasonably well throughout the 12 highway districts which, I may mention, are not . . . with the political constituencies with perhaps the districts in Northern Manitoba — 10 is it, Mr. Brako or 12? — 10 and the District No. 1 which encompasses Winnipeg receiving the greater share of the budget.

**MR. USKIW:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I don't want to quarrel with the Minister. I understand that there is a need to prioritize and I'm not quarrelling with that and he obviously is going to use his discretion along with the departmental advice that he receives. I'm just talking about a logical sequence of events that takes place with the reconstruction of roads. There's usually the upgrading itself, and then subsequently a planned approach to resurfacing at some point or other. I just want to know the intention of the government, it doesn't have to be within this particular year.

**MR. ENNS:** Well, there would be no question that the intention would be to complete and to resurface. There is often professional advice given by Highways that they prefer to see a newly upgraded road settle down, or for weak spots or potholes to develop where perhaps compaction is less than desirable prior to putting the expensive overlay of asphalt.

**MR. USKIW:** Yes, well then, Mr. Chairman, I wonder whether the Minister could advise me with respect to whether the project on 317 is accurately described or is that an error. On Page 8 of the carryover projects 9.1 miles, it says west of PTH 12. Should that not read east? Then the other one should read west. There's only one stretch there that isn't complete as I understand it.

**MR. ENNS:** On PTH 217?

**MR. USKIW:** 317. Page 8 of the carryover projects. Yes. West of No. 12 is complete and has been for some years now. I presume that must mean east of No. 12. Perhaps the Deputy Minister could advise us. Base and asphalt surface treatment.

**MR. ENNS:** I think the way you have to read that is from west going east.

**MR. USKIW:** Oh, I see. Perhaps then I'm not reading the information properly. So that is the final phase of that particular project, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. ENNS:** That's correct.

**MR. USKIW:** I'll defer for a moment because I'm sure there are other members that want to get into the specifics and then I'll come back.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for St. George is next, then Selkirk, and then back to Ste. Rose.

**MR. BILLIE URUSKI:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In this area of administration I wanted to ask the Minister the number of staff man years that have been requested or staff that are there and how many of those are filled and how many are presently vacant and what the intentions are?

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, I believe I took that question as notice the other evening. Do we have those figures available to us at this time? Perhaps we can continue and come back to them. I'll supply those figures to the Committee momentarily.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for Selkirk.

**MR. PAWLEY:** Mr. Chairman, I wonder if I could just deal with River Road 238 from Parkdale to Lockport. As the Minister is probably quite aware it's been a constant bugbear over the years with sliding into the Red River as a result of erosion. There had been negotiations with Ottawa but they were not really successful, and at the same time there's been constant need of barricading along the River Road and of some concern especially to the operators of school buses that at some point there would be fatalities. Now approximately a year ago plans were presented for a re-routing of the road in question and those plans would have involved some very expensive work. Now I note that in the

Estimate review the Minister has made reference to remedial work and I was wondering if the Minister would enlighten us as to what his intentions are under the heading of remedial work.

**MR. ENNS:** At this point, Mr. Chairman, through you to the Member for Selkirk, the member is correct. To do, you know, major improvement of the order that he noted involving re-routing of the road was deemed inadvisable by the department for several reasons — a very serious disruption of property involved to begin with — but more important, simply the dollars, and it's our judgment that while it may not be a totally satisfactory situation we feel the best we can do is to do remedial work that will at least involve the refilling of some of the bad slides, some of the slopes, keep the erosion as stable as possible with some additional rip-rapping or other types of work that the department would undertake. In other words we hope to keep the present road in as reasonable a repair as we can, and we have not decided to go for a major re-routing of the road at this time.

**MR. PAWLEY:** In the late, late Forties a stretch along the River Road had been backed up by way of rocks and other material that should provide the support and as a result of that it has contributed to some extent to the preventing of erosion in a particular stretch along the River Road, and there had been discussions that involved the Member for Lac du Bonnet and the First Minister and myself with predecessor — I believe Mr. Drake was present, I'm not sure — about a test project in which for a short distance there'd be some effort to see whether or not piles would assist in preventing the erosion of the River Road into the river and if some money would be allocated for that. I say that because past efforts by, and certainly by the government of which I was a part, wasn't all that successful, and it was felt that there was need for some type of innovation or experimentation to see whether or not piles, or something which would be roughly equivalent to the attempts in the late Forties would be successful.

Now I know that there is certain skepticism as to the benefit of this but I wonder if the Minister has had opportunity to consider or to discuss the possibility of such a test project.

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, I can't say specifically that I've had the occasion or the time to specifically direct myself to that piece of road in the manner that the Member for Selkirk suggests. I can tell him though that I hope the department takes note of the fact, that we're not particularly happy with having to spend ten or fifteen or twenty thousand dollars there virtually every year in this remedial effort and I would undertake to the Honourable Member of Selkirk that certainly if some innovative methods can be used they ought to be used to help reduce that just about regular or yearly maintenance — the very high cost of maintenance on that piece of road. It's possible that if we in any given year can find ourselves with some additional maintenance money available, either as a result of good or ideal weather conditions, that we can undertake some remedial work other than just the patching and the surfacing kind of work that has been done by and large to date in the last number of years. I know the difficulty and the problem that that road presents. I have travelled that road in my youth, I remember it with some fondness, and I'm sure the Honourable Member for Selkirk would agree it would lose a great deal of that particular attractiveness if it were made into some super highway, you know, somewhat removed from the river bank and crashing through people's backyards and through their living rooms. We don't see ourselves solving that problem in that way with that road. I think perhaps the member's suggestions will be taken seriously by the department that we should look to whatever means of bank stabilization we can arrive at but I'm always sure the member realizes that that's an ongoing difficult problem, the Red River type of soils that we have, the nature of the river, the high and low water peaks that we have to deal with that cause the difficulty of it. It is suffice to say we will try to keep the road open and reasonably manageable for traffic.

**MR. PAWLEY:** Yes, I would just like to emphasize that I would hope that some test project of stabilization could be attempted because it had been earlier discussed and I don't want to appear to be . . . You know, I recognize the fact that you're just taking over the portfolio and during the election period some of the Minister's friends posted a sign on the road saying, "This is the condition of the road after eight years of NDP government," so I would say to the . . .

**A MEMBER:** It will say the same thing four years from now.

**MR. PAWLEY:** . . . Minister that I would hope that in 1981, for the sake of the residents along the road, that they wouldn't feel inclined to add, "This is the road after eight years of NDP government and four years of Conservative government." I would hope there would be some improvement.

**MR. ENNS:** Your generosity overwhelms me, the Honourable Member for Selkirk, I would have assumed that you would just as soon leave the road in pretty rough condition so that you can in fact put up that sign 16 years from now.

**MR. PAWLEY:** But I would like to just add one final point, that that road is probably the most scenic in the province and so close to Winnipeg, it's a tremendously scenic route. It adds greatly to the province. I fear very much that one of these days we're going to have a fatality along that road and I would hope that some real thought can be given to some projects to try to bring about improvement. Now I know the problem of rerouting and whatnot, and we didn't proceed on that path and I can hardly expect the Minister to do so.

I would like to just deal with another concern that I have, and again I mentioned it in previous years.

I find that property owners — and it's not Highways fault but I'm just wondering what can be done about it — property owners that have their property expropriated for highway purposes end up waiting for years and years and years and years to receive compensation for the taking. Word gets about and then when the department wishes to acquire land for land elsewhere, property owners will say, "Well, look I know Joe Smith, or Bill Jones, they waited for 6, 7 years to obtain their compensation." Now I know some of the problem. I guess it's with other departments and with surveyors and whatnot. I'm just wondering if the Minister would like to comment on that because I always felt it was a problem that we had failed to properly deal with and I would hope that the Minister could find some way of dealing with it more expeditiously. Only last week I had a couple of farmers complain to me that they have been waiting for well over a year for some compensation for some land that was taken by the Department of Highways a year and a half ago and that's a short space of time to some of the other complaints I had received at other times. So I would like just to receive the Minister's comments if he is aware of that problem, if he's trying to . . .

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, I'm well aware of the problem and the matter that the Member for Selkirk refers to, as a rule deals with where lands have been expropriated. There is — and the former Attorney-General will be aware and I agree — somewhat over lengthy delays in transferring and proper legal descriptions of lands to some extent. Very often it is also, of course, a question of not coming to a final settlement and, on the odd occasion, without, you know, drawn-out litigation involved. I would invite the honourable member that we should consider this when we look and perhaps reopen the Expropriation and the Land Acquisition Acts. Under the Expropriation Act now, the department is obligated to pay 80 percent of the value of the land within a prescribed number of days — 80 days or in that order — so that when you talk about these cases of people waiting too long for final payment, I think it's not fair to say that they haven't . . . In most instances, indeed if not all instances, have received 80 percent of the land value in question. There seems to be a difficulty with the remaining 20 percent and I agree, it's too long. It may call for some revision in the procedure. I would assume that at some point — and my memory doesn't serve me well — but at some point, when revisions were made to the whole business of government expropriating land for whatever reasons, that at some point in time that revision was probably made to the Expropriation Act to instruct governments to pay a percentage — in this case 80 percent of the land. That could be, perhaps, revised that it be a greater amount, closer to the total value. There seems to be a reason though, in many instances not initiated by government but by the landowner in question, why a final disposition is delayed.

**MR. PAWLEY:** I just mention to the member that last year I caused as Attorney-General late in — I believe, it was May or June and the new Attorney-General will have the report in his office — an investigation be launched in regard to delays of seven and eight years in payment of the moneys from a drainage ditch and there was fault all the way along the line. You would find that report to be quite helpful to him and Mr. Mercier has it.

**MR. ENNS:** Might I just add one more word with respect to the Member for Selkirk's concern about the River Road. One shouldn't speculate about what may happen down the line but the member is aware that there is an ongoing interest and indeed a commitment and development of river frontage property commencing right here in the City. The previous administration entered into, I believe it's called an ARC Agreement with Ottawa to pick up a desirable and valuable river frontage land here in the City heading towards that direction. It's conceivable that within the overall development, from a tourist point of view, improvements that are taking place at Lower Fort Garry, for instance, that some assistance of substance, coming from this area, perhaps shared by Ottawa and ourselves and our Tourist Branch could, in the longer run, come to the aid and benefit to the River Road that I am concerned about and that the member is concerned about.

It will never be, and I think that's understood, Highways would not look upon that road as being of importance from a transportation point of view, neither would the residents want us to look at it from that point of view. It is a scenic route such as the member described; the value being primarily for those reasons and to facilitate people enjoying the river at that location.

There seems to be as much rationale for Departments of Tourism and Recreation, etc., under agreements that are being signed from time to time with Ottawa to take on some responsibility, if they see that as desirable to bring that road into the kind of shape that the honourable member requests.

**MR. PAWLEY:** Just before leaving, the Minister has no reference to it in his estimates, but I'd appreciate any advise that he might provide in connection with the continuation of the surfacing, if there is any intention to continue the surfacing of the River Road north of Selkirk, north of the Clandeboye cutoff. There is a stretch there of two and a half or three miles — which reaches into the Netley Marsh area and cottage development in that area — which presently is in pretty bad shape has been a constant thorn. We had completed the surfacing part of the way up about four years ago and I had approached and your predecessor had it under consideration to complete the remainder of the road for surfacing purposes.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** For the members of the Committee, before we carry on with the 8stimates, the

Clerk has asked me to check with members present about the Private Members Hour and find out from all of you as to whether any of you have any intentions of speaking on the adjourned debates under Private Members. If not, we will carry on till 5:30. It's agreed. —(Interjection)— The items? Well, the Liquor Control Act, which is in Mr. Green's name and I am told he is not going to speak today on it, and the Freedom of Information Act in Mr. Ferguson's name, and he is not interested in going today. Will we carry on till 5:30? The Member for Ste. Rose.

**MR. ADAM:** Well, if they are not adjourning for Private Members Hour, but if they do, we have to pass.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Yes, I know, but I'm just trying to find out amongst the members here, and then I can report to the House Leader. We're not interested in Private Members today; we'll carry on till 5:30 then. Is the Member for Selkirk finished for the time being?

**MR. PAWLEY:** Well, I believe the Honourable Minister is going to. . .

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Minister of Highways.

**MR. ENNS:** . . . to that particular situation. There is a difficulty which the member may be aware of where there is some cross purposes at work within the departments of government, namely Water Control has expressed the concern about not in any way raising the level of that road for reasons of drainage, I presume, or whatever reasons Water Control has. We are sorting that out at the moment but my Deputy Minister informs me that Water Control has entered an objection or a caveat on to any work being done on that road until they have passed their approval on it.

**MR. PAWLEY:** The point that the Minister is referring to where the water does flood over the River Road, did this year I believe, it hadn't for the last three years, but in the water flooding over the low point in that road it covers many, many hundreds of acres and I just don't know what objection the water branch would have to the raising of that road which would assist in holding the water back and preventing it from flooding.

**MR. ENNS:** The only difference is that in essence you're building a dam and where you're sending the water elsewhere is possibly Water Control's concern. Until they themselves perhaps have the necessary design for remedial work to either by way of culverage or others that would. . . I must admit, Mr. Chairman, I am not aware of the specifics of it but my staff informs me that Water Control have an interest in that road and under those circumstances we tend to have to iron them out first before we proceed.

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

**MR. ADAM:** Mr. Chairman, we're on generalities now? Okay, since we are talking about acquisition I would like to refer to one particular case that is on the bottom of the first page, number 5. . .

**MR. CHAIAN:** Page number five?

**MR. ADAM:** Page number one, on the pink slips. The 55 feet required for widening of shoulder which is done because I think of agreement amongst farmers to prefer to give wider footage of roadway rather than go to border pits, so you know as not to jog in and out to suit every individual farmer. They try to take it right across the board, if the majority of the farmers decide to go for the wider footage, they'll go that way rather than go to borer pits, but this does create enormous problems.

One in particular, a Mr. Miller, who has I believe ten acres, and he intends to build a house and the highway requires 55 feet of his property. His field is already in place for a future dwelling; he has a trailer in place at the present time which is temporary and now the highway require 55 feet. The house will have to be built further back than what was anticipated and in fact it will be built right on top of his septic field. There is the problem also of the Land Acquisition; he knows he gets \$150 an acre or whatever it is for three acres of road allowance, 55 feet. And here he is going to have to spend \$1,500 to move a field back and we don't know whether he will have, I suppose he will have sufficient property left to be at least 25 feet back from the road allowance, I don't know what the regulations are on that. There is a problem there and somehow they had a chance to go through some appeal mechanism, but I don't know whether they had. I am just wondering if there is any way that this particular case could be looked at, it's a Mr. Miller anyway.

