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Fourth Session — Thirty-First Legislature
of the
Legislative Assembly of Manitoba
DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS

29 Elizabeth II

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Speaker*



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MANITOBA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
Thirty - First Legislature

Members, Constituencies and Political Affiliation

Name	Constituency	Party
ADAM, A. R. (Pete)	Ste. Rose	NDP
ANDERSON, Bob	Springfield	PC
BANMAN, Hon. Robert (Bob)	La Verendrye	PC
BARROW, Tom	Flin Flon	NDP
BLAKE, David	Minnedosa	PC
BOSTROM, Harvey	Rupertsland	NDP
BOYCE, J. R. (Bud)	Winnipeg Centre	NDP
BROWN, Arnold	Rhineland	PC
CHERNIACK, Q.C., Saul	St. Johns	NDP
CORRIN, Brian	Wellington	NDP
COSENS, Hon. Keith A.	Gimli	PC
COWAN, Jay	Churchill	NDP
CRAIK, Hon. Donald W.	Riel	PC
DESJARDINS, Laurent L.	St. Boniface	NDP
DOERN, Russell	Elmwood	NDP
DOMINO, Len	St. Matthews	PC
DOWNEY, Hon. Jim	Arthur	PC
DRIEDGER, Albert	Emerson	PC
EINARSON, Henry J.	Rock Lake	PC
ENNS, Hon. Harry J.	Lakeside	PC
EVANS, Leonard S.	Brandon East	NDP
FERGUSON, James R.	Gladstone	PC
FILMON, Gary	River Heights	PC
FOX, Peter	Kildonan	PC
GALBRAITH, Jim	Dauphin	PC
GOURLAY, Hon. Doug	Swan River	PC
GRAHAM, Hon. Harry E.	Birtle-Russell	PC
GREEN, Q.C., Sidney	Inkster	Ind
HANUSCHAK, Ben	Burrows	NDP
HYDE, Lloyd G.	Portage la Prairie	PC
JENKINS, William	Logan	NDP
JOHNSTON, Hon. J. Frank	Sturgeon Creek	PC
JORGENSEN, Hon. Warner H.	Morris	PC
KOVNATS, Abe	Radisson	PC
LYON, Hon. Sterling R.	Charleswood	PC
MacMASTER, Hon. Ken	Thompson	PC
MALINOWSKI, Donald	Point Douglas	NDP
McBRYDE, Ronald	The Pas	NDP
McGILL, Hon. Edward	Brandon West	PC
McGREGOR, Morris	Virden	PC
McKENZIE, J. Wally	Roblin	PC
MERCIER, Q.C., Hon. Gerald W. J.	Osborne	PC
MILLER, Saul A.	Seven Oaks	NDP
MINAKER, Hon. George	St. James	PC
ORCHARD, Hon. Donald	Pembina	PC
PARASIUK, Wilson	Transcona	NDP
PAWLEY, Q.C., Howard	Selkirk	NDP
PRICE, Hon. Norma	Assiniboia	PC
RANSOM, Hon. Brian	Souris-Killarney	PC
SCHROEDER, Vic	Rossmere	NDP
SHERMAN, Hon. L. R. (Bud)	Fort Garry	PC
STEEN, Warren	Crescentwood	PC
URUSKI, Billie	St. George	NDP
USKIW, Samuel	Lac du Bonnet	NDP
WALDING, D. James	St. Vital	NDP
WESTBURY, June	Fort Rouge	Lib
WILSON, Robert G.	Wolseley	PC

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA
Monday, 12 May, 1980

Time — 2:00 p.m.

OPENING PRAYER by Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER, Hon. Harry E. Graham (Birtle-Russell): Presenting Petitions . . . Reading and Receiving Petitions . . . Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees . . . Ministerial Statements and Tabling of Reports . . . Notices of Motion . . .

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

HON. BRIAN RANSOM (Souris-Killarney) introduced Bill No. 50, The Manitoba-Saskatchewan Boundary Act (1980).

HON. GERALD W.J. MERCIER (Osborne) introduced Bill No. 12, The Law Fees Act. Loi sur les frais judiciaires; and

Bill No. 26, The Suitors' Moneys Act. Loi sur les sommes consignees en justice. (Recommended by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor.)

HON. ROBERT (Bob) BANMAN (La Verendrye) introduced Bill No. 42, An Act to amend The Credit Unions and Caisses Populaires Act.

HON. WARNER H. JORGENSON (Morris) introduced Bill No. 32, An Act to amend The Real Estate Brokers Act.

MR. LEONARD J. EVANS (Brandon East) introduced Bill No. 15, An Act to amend The Brandon Charter.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. SPEAKER: Before we proceed, I should like to draw the honourable members' attention to the gallery, where have 40 students of Grade 11 standing from Princess Elizabeth School under the direction of Miss Gordon. This school is in Shilo, Manitoba, and is in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Brandon East.

We also have 22 students of Grade 12 standing from the Melita High School under the direction of Mr. Sinclair. This school is in the constituency of the Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

On behalf of all the honourable members, we welcome you here this afternoon.