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, I wonder if I could indicate to the honourable member that what he is describing is of course a good part of my everyday life and it is always a disrupting situation when this has to be done. But I would certainly invite the honourable member to provide my office with the name and address of the person involved. I can't deal with the specific person but I certainly invite the honourable member to bring that to the attention of my department and we will certainly look into it. There are procedures available to him in the whole process of the government acquiring the land, that begin with the initial steps by government, then the Land Value Appraisal Commission takes a

look at it to see whether or not pricewise the property owner is being dealt with in their judgment reasonably fairly. And then there is of course, in the final recourse, the last resort I suppose is the courts, although I appreciate that this is seldom sought or in many instances it is too expensive to seek. But there's also the Ombudsman. But I would ask the honourable member to bring that kind of information to me privately or to members of my staff.

**MR. ADAM:** Mr. Chairman, I believe it was last week we requested the number of SMYs on the different departments. It seems if we had a printed sheet here given to us, we would not have to ask that question on every item, we could probably be a lot quicker and a lot faster if we had that information instead of asking on every item how many SMYs and how many unfilled and how many vacancies and how many on contract and how many on permanent, and so on.

**MR. ENNS:** I can give you the overall figures at this time. The question was asked the other evening as a comparison from the previous year to this year, and I am informed that in Highways, a year ago, we had 864 permanent positions with 81 being vacant, 49 term positions, one contract, and 1,829 departmental largely composed of the maintenance staff, for a grand total of 2,743 employees employed with the Department of Highways at any one given period of time, and those were last year's figures — 2,743 SMYs .

**MR. USKIW:** When you say last year's, how many were vacant?

**MR. ENNS:** SMYs, and 81 were vacant. This year's approved staffing level or today, we have 876 permanent SMYs with 79 still remaining vacant; 47 term positions, and 1,830 departmental, for a total of 2,753 SMYs with 79 SMYs being vacant. So your difference is 2,743 as compared to 2,753, an increase of 10, Mr. Chairman, and I rather suspect that when you consider that the Department of Highways expands its operations every year with every mile that's being built, that in the department and with the capable management of the Department of Highways it was very hard for even this government to find fat.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Is the Member for Ste. Rose finished for the time being?

**MR. ADAM:** I am just wondering whether. . .

**MR. ENNS:** I can make that available to honourable members if they want, perhaps we can duplicate that.

**MR. ADAM:** I am just wondering whether members of the opposition will require SMYs from each department. I have it broken down.

**MR. ENNS:** We can do that at any particular department, or division that you ask for, but I think if I may, Mr. Chairman, I think that kind of information is of particular interest and note to members if notable changes have occurred in the department from one year to the other year. It's obvious that in the Department of Highways, little or no changes have occurred from the year just previous when they had the responsibility for the department and I would ask the members to take that into consideration.

Just in concluding then, Mr. Chairman, on the sheets that will be made available to the members, it also indicates just where the differences occur in the breakdown of the various departments.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for St. George.

**MR. URUSKI:** There's only one question on that point. In those vacancies that there's 79 staff man years vacant, are those in the permanent positions? They've all been as they related to permanent positions — 81 for the previous year and 79 to the permanent positions?

**MR. ENNS:** All permanent positions, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. URUSKI:** Very good, okay.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for Lac du Bonnet.

**MR. USKIW:** Mr. Chairman, the other day I asked the Minister to indicate to us just what stage we're at in the location studies for a new bridge across the Red River linking the East Selkirk to the West Selkirk area and so on. I wonder in asking that question whether the department can indicate to us along with that, what the traffic count is, because I think that's probably a very revealing item in itself as to the need for a more modern facility there. It doesn't have to be now, Mr. Chairman, but if that can be provided for us some time so we would have that information.

**MR. ENNS:** Staff is taking note of that and we'll provide that information.

**MR. USKIW:** Is there any information on location studies for another bridge?

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, the answer I gave in the House on that question essentially can't be elaborated on. At this point it cannot even be said that survey and design work is being done because to do that, one would have to have had the location in mind and the actual land perhaps being acquired. It's at the functional study stage where they are looking at appropriate places for that crossing to be made. I think the department shares the concern of the member that the crossing is becoming imminently more necessary, partly because of the experience again this spring with the temporary closure of the Selkirk Bridge.

**MR. USKIW:** Mr. Chairman, I simply want to suggest to the Minister that I know there will be a great deal of interest as to the location of another bridge having regard to the continuance or otherwise of the Lockport Bridge, but I made the suggestion, notwithstanding the question of the Lockport Bridge, that given the volume of traffic as between east and west sides of the Red River in the Selkirk area, that I think that it warrants very serious consideration of a modern approach so that we don't have the frequent inconvenience of having to travel many extra miles in order to get to and from work on both sides — traffic moves both ways. Many people from Selkirk work on the east side of the river and many from the east side work on the west side. It's also very difficult for the truckers, the businessmen and so on. So I would just leave it at that, but I would hope that the department and the government looks at that one in a very serious way because it has been a problem with us now for . . . well, I suppose as long as that bridge has been there with the exception of the fact that the frequency of traffic is so much greater today.

The next question I have, Mr. Chairman, has to do with Provincial Road 212 and 213 — on Page 17. It says Highway 212 and 213: 5 miles. Would that be a continuation of Garvin Avenue to the intersection of 212 and then north on 212? Is that what is meant by that reference, Mr. Chairman?

**MR. ENNS:** On the Provincial Road . . .

**MR. USKIW:** 212 and 213 — 5 miles — PR 206 Cooks Creek is the location. Now, as I would take it, Mr. Chairman, that would mean a portion of 213 up to the intersection with 212 and then north to Cooks Creek. That's correct? Then may I ask the Minister whether there has been any progress made, Mr. Chairman. Well, perhaps maybe I should leave that to the latter part of my remarks.

Is the department intending to upgrade the whole area with respect to 212 having to do with the tourist trade into the Cooks Creek Grotto and Museum, and whether the intention would be to upgrade, to make it dust-free at some point in time as between Garvin Avenue and Highway 44? Now, I'm not suggesting that it's something that has to be done right away but I'm merely pointing out that there is a tremendous number of tourists go through that area every year and it's a very dusty situation, so that either salt application, a fairly heavy salt application or perhaps even a base coat or something like that would be the logical thing to do there, given the volume of traffic.

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, the department is involved in acquiring some additional land in that general area that will enable us to upgrade the road, the facility, and it would follow that in due course the remarks of the Honourable Member from Brokenhead would be taken into account. I would ask the department to take a look at — I think by and large they do where special circumstances prevail, call for an undue amount of traffic. The difficulty with the very heavy application of dust control material, it sometimes interferes with the ongoing maintenance of the road and we have done it in the past in those circumstances where we know that we are within a year or two of providing a surface treatment, then that consideration no longer is as great.

**MR. USKIW:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the point the Minister is making. It's true that some times it's better to be somewhat patient and do a proper job with respect to the surface treatment. Could I then ask the Minister whether there is any progress on the possible relocation of 213 on the north side of Hazelridge as has been suggested by municipal people. I believe there were negotiations. Now, where are they at or what is happening there is the question, Mr. Chairman?

**MR. ENNS:** I'm advised, Mr. Chairman, that there has been no finalization of those discussions at this time.

**MR. USKIW:** Well, Mr. Chairman, could I ask the Minister whether it's an open question or whether it's been foreclosed by the government for any reason whatever? Is it still something that should be pursued on the part of the council, the R.M. of Springfield, or is the government suggesting that it is not really interested in pursuing that course of action?

**MR. ENNS:** Well, I think that the answer stands that the discussions aren't closed. There appears to be some area of obligation on the part of the municipality that to date they haven't been prepared to accept in terms of taking back jurisdiction of a piece of road when we've assumed the responsibility for the new road. But indications are from staff that it's not a matter that is closed: it can be pursued.

**MR. USKIW:** My last question, Mr. Chairman, has to do with I believe it's Highway 235 — that's the highway through the Narrows, isn't it? Yes. Not a highway in my own particular constituency but I think an important link between eastern Manitoba and western Manitoba, a highway that is

desperately crying for upgrading and surfacing. I believe there is a project on that one, is there not? —(Interjection)— I see, it's just the carry-over. There is nothing beyond that is there, Mr. Chairman?

**MR. ENNS:** No, it's got to be done first.

**MR. USKIW:** As I recall it, Mr. Chairman, I believe the problem there had to do with drainage and I'm just wondering whether it's the government's intention to deal with that whole problem along 235 in a systematic way to at least partly each year upgrade it so that we would have a decent highway system through the Interlake for the many people that travel through there for tourism reasons or whatever.

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, the time that the Highways budget was being worked on, the former Minister of Agriculture's concern about this road was noted as having been expressed in previous years that this road ought to receive some prioritization. I can inform the honourable member that I concur with the importance of that particular piece of road and we are hopefully embarked on a three-year program that will see the kind of improvements made to the base of that road which have to be made before the application of the surface can be done. Members that have travelled that road — the Member for St. George, I am sure, the Member for Ste. Rose — there are some serious problems that involve rather expensive rockfill applications. There are some further problems involving the co-operation of the Water Control Department to provide drainage in the area, at least in terms of its effect on the highway. The exact dollar figure that is being spent in that area escapes me at the moment. The department hasn't got a fixed amount but I'm given to believe that it's substantial, in the order of over half-a- million dollars.

**MR. USKIW:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I don't want to belabour it. I'm sure the department must feel that that is a very important link to the highway system in Manitoba and I simply emphasize that we would not want to be critical of the department if they wanted to be somewhat aggressive in trying to redress that particular situation.

**MR. ENNS:** It will be noted, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for Selkirk.

**MR. PAWLEY:** Mr. Chairman, I might just support the comments made by the Member for Lac du Bonnet in connection with the connection west and east of Selkirk and I would hope that in the studies that are made pertaining to a different connection, bridge connection, that as much effort be made as is possible to ensure that the connection is maintained in the east-west Selkirk connection for the reasons that the member mentioned, as well as insofar as Winnipeg is concerned, on the east side of the River there is presently lots of connection and the same thing on the west side of the river. The important connection is the east-west connection to the Selkirks, and ten miles out of the way for people to go to their place of work would be an expense and inconvenience.

Secondly, I would like to just comment — though I know that it's out of the Minister's direct jurisdiction — I do have an impression that at times there is too much concern for speed as against safety. I want to say that I probably have come to realize this from experience and the change in the speed on Highway No. 9 from 60 down to 50 m.p.h. I wasn't too sure whether that was a good idea at the time, but it has worked out very very well and those that were unhappy at the time are now applauding it. I do feel that there would be very few that would want to see the speed zone changed back up. But in the areas surrounding the City of Winnipeg, and there are many many highways now, where there has been heavy building take place, homes close to the highways, small children — and we still have 60 m.p.h. speed zones. I want to specifically refer to the McPhillips road and the fact that we have a surfaced road there, possibly 30 homes in the space of one-and-one-half miles and probably 50 or 60 pre-school children and a very great and understandable concern that parents have for the speed zone, and yet it seems to be difficult sometimes for reductions of speeds to take place as though it were more important to transport, to convey traffic than to protect lives. I only mention that — I think the Minister might wish to comment — but I do think it's a question of overall policy as to how the board interprets government policy. I would appreciate the Minister's comments on that.

Specific questions I would like to then pose is insofar as the four-lane highway, No. 8 highway, leading up to Winnipeg Beach and on to Gimli, how far is it intended to four-lane that highway beyond where it is at the present time? Presently it's reached the St. Andrews Airport area. I don't know how far the department intends to continue the four-laning, and is it intended to do it over a span of years? If so, how many years is it planned to continue that four-laning?

Another question I would like to pose, and I do believe that it's an area that we'll have to discuss under Municipal Affairs. I suppose the Minister, I don't know whether the Minister is on the Land Use Planning Committee or not, a committee called PLUC, but certainly the Minister of Highways has a very important role there —(Interjection)— Yes. The same No. 9 highway that I mentioned has become so eaten up, nibbled away at, by egresses and ingresses, that it's becoming more and more a dangerous road to travel upon. More and more subdivisions are being approved along that highway because of various pressures, more and more cars are using that highway as they pour on to the highway from new subdivisions that are being opened up, and the number of accidents is certainly increasing despite the lowering of the speed signs. So, I'd like to know, one, in general, the Minister's

view is to preventing these type of occurrences from continuing elsewhere. It's too late for No. 9, I fear; too well nibbled at now — I don't know what can be done at this point. Number two specifically, are there plans underway to study an alternative corridor from Selkirk into Winnipeg to avoid the dangers and the congestion and the problems of No. 9 in order to transport vehicles from Selkirk into Winnipeg rapidly? And if there are plans, what are those plans?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Minister of Highways.

**MR. ENNS:** Well, Mr. Chairman, firstly, let me say that I appreciate the member's remarks with respect to the reduced speed limits on Manitoba's highways. I'm not so sure as yet whether the public generally will be that benevolent, particularly once the summer camping season is upon us and people are off in either direction east or west, particularly on our four-laned facilities, whether or not they will appreciate the reduced speeds. However, I concur with his overall views about it, that the experience is proving by and large reasonably successful, and I must say, being better accepted than this Minister thought would be the case. I have received a minimal of complaints.

The question of four-laning generally, the four-lane is perhaps the most expensive form of highway construction that we engage in and we have three or four areas that have just about similar patterns and densities of traffic that are receiving attention by the department, No. 8 being one of them, No. 59 another one, No. 7 being another one and No. 12, tying back to the Perimeter. In addition to that, of course, No. 75 is lurking on the horizon, all major expensive multi-million dollar projects involving interchanges where they come up to the Perimeter, and I can only indicate to the honourable member specifically that an additional 3.1 million miles is being completed on No. 8, Parks Creek north to PR-230, and that it will take its turn in the order of priorities as the department and as this Minister sees them arising. The construction started last year by the previous administration is being continued on a similar four-lane facility for No. 7 highway, which is a badly needed improvement in that area. I indicated in my opening remarks, and there are in the Estimates before you, moneys that will enable us to commence the four-laning of No. 12, Steinbach north to the Perimeter — to Trans Canada, pardon me, to Trans Canada. But I think members can appreciate that on the overall budget, even with the amount of dollars that we're talking about, the department has to portion out the work, and in some cases stretch out the work even though we perhaps would like to do it sooner. But in fairness to other regions of the province, the north, the city, and the large number of rural roads that the Member for Ste. Rose, the Member for Virden still would like to see built, we cannot allocate an inordinate amount of moneys to these major projects. But they are proceeding and I think that a few years down the line, four or five years down the line, there will be major improvements in these high density traffic areas.