ORAL QUESTIONS

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. HOWARD PAWLEY (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Honourable First Minister. Since I assume the First Minister will be undertaking enquiries pertaining to reports of a chemical testing involving the city of Winnipeg by United States Government in 1953, will the First Minister keep us informed as to any results of enquiries that he will be making pertaining to whether or not same occurred or not.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

HON. STERLING R. LYON (Charleswood): Yes, Mr. Speaker. The Minister in charge of the Environment has already initiated enquiries about the newspaper report which has appeared over the weekend. I'm sure that he will keep the House informed if there is anything new after that 27-year period of time that emerges from his enquiry.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, my question is the Minister of Municipal Affairs. In view of the report over the weekend of the action of a municipal secretary-treasurer in arranging for the subdivision of property on his part and being able to weave through the red tape in a manner superior to that which a resident in his municipality was able to do, would the Minister undertake to bring to estimates, while his department is under review, a complete and total report as to how it is that a secretary-treasurer is able to weave through the red tape and the processes in a manner that is superior to that which is available to the average resident within a municipality so that we can ascertain whether or not we, as legislators, can ensure that there is a better balancing as to the approaches that can be undertaken by the average citizen and make sure that those approaches are available to the average citizen that appear to be available to municipal officials.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs.

HON. DOUG GOURLAY (Swan River): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I'd be pleased to bring as much information as I can with respect to the article that appeared over the weekend with respect to the R.M. of Cartier and have that available at the time of municipal estimates.

MR. PAWLEY: At the same time, Mr. Speaker, can I assume that the Minister will bring a complete report as to the involvement of the Municipal Affairs department in the application in question, whether or not, regardless of the date by which the applications commenced and were completed and the particular involvement and deficiencies that were found from time to time and the response to those deficiencies on the part of either the resident or the Secretary-Treasurer over the past three or four years?

MR. GOURLAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I'd be pleased to do that.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Elmwood.

MR. RUSSELL DOERN: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the First Minister concerning the reports about the 1953 chemical matter. I'd ask him whether he would undertake an exhaustive check of Cabinet and/or government files from this period in time, with a view to seeing whether there is any

information concerning this matter relayed to the Manitoba Government at that time.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, I am confident that the Minister in charge of the Environment will make such enquiries as he deems necessary to apprise himself of the proper information surrounding the alleged incident in 1953, on the basis of information which all of us have seen in the press, and that's the extent of it thus far. We do not even know if there was for certain any spraying or release of material at that time, but I'm sure that the Minister will look to all documents customarily available to an administration to see what the records do disclose.

MR. DOERN: Mr. Speaker, I'd also ask the First Minister whether he would request a complete report from the federal government concerning either conducted or considered chemical or biological experimentation in Manitoba since 1953, especially as to whether there's anything more current.

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, with respect to the incident which is engaging the attention of the honourable member, I would imagine again that it would be natural for the Minister of the Environment to make the general enquiry of his federal counterparts with respect to that incident. My honourable friend is suggesting that he then go on a fishing expedition with respect to any other incidents of a similar nature. I don't know if that would be productive because I think what we should do is attempt to find out the validity, if any, of the reports respecting the alleged incident of 1953.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Elmwood with a final supplementary.

MR. DOERN: Mr. Speaker, then I direct my question to the Minister responsible for the Environment, and I say in all seriousness that since the 1953 incident was totally unknown, there may — underline may — have been others; and I ask the Minister whether he would ascertain whether there were any tests conducted in the past 30 years.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister responsible for the Environment.

MR. JORGENSEN: Mr. Speaker, I have asked that investigations be made to determine, first of all, the validity of the reported incident in 1953. Having once determined that, then I will decide whether or not it is necessary to continue on to conduct a further enquiry. I might add that as the First Minister has indicated, I have consulted colleagues in Ottawa to determine whether or not they have any evidence there of such an incident taking place.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Inkster.

MR. SIDNEY GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I would like direct a question to the Minister of Municipal Affairs with regard to the resignations of councillors in the Local Government District of Alexander. Is the Minister aware that his employee, the resident

administrator, Richard Andries, and that his employee, a Mr. Abe Loeppky, were involved in trying to procure the resignation of councillor Vincent, and also that the resignation of councillors and Hunter and Fontaine, were in the hands of his resident administrator on March 14th, 1980; and that knowing that they had resigned, he let them participate and take part as councillors in a meeting that was held on March 18th, 1980.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs.

MR. GOURLAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to the dates, it was some time after March 18th that this matter was brought to my attention. The resignations were dated and signed as of March 18th, and in fact if they took place before that, it was not recorded on the resolutions.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I don't ask the Minister whether it was recorded on the resolutions. Did Mr. Andries, his employee, the employee of the Department of Municipal Affairs, having two resignations by two councillors, namely Hunter and Fontaine, on March 14th, permit these people to participate in a meeting on March 18th, knowing that they had resigned, and did he and Mr. Loeppky participate by Mr. Andries actually attending at the home of Mr. Vincent and trying to convince him to resign, and Mr. Loeppky waiting for the resignation to take it into Winnipeg, was there a participation of the part of two of his employees, namely Mr. Andries and Mr. Loeppky in procuring the resignation of a councillor in order to leave a municipal council under the jurisdiction of the Minister without a quorum, specifically for that purpose. Is the Minister aware of this?

MR. GOURLAY: Mr. Speaker, the councillor in question, Mr. Vincent, as was stated earlier, visited my office with the Reeve and Deputy Reeve, and at the time I had my Deputy Minister in attendance, and he in fact had questioned Mr. Vincent as to the fact whether or not he had been talked into signing the resignation and he did not comment on this.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, in view of the Minister's answer and in view of the fact that Mr. Vincent claims that not only he commented of it but advised the Minister himself of all the facts that I have now questioned him on, I would like to table in the House, a letter from Mr. Vincent, dated April 29th, 1980, Mr. Speaker. I table it in order to give the Minister himself an opportunity to review its contents and, if necessary to himself, make a motion that this matter be referred to the Committee on Privileges and Elections. And I advise the Minister that if he does not see fit to make such a motion I myself will consider the making of such, because the allegations in the letter are completely contrary to the Minister's advice.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Transcona.