The member made comment about the situation of No. 9 highway; I suppose it is the prime example of no planning over the years, and I hold no specific government task or responsibility for that. And I must tell you that in the Department of Highways we see no particular way of improving that situation in the immediate foreseeable future. We hope that perhaps the improvement on the No. 8, the McPhillips, will in some cases be of some help but we appreciate that a large number of persons will continue to use No. 9 and it is simply a built up area all the way.

**MR. PAWLEY:** Is there any thought being given to an alternative corridor beyond No. 9? I want to first assure the honourable member that I wasn't pressing for a speed-up in the proposals re the four-laning on No. 8, because I accept that the department has plans there. I certainly am not saying that that should be completed to Winnipeg Beach over the next year, two, three years. It was only a question of interest as to the progress, I'm not pressing for any speed-up in that project. I'm more concerned really about whether there are any thoughts as to preparing a study for an alternative corridor into Winnipeg from Selkirk, as an alternative to No. 9.

**MR. ENNS:** I am advised, Mr. Chairman, that while there are no immediate or specific plans that I could indicate to the honourable members of this Committee, the department is always concerned about entrances to and from the city and to major traffic generating points like Selkirk, and whether or not in the future planning, part of the river crossing systems that was mentioned just a little while ago, whether that can be part of an alternative, it's an ongoing kind of thing the department will look at. My remarks about No. 9 though, specifically, are that it's really beyond redemption. I know the member was talking about an alternative route rather than doing anything that would prove so disruptive that it would simply not be acceptable in terms of making No. 9 a better and freer flowing traffic artery.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for Virden.

**MR. MCGREGOR:** Mr. Chairman, I would like to just question through you the Minister. I see I do have a new bridge across the Assiniboine Valley and just certainly to bring him up to date, how deteriorated the bridge is there, that last summer it was cut right off, and it's well to say some of our open roads we want, but we can always go a mile or two around on a municipal road, but there you're bottled in; you either cross it with a very limited amount of grain or you go by Oak Lake or Minota which is huge mileage because it is a valley, it is a river, if you can't go across that, you're really

causing a lot of mileage, and I see it is on the program and would there be a hope of it being completed as I know there's a lot of work into crossing Assiniboine Valley and the 2.6 miles. Would there be some hope of that being completed this year? Is that an impossibility on a bridge?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Minister of Highways.

**MR. ENNS:** My Deputy Minister tells me there's a good possibility that that can be done. I would think that the member is also aware though that in many instances some of that work on river crossings is undertaken during the winter. What likely will happen is that the necessary approach work, and there's difficulties with bank stabilization anywhere near the Assiniboine River, but the Deputy Minister informs me that there's a likelihood that that project could be completed this season.

**MR. MCGREGOR:** Well, I know the old bridge is just awfully, it's just a very light tonnage can go over it, and it's the only one through, so I just . . . The other one I was concerned with was, of course it's out of my territory, but it's one I'm certainly involved with, and that's on Trans Canada No. 1. I see you've got a recapping from 250 west and our suicide corner is immediately east of 250. I hope you don't recap that until there's some way of taking that dangerous knoll and double curve S, we brought that up to other Ministers and it's hoped whenever there's work done that's first and foremost.

**MR. ENNS:** I can indicate to the Honourable Member for Virden that my colleague the honourable Mr. McGill has often expressed concern about that same piece of road and we are looking at redesign to make that a safer stretch of the Trans Canada Highway. We certainly wouldn't be putting new dollars on top of the existing facility before some change is made.

**MR. MCGREGOR:** Knowing it will be a four-lane some years down the road, next year or the year after.

**MR. ENNS:** Well, Mr. Chairman, depending on the general outlook of the Member for Virden, it may well have to await the completion of the highway, of No. 8 to Winnipeg Beach, or something like that.

**MR. MCGREGOR:** You say the outlook or the behaviour. The behaviour is real good, I believe.

**MR. ENNS:** I was just making a general reference to your overall outlook on life.

**MR. MCGREGOR:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for St. George.

**MR. URUSKI:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I shouldn't have given up my chance to speak before when I had a few specific questions, but I've made some notes. The Minister was commenting with the Member for Lac du Bonnet on PR-235 as being a very important link. There's no doubt that the condition of the base at the time it was done should really not have been done. I don't think there's any disagreement there except with the Minister of the day when that road was being put through. But I wanted to know specifically, I know that the right of way purchasing was to have been done last year, whether it's been completed and whether or not any tenders have been let on that 24 miles to date that is being upgraded?

**MR. ENNS:** We'll take that question as notice, but while we — I just want to put on the record my specific interest in that road as well, having had the pleasure of being the Minister some 10 years ago when the initial contracts were let for that bridge for which I take some pride in. I know that your administration completed the bridge and your Minister named it the Campbell Bridge, and I can indicate to honourable members that Mr. Campbell, the former premier, chose to drive over that bridge just last weekend on his way to Swan River and he thought it was a fine structure. Now I'd like to build the approaches just as well, both sides. But again, we're talking considerable amount of mileage in an area that road building isn't easy and I have instructed the department, or asked the department, to forego perhaps, even if it means stretching the program or reducing the distances that can be undertaken in any given year, but to do the job properly which includes in many instances a fair bit of rock fill to provide the base.

**MR. URUSKI:** For the Minister, he may very well be aware, a stretch of 235 was about two feet under water for some two or three months a year or so ago and I know the department now has conducted that two mile of rock fill and has covered the Dog Lake Pass fairly well and I must say there's no doubt it's holding, so that is of course one of the worst areas. But the whole road of course as you have indicated, has to be upgraded in terms of a good solid base. But in that same vicinity we have the Dog Creek Indian Reservation and there were discussions and negotiations last year between the Reserve and the department for upgrading of I believe it was some three miles of road from PR.235 to the business section on the Reserve and with the lateness in time and the band not being sure whether they had the necessary funds for the cost sharing, I'd like to ask the Minister what negotiations have been, whether they have been completed, whether that work is going to continue and also in that vein, what the government policy will be with respect to negotiating with the Reserve for the possible

extension of PR.417 which goes west from Eriksdale and ends at the Reserve, sort of right at the lake with nothing being there. In my mind, the logical extension would be a renegotiation with the Reserve for the right of way and making that a PR as it should be to complete a necessary link west of Eriksdale.

**MR. ENNS:** We have some difficulties with respect to the earlier comments by the member having to do with the road building on the Reserve proper. We still have it as Highways' policy that we require the land and there has been some difficulties in some instances to get the necessary right of way. If the province is building a PR road, a public road, there is the delicate situation of negotiating right of way with the Indian community on Reserve land. It's been indicated to me that that has been partly the reason for some of the delay in this instance. The question of future destination of provincial road 417 is something that no doubt the department will want to consider; we have no finalized plans in that regard at this time.

**MR. URUSKI:** You didn't comment on the three miles that I mentioned that was under negotiation. Could he indicate whether the band has committed itself to putting up their share of the funds and will that project go ahead this year from PR.235 south to the business section of that public community.

**MR. ENNS:** My indication is that it's not a question so much of funds, it's a question of right of way.

**MR. URUSKI:** I thought that that matter had been resolved, but the Minister indicates there has been — I thought there was a resolution on file from the band that they are prepared to give the necessary right of way at least for these three miles. If that is not the case, I'd like to know because I believe the band itself have indicated to me, at least the Chief and some of the councillors have indicated to me that they would be prepared to turn over the necessary right of way. If the Minister says that certainly has not been communicated to the department, I'd like to know that.

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, I would invite the Honourable Member for St. George to be in contact with myself or members of the department, but the current indication is that there has been some change of mind on the Reserve with respect to granting highways right of way. The member may not be aware of that and I cannot say for certain if that is in fact the case or whether there is just a misunderstanding at the moment, but the advice that I receive is that that is principally the reason for the delay, it's not a question of funds in this instance. We would be prepared to go on the 50-50 basis that we enter into with any other municipality or LGD or with the Indian Reserve in question.

**MR. URUSKI:** Fine, thank you. I have several other questions.

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, I wonder if I could just interrupt. I certainly welcome the ranging discussion that we're having and have no desire to change it, recognizing that we could be I suppose talking these questions on the construction program, but that's no difficulty with a proviso that perhaps we get those questions asked that we want to get asked and answered and then move on.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** To the members of the Committee and the Minister of Highways, we have a very good group of persons questioning you here and I am sure that when they have had their kick at the cat we'll knock off a lot of items very quickly, and I have found particularly with dealing with the Member for Lac du Bonnet that if we have a gentleman's agreement that we'll scatter all over the waterfront and then we'll pass the estimates. The Member from St. George.

**MR. URUSKI:** I have a number of other comments I wish to make, Mr. Chairman, and I would like to impress upon the Minister that one area, although it is not within my constituency, it is within the Minister's constituency, and that relates to PR.228 from Inwood to Narcisse which has been upgraded over the last number of years but there is the final touches of the asphalt surface treatment that has to be completed. This area of course serves as the major bus route and transportation link for all the communities all the way from Jackhead and Fisher River through to Hodgson, Fisher Branch, and the area south, and that is the only stretch on that road that requires any surfacing to complete the north-south link with Teulon and No. 7 Highway. I hope the Minister, and I am sure he will, keep that in mind and look at that in future years.

I'd like to also comment on PR.325, west of Ashern to PR.235, I presume, and I wasn't aware of that until a year or two ago, that in order for that highway to take a surfacing that that highway has to be upgraded once again, that there is required right of way to widen the highway before it can take the necessary surfacing that would give it a dust free link with PR.235 and of course The Narrows and the west side. There is a lot of traffic from Ashern west linking with Ste. Rose and Dauphin, and there's no doubt that that road is sort of the other link of joining the west side of the province with the Interlake area.

I'd like to ask specifically to the Minister whether or not the road that was upgraded west of Fisher Branch and northward, the stretch of six miles west of Fisher Branch has been upgraded two years ago and there is the stretch that goes north to PR.325 in the, what is known as the Fisherton area, whether any work will be done on the north-south stretch this year and whether or not the department is considering to . . . really logically would be to extend that as a provincial road 233 and

ending at provincial road 325 linking that up with the eastern portion of 233 which ends at Fisher Branch.

As well I'd like to ask the Minister whether in future considerations there is any thought being given to an east-west, another east-west link in the central portion of the Interlake virtually from Fisher Branch to Riverton, namely PR.329. I know there was some thought to look at PR.329 from PTH.16 to at least PR.326 where that portion of road, I would say some 16 miles, requires and is relatively in poor shape, at least six to eight miles is in relatively poor shape over the years. I know that was at one time a municipal road when the province took it over, there has been a little bit of upgrading in some portions of it but the western portions of that road I would hope that the department and the Minister would look at that.

I'd like to comment on another road that is on the carryover program and that is PR.226. I am pleased that that is on the program and continued on for upgrading. There are several bad curves in that highway that I hope will be straightened out along with the bridge across the Icelandic River because that area there has been over the years almost a death trap to many motorists, because it happens that the bridge is right in the middle of the curve and there have been a number of cars ending up in the Icelandic River on numerous occasions, so I am pleased that that work is going to go on and I would hope that stretch of road will be straightened out.

I am pleased as well that the Minister and the department are considering at least in the new program, even though that is the only stretch of road in the program within the northern Interlake, and that is PR.234, the purchase of right of way from north of Riverton towards the Pine Dock Matheson Island way. That road no doubt has given and caused the department many concerns over the years and I presume that that will be the beginning of a long term upgrading program.

One other area that I wanted to comment on and that is the area of PTH.7 which is presently under construction from the Perimeter to Stonewall. I presume that with the cost of the reconstruction of the road . . . I wanted to have one specific and to ask whether within the purchasing of the right of way and the properties whether the department had to reconstruct a home in the vicinity as I see one brand new home that was constructed in the last two or three years and several hundred feet to the east of it another brand new home of the same design and same type is being reconstructed, and I presume of course because of the widening, this would have had to occur and I guess, when the Member for Selkirk had commented earlier, no matter how well you might want to plan your highways the problem of sprawl and distance away from right of ways will always pose a problem to the reconstruction and upgrading of highways.

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, George laid a lot on me in terms of his concerns about the road. I'd like to say that I appreciate his acknowledgment that the carry on programs are in fact onstream and carrying on. The number of roads that he's mentioned will certainly and many of them he was putting on the record is concern for future development of these roads and I don't think there's any question that as time and moneys permit, the development of these roads will take place. I remind the honourable member that I am very much a fellow Interlaker and drive these roads as well.

He specifically asked about the PTH No. 228 and I would indicate to him that there is a considerable amount of work being done on the eastern portion of that road. The particular area that he has brought to the attention of the committee has also been brought to my attention on several occasions. As he indicated, it is the northern extremity of my own constituency. We are aware that the piece of road in question is ready for actual surface treatment and my department advises that while it isn't specifically listed on the program at this time, it's that kind of a piece of road that can be undertaken if we find a roadblock or delay somewhere else, it's one that can be considered. I can indicate to the honourable member that that kind of consideration is being given by that road. By sheer coincidence, the federal member, the Honourable Mr. Peter Masniuk, has also expressed an interest in that road. Whether or not it has anything to do with an upcoming federal election has nothing to do. . . but it may just be possible that in this instance at least the federal member would have no objections to being associated with a provincial minister in this coming election. In any event, we'll watch that road with interest and report progress.

The honourable member indicated a particular interest in some of the practices with respect to land acquisition and/or building removal, or the building of buildings, on No. 7 Highway. I'm informed that it is not the Department of Highways to build houses if, in fact, there were new houses built, it could well come from funds made available as a result of having expropriated yards or homesites and the member is aware that it was a costly procedure in acquiring that right of way in the sense that there was fairly severe disruption, some farm yards were severely disturbed and indeed houses had to be moved off of property. This, of course, was taken into consideration at the time compensation was made.

Mr. Chairman, I take the rest of the honourable member's comments as stated. I would ask him to continue giving me his loyal support as an opposition member, when I seek the necessary funds to build these roads over the next 12 or 16 years, that he will continue to see that the necessary funds are allocated to the Department of Highways to do that.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for St. Gr George.

**MR. JURSKI:** I thank the Minister. I will try to have him do likewise for me in a much sooner time

frame than he is talking about.

I did want to make one further comment dealing with the comments made by the Member for Selkirk in terms of delay in payouts and dealing with land acquisition and the like. I'm wondering whether the department itself is faced with problems dealing with the final legal survey that has to be done in terms of having that legal survey being accepted by the Land Titles Office. I believe that there is a bit of professional, if I may call it professional jealousy, by the registered surveyors within the Province of Manitoba and that they require that the necessary legal surveys be done by a registered surveyor. Is that at all causing any delay or any problems or is that just part of the whole process?