MR. PARASIUK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the First Minister. In view of

the fact that parliament on Friday unanimously passed a resolution calling for the patriation of The BNA Act from Great Britain, has the Minister contacted the Prime Minister to indicate that Manitoba would be against such patriation unless an attempt was made to gain a provincial approval?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, the answer to the question is no. I can say to the honourable member that I did have an informal discussion with the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources on Friday afternoon and he was unaware, (a) of the wording of the resolution, or (b) of its passing. I saw then in the Saturday paper that the resolution introduced by Mr. Yurko had received the unexpected, shall we say, support of the House of Commons.

The position of the government of Manitoba remains the same and it's the position of most of the other provinces, not all — I think Ontario was the notable exception — that it would be wrong in principle to patriate The British North America Act, even though everyone favours patriation, it would be wrong to patriate it without having some prior arrangement for the amendment of that Act because the mere act of patriation by itself, without an amending formula, could lead to a total inflexibility with respect to amending procedures for the Act.

I don't think it's necessary, Mr. Speaker, for me to communicate that piece of axiomatic logic to the Prime Minister. I'm sure he's well aware of it. Furthermore, it would be equally wrong — and he's well aware of this from the statements that various of the Premiers have made including myself — would be equally wrong for the government of Canada to patriate the Constitution or to attempt to patriate The British North America Act without prior consultation with the provinces. If the newspaper comments can be treated as being factual, one would draw from them that the Prime Minister noted the passage of the resolution in the House, but indicated that he would wish to consult with the provinces. That, of course, would be entirely fit and proper in the circumstances.

MR. PARASIUK: Yes. A supplementary to the Minister. In view of the fact that Mr. Yurko, the Conservative Member of Parliament from Alberta, who introduced the resolution has indicated publicly that he would be in favour of patriating the Constitution even if there wasn't provincial agreement, I'm wondering in the light of the euphoria that might exist in parliament as a result of, I think, some grandstanding prior to the Quebec referendum, that I would hate that euphoria to get the better of their senses — as it seems to have Mr. Yurko's — and would the First Minister not take the precaution of contacting the First Minister to inform them again of their position before any precipitous actions are taken by the Prime Minister in this regard.

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, I welcome the honourable member's concern and his interest in the topic because it is a serious topic. I can assure him that we will take any action that is required to reinforce the, I think, long-standing position of the government of Manitoba with respect to patriation not only of this

administration but previous administrations with which I was familiar — can I put it that way. I will leave the immediately previous administration to be spoken for by one of their spokesman — but it is a common position that has been taken by most of the provinces and if we were to see, to use the honourable member's terms, a kind of infectious euphoria overtaking the House of Commons, then of course we would make sure the well-known position of this administration and other administrations was reinforced by a telex or a letter or some appropriate means.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Transcona with a final supplementary.

MR. PARASIUK: To the same Minister, I would ask if he would consider introducing a motion which would allow for debate on constitutional change after the Quebec referendum so that we can discuss this vital matter in the Legislature of Manitoba since it has been discussed in other Legislatures, and if he would also consider establishing an all-party committee of the Legislature to look into this matter and to continue on beyond the life of this particular Session, to continue on looking at the matter of constitutional change and I do so reminding the Minister that the Fathers of Confederation met in a pretty non-partisan sense — John A. Macdonald and George Brown were members of the delegation that in fact lead to the establishment of The BNA Act in the first place.

So I would ask the Minister if he would provide for a debate in the Legislature on this matter and establish an all-party committee of the Legislature to pursue this matter.

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, if the honourable member will peruse Hansard, I believe of last week, I can't be specific as to the day, he will see that his wishes in that respect have been met with respect to the response I made last week. There will be an all-party committee, in due course, when it is appropriate, to deal with the constitutional amendments and that has been, again, a long-standing commitment by the present administration.

I should remind my honourable friend, of course, that there were many other outstanding features of the Fathers of Confederation Meetings. Only one of the features was the fact they tended to be non-partisan. There were many other features that I think might well be considered by the present administration in Ottawa and by the provincial Premiers, namely, they got together in the final stages of the negotiation on a suitable ship, as I recall, and plied their way down to Prince Edward Island. On the boat they took along their wives, their companions, I believe there was a dance orchestra and the boat, if you can believe history, Mr. Speaker, was well supplied with food, vittles and other potions that were intended to facilitate the negotiations which were of supreme importance to the country. I'm sure that Sir John A. would have made sure that the latter item was well stocked on the ship.

Things of that nature, I think, should be brought to the attention of the people of Canada at this time to indicate there might be some value in repeating that trip down the St. Lawrence by the Prime Minister

and the Premiers of Canada at the appropriate moment and making sure that we do arrive at a consensus federally and provincially with respect to a renewed Constitution for Canada when the provinces have reached the point where they have agreed that is in the national interest as we, of course, believe it is.

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

MR. BILLIE URUSKI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I direct this question to the Chairman of the Provincial Land Use Committee and ask him whether or not he was involved at all in the decision-making that led up to the allowing of a subdivision of agricultural, prime agricultural, land to be passed for the sale that took place in the outlying municipalities?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Transportation.

HON. DONALD ORCHARD (Pembina): Could the Member for St. George be a little more specific, please?

MR. URUSKI: Mr. Speaker, if the Minister hasn't read the allegations that were made in the paper with respect to agricultural land being sold for a large subdivision in the outlying RM, just to the west of Winnipeg, I'll provide him with the details from the paper. I would want to know whether or not the Provincial Land Use Guidelines were in any way violated by the approval of this subdivision?