**MR. ENNS:** It's been indicated to me that that is certainly part of the delay. I might also point out that it's a requirement of the Manitoba Land Survey Act that these kind of surveys be undertaken by registered surveyors. I'm also informed that it's the actual registration of property that further adds to the delay. Now, whether or not this really needs to hold up final settlement, is a question well put, particularly in instances where there is no contention, where there is agreement with the former landowner and the new landowner — in this instance the Department of Highways — and where there is no contest or potential court case looming and where, perhaps through a simple signature, you know, removing any further obligations from the Department of Highways upon receipt of the final figures, whether or not there can't be a method of cutting some of the time down or cutting down through some of the tape. That's a worthwhile question that I think we should examine. I think I can indicate to you that, and you're perhaps aware I do this with kindness to my fellow Minister in Mines and Resources who is responsible for water control. Water Control probably has even a greater difficulty in this particular area than Highways. At least, that has been some of my experience with some of my constituents that there have indeed been delays of upwards to 8 and 9 years or 12 years, as the Honourable Member for Brokenhead indicates. I think that's unconscionable and unless there is a legal reason, a legal reason why that's the case, it's difficult for me to comprehend and I'll charge my Deputy Minister, Mr. Joseph Brako, who has otherwise proved himself reasonably efficient on Tuesdays and Thursdays to undertake that task to see whether we can't speed up that process.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** To the Minister of Highways, I might tell him, even though we're getting late in the afternoon that the member to my right is from the constituency of Lac du Bonnet now and not Brokenhead but you would have been right in the '50s. The Member for St. George. Okay. The Member for Ste. Rose and then Lac du Bonnet.

**MR. ADAM:** Mr. Chairman, the list that is provided to us of the SMYs, shows increases of staff and in a couple of instances there are transfers of staff from one department, within the department, to . . . Are there any decreases in staff in any of the departments?

**MR. ENNS:** Well, the decreases, I think, are noted in the breakdown at the bottom of those overall figures.

**MR. ADAM:** Well, Mr. Chairman, it says staff increases or maybe I'm not understanding this correctly.

**MR. ENNS:** It works out to be a net increase of ten. There was an overall increase in permanent staff of 12 SMYs with a reduction of 2 SMYs within the departments for a net increase of 10. These are permanent staff man years.

**MR. ADAM:** Could the Minister advise when the wage agreement was completed in 1977? Is there a wage agreement contract completed in 1977 with staff?

**MR. ENNS:** I'm informed that the old contract expired on or about March 27th of this year and the new contract is presently under negotiations.

**MR. ADAM:** The reason I ask, the figures in the left-hand column of Estimates do not agree with the figures I have for the General Administration and other departments as well for 1977-78. Like, I have the figure of \$652,000 for administration for salaries which is an increase of \$50,500 over 1976-77 but in the book, it shows \$681,500.00.

**MR. ENNS:** I can indicate to you, in Administration which provides for the salaries and expenses of the office of the Minister, Deputy Minister, Assistant Deputy Minister, Personnel, Accounting and Central Records, where we had the voted moneys of 1977-78 listed at \$681,500 and the request for 1978-79 is \$670,000 or a decrease of \$11,500 and accounts to decrease in staff reduction by two persons.

**MR. ADAM:** There is a decrease of 2 SMYs in the Salaries, Administration Salaries.

**MR. ENNS:** In Administration, yes.

**MR. ADAM:** \$11,000.00?

**MR. ENNS:** \$11,500 actual decrease.

**MR. ADAM:** I'm wondering why my figures don't correspond with the . . .

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, it would help if the honourable member indicated what figures he is using. He's using the previous year's figures.

**MR. ADAM:** Yes, the Minister's figures last year and the Supplies and Expenses which is the next item do correspond with the figures I have here and they correspond with the left-hand column. That's why I ask if there was a wage settlement or a wage change last year why there should be a difference with the . . . The Other Expenditures correspond on this item with what I have here but not the Salaries. There's an almost \$30,000 difference. I'm reading from the Minister's book here, the previous Minister's book.

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, it has been indicated to me that the reason why the salaries figures — and you'll find throughout, if you're comparing those figures — will not jibe with them because the general salary increase that was put in was a general salary increase and then split in proportion to all departments. In our particular instance, the general salary increase, that was for the whole government that is being allocated to departments in this manner, is some \$8 million and that then gets put into by the administration people tagg on to all the salary items in the book. We will be out of kilter with your former Minister's book and my book consistently on the salary question for that reason.

**MR. ADAM:** I see. Then we have a decrease of 2 SMYs which would leave what? 4,826, is that correct?

**MR. ENNS:** The decrease is correct of 2 SMYs. The amount indicated or charged to General Administration is \$11,500 because I imagine some of the costs will have been charged to Motor Vehicle and others.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Okay, the Member for Lac du Bonnet or would you like to call it 5:30? Or would you like to pass page-by-page?

**MR. USKIW:** Mr. Chairman, I might just make one comment and the Minister might think about it during his dinner period. I have a number of items, Mr. Chairman, but one in particular I would that I would like the department to be able to respond to and that is the progress with respect to the linking of the east and west side of the Interlake, 228, 229. During the period when I had the responsibility for the FRED Program there were briefs submitted asking that we provide an east-west link somewhere through the middle of the Interlake area. 228 was part of that and we did some work there. I think 229 is a continuation or something like that. It is just for the information to the department, if they have anything to suggest to the Minister. I wouldn't mind to have some report on that in the evening session.

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, I will respond to that after the supper hour adjournment.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** We will all it 5:30 and Committee will rise and reconvene at 8:00 o'clock.

## SUPPLY - EDUCATION

**MR. CHAIRMAN, Mr. Abe Kovnats:** I would direct the honourable members to Page 25, Education, Resolution No. 41. Clause 1. Departmental Administrative Support Services. 1.(b)(1)Salaries—pass — the Honourable Member for St. Johns.

**MR. CHERNIACK:** Mr. Chairman, there's some comments I'd like to make on this section which deals with the Deputy Minister's salary — he's coming in, he already looks apprehensive — and with the administration of the department.

Firstly, I want to deal with the manner in which the former Deputy Minister was discharged and I want to pay a tribute to him. I want to indicate, and I'm pleased that the First Minister who did the dastardly deed is present in the House, Mr. Chairman, to e indicate that we have — and he's leaving so that's his privilege, Mr. Chairman. He says he has business to do and I believe that. I think he has a great deal of business to do, especially to correct so many of the ills that in six months have already been manifest in the Province of Manitoba.

Mr. Chairman, the former Deputy Minister of Education has a record of educational contribution to this province which is not matched by many people of his age. hen he came to be employed by the government eight years ago he had a great deal of recognition in various aspects of his work in the field of education, and I remember first hearing of his educational contribution when he was a teacher in the River Heights area and his reputation as a teacher — his reputation both amongst

students and parents was enviable, I think, and should have been envied by all teachers in the province. And one heard of his progressive approach and one heard of the way in which the students were anxious to attend his classes in order to learn what he was able to teach them. He then, as I recall it, became an academician in the field of education. He worked in research in education and was recognized an authority well beyond the province of Manitoba and when he came to work for the province of Manitoba, I remember that I thought that it was a positive contribution to Manitoba to have him come back to Winnipeg and to settle in as a member of the community. And he served well, Mr. Chairman, he was a person who aroused debates, he was a person — I speak of him in the past tense — only in the sense as a Deputy Minister, I am sure he is continuing to make his contribution to the educational concerns of Canadians, unfortunately not to the direct concern and to the direct benefit of Manitobans. But he worked here and he was prepared to make statements and to encourage debate and to encourage a great deal of educational discussion in relation to curriculum and to administration.

And what shocks me is not that the government decided to discharge — because governments have that right with the Deputy Ministers — the manner in which it was done was most reprehensible, Mr. Chairman. To call in a deputy speaker to order him to come to an office of a Leader of the Opposition, a successful leader of a party which was successful in achieving the majority of the seats in the House, but who had not yet achieved or been sworn into office, to summon him to appear before him on a Saturday afternoon and to give him what is reported to be five minutes in which to be told that he was not wanted and to get out immediately, is I think, a very cavalier manner which does not redound to the benefit of the First Minister for whose prestige I have no concern, but does not redound to the benefit of the people of Manitoba, to have a civil servant dismissed in such a manner. And I think that it is disgusting and had occasion to say it earlier and I think it's a shame that a person who has given of his time and his effort and nobody questions the effort he gave, should be dismissed that lightly.

I understand there was no debate, no discussion, and as I recall it, members on this side of the House at that time — Conservatives — were attacking Lionel Orlikow in several aspects. One was, that he was reputed to be a person who had influence in the New Democratic Party. I don't want to denigrate anybody's influence, any member's influence on the party, but I can assure you, Mr. Chairman, he did not become involved in party affairs during the time that I knew that he was Deputy Minister of Education. And that to me was a false charge and one which was apparently gleefully sought out by the First Minister, who probably followed the Dave Young theory, that you get rid of people fast so that you scare all the rest, and he did succeed to a large extent and there is fright even today in many departments of government.

The other aspect which interests me is that members of the Conservative Party in opposition were demanding that we return to the Three R's, demanding that we in our educational system in Manitoba should come back to the basics and complaining that the then Deputy Minister was not really a believer in the basics but was one who cared about other things more. And I am intrigued by that because I did clip a story from the Tribune of February 7th last, where the present Minister of Education is quoted, and the headline is, "Don't Rush Back to the Three " It is sometimes interesting to see when a party goes out and seeks candidates that it does not always know that the candidate it has chosen is necessarily one that conforms with the majority of opinion of their own other previously elected members. I am looking forward to discussing and to hearing discussed and to watching the activities of this Minister in relation to the curriculum as he described it in this address he made to the Manitoba Branch of the Canadian College of Teachers to see the extent to which he is concerned with the broader aspects of education in this province.

I now want to reassure my friend the present Deputy Minister that I haven't the slightest concern about attempting to in any way interfere with his task nor with his salary. I think of all civil servants with whom I have worked since I have been elected to any office, he is my oldest friend and one I have known for the longest period of time, because I was elected to the Winnipeg School Board in 1950, Mr. Chairman, probably while you were still kicking a ball around in public school. I met the present Deputy Minister then and grew to consider him a friend and to respect him, but I am not too sure whether his philosophy of education curriculum today is what it was when I knew him in the early 1950s, nor am I sure to the extent to which he would be in agreement with the present Minister of Education or the former Deputy Minister of Education and that we do not have the opportunity yet to debate directly with a Deputy Minister, although it may be that the Conservatives will take the advice of the Provincial Auditor and bring the deputies to Public Accounts to discuss their work, in which case I'd be happy to start again formal debates with the Deputy Minister.

Mr. Chairman, I have been quoted in recent years and I think I really mean in the last recent year, of stating that I have no real concern about the three R's. Of course, Mr. Chairman, I was quoted in that way by members of the Conservative Party in this House, who have on occasion been very happy to attempt to distort statements made from the other side of the House. But it is true that I indicated that I felt that there was much more to going to school than the old concept of reading, writing, and arithmetic, and I recognize that a school must prepare students to take a role in society which is fulfilling, which contributes to the welfare of society and which will make it possible for that person to face up to the difficulties one meets up with in society and to be able to make the fullest use of his active life within the community.

I just want to refer in passing to a questionnaire review which I received last night from a school in my constituency, the Luxton School. I glanced through it quickly, but I noticed that the parents — I don't recall how many responded — apparently about 130 parents responded and they were asked to

comment on what they consider to be the most important goals in education. A list of 17 were presented and I just glanced quickly amongst those which they considered of the highest and which they considered of the lowest importance. It's interesting to see that the highest was reading — the next highest was arithmetic — the third was developing an ability to get along and work with other people — the fourth, developing an ability to think for oneself — the fifth, developing an eagerness to learn now and in the future — and the last was writing. That is a little heartening to me, because I consider my handwriting to be very poor. And again, when I was on the Winnipeg School Board in the early 50s, the then Deputy Superintendent in charge of elementary schools judged my handwriting to be of a grade six level, and I suspect it has deteriorated — it was grade seven, I should make sure I pass the highest mark, grade seven, and I suspect it has deteriorated.

But, Mr. Chairman, I am much more concerned about the preparation that students have in school, and I am hoping that the Minister will discuss how his administration is geared to work with the schools in order to do that general preparatory work which he is reported to have described in the speech I have already referred to. I say that particularly, because the constituency which I represent, and in which I've lived all my life, and in which I went to school, has changed considerably, and the problems are much more severe now than they were then. Where that constituency was not considered part of the inner core of Winnipeg, it is now considered part of the inner core of Winnipeg, especially in terms of the educational provisions in the schools, and I am concerned that the school system and the school teachers adapt to the needed changes. The turnover in a school year, in the school to which I went and which is two blocks from where I live, has increased tremendously. There is a tremendous coming and going within the school system. There are many people who have come in from northern Manitoba, who come in from out-of-town, who have difficulty adjusting to life in the city and whose children have equal difficulty.

One of the other points made in this Luxton School questionnaire, I refer to, is the fact that the parents feel that — they were asked the question, "It has been reported that some children have had frightening experiences on the way to and from school as well as after school hours. They have been intimidated and/or assaulted by other children, other students, and/or dogs." The question was: "In your estimation, is this problem becoming more frequent, less frequent or of no concern." And of 119 answers, 63 said, "It is becoming more frequent." That is the truth, and that is the problem.

Therefore, I wish to hear from the Honourable Minister about his staff and about the direction that he has given or that already exists in his department after six months — he must have had some impact on that department — to see the extent to which he may have influenced their concerns about the educational system, vis-a-vis the need for people to live together, to understand each other and to respect each other. I raise that because, Mr. Chairman, I have had an uneasy suspicion — and now I am going right out on a limb — that many of our educational people have become rather rigid in the way they deal with curriculum, and the way they deal with social attitudes.

I went through a school in my constituency a couple of years ago and I was struck by the fact — it's an open classroom school, all the classes are in one large open area — and I saw two particularly interesting sights. One was, a portion of that area, where there were about eight students and this is about grade six level, seated on the floor around the teacher who was seated on the floor with them discussing something, at the same time that other students were seated on the floor working on their own without supervision, and over just adjoining that in the open area, 20 school desks lined up in five rows, side-by-side, with the students sitting erect and with proper posture at these desks and the teacher up ahead, standing in front of them and teaching a lesson. One could see those invisible walls that had been erected around that classroom structure of these rows and rows of desks.