MR. ORCHARD: Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure which subdivision the Member for St. George is referring to. If he could provide a little more detail I could provide him with an answer possibly.

MR. URUSKI: Mr. Speaker, I'll provide the Minister with the information, since it appears that he didn't want to read the press statements. I'd like to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture and ask him whether he is prepared to strengthen the legislation dealing with farmland ownership in the province of Manitoba along the lines of Saskatchewan which outlaws non-agricultural corporations owning farmland in that province.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

HON. JIM DOWNEY (Arthur): Mr. Speaker, that present legislation is under review at this particular time.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Wellington.

MR. BRIAN CORRIN: My question, Mr. Speaker, is for the Honourable First Minister and I'd like to know, in view of the revelations respecting the plan, at least the plan of the United States government or the Armed Forces of the United States, to disperse possibly toxic chemicals over our city; and the demonstrated effectiveness of the U.S. Freedom of Information Laws in bringing that to light, whether this information has altered the First Minister's

perception of the concept of freedom of information and whether, in this regard, Mr. Speaker, he will undertake to this House to move expeditiously to bring forward such legislation in our province.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, I'm not aware that either I, or the government, have made precise statements about freedom of information legislation. All I can in this regard is this, that there are various forms in which such legislation can take and I would certainly not regard, and I don't mean this to be a gratuitous insult to our friends in the United States, but I would certainly not regard the American legislation as being a model that any free nation should follow because it does permit those elements within American society, who are subversive to the good government of the United States, to obtain information that should not be in their hands. So I would certainly not regard the American legislation as any model that would ever be followed by this government.

MR. CORRIN: I do not, Mr. Speaker, share the Honourable First Minister's concern about access laws as they now exist in the United States. That's one of the risks of a democratic system but, Mr. Speaker, my question then is, in view of the fact that there is an expressed dissatisfaction with the state of affairs in the United States, will the Honourable First Minister undertake to convene the all-party committee that this House endorsed last spring session in order to complete the work relative to the approved resolution that was accepted by this Assembly in 1979 and look into the entire concept of freedom of information and the concept to be embodied in such legislation if brought before this House.

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, I'd be quite happy to pursue that resolution with the House Leader to review it again to see what the sense of the House was when it was passed. But I want to make it crystal clear, Mr. Speaker, that my honourable friend should not be in any way under the expectation that this government, and I would dearly hope that any other government in Canada or, indeed, the national government of this country, would ever permit, under the guise of so-called freedom of information, subversive elements in the country to become seized of information which is contrary to the security of the nation. I am not, Mr. Speaker, in any way referring to the alleged incident that perhaps triggered my honourable friend's question about 1953 or whatever; I am referring to the general terms of his question wherein he suggested that it would be suitable to have that kind of legislation. Freedom of information legislation, properly couched so as to protect the national interests of a country is extremely important and well worth considering. Freedom of information legislation such as the United States has at the present time, I suggest with the greatest of respect, in not in the national interest of that country and should not be followed in Canada.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, I want to follow up on the remarks of the First Minister to the question posed by the Member for Wellington. Would the First Minister not concur that in fact the United States Freedom of Information legislation excludes the release of any information that endangers the security of the state.

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, I'm not going to get into the situation of debating section by section the American legislation. All I'm aware of from what I have read and heard of the American legislation is this, that it has put agencies of the United States Government, such as the FBI, the CIA and other agencies responsible for protecting and securing the government of the United States against subversive elements, their job has been made much more difficult. In fact, the information has come out into the hands of subversives that is not in the national interest. I make that as a general observation and I suggest to my honourable friend that if he is as concerned, as I'm sure he is, about the security of this country, as I think any elected person should be, that we should be very very careful to ensure that any freedom of information legislation enacted in Canada is not done in a way which will subvert the work that is carried on, on behalf of all Canadian citizens, to protect them against those interests who are always present, Mr. Speaker, who are always present trying to undermine the kind and the form of government that we have in this country.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, the answers by the First Minister interest us all. I'm wondering if the First Minister is then suggesting that the reason that he is not proceeding by way of implementation of the resolution which was passed in this Chamber in 1978 is that he fears that by the implementation of that resolution establishing a committee of this Chamber to deal with freedom of information . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order please. May I suggest the honourable member is debating rather than seeking information.

The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, on your point of order, it would be interesting if you would read Hansard at your first opportunity to read the comments by the First Minister and then ascertain really who is debating this point. My question to the First Minister was very specific. Is this the reason that he is not proceeding with the implementation of the resolution which was passed by this House in 1978?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, as with any questions asked by my honourable friend, it is a non sequitur; his question, but I said with respect to the question put by his colleague was in a general sense that we would not, or no administration would be wise to emulate the legislation passed in the United States of America. I answered the second part of his question by saying that we would consult with the Leader of the House to see what the status of that resolution was, so that question has already been answered.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Kildonan.

MR. PETER FOX: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Energy and Mines. In view of the fact that he has a resolution on the Order Paper which I understand he would like to have expedited and with which we are prepared to co-operate, would he extend the courtesy of having some of his department officials meet with some of our people so we could get at the very technical details as an explanation to expediting this matter.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines.

HON. DONALD W. CRAIK (Riel): Yes, Mr. Speaker, that can certainly be arranged. I'd also mention to the House Leader that there will be a bill in the Legislature that covers this matter in the event of a July 1 requirement for it, so at that time there will be detail provided. Presently the resolution before us is to fulfill the undertaking from last year to make this move, if, as and when, there was an indexing of the well-head price, so that's why it's about at this time. But yes, we can make that arrangement for the members of the House who wish to talk directly and I'll try to do that this afternoon if it's convenient for the members.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Brandon East.

MR. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to address a question to the Minister of Economic Development respecting his industrial strategy outline which he delivered in Winnipeg last April 30th, wherein he refers to manufacturing industries in Manitoba including key growth sectors such as — he mentions three or four — but such as leisure products, and my question is: is his department still promoting the expansion of leisure products in Manitoba and specifically recreational vehicles and specifically motor homes and truck campers.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Economic Development.

HON. J. FRANK JOHNSTON (Sturgeon Creek): Mr. Speaker, I would think that the promotion of expansion and the encouragement of people to travel and travel out of the province and through the province in leisure products manufactured in Manitoba would help the industry in Manitoba.

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, perhaps the Honourable Minister, who has been away for a few days, isn't aware of the fact that Edson Manufacturing Division at Rivers, Manitoba has announced a major layoff of people and a shutdown of the factory facilities there. In view of the problem in this very major facility, is the Minister not concerned that promotion of additional plants throughout the province may make it even more difficult for this particular plant to open. And secondly, Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Honourable Minister is prepared to utilize his department to specifically help this particular company at Rivers, Manitoba. Is there anything he can do to help this company get back on its feet,

apart from promoting other new industries that may only make matters worse at Rivers?

MR. JOHNSTON: I am completely confused as to why new industries with more people working would be of harm to a person making leisure products. I would think that if there are more industries operating in the province of Manitoba and more people working as has been in the province of Manitoba, that it would be better for the leisure industry in all aspects. I can only say that in helping the industry in Rivers, Manitoba, it was brought to our attention nearly three weeks ago that they had a very large inventory on hand and they would be ceasing to manufacture more until that inventory is moved. As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, the travel Manitoba or by Manitobans is part of a promotion that would help; our promotions that will be going on with wholesalers in Europe to bring people from Europe, rent a camper and travel through Manitoba and across western Canada will help. We would certainly try to do everything possible to encourage and help this industry. Marr's is a fairly large industry in the province of Manitoba and their owners have informed us that as soon as the inventory gets to a situation that they can manufacture again with the present interest rates, they will be doing so.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Brandon East with a final supplementary.

MR. EVANS: I take it, Mr. Speaker, that the Minister is unable to do anything specific for this unfortunate company at Rivers. I would like to ask the Honourable Minister another question and that relates to a market survey that the government has commissioned regarding the possibility of helicopter manufacturing at Gimli, Manitoba. I wonder if the Honourable Minister has yet received a copy of this market survey and if so, whether he is prepared to table the same in the House.

MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, the report wasn't just a market survey that was requested. It was a survey on the basis of whether the product is a feasible product and has a marketability. When we say feasible product, will it do the things that it was shown as far as the presentation to the Manitoba Government and the federal government. The federal government has participated in the financing of the report that we will be receiving. We have had communication from them that the draft was ready for their approval and the final report will be coming through. We also have had communication that there has been an extension to the report using one engine versus another engine in the aircraft. But I make it very clear to the member, that the province of Manitoba will be making no decisions on the helicopter business in the province of Manitoba until the report has been examined by the federal government as to the feasibility and marketability of the machine, and when that happens the company will have to make a proposal to the province of Manitoba as their financial status, and until that time there will be nothing done.

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

MR. D. JAMES WALDING: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Honourable Minister of Finance. Given that the government has accepted a recent Supreme Court ruling, I would like to know whether it's the policy of the Minister and his department to send out bilingual tax information leaflets.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Finance.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, I don't think it would qualify as a House document. I presume the member is referring to the stuffers that are included with tax bills.

MR. WALDING: In explanation, Mr. Speaker, that's what I was referring to and I'd like to know from the Minister whether he is intending to send these out in bilingual form and if not, why he is sending out unilingual tax information pamphlets.

MR. CRAIK: No, Mr. Speaker, it's not the government's intention to send out the forms in French as well as English.

MR. WALDING: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. If the Minister says that it is not the intention of the department to send them out in French as well as English, I will show him one that I received today as a unilingual form and I'd like to ask him what instructions were given to the city of Winnipeg in regard to the distribution of these unilingual pamphlets?

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, I presume the usual, to include them with the mailings of the tax bills which I presume now have been distributed city-wide including all those areas of the city, whether there would be a need or a necessity for another language or not.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Vital with a final supplementary.

MR. WALDING: A final supplementary then, Mr. Speaker, and that is to ask the Minister whether he had instructed the city, or what instructions he had given to the city in sending out these pamphlets to ensure that they were received by people who could understand them.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, the city got the same instructions that they received for the last eight years when they included these pamphlets with the tax bills.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lac du Bonnet.

MR. SAMUEL USKIW: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the First Minister whether he can indicate as to how many boat people have settled in Manitoba, out of the total immigration to Canada?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, I do not, of course, have that information at my fingertips. I'll take the

question as notice. Perhaps the answer can be given by the Minister of Labour and Manpower.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. SPEAKER: At this time I should like to draw the honourable members' attention to the gallery on my right where we have 56 students of Grade 6 standing, plus some guests from Quebec, from the Precious Blood School in St. Boniface, under the direction of Ms. June Lenoreville. This school is in the constituency of the Honourable Member for St. Boniface.

On behalf of all the honourable members, we welcome you here this afternoon.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Government House Leader.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, would you call the Adjourned Debate on the proposed motion of the Minister of Finance.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Kildonan.