Looking again at my friend, the present Deputy Minister, I say to him that I recall that he's had light coloured hair for many years, but I was struck by the fact that the teacher who had this classroom appearance was quite grey, whereas the other teacher who was on the floor with the other students was not quite that advanced in years. So I am concerned about the rigidity that may exist amongst older teachers and earlier-trained teachers, and I'm concerned about whether or not teachers of today, the young ones, have different attitudes.

Now I come zeroing in on what has reminded me of my concern. Mr. Chairman, this period of time, this season, is the one which is rather important to Jews of the world. We are now coming to the end of a week of recognition of the Passover period, which relates to the history of Jews in Egyptian times. Although to many people it may be considered to be a religious holiday, it is not that to me, and I don't consider that it is a religious holiday. It is an historic event. It is true that Moses, at that time, lead the Jews out of Egypt and presented the Ten Commandments and the tablets that are before us, but it was an occasion when the Jews had become slaves in Egypt and were being exploited and used by the ruling classes of Egypt to carry out the mundane and physical work that was required to be done in building the pyramids and doing the slave work in Egypt. They broke away, and they broke out of Egypt, and they became wanderers until they settled in a land which they considered would be their home.

The recognition today amongst Jews is that it was an occasion for the freeing of the Jews from the yoke of other people oppressors. Tied in with that is the fact that next week, I think May 7th, is the annual recognition of the fight of the Jews of Warsaw against the Nazi soldiers who were proceeding with their destruction of the Jews who came within the orbit of their power. The Warsaw Jews stood up to the enforcers of Hitler's requirements and fought back for a number of days before they were defeated. Jews of the world are recognizing that and annually we have a special evening of recognition of the Holocaust, and I tie that in with what brought it to my attention is that last week the NBC carried, I think it was a four-day series dealing with the story of the Holocaust during Hitler's

time.

Now I come right down to the educational system and the fact that, it was reported that the CBC, which did not carry that series at all, received comments about the series from people who may have thought that the CBC had produced and presented it, and some of the comments were, why bring up the past — why irritate the existing climate that takes place where no one can consider the possibility of this thing happening again — why bother to review it again, and to bring it to the attention of the people just to create differences of some kind between them.

And that relates now to the schools in my constituency, where there are kids of various colours that are mingling more and more together, and finding out that they are different, and finding out that their differences, to a large extent, really separate them. When I went to school in that district, there were mainly what are called wasps, white Anglo-Saxon protestants, there were a large number of Jews, and the Ukrainian settlement was starting to move into that district. Now it is really a mixed district with many people from Asia, from southeast Asia, from the Caribbean, and from the Indian reservations in this province, and I fear that there is insufficient effort being made to bring these students together to prepare them for the future that they must have in this Province of Manitoba which has become, to its credit, a place where people of so many backgrounds and such a great variety of ethnic and cultural diversity are able to live together.

I mention that because I am concerned, when I meet with young Jewish children and learn that they don't know very much about their own recent history and background of their people in this world, and they, themselves, shrug it off and say, "Well, it really can't happen again." And the fact that it can is what makes me feel it important that there should be a special effort made, maybe today more than was necessary ten, fifteen and twenty years ago, when there were many, many people who had lived through the times who were still bearing witness of the fact.

Well, Mr. Chairman, the Member for Seven Oaks and I are becoming amongst the older generation, and we are probably the youngest of those people who lived through the time of Hitler and were not aware of what was going on in Germany for a number of years before it became apparent what had gone on in a civilized country in a highly cultured and a highly educated country. But as we grow older, there are fewer of us that are able to talk to the younger people about what went on, and I think that that is what is the role and an important task for the education system, and I'm looking forward to hearing from the Honourable Minister — not agreement, necessarily, only, but really a description of what he is leading his department to be doing in this respect, assuming that he agrees with me, and I'm sure he does. He's an educator.

But, I'd like to know what is the department doing, and who in the department is charged with that kind of need to disseminate amongst the teaching professions and its curriculum — the teachers involved and the curriculum studies — and in the schools themselves, especially those that have particular problems of students of different origins getting together and learning about it. I'd like to know who is doing it, what branch of the department is doing it, are there people charged with that kind of consideration or is it being kept in the same category as the regular curriculum, the reading, writing, arithmetic.

Mr. Chairman, I again was prompted to speak today, because my cousin of mine in California a letter, which he clipped received from me, — I believe it's the New York Times, if not the New York Times it's Los Angeles Times — yes, the New York Times, a letter that was written which, having read it, I felt prompted to make this presentation I'm doing. I want to read it. It is of some length, but I know it's my time that I'm using to do it in. It's addressed to the Editor and it reads as follows:

"I'm pleased to read in recent issues of the New York Times, that the Board of Education in New York City is planning to introduce a mandatory course of study in all city High Schools of the Holocaust. The slaughter of six million Jews and seven and a half million Gentiles by Nazi Germany during the period 1933 to 1945. I understand that Philadelphia is planning the same action in its schools. Good for them.

"I had the experience of leading the combat infantry troops that overran the infamous Dachau Concentration Camp, just west of Munich on the 29th day of April 1945. I was the first American Camp Commander of this death mill. My troops found 32,000 live bodies and 30,000 dead bodies there. Now, thirty-two and a half years later, I am still shocked by what I saw during my sixteen hours at the liberation of this shameful place.

"To me the Holocaust was one of the most shameful crimes since man walked this earth. More shameful, however, is the fact that the forces of evil are trying to deny that this holocaust ever took place. History is the truthful recording of the facts as they are. Mankind must learn from the tragedies of the past, otherwise it is doomed to repeat them. Our children are the adult America of tomorrow. They must be factually informed of the Holocaust so they can prevent the recurrence.

"In San Antonio, six lines are devoted to the Holocaust in our High School textbooks. I hope Texas will follow the leads presented by New York City and Philadelphia.

"In September of 1977, I made a tour of Europe to see again my battle areas. I spent half a day touring Dachau Concentration Camp. It is a well-preserved historical site museum. This memorial is supported by the Bavarian government. Thousands of tourists and school children tour this site weekly. They are seeing the truth as it was. The German people could bulldoze this place out of existence in three days, and then deny that the site ever existed, and that the atrocities were ever performed. The Germans have preserved it. They have a healthy motive. The Holocaust did happen — here it is, let us see that it does not happen again. This is Dachau's message to mankind.

"I have noticed this last year that many so-called Nazi groups are being organized in our larger cities: Chicago, Houston, San Francisco and Los Angeles have been prominent in the news. In addition, numerous hate booklets smearing Jews are on the streets. Many say the Holocaust is a

Jewish lie.

"What are the real motives of these people? Are they possessed by evil? No. I am not a Jew, I am but an old soldier and I congratulate the authorities in New York City and Philadelphia for plans to teach the Holocaust in their public high school programs.

"I also take off my hat in respect to the current generation of German and Austrian people who have the moral guts to tell it as it was." Signed by "Walter J. Fellenz, Colonel, U.S.A., Retired, San Antonio, written on December 12th, 1977."

So, Mr. Chairman, I conclude with an invitation for the Minister either now or during his Salary or indeed during the relevant department, and I am not sure which it is, to talk to us about the active, positive plans and programs that he is developing within his department dealing with this issue, and to remind him, Mr. Chairman, of the fact that the Deputy Minister, who was so merrily dismissed by the First Minister, made tremendous strides, albeit expensive ones, to introduce a system of education to people, to native people of Manitoba, to help them make every effort to upgrade their educational opportunities to make it possible for them to fulfill themselves further in this province. I, as a one-time Chairman of Management Committee, remember reviewing the cost involved, per pupil cost, and they were not all successful instances of efforts made by and led by the former Deputy Minister. I would like some assurance that people who are underprivileged, people who do not have the preparation that others do for the public school system, are going to be helped and indeed that the efforts that have been made, the start that was made by the previous government, will be proceeded with, will be enlarged upon so as to make it possible for us to live better with our co-Manitobans.

That is the manner in which I think it is important that we make sure that the little kids in St. Johns constituency coming to school and starting to rub shoulders with other kids who look different in some way, speak differently in some way, have a different background, and a different attitude to school, are able to understand each other and to work together. I am concluding, Mr. Chairman. — (Interjection)— That is really all I need because, Mr. Chairman, I heard a joke the other day. We talk a great deal about languages and the suggestion was that we really need two languages, maybe three languages in Canada — the two would be English and French, but the third might be broken. I think we have to recognize that there are many in our province today who still speak a broken language and have to be assisted in developing their full potential within the province.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Minister.

**MR. COSENS:** I thank the Member from St. Johns for his remarks. I found them largely most interesting and particularly the last part of his comments I thought were quite appropriate at this time. I would like to reflect on a number of the topics that he mentioned.

First of all, he alluded to a speech I made at, I believe it was the College of Teachers Meeting and the headline that it received — I have no control over the type of headlines that the papers may attach to speeches and so on. I believe the general thesis of that particular speech was not that basics were not important, or that the three R's were not important, certainly I subscribe to their great importance, but at the same time I was alluding to the fact that there are many other aspects of life and learning as well that the educational system cannot ignore, and the headlines seemed to take the choice of highlighting the fact that I had not concentrated at that time on the basics or the three R's. If that was the case, Mr. Chairman, it is only because I feel that many teachers in many schools across this province have not strayed too far from the basics or the three R's, and I deplore and have deplored on other occasions the fact that some people feel that they have been completely ignored. I think that is a false condemnation of very many dedicated and capable teachers through the province. However, Mr. Chairman, we will probably come back to that particular discussion as we go through the area of programming in education and the area of curriculum, but I did want to allude to it at this time as the Member for St. Johns had made some allusion.

I was interested in his remarks concerning the goals of the school as perceived by parents. A considerable number of these surveys have been filled out recently by parents in many parts of the province. I think that is a very worthwhile exercise, it certainly gives those of us involved in education and with education an indication of the thinking of the people most vitally involved — the parents and their children — in the schools. There was one particular goal that the member didn't mention that I had seen receive high priority by other parent surveys and that one was Career Education, where parents have a great concern as do students as to the careers that lie ahead of them and the information that is available to them in that particular area.

I can sympathize with the Member from St. Johns in his concern about the problems faced by the educational system in many areas of the province, not just the core area of this city, but I realize that there is a preponderance of that particular problem that would exist there, the problem dealing with the mobility of students, moving in and out of certain areas, and in fact moving into the city and out. I know this places a tremendous pressure on the teaching systems that are attempting to deal with that type of mobility and particularly, as students move in from areas where they may have been studying under a much different curriculum and a much different approach to education. A great deal of adjustment is required by this type of student, and of course speaking of the native students they have the added problem of the great cultural adjustment.

The Member from St. Johns voiced his concern with rigidity in education, and of course, that depends how you interpret and define that word "rigidity." I would certainly not see myself as a rigid person as far as education is concerned; in most areas I realize that different problems in different

areas have to be dealt with differently, and I think you have to adjust and be flexible in that regard. There are other areas of the educational system where I think there has to be a certain amount of rigidity — we're talking about what we would feel would be approved standards. There must be certain levels and goals that students can aspire to and I feel that there must be some rigidity in this, that that goal must be something that can be perceived and achievable. So in this whole area of rigidity, it depends on what aspect of education we're talking about.

In regard to the major part of the Member for St. Johns' address, his remarks on the holocaust, I think that all members of this House, I would certainly hope, would share his concern with this very deplorable situation, an example of man's dastardly inhumanity to man. Unfortunately, Mr. Chairman, that is not the only example in our civilization of that inhumanity, and probably even as Canadians we can look back to certain experiences in our history that we are not particularly proud of, and I would refer specifically to our treatment of the Japanese Canadians during the Second World War. I have many friends in that particular community and I know that perhaps our treatment of those people in that situation is something of which we are not proud.

I agree with the Member for St. Johns that if we are to prevent that type of inhumanity in civilized nations, that it's something that we have to be continually aware of and it's something that the educational system cannot ignore. I think his suggestion that we should have more emphasis on this in our school systems — in fact, in all aspects of our society, Mr. Chairman, not just in education, because I would mention to the Member for St. Johns that if there is one group of people in our society who I find are really little concerned with the colour of their brother or their sister, or the person sitting at the next desk to them, or the person they are playing basketball with, that is, children. And I find this idea of discrimination, this idea of not being tolerant of other people, is something — or in fact, prejudice — is not something that young children necessarily bring with them to school. It's more absent among that age group than among any other in our society. Unfortunately, it is something that they must learn from adults, and I think that's a rather frightening thing that educators see develop as young people mature and go out into our society, that they do pick up those prejudices and so on that exist there.

However, Mr. Chairman, I would add that I think it is one of the great strengths of our public school system that you have young people from different cultures, of different ethnic backgrounds, of different religious backgrounds, rubbing shoulders in the learning process, on the playground, and in fact, I believe overcoming much of that misunderstanding of other cultures and so on that does lead to the type of discrimination and in fact dastardly inhumanity that I mentioned earlier. So I share, as I'm sure everyone else in this particular House does, the concern of the Member for St. Johns. It is, I would say, an area that the school system has dealt with but perhaps not to the extent he would like to see. I know that in the present school system there is a course called "World Problems" where they deal with this particular subject, and I think I would recommend that the Member for St. Johns might look at that particular course, and I would be interested in his appraisal of it.

I know that in different aspects of our literature courses in the senior high grades that many of these social concerns, many of these problems that deal with tolerance, discrimination, prejudice and so on, are dealt with, and I believe that the discussions that take place as a result of the study of this particular type of literature does in fact tend to remove the type of narrow-mindedness and bias that the Member for St. Johns is talking about. As to what degree of this material we should have in our curriculum at this time I would not be prepared to say. I think the Member for St. Johns' main concern is that the educational system is aware and is attempting to cope with a problem that certainly becomes much more paramount as these young people move into the adult world.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Elmwood.

**MR. DOERN:** Yes, Mr. Chairman. I represent the other half of Elmwood, as you know. Mr. Chairman, I want to raise a couple of points. First of all, two lost reports that are buried somewhere within the Department of Education that the Minister may be sitting on — maybe he didn't have time to get around to looking at them. They were both expensive studies and yet we have in effect heard not a word from the Minister or his department in the past six months. One was described yesterday on the CBC, namely, the Physical Education Report, which I understand was an undertaking of the department in conjunction with the medical profession, with dieticians and other people to attempt to test and evaluate the physical fitness of youngsters in the Manitoba school system, and this surely is a basic. This surely is not some new trendy course or development, but rather a basic and fundamental skill that is vital to children and vital to people in society. I would like to know whether the Minister has read this report, I would like to know what he intends to do with the report, I would like to know where in the Estimates, what particular sub-appropriation we could more fully and extensively debate this. I think all of us could make lengthy speeches about the soft life that most people live in contemporary society, taking their car, driving down to the corner store, or children, I suppose, having to be driven everywhere rather than as in the old days, walking and bussing and bicycling, etc. etc. But I simply ask the Minister if he could tell us what has happened to this \$150,000 study.

The second study that I would like him to make some comments on is the one that was done in terms of testing of basic skills, and I'm not sure of all the details — I only know of the mathematics portion, but perhaps the Minister could enlighten us on what other skills were tested province-wide,

given to some 3,000 Grade 10 Manitoba students. This study also cost a significant amount of money, some \$150,000 or more — started in our administration but I assume was continued, or at least the report was given, was advanced, I believe, in the fall. And the question is, you know, where is this study now? Recommendations were made to the Minister — this was a so-called concern of the Progressive Conservatives in this Legislature. There seemed to be some enamoration with standards and central exams, many trustees have been asking for years for some clear data so that they could compare the performance of their schools and their teachers with other school districts. So I would like to know again, where is this report, other than in the Minister's filing cabinet, and what does he intend to do with it?

I am also intrigued, Mr. Chairman, with the comment of the Minister, who I think speaks honestly and forthrightly — he just gave us his views on the question of whether or not we had strayed seriously from the basics. This is a debate, I think it's a metaphysical debate, as a matter of fact. I majored in philosophy and metaphysical debates are those that can't ever be decided, because the evidence can be thrown up equally on both sides, and one can pick and choose, but the debate is ancient and the result is more or less deadlocked. But we heard a great deal about how our administration, our Ministers of Education, and the departments, had strayed seriously from basic skills and basic training. Now the Minister tells us that in his judgment, that we hadn't strayed, and we haven't strayed, and that this was a gross exaggeration, and unfortunately most of the exaggerators are not in the Chamber at this time, because we heard from the Conservative opposition about how there had been this straying away from the basics, and too many fads, and they were thundering against this serious drift.

Mr. Chairman, I point out to the Minister himself that he did make comments along those lines March 18, talking about all these pet schemes, and this dying permissiveness, and those wandering minstrels — all that high-flown rhetoric, which I didn't think was too meaningful, I didn't think it was the Minister speaking his mind; I didn't think it was the Minister's own words. So I would like to know how he can reconcile what he said a month ago, one month ago, with what he just said today. I believe what he said today is his view, but it appears to directly contradict what he said only a month ago. And then he made the same speech a few days later and he modified it considerably; it was reported as such, that there was a noticeable change in his tone and in his demeanour.

The other point that I wanted to make is to put on the record that the Minister has rejected — at least as I interpret what he said yesterday — that he has rejected the main recommendation of the Task Force Report in the Department of Education. Here's a department that spends \$200 million; here's a government that talks about fine-tuning and fiscal responsibility, all those hoary old Republican slogans from the United States, talks about waste and mismanagement, then examines to an extent, in a cursory fashion, in a few weeks, examines the Department of Education, talks critically of the way it had been administered, and then makes a series of recommendations in terms of tightening up the operations of the 90 percent plus that is given to school boards and school trustees in Manitoba. And the Minister said, in effect, that he did not accept the recommendations . . . Well, perhaps the Minister could clarify. He said he didn't say that. We will undoubtedly have some difficulty understanding each other but I asked him yesterday whether he was following the recommendations to lower the boom on school trustees and he said no, so I don't want to put words in his mouth, I only tell him the impression that he gave yesterday, in my opinion. He said he wasn't going to be punitive, that he wasn't going to withdraw and withhold grants, that he wasn't going to basically follow the thrust of the Task Force Report. If that is true then it's also curious to me that he apparently has appointed some of these people who served on the Task Force to the public schools finance board. I gather he has made one or two appointments of people who were on the Task Force, and I asked him about an apparent contradiction between rejecting Task Force recommendations and nevertheless appointing people who did, in fact, make those recommendations.

So I gather that the Minister has taken over the Department of Education and found it not to be in as bad shape or as sad shape that some of his colleagues or associates had indicated, that he does not find things to be in too bad shape, perhaps even running quite well and that he may make some adjustments and quite properly open up some new directions and new thrusts but that things are not all that bad contrary to what we were led to believe. I would be interested to hear about those two expensive reports that are being withheld, and I would also be curious to hear what he has to say about the Task Force Report. It sounded like yesterday he was rejecting it out of hand. Now today maybe he's eyeing it again as to whether or not he should embrace some of it.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for Burrows.

**MR. BEN HANUSCHAK:** Mr. Chairman, while the Minister's completing his notes to guide himself in responding to us, just a couple of comments that I wish to make with reference to this particular item. Yesterday just prior to Committee rising I did ask him about whether or not a settlement, has been a satisfactory settlement has been arrived at between the government and the previous Deputy Minister of Education — the Deputy Minister of Education as it was then constituted. I was told by the Minister that yes, there was a settlement, and I think that we would be remiss, Mr. Chairman, if I did not at this time add a few comments to go on the record dealing with the performance, with the track record, the achievements of Dr. Orlikow during his term of service to this government in his capacity as Deputy Minister, and prior to that in the planning and research branch of the Department of Education — Continuing Education, because at one point in time it served both departments. And I think, Mr. Chairman, that in the years to come the history of education in Manitoba will probably

remember Dr. Orlikow for one major achievement, amongst many others, but one that really will stand out is his concern and his ability to develop and get on track programs designed to assist the disadvantaged — be it disadvantaged of public school age below the age of 16, students from kindergarten to Grade 12, or be it adults — in the core city area, in rural Manitoba, in the north; designing programs that would provide access to the professions for the disadvantaged. I'm referring particularly to a number of field-based teacher training programs that we have operating out of Brandon University, I'm referring to the New Careers Program, a program designed to provide access to Civil Service jobs to individuals who may not have had the necessary paper qualifications to take on those types of jobs but with proper assistance, upgrading, training, after a couple of years in such a program they were able to take on those jobs. And the nutrition program, the milk program, and a whole variety of others.

Now it's true, as my colleague, the Honourable Member for St. Johns has pointed out, some projects may not have been as successful as others; some may not have been successful at all, but, as the saying goes, Mr. Chairman, "Nothing ventured, nothing gained", and there was much ventured and all of us were aware of the fact that we're not going to have 100 percent success in all programs. Hence there was a necessity for careful monitoring, careful review and re-assessment of progress that we're making to determine which programs should be continued, which should be discontinued, which should be expanded or cut back or whatever, but nevertheless, Mr. Chairman, the fact does remain that if one were to ask, "What was Dr. Orlikow's major contribution to education in Manitoba?" I think it can be said the institution of programs for the disadvantaged. And, in that area, Mr. Chairman, I must indicate, and I think that this should go on the record, that Dr. Orlikow does enjoy a national, in fact, an international reputation as an authority and expert on education programs of that kind.

As we proceed through the Estimates, Mr. Chairman, we're going to be particularly concerned and keep a very sharp eye out for the future of programs such as I have described in terms of the monetary appropriation for them which in turn will determine the priority that this government assigns to them, and we will want to know it. We will be asking what the government's plans are with respect to the programs such as I have mentioned — teacher training programs, a variety of programs to assist students in the inner city area, new careers, and so forth, and we will want to scrutinize the government's delivery of those programs very, very carefully.

I'm particularly concerned about programs for the disadvantaged, particularly as they in turn relate to our post secondary institutions, in view of the fact, whether it's coincidence or not I don't know, but, in addition to the apparent close relationship between this government or some members of this government and Great-West Life Assurance Company there's even a closer relationship between Great-West Life Assurance Company and two of our universities, namely, the University of Manitoba and the University of Winnipeg, in that the Chancellor of one, namely, the University of Winnipeg, is a board member of Great-West Life Assurance, Mr. Hunter and the Chancellor of the other, the University of Manitoba, is the wife of a board member of Great-West Life, Mrs. Auld. I know both of them — Mrs. Auld, Mr. Hunter — they're very fine people, yes, but I'm just a bit concerned, Mr. Chairman, about the fact that at the board meetings of those two institutions, at the senate meetings of those two institutions — and the Chancellor is a member of both — despite the fact that in the University of Manitoba Act I think it states that the Chancellor is the titular head of the university, but nevertheless I would think, Mr. Chairman, that the very presence of those individuals in the four governing boards, that is the two boards of governors and the two senates, that their very presence will develop an awareness of the presence of Great-West Life Assurance Company in the board rooms of the two universities and in the senate chambers of the two universities.

And, of course, it should be mentioned that both the chancellors sit, I'm quite certain that the chancellors have equal powers to the powers possessed by other board members on the board of governors and the same powers as any other senate member has — well, perhaps, as my honourable friend the Member for Elmwood says, more. Perhaps by virtue of being chancellor it may well be that when the chancellor speaks the members of the board of governors or the senators may be more likely to sit up and take notice than they would be to take notice of what some other member may have to say who does not have the hookup, the connection with as huge a corporate structure and empire as those two individuals have.

So, I'm concerned about that because I am concerned about the future of some of our post-secondary programs which we had instituted, many of which, most of which came on track via a route other than through the Universities Grants Commission and the boards of governors and senate and so forth, programs for the disadvantaged, namely, the teacher training programs are the ones that attract the largest number. I'm concerned about those programs and about their future because I wonder whether, with what appears to be a very significant corporate influence on the decision-making bodies of these universities now being present that the pendulum may swing the other way, that rather than move toward making post-secondary education more accessible to the people of Manitoba the move may be to make it less accessible, to limit accessibility to post-secondary institutions only to the elite, only to those who could afford to pay the increased tuition fees and the like as universities had a reputation for being for many, many centuries. Until very recently, by and large that was the case, those attending university were essentially those from reasonably wealthy, reasonably affluent families who were able to afford to send their children there.

It is encouraging though, listening to the Honourable Minister, that he and a previous Deputy Minister of Education appear to be on the same wave length in that both are saying that schools ought to be doing more than teaching the three R's, and essentially that is what was said while we

were the government, that is what he said, and I now hear this Minister saying the same thing, so that certainly is encouraging and we will remember that comment made by the Honourable Minister as we go through the Estimates to satisfy ourselves that that position expressed by him is, in fact, reflected in the Estimates that we're considering in this Committee.

Now, Mr. Chairman, as I indicated yesterday that this year in dealing with the Estimates of the Education Department it becomes a bit difficult, in some areas in particular, because of the fact that there was an amalgamation of the two departments, and I do recall that the Honourable Minister in introducing his Estimates did spend some time in dealing with the restructured administrative structure of the department, which I had hoped that I would have been able to read earlier this afternoon, but for reasons as explained by Mr. Chairman that wasn't possible. But anyway we will get down into the details of that as we move along.

One question that comes to mind and this is a relatively minor one. In looking at Salaries under General Administration and let's go back to the fiscal year just ended, the figure of \$1,194,700.00. I would have thought that that figure is the total of the appropriation for Salaries under General Administration in the two previous departments — Education and Continuing Education. Now adding those two figures; namely, the \$928.6 thousand, which was Administration Salaries for the fiscal year ended and \$243.8 thousand for Continuing Education and Manpower, we appear to be some \$22.3 thousand short, about the equivalent of a staff man year. As I indicated earlier, you know' the discrepancy isn't that great, but it might be of benefit to the Committee if that were explained. Because it appears that something more than just the combination and addition of two figures, you know, was done, and I am speaking of the fiscal year ended and the re-organization of the department did not take place until the commencement of this fiscal year. So therefore, the amalgamation ought not to have had any bearing on this.

Then if he could explain the reduction in Salaries — well, a reduction of \$52,000 or so from the figure shown in the Estimates Book or a reduction of about \$30,000 from the total of the two as they appear in last year's Estimates Book. So if he could explain that.

I would also want, now that I have given the Honourable Minister notice yesterday that we will be looking at the staffing configuration and do a comparison of the staffing configuration as at the end of the fiscal year of now and a year ago, we would want similar information with respect to each of the branches, each of the programs, as we move along. In fact, the Honourable Minister might want to recheck the figures that he gave us yesterday, which I do not have in front of me at the present time, but my distinct recollection is that the number of positions filled, that is permanent, term and contract, number actually employed in whatever capacity, plus the number of vacancies. The number filled plus the number of vacancies, does not equal the number approved. Now it could be that I either did not copy the figures down correctly or may not have heard him correctly, and if that is so, then I would appreciate the Honourable Minister clarifying that point.

**MR. CHAIAN:** The Honourable Minister.

**MR. COSENS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to go back to the remarks of the Member for Elmwood. Of course, we are having a rather wide-ranging discussion at this point, and some of these items I think would be better discussed under their particular item in the appropriation that lends itself to that topic, and in particular I would suggest to the Member for Elmwood that perhaps the Physical Education Report that cost some \$150,000 can be discussed under the Curriculum Development.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Elmwood.

**MR. DOERN:** I'd like to just make a brief comment to the Minister. Estimates are coming up very shortly in Public Works and one of my problems is that I may not be here for some of the breakdowns, so if the Minister can answer now or answer soon, I would appreciate that personally, otherwise I will not be able to hear his replies later.

**MR. COSENS:** Well, we'll attempt to accommodate the Member for Elmwood. At such time as he has to leave us, if he lets us know I can come back to this point. Otherwise I would like to deal with it under the proper section.

I might also mention that in relation to the math test that he alluded to costing somewhere in the neighbourhood of \$75,000, that the reason that we have not released the final recommendations on this is that I have not received the final recommendations. I have met with the committee and have asked them to go back and to prepare some final recommendations for my consideration. It's my understanding that they have completed the greatest amount of their work, and it is these final recommendations that I'm awaiting at this time.

The Member for Elmwood, of course, says he has some difficulty understanding my position and I certainly can appreciate that he might have a problem like that, but maybe I should restate it again for his benefit. This idea that I was saying that everything was fine, and that really things weren't in as bad a state as some people in this province believed in education, I think has to be qualified, and I would qualify it at this time for his benefit. I really feel that the cries of alarm and the concern of parents, educators and many other members of our community regarding what they saw is happening in education were well founded. However, Mr. Chairman, there was one saving grace that protects young people of this province from whatever governments may try to do in that area, and that is that

we have been blessed with a great number of teachers, dedicated capable people, and administrators in this province, who have not been prepared to be overly influenced by what government may . . .

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Order please. As the hour is now 4:30 and according to Rule 19(2), I am interrupting the proceedings for Private Members' Hour, unless there are some recommendations to the contrary.

**MR. JORGENSON:** Mr. Chairman, if I may, I believe it was the general consensus that we would dispense with Private Members' Hour today unless anybody on that side has any objection to it. I have cleared it with the House Leader and he suggested that we go through. If that's okay, then we'll just remain in Committee. (Agreed)

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Minister.