MR. FOX: Could we have this matter stand, Mr. Speaker?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Government House Leader.

MR. MERCIER: I move, Mr. Speaker, seconded by the Minister of Government Services, that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a committee to consider of the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

MOTION presented and carried and the House resolved itself into a Committee of Supply with the Honourable Member for Radisson in the Chair for the Department of Community Services and Corrections and the Member for Virden in the Chair for the Department of Agriculture.

CONCURRENT COMMITTEES OF SUPPLY

SUPPLY — AGRICULTURE

MR. CHAIRMAN, Morris McGregor (Virden): I call the committee to order. We are on Resolution 6, 1.(e)(1)—pass — the Member for Ste. Rose.

MR. (Pete) A. R. ADAM: When we broke off Friday at 12:30 for the weekend, I was asking the Minister whether he would be prepared to . . . we were discussing the ramifications of contract hog production and I was asking the Minister if he would be prepared to get in touch with Cargills and advise them that the government disapproved of contract production of hogs. The Minister stated to the committee that he was opposed to contract production of hogs and I'm wondering, rather than pay lip service to the family farm, would he not be willing to get in touch with Cargill and advise them to that effect, that the government's position is that they do not approve of contract farming of hogs.

Since the Minister did say that he was in support of the family farm and opposed to contract production of hogs I am wondering if he would not commit himself to do that. I believe, Mr. Chairman, that Cargills would back off if the Minister was sincere in what he commented to us last week.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, number one in this specific item of policy studies, I don't believe that would cover it. On number two, I answered that question on Friday for the Member for Ste. Rose. I'm sure that if he looks back at the Hansards that will indicate that to him.

MR. ADAM: Yes, I know the Minister, when we were on this specific item and the Minister indicated that he was strongly in support of the family farm unit and that he felt that the fact that Cargills was going into contract production of hogs was not in the best interests of . . . and he was opposed to that kind of a situation and I'm just wondering would he not stop giving lip service to the support of family farms and do something about it, get in touch with Cargills and advise them that he doesn't approve of the hog production in Manitoba going in that direction.

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, as I indicated earlier, I answered that question on Friday and I don't believe that falls within the research part of our department.

MR. ADAM: On that point, Mr. Chairman, we were on this specific item and that's where the question was asked. I was the last speaker to speak and we were on this particular item and the Minister made a statement, a clear statement that he did not approve of contract farming of hogs, and all I'm asking the Minister to do now is to get in touch with Cargill and advise them as to his opinion and see if he will not get some reaction from them in this regard. I can't see why we can't speak about this because we were speaking on it when we broke off Friday and I was the last speaker on the list; I was still speaking when the Chairman called the committee to rise.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, the Chair, I think, would indicate that this particular matter could be dealt under this particular item, I really believe it can I said.

The Member for St. George.

MR. URUSKI: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. We were dealing with the involvement the Department of Agriculture had in research over the last year, and one of the studies that the Minister indicated the department was involved in was the hog study by Professor Gilson at the University. The Minister read out a number of the recommendations and told us that he would be providing us with copies of the report and when we broke off we left, on Friday afternoon, right at the point where the Member for Ste. Rose has begun, in terms of corporate involvement specifically in the hog industry in the province of Manitoba.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, that was not dealt with in the Gilson Study. The point that I made when the committee was discussing this the other day, and I will make it very plain, that I believe that the production of agriculture commodities should be produced by farmers; the most desirous type operation is the family farm unit. But I do not believe that large corporations should be in the actual production of hogs. I said, in specific, that as long as the Manitoba Hog Producers Marketing Board had control of the finished product that I could see no danger in what was taking place; I did not see any need for large companies to be in the actual production and do not support them being in the actual production. Now, if they offer a service to the farm community that the farmers accept or reject, I leave that up to the farmers to make that decision. But, at this particular time, I don't see where it is endangering the actual family farm concept. They are providing a service the same as banks provide money; the feed companies provide feed; this company is providing a service.

Now, as far as legislating them out of the province, I don't intend to do so and I made it plain to the Member for Ste. Rose on Friday, that I did not support the concept of large corporations in the actual production of farm commodities. I've met with the different producers, the Producer Board, on this issue and they have let their thoughts be known to me. I have indicated it publicly, in committee and other places, what I think about it but as far as saying, no, you can't produce hogs — I shouldn't say, no, you can't produce hogs they're not actually producing hogs, they're providing a service to the producers. And if they in any way endanger, what I would consider endanger the production base that we have in this province, then other actions would be taken.

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

MR. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, the Minister suggests that he would intercede if they were to endanger the sort of traditional production system as I interpret him. In his mind, what kind of situation would it be where, in his opinion, it would endanger the sort of traditional mode of production in Manitoba. What does he envisage as a reason that he would want to intercede? He has indicated that if there became a danger he would then step in but he doesn't spell out what he means by that.

MR. DOWNEY: To be specific, Mr. Chairman, if the marketing board structure were being circumvented on a direct basis, on a contract basis, then I would suggest that would be one of the ways in which they would be interfering with what the normal pattern of hog marketing and hog production is in the province. What I'm indicating is that it's not unlike Manitoba Pool Elevators program that was introduced several years ago on the SPF hog, Specific Passage and Free Hog, that they were providing breeding stock to the hog producers. As I say I leave it to the farmers at this particular time to — if they're not using it as a program or if they're using it in any way to

circumvent the marketing system that we have, then I would think action would have to be taken; I would be prepared to take action. But it appears to me the producers are using it as a service to them; then I would think that if in fact they were to endanger the position of the farmers then I would have to take some form of action. At this time I haven't got enough information to suggest that it's eroding the farmers who are producing hogs.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister would indicate to us whether or not the Hog Producers Marketing Board has expressed support for the kind of production that is being promoted by Cargill and by contract producers. The board, are they neutral on that question, are they in favour of it or are they opposed to it? What is the attitude of the board, the board which is elected by the producers of Manitoba?

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, the indications coming from the board is that they are not in support of the kind of program that is being offered to the hog farmers.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, as I recall, we had a regulation — it may still be there although it may not be there, it can be checked, I am sure — that where a person or a company wishes to produce beyond 5,000 hogs a year that they would have to get approval from the board for that volume of production. Is that still in effect or has that been repealed?

MR. DOWNEY: That hasn't been changed, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (1)(e) — the Member for Lac du Bonnet.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, I would tend to think that policy studies is a broad-ranging area of discussion in the sense that either we can discuss the policy studies that have been undertaken or we can discuss those that should be undertaken and are not being undertaken. I notice that the amount of money allocated for policy studies is 107,100, the same figure as last year, and I would almost hazard a guess the same figure it was three or four years ago, maybe six or seven years ago. That figure seems to ring a bell with me. I'm wondering what it is, Mr. Chairman, is there no need for greater policy studies on the part of the department. It seems to me that there is a whole host of areas that ought to be looked at and, in particular, at this time in our history because of the imminent changes in transportation costs for the grain industry as a result of new federal policies evolving with respect to Crow rate, the compensatory rate or whatever, is going to evolve out of those negotiations.

Secondly, it seems to me that this is a reasonable area where the Minister could determine for his satisfaction just what his feelings are, what the cost benefits are of the present feed grain policy. I make mention of that because the Saskatchewan government has used its policy study funds to come up with a report on the impact of the current feed grain marketing policy in Canada on grain producers

in the three prairie provinces. In their report they indicate to us that Manitoba farmers lost about 30 million because of the present policy — Manitoba grain farmers. I'm wondering whether this Minister is in a position to either confirm that or whether he has even bothered to do any studies or research into the question of how the present grain marketing system is benefiting the Manitoba agriculture or how it may be a negative factor in terms of incomes to Manitoba grain producers. It seems odd that we ought to have to think in terms of going to Saskatchewan for that kind of information which is a document that they have provided which is very comprehensive covering the three western provinces, the three prairie provinces, Mr. Chairman. It's a devastating report in the sense of its feelings toward the present feed grain marketing system. It certainly has some very strong recommendations and it seems to me that the Minister, having had funds voted for policy study, should be able to tell us whether or not he has some views as to whether the marketing system that we have had now in grains for the last four or five years is, in fact, the kind of system he would advocate and would want to continue with or whether he would want to modify it in order to improve the income position of our grain producers in Manitoba.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. DOWNEY: Well, to address the comments that the member made to start with, this was discussed to some extent on Friday and I would indicate now to him, Mr. Chairman, that the 107,000 looks familiar to him. We could look back at the past work that has been done while he was the Minister and carried forward. I guess it probably demonstrates our ability to operate efficiently and still see that the necessary work is being done. When it gets to the area of discussing grain policies or feed grain policies, transportation policies, we have been fairly involved as a government. I guess, when it comes to talking about what has happened under our administration, that we saw not only some studies take place but we have seen a lot of action. Mr. Chairman, the Member for Lac du Bonnet quite innocently sits there and suggests that there is room for more study. I think that when we took office the whole system had been studied to death and the farmers were being somewhat coming up on the short end of the stick, not being able to market, transport their grain and move it to identified markets; markets that were identified by the Canadian Wheat Board. They called for action and got it right in this very room, Mr. Chairman, with the Premier of the province calling a national meeting with all the participants in the grain transportation industry and the Canadian Wheat Board, sitting right in this room with western premiers, the federal Minister responsible . . . — (Interjection)— Well, Mr. Chairman, the Member for Ste. Rose suggests, how much have they moved? Well, Mr. Chairman, I'll tell you, there was a lot of movement and a lot of things have taken place; the commitment to build the Prince Rupert terminal; the commitment to use Churchill to the fullest extent, which you never hear the Member for Ste. Rose mention, he's always talking about Crow rate and certain other things but he never gets down and

deals with the real issues that affect Manitoba farmers. Mr. Chairman, we saw action. We saw the federal government commit themselves to further purchase of hopper cars and rehabilitation of boxcars; the provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta getting involved in the purchasing of hopper cars; and the province of Manitoba leasing some 400 hopper cars now in the system. Action, Mr. Chairman, is what has taken place, not a continuation of studies and studies and more studies.

We have, at the same time, been carrying out some work and we've had a study done by the University of Manitoba under Dr. Ed Tyrchniewicz, which I haven't had an opportunity to go over thoroughly with Dr. Tyrchniewicz, and when I have gone over it then I'd be prepared to air it in the public arena but at this particular time I haven't had an opportunity to thoroughly discuss. I think in the best interest, I think in the grain transportation or the effects of increasing the transportation costs on grain movement out of Manitoba, the effects that it would have. One of the particular parts of that study that was not addressed and has to be, is what are the other side benefits to doing more of the value-added work on crops produced in Manitoba? As I say, after I have had an opportunity to discuss with Dr. Tyrchniewicz, which I think would be fair, then it will be released to be discussed in the public arena.

Now, to look at future studies, the member recommends what we should do as far as further studies, And again, I go back and somewhat think the farm community gets somewhat frustrated that there are too many studies being carried out and not enough action, although when action is taken the people who are involved in that kind of work have to know that there has been some background work done.