**MR. COSENS:** Yes, as I was saying, Mr. Chairman, the saving grace as far as the education of the young people of this province is concerned has been and of course always will be, the very capable and dedicated people we have in the classrooms of this province.

The concerns that were expressed, and I think certainly with every reason to be expressed about the educational system were not in regard to the practices of the dedicated teachers of this province, but of the recommendations, quite often that were emanating from the Department of Education, and some of the public pronouncements of officials within the government regarding education. I think it is these things that have certainly disturbed people in the past, and it was these directions that were disturbing people. I believe that as far as what was going on in our classrooms, fortunately most teachers have not gone overboard. They may have gone part of the way in the directions that were being espoused by different messiahs in the educational world, but they happily had not gone all the way.

I would see the educational system, Mr. Chairman, for the edification of my friend from Elmwood, as something like a car heading for a precipice. Things are all right in the car if you can change its direction just before you get to the precipice, and I would say this might describe the educational system of the province of Manitoba in the last number of years. If we can change that direction now, certainly the staff that is responsible for the education of the young people in the classrooms of this province are capable, and with the proper leadership and direction emanating from the department to support that type of classroom responsibility, then I think we can look forward to some very worthwhile learning experiences and a very worthwhile quality of education in this province.

The Member for Elmwood again alludes to the Task Force report, and I would repeat again, Mr. Chairman, that as far as the Task Force report is concerned, that we have not had the opportunity to examine all of these recommendations at this time, either as a government or as a department, and so what may happen with any of these recommendations at this time is purely speculation. I certainly do not condemn outright any of the recommendations because as I say, I have not had the opportunity to study them at any length nor has the Cabinet, Caucus, or this government, or in fact, my department.

I think the other concern of the Member for Elmwood about the general state of things in education in the years ahead, the months ahead, will become adequately clear as we move through the different sections of the Estimates, and I would be very pleased to touch on what we are doing and hope to do as we move through these different areas.

The Member for Burrows has a question regarding the some \$23,000 discrepancy as he sees it in the salaries in General Administration. I don't have that at my fingertips, Mr. Chairman, to give him a reasonable explanation at this time. I will get it for him. Certainly what happened a year ago in the department is not as familiar to me as what has happened in the last six months, but I will attempt to get that information to him.

He was also alluding to the matter of the reduction in salaries in 1(b) General Administration. I'd be pleased to go through that for him. Of course, when you amalgamate a department, make one out of two, then you certainly have a reduction of staff as far as Deputy Ministers are concerned, because the need for two diminishes to one, and that is part of the explanation for the reduction there. There is some reduction also, of course in the office staff of that second Deputy Minister, some reduction of course in the areas of the executive and the accounting offices that also accounts for this. I can go into complete detail if the Member for Burrows requires that, but this type of economy has resulted from that amalgamation.

He also refers to the expenses, some \$62,600 in diminished expenses in this area, and this has resulted through a combination of several factors, a reduction in expenditures in the administration area, and this again is due to a reallocation of telephone and photo-copying charges to individual branches, and along with this reduction, there was some increase in expenditure in the accounting and personnel areas. The combined result of that decrease and increase in expenditures is the \$62,600 that you see before you under that heading.

**MR. HANUSCHAK:** Mr. Chairman, now that we have Hansard before me, to help the Minister along, and if he has his copy, I would refer him to Page 1337, the middle of the page, the last paragraph of his speech at that particular time, where he says, "And moving to 1978-79: the total — 1,624.49 — ; vacant 162.31, and total staff for the year — 1,542.43." Now, if one adds 1,542.43 and 162.31, the vacant, one arrives at a figure bordering on 1,700. I think my mathematics is a little bit slower than those of the

students who have just completed the tests, who did very well, by the way. But anyway, I think the Honourable Minister is aware of the of a discrepancy there.

Now, it was my intention to move on with details of this kind in dealing with the Estimates but there were a couple of comments made by the Honourable Minister which he cannot be allowed to have go by unnoticed and I feel that they must be responded to. The Honourable Minister speaks of this government bringing about a change in direction in education programs, makes reference to some disturbing statements having been uttered by someone at sometime, I presume prior to October 24. I would insist, Mr. Chairman, that the Honourable Minister do be somewhat more precise and specific than that, than just simply making broad statements, you know, sweeping generalizations, that the education program was on the verge of a precipice and there was nothing wrong with the automobile carrying the program provided it was steered in the right direction, and along came this Minister of Education, and he grabbed hold of the steering wheel and swung it around in the direction in which it ought to go. But I wish the Honourable Minister would take a few moments of this Committee's time — in fact, take all the time that he wants — and outline the direction in which he is now steering this education ship. I wish he would tell us what the disturbing statements were that apparently were uttered by someone in the administration. I'm sure that his staff would find a statement made by him that they would find disturbing, when he speaks of teachers and his staff in a sense that the teachers are a dedicated lot but his staff isn't, and the staff of the Department of Education is not dedicated. But there are some dedicated teachers out there, but not his staff. So I think that the Honourable Minister ought to explain that.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I note that the Honourable Member for Minnedosa is very, very anxious to get into the debate of the Estimates of this department and I'm sure, Mr. Chairman, that you'll give him the same opportunity as the rest of us. He has 30 minutes to speak on each occasion and he's free to speak as often as he wants, and we certainly would welcome the comments that . . . Now it may be that he may make better speeches from his seat than he does standing up, I don't know, but we might have an opportunity to make that comparison, and we'll make that decision then.

But it is interesting, Mr. Chairman, to note that when the Honourable Minister is speaking about the need to change direction, and my honourable friend, the Member for Elmwood, made reference to the survey, the mathematics test that was done very recently, and it demonstrated that the students' mathematics skills — there was no problem, they're doing very, very well in mathematics. Now, surely — (Interjection) — That may well be, that may well be, but nevertheless overall generally the students are doing well. Now surely, Mr. Chairman, the Minister isn't going to take credit for that. Surely he isn't going to say that suddenly, on October 24th, the 225,000, 230,000 students in the Province of Manitoba suddenly started learning — didn't know a thing until October 24th, and suddenly, commencing then, they developed their mathematics skills, reading skills, writing skills, all of that happened since October 24th. Now, I am certain that the Honourable Minister, being an educator himself, is not going to say that. So it does indicate, it does reflect the progress, the achievement that we had made during our eight years of stewardship of this government, and during which time we had the responsibility to deliver the education program to the people of Manitoba.

So once again, before I take my seat, Mr. Chairman, I would like to urge the Minister, in fact I would want to insist, that when he talks about a change in direction, let him tell us what this new direction is in which this government is steering the education program of the people of Manitoba. Let him tell us what the disturbing statements were, that disturbed teachers and — with the exception of dedicated teachers — what effect it had on staff, I don't know, because according to him I got the impression that the staff in his department is not dedicated. I think, Mr. Chairman, he ought to tell us that, and then let us proceed from there.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Minister.

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, first of all, let me attempt to clarify the situation on staffings that the Member for Burrows is concerned about. He refers to the present staff total of 1,463.11 and when he adds up the vacant figure of 162.31, rightfully enough, it does not come to the total of 1,542.43; however, as he well knows, I am sure, from his experience in government, that depends on how many of those vacant positions you intend to fill. It is not our intention, of course, to fill the 162.31 in the coming year; rather, a reasonable estimate would be some 79.32, and if you add that to the 1,463.11 I believe you arrive at the 1,542.43.

**MR. HANUSCHAK:** Mr. Chairman, if I may, on this point. Well then, let me indicate to the Honourable Minister the way I understand the Minister's statement, and he can correct me if I am wrong in my interpretation of what he said. I was of the impression that what he was indicating to us for the fiscal year 1978-79, that he has 1,624.48 approved SMYs provided for in his Estimates; that of those 1,624.48, 1,542.43 are filled. Then I would ask him — 1,463 — I'm sorry — very well.

**MR. COSENS:** I hope we have clarified that situation, Mr. Chairman, for the Member for Burrows. Another point I would like to clarify, of course, and I have some trouble understanding how he's been able to infer this from my remarks, but in the six months' association that I have had with my staff in the department I certainly have found them very capable people and no way would I want anyone to misinterpret or be led into misinterpreting any statement in that regard. I have a very, very high

estimation of the capability and the quality of the people that I have the pleasure of working with in the Education Department at this time.

I might also mention, Mr. Chairman, that when I receive the final recommendations from the math test that was completed just recently, that I'll be quite prepared at that time to remark to some greater extent on that particular test. At this time I think it would be rather unfair to draw conclusions without having received those final recommendations from the Committee.

As far as the directions that the department will be heading in the months and years ahead, I would advise the Honourable Member for Burrows that as we move through the Estimates and the discussion of the different departments and their programs, I think that will become imminently clear.

**MR. HANUSCHAK:** Mr. Chairman, I do not wish to belabour this point but I feel that I must get back to it. So, if I now understand the Honourable Minister, he has 1,400 and — in other words, there are 1,463 bodies on his payroll, employed, filling positions, 1,463. —(Interjection)— SMY's. Okay. Of the vacant, he anticipates filling about 80, or 79-point something, for a total of 1,543 or approximately. Now, the 1,624.49 figure — am I correct that that's the approved SMYs? So then it would seem, Mr. Chairman, that in total wherever this may appear in the Estimates — because I'm sure that some of these SMYs would be in the various programs over the five pages of his Estimates — it would seem, Mr. Chairman, that if there are 1,624 SMYs approved, so there must be funding for 1,624 SMYs. In other words, that contained somewhere within these Estimates is funding for 80 SMYs which the Minister himself admitted he has no intention of filling and 80 SMYs multiplied in view of the fact that this department is, the type of expertise that it requires, I would suspect that the average salary of an employee within a Department of Education might be somewhat higher than in some other departments. But regardless, we're probably looking at something in the order of \$1.5 million or \$2 million just in salaries alone that is contained in the Estimates for positions that he does not intend filling. Are we correct in that?

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, the funding that exists and that the Member for Burrows alludes to would provide for some 1,542.43 people, or approximately 1,543 people, that would be completely funded and is covered in these Estimates to that extent. This, of course, does not take into consideration contract people. I believe the Member for Burrows asked me about that category as well. In 1977-78, there were some 189 people in that category and in the coming year we would anticipate that the figure would be some 135 people in the contract category realizing, as I'm sure he does, that a large number of these people are in the Community College area because the very nature of the courses that are taught there, whether it be evening school or in the day school classes, necessitates the hiring of people on a short term basis under contracts.

**MR. HANUSCHAK:** So it's 1,543 plus the 100 and some-odd contract, is that correct?

Well, I think we're gradually getting this sorted out. So am I correct then that there's no relationship between the approved SMYs and the monetary appropriation for them, not unless the Honourable Minister can somehow explain away the figure of 1,624.49 because I understood him to say that those were the approved SMYs and from our knowledge of the Estimates, that if there's an SMY approved, there's a salary approved for the position also. So I would think that if there were 1,624 SMYs that there would be provision for salary for 1,624 SMYs.

**MR. COSENS:** Well, Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member for Burrows, I think, should know full well having been in the position that I now occupy that there are a number of positions that exist in government, SMYs that are established, but there is no salary provided for but the position is retained and this, of course, is nothing new to government. I understand that this existed for some years.

**MR. HANUSCHAK:** Very well, I'll accept the Minister's explanation of that point that for, whatever it is, 90-some-odd or 100 SMYs, that there is no salary provision for them found anywhere in the Estimates.

Now, in arriving at the approved staff man year level which he did for the permanent staff, term, contract and any adjustments, any variation from the previous staffing level that was approved, could the Honourable Minister indicate to us the number of SMYs that he was able to identify and delete because he found that those SMYs really reflected waste, lack of control, leakage, inefficiency, etc. I would like to point out to the Minister again — and this I think we would want to know very clearly — if there is any reduction in staff, whether that was as a result of what this government prides itself in having but still remains to be seen, an ability to govern more and manage more efficiently, or is this variation in the staffing level really a reflection of change in government philosophy, and there is a vast difference. For example, if you believe that a certain program should be done in Education, I believe that another program should be done. Yours requires 5 SMYs, mine requires 10 SMYs and then if I'm running the show, I have my 10 SMYs running my program; you take over and you run the show and you reduce those 10, either reduce them or wipe them out completely, and that may not necessarily mean that that program was inefficient or poorly run or whatever because if it were, you would improve its efficiency and continue running it. But really, it's a reflection of a drop in program because it doesn't comply with the philosophy, with the general thrust and priorities of your government, and that's fair ball. That's fair ball. Well, of course, we'll examine that and we will debate the merits of that sort of thing but I think that a distinction should be made between changes of that

kind and changes as a result of identification of waste, leakage, inefficiency, etc. ,

So I would like to know, how many SMYs the Honourable Minister was able to find and say that in this branch, I found three; in that branch, I found two; in that one, I found ten, or whatever, that was a reflection of waste and inefficiency and I cleaned them all out of the system.

**MR. COSENS:** Well, Mr. Chairman, of course I can't give the Honourable Member for Burrows those figures right off the top of my head. I'd have to go back and do a bit of research before we could provide that but I think I have stated to him the difference, for instance, in the number of contract employees in the contract department between the two years, and that's some 55 people, a considerable number, Mr. Chairman. Of course, these may not be here for a variety of reasons and I think the Member for Burrows mentioned many of these. The fact that some programs have been dropped for various reasons and we will, I hope, have the opportunity of discussing the reasons for that as we proceed; the fact that some people have retired, resigned; whether in fact we have changed the direction or the philosophy in regard to certain other aspects of the department and have found that we can operate with less people in those areas. I think that will become evident as we move through the Estimates. But to give him the exact figure and say that we cut two people out of here because of waste and so on, it will take some time before I could provide that figure, Mr. Chairman. But, of course, as I have mentioned before, the very fact that we are operating the department with some 55 people left in the contract category, I think in itself does represent a considerable drop in the number of personnel in the department.

**MR. HANUSCHAK:** Yes, one further question with respect to —(Interjection)— No, I had another question but I'll reserve it to another item on the . . .

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

**MR. WALDING:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a few questions for the Honourable Minister. They probably won't come as too much of a surprise to him since I asked them of other Ministers who were presenting their Estimates before him. He might be aware, Mr. Chairman, that some of his colleagues have been very free and open about giving the information and have done so very willingly and at least two of his colleagues have been very bashful about giving us that information. Whether they didn't know or whether they were embarrassed by it, we really didn't know. I'll try to ask the questions as carefully as possible, Mr. Chairman, because we have run into a few problems with previous departments about getting information and trying to reconcile figures.

It has been noted before that the Department of Education now includes two previous departments and maybe I can ask the Minister first of all when this amalgamation of the two departments came about?