I believe that there has to be some more work done on livestock stabilization programs and we're pursuing that at this particular time. I believe we have to, as the member suggests, a National Feed Grain policy. I would agree that there could be some discussion take place on that; as far as a major study is concerned I really don't know whether that would be in the interests, I think it's been done, as the member says, that the Saskatchewan government have done it. —(Interjection)— Well, the Member for St. George says we need some action. I think when we get into this whole area as far as I am concerned, when we talk about grains that are produced in Manitoba, I believe there has to be a mechanism put in place where provincial governments have more involvement and more input into the total grain industry. The members sit here and suggest that we should be saying certain things; I believe we should be more involved when it comes to the operations of the Canadian Grain Industry.

There have been some proposals over the past few years on how that could take place, such as was recommended by the government of Alberta, to set up a Board of Governors to be participants in the Canadian Wheat Board or to be part of the overall governing body. I don't believe that is particularly necessary, but I do believe that the provinces should have an opportunity when it comes to being involved in grain industry decisions — after all there are only certain grains that are under the authority of the

federal government — and to have a meaningful input into the whole grains industry. I believe it has to take place through provincial governments.

For example, in Australia — and I think it should be noted — that in Australia for example, the Australian Wheat Board have got representation from the five states; from the federal government who appoints the Chairman and three other individuals; two from each of the five states elected from the farmers' organizations, as commissioners. They have direct state involvement or provincial involvement which we really don't have in this country. I feel if you're going to have a meaningful working relationship with the federal government and supporting the farm industry, that you have to have a more direct involvement.

I believe that the most objective way to get on with providing opportunities with farmers, or for farmers, is to have governments, the industry and the farm community working in a common arena that their thoughts, their suggestions can be aired openly and discussed on an ongoing basis. I think we have to again say that I believe there's room for a study to be done in that particular area. We talk of the need for increased marketing opportunities for our livestock and our other agricultural commodities that are produced in this province. I believe that an agricultural market development institute, made up of government and industry, could be an objective way to proceed to introduce and encourage our agricultural commodities into the international marketplace and I believe there has to be a lot more work done in this particular area.

I believe that we talk about the overall moneys that are available and allocated to this particular allocation of 107,000, I think it's a matter of leaving some room for the government to enter into specific projects at some time during the year. At this particular time it has been sufficient. If other areas have to be looked at, I'm sure the members are quite aware of the fact that we have other people involved, particularly in the Department of Management and Economics branch to provide some background information that isn't a matter of going out and getting an outside consultant to come in assembling information or statistics. There is a lot of that particular knowledge already available. I really think in requesting these funds that we are dealing with the specific issues and I say the one that is number one at this particular time as far as we're concerned is the development of a more suitable type approach to stabilization and if moneys have to be spent in that area, they will be.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, the Minister skated all over the place but didn't deal with the question and the question is, isn't it prudent for him to have his department do a monitoring job on federal policy with respect to feed grain marketing or any other federal policy which has an impact of the welfare of prairie producers? And certainly that has a significant impact on the welfare of Manitoba producers, Mr. Chairman, whether or not they will realize the full potential of the world market and of the Canadian market for their product or whether their prices are undermined because of some desire in eastern Canada for a subsidized price in order to enhance a livestock industry in eastern Canada. And

that's been the net effect of the present feed grains policy, Mr. Chairman, is that it is working to the advantage of Quebec and Ontario and to the disadvantage of the prairies.

That is what the Saskatchewan study has established and it's in hundreds of millions of dollars, Mr. Chairman, it is no small sum. It was argued for some period of time that it would bring about some sort of reasonable relationship in off-board grain pricing as between western Canada and eastern Canada. Mr. Chairman, it hasn't done that all. It has further aggravated a situation that has bothered western producers for many many years, and that is that eastern producers have somehow been in a position to take advantage of western Canadian production that would indeed enhance their ability to produce livestock and poultry and so on. It seems to me that is a very important area for any prairie government to be involved in in order that when they have conferences at the national level, federal/provincial conferences, that the three prairie provinces would be strong enough with sufficient information to put forward a united front in order that eastern Canada does not take advantage of the three western provinces. And that's the only way it will work, Mr. Chairman. It isn't going to work if we each go our own way.

Saskatchewan has done a very indepth study on that issue and has come up with a report that is devastating to the present system that is now used. It condemns the system, Mr. Chairman. It demonstrates the losses in millions of dollars to each of the prairie provinces and it certainly should be a focal point for the next federal/provincial conference on agricultural policy, Mr. Chairman. It seems to me that this government in Manitoba should be equipped with all the knowledge that it can assemble, Mr. Chairman, in order to take a position so that we can bring back to the producers of this province their share of the market at the right price for their production. There is no logic whatever in what is happening at the present time. So I think, Mr. Chairman, this is an area which this Minister could use, the dollars provided in policy studies are dollars that could be used to do that kind of research so that when he goes down to the next meeting in July or whenever, that he would be fortified with all of the information in order to put forward his arguments.

Mr. Chairman, there is another area that I think is important and unless the government wants to fly by the seat of its pants — and that's what it's been doing — it should be looked at and should be studied as to its impact. And that is whether or not there is a negative situation developing with respect to the marketing of western grains to the Soviet Union because of the position taken by the United States over the Russian involvement in Afghanistan and whether or not the government of Manitoba, along with the other two prairie governments, are supporting a position that a boycott should continue. Because, Mr. Chairman, it has been demonstrated by very knowledgeable people that there has been a dramatic downturn in the price of grain marketed