**MR. COSENS:** April 1, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. WALDING:** I would then assume from that figure that when the Minister first saw the preliminary Estimates for the two departments that they were separate. Can I ask the Minister if he could inform the Committee what the original preliminary Estimates were for the two departments, either separately or perhaps he would just like to give it jointly for the department as it stands now. What were the preliminary figures that were given to him?

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, it is my intention to go through the Estimates and give the honourable members every bit of information that we have available to us. But I understood that the process involved going through the printed Estimates that we have before us. The Estimates that the Member for St. Vital refers to, of course, are some five, six or eight months previous to this and I think bear very little relation to what we are considering at this time.

**MR. WALDING:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Further to the Honourable Minister's comments on the printed Estimates, yes, he is right that that is what has been presented to the Committee and to the people of Manitoba as the government's spending Estimates for the coming year. But he may be aware that one of his colleagues spent all of two hours last night and perhaps an hour before that the same afternoon and a considerable length of time before that before he would finally admit that he intended to spend 10 percent more than was in the printed Estimates. It took all of those hours and a lot of probing by my colleagues in the Committee to finally get to that other figure which really seemed at variance with the government's stated policy of making financial reporting as open and as honest and as easy to understand as possible.

However, the reason that I bring up the matter of those preliminary Estimates would be irrelevant to the Estimates before us had it not been for his colleague, the Minister of Education, who specifically referred to those preliminary figures, Mr. Chairman, and alleged from those figures that had they been adopted that there would have been an additional deficit of, what was it, \$200 million or \$300 million. —(Interjections)— Whatever the figure was, Mr. Chairman, it was frankly mind-boggling. It was a figure that was tossed out and was quite unsubstantiated. Now we asked the Minister of Finance for some backups and substantiation for this figure that he had given to the House but we did not receive it, and because we did not receive it then we are reduced to going department by department and trying to find out from each individual Minister what the amount of

those preliminary estimates was and what the procedure was in getting from that original figure to the figure that we see before us of \$352.5 million. I'd like to ask the Minister again, Mr. Chairman, if he would care to reconsider his answer in the light of those topics and perhaps give us that figure.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Burrows.

**MR. HANUSCHAK:** The Honourable Minister said that he is prepared to deal with the printed estimates before us. He is absolutely correct. That is all that I want to deal with, is with the printed estimates before us, with everything that is printed before us. And it so happens, Mr. Chairman, that it is printed in the record, in Hansard, the introduction of the Budget by the Minister of Finance, and there is a total figure included in there. When the Minister of Finance said that had it not been for that gang on that side of the House being elected as Government, that the estimates would have come in as something like \$400 million higher. So I am referring to printed estimates, Mr. Chairman, not to something that was made at some social function outside the House but a statement made in the House and which is now in printed form for us to deal with. And I would like to know, Mr. Chairman, of that figure that the Minister of Finance made reference to, that the estimates would have been so much higher, what portion of that total figure is attributed to his department? What portion of that is attributed to his department, and in particular, Mr. Chairman, I want to know what portion of that figure is attributed to his department and which he found to have been approved by the previous administration or approved by me with recommendation, and that there was some definite evidence that that was the figure that I was going to take to Cabinet and seek Cabinet's approval. That's the figure that I want.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Minister.

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, we have in the printed estimates the final figure that was spent in the area of Education in 1977-78, we have the final figure for the proposed estimates for 1978-79. I am sure that the members opposite are well aware of the process that takes place in the consideration of these estimates in arriving at these final figures. I think the comparison between the figure last year and the one that is proposed here indicates the amount of economies that took place in the consideration of that budget.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Seven Oaks.

**MR. MILLER:** Mr. Chairman, am I to infer from the Minister's remarks that in fact he is now disassociating himself from the figures used by the Minister of Finance and disassociating himself from what was implied by that statement.

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, I am not disassociating myself at all from any of those remarks but under consideration at this time are the printed estimates in front of us and I think, as I have stated before, it becomes obvious if you look at the bottom line of this year's estimates and the bottom line of last year's that a considerable economy has been achieved.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Inkster.

**MR. GREEN:** Mr. Chairman, I would like the Minister to advise me whether he engaged in the process of zero based budgeting?

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, whether the honourable member understands zero based budgeting as meaning that you start at the bottom point with no dollars for any department and then evaluate the feasibility of that department and its value and its function in relation to the dollars that it will require I suppose there may have been a certain amount of that take place, but I would suggest to the Honourable Member for Inkster that each department was looked at closely in relation to the perceived needs that it would have in the year ahead. No blanket policy was followed for each department, in other words saying, well this department will have X percent less than last year and so on. We were looking at each department in reference to its need.

**MR. GREEN:** Mr. Chairman, in view of the Minister's remarks that they engaged to some extent at least in the process of zero based budgeting, and since he will not tell us what was approved by the previous administration which would have resulted in expenditures far and beyond what are contained in these estimates, since he has not offered to this Committee any proof that there was one cent more approved by the previous administration than is now recorded here as \$352,539,400, then how can he say there are economies? What the Minister has told us is that he started at zero and he increased that by \$352,539 million. He did not start from a higher figure, he did not start from the figure of \$351 million which is last year's figure, he did not start from an approved figure of the previous Minister which he can document to this House that this government was going to spend more, he started from zero. And what he did is raised this budget \$352 million. Now how does he call that an economy?

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, this type of high finance thinking that the Member for Inkster is

talking about rather interests me. I would suggest that anyone who looks at the Education Estimates over the last four or five years will see that they have increased X number of million dollars from year to year and if they look at them this year they will see an increase of — what is it? — one million dollars.

**MR. GREEN:** Mr. Chairman, I didn't know that we were going to go by the previous year's increases. That's not what we were told. As a matter of fact, Mr. Chairman, I agree with the Minister, but I am a New Democrat with a New Democratic Party philosophy of government. The Minister is a Conservative with a Conservative philosophy of government which says one of two things, that we reduced last year's approved expenditures by 300 million, or if that's not shocking enough, 400 million, or if that's not shocking enough, 500 million, but I don't have to prove it to you, and I don't have to give you any evidence that there was any approval by the previous administration of that figure. That's his philosophy, and then when he says we are dealing with the printed estimates he doesn't say we've shown that we have been able to spend less, he says that we engaged in zero based budgeting. Don't look at last year's figure, last year's figure is \$351 million. But we're not basing our performance on last year's figure, we're basing it on zero based budgeting which means you've increased by \$352 million. Now I think, Mr. Chairman, that that happens to be ridiculous. But that's what has been attempted to be pursued by the Conservative administration. Mr. Chairman, why has the Minister in these great economies, I ask the Minister, under Public School Education, which I would take a fast guess cost about \$2,000 per child per year, why is he not instituting a user fee to all of the people of the province of Manitoba in accordance with the task force report and in accordance with zero based budgeting, and in accordance with Conservative principles, that people should pay for their own education it shouldn't be done socially? And you will reduce, by zero based budgeting, well over \$100 million from these Estimates. That's Conservatism; that's task force recommendations; that's zero based budgeting; and that's user fees. That's what we've been told we're going to get from that side of the House.

Well, Mr. Chairman, that's what we've been told, that's what's been sold, and there it is. I mean, people should pay for their own education. Why do we have this socialistic system of the public paying for everybody's children, even the rich, the millionaires, but the public will pay for any family, which I happen to agree with. I think it's a wonderful system but it's not Conservatism; and if you're starting at zero base, that you're going to do things new and you're going to have economies, where are these user fees? Where is this zero base? Where is the economy?

Now, Mr. Chairman, I don't like to go through this process but the Minister is forcing us to. He says he will not substantiate what the Minister of Finance said, that this government, that the previous government approved of \$300 million — whatever figure you want to make shocking — was reduced, and I submit, Mr. Chairman, that there is a good reason for it. The Minister isn't able to prove one cent was approved of by the previous administration in these Estimates; not one cent. That what there were were departmental requests, and that those requests were not approved and that the Conservative administration has not reduced a previous government's program by one penny, not by one penny.

There is no guarantee, Mr. Chairman, that the previous administration would not have come in with similar Estimates, but if that argument is being made let us see it, and then when he abandons that position, Mr. Chairman, and says he wants you to look at the figures and says that you are engaged in zero based budgeting, well, it may sound peculiar to the Minister but all you've done is increased expenditures by \$352 million.

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, I find it inconceivable that the Member for Inkster really believes that he is going to convince anybody that an increase of \$1 million in the education budget, this year over last year, does not represent considerable economy as the people of this province look back at the increases over the last four or five years in education each year. He is going to have a hard time convincing the people of this province that that is not an economy and that our government did not, in fact, cut back in a great number of areas and cut back dollar-wise and save in this Budget.

Of course, I'm not even going to comment at any length on the other proposals which I really have trouble believing that the Member for Inkster takes seriously in his talk of user fees and so on. I have heard him also telling us that the people in the rural areas should be out building their own roads and bridges and so on and that . . .

**MR. GREEN:** This is Conservatism. Right. This is Conservatism.

**MR. COSENS:** . . . and I've heard that argument before. I suggest to him that, seriously, if he is talking about the Budget Estimate that we have before us, that the \$1 million indicates rather drastic measures were taken and a lot of fiscal responsibility was shown.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Burrows.

**MR. HANUSCHAK:** Mr. Chairman, I have one brief question. When the Honourable Minister assumed office, assumed the responsibility for his present portfolio, or at some time after that and prior to the printing of these Estimates, did he find any Estimates in his department, for either of the two departments — because they were separate at that time — for the fiscal year, 1978 to 1979 approved by me or the former Minister of Education?

**mr. CHAIRMAN, Mr. Abe Kovnats:** The Honourable Minister.

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, to my knowledge, no. The Estimates were not at that state when I came in at the end of October. There were departmental functions that had been performed.

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

**MR. WALDING:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister said a few minutes ago that in the ongoing consideration of the Budget preparation that we know what happens in this process. Well, maybe some of my colleagues do, Mr. Chairman, but I don't. I was never a member of the Cabinet. So this is one reason why I am asking the Minister to explain it to me and to give me some figures to show how it came about.

Let me just digress for a moment, Mr. Chairman, and quote something to the Honourable Minister which I believe is pertinent. It comes from the 1978 Manitoba Budget Address and it's one of those papers at the back having to do with government policy on various aspects of finance and accounting to the public. Right at the end of this particular document on government policy it says — and very grandly, Mr. Chairman: "The Manitoba Government believes that its financial reporting responsibility will be more fully realized if improved information is provided for the legislative review of the Estimates." Let me read that again, Mr. Chairman, "if improved information is provided for the legislative review". Well, Mr. Chairman, that's just what we're asking for, is improved information from the government.

We are asking him two very simple questions. We would like to know, what was the amount of the preliminary Estimates? We would also like to know from the Minister, what was the amount of the Estimates that he recommended to his Cabinet colleagues for their approval? Now, will he give us the answer to those two very simple questions?

**MR. COSENS:** I think I can answer very directly. It is not my intention to provide that information to the Honourable Member for St. Vital. As I've mentioned before the Estimate process takes you through many different avenues, as he may or may not be aware, from the line departments, of course, determining their needs and coming up with a certain sum of money that they feel they will require in the coming year, the consideration of those Estimates by the Minister and his officials, the consideration of those Estimates again by Cabinet, and quite often the reconsideration of those Estimates by Cabinet before that finalization is reached.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Kildonan.

**MR. PETER FOX:** In this regard, Mr. Chairman, would then the Honourable Minister agree that that figure, whatever it was, is mythical and invalid, and that the one that was referred to by the Minister of Finance was just as mythical and just as invalid. Can he concur with that?

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, I am not prepared to say that the figures put forward by the Minister of Finance are mythical at all. I wouldn't concur with the statement of the honourable member at this time.

**MR. FOX:** Would he then consider getting the Minister of Finance to verify the figure? If the Minister of Finance has stated, as he did before, that the departments will be able to supply the various detailed calculations, now can he make up his mind whether the Minister of Finance was saying the truth and that the department will supply the details or that the Minister of Finance will eventually supply it. Can he tell us that?

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, I can't speak for the Minister of Finance but I imagine that he is well-prepared to back up any statements he's made.

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

**MR. WALDING:** Let me just try that once more, Mr. Chairman. Can I ask the Minister then if, following his receipt of those first preliminary Estimates, he reduced them by any amount at all before recommending them to Cabinet?

**MR. COSENS:** In certain areas, Mr. Chairman, yes.

**MR. WALDING:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to refer now to the reconciliation statement and ask the Minister if the \$18.891 million for the acquisition and construction of physical assets was all expended over the last year?

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, I think I assured the Member for Burrows that as we move through the Estimates and we came to sections in the Estimates where this "B" Capital applied that I would certainly account for what had taken place with that particular "B" Capital, the \$18 million that you are referring to.

**MR. WALDING:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, maybe my colleague from Burrows requires a breakdown on each section — I didn't. If it's a matter of obtaining the information I certainly won't press the Minister for it. I just wondered if he could tell us as of now whether all of that money was spent or not.

**MR. COSENS:** I think I would have some trouble at this point, Mr. Chairman, giving that answer to the Member for St. Vital. I could say that I know for sure that a large percentage of it was but I cannot give a specific answer without checking into this more fully.

**MR. WALDING:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I assume then from the Minister's comments on that that he will be providing us with that information before we get to the end of his Estimates.

**MR. COSENS:** Certainly, Mr. Chairman, that would be my intention.

**MR. WALDING:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to ask the Minister now if there was any unused capital authority still existing as of March 31, 1977 in this department.

**MR. COSENS:** I'm not aware, Mr. Chairman, if there was. I would have to check that out with the Finance Department where I suppose those moneys would reside.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Seven Oaks.

**MR. MILLER:** Well, Mr. Chairman, further to this line of questioning started by the Member for St. Vital, it would save considerable time and perhaps even harassment if the Minister could undertake to have prepared for him — I know he hasn't the information — the amount of authorized, allocated, but not actually expended, that is, in other words, vouchers have not come through, the actual expenditure of previously voted capital under Schedule B both for the year 1977-78 and going back to 1976-75 and so on. In other words what we would like to know is what moneys are available through Capital Supply Bills of previous years which have not been — they may have been identified and may have been earmarked but, in fact, where the actual cash flow has not yet taken place, and I don't expect the Minister to have that information at his hand but I'm sure his staff can get that information. They don't have to go to the Department of Finance for it. They have the information themselves. Mr. Chairman, I notice that there's just a couple of minutes left. I did want to participate in this debate. If you wish we could call it 5.30; if not I can ramble on for two minutes and kill the clock and then start again at 8 o'clock. :

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** As the hour is now 530 I am now leaving the Chair to return at 8 p.m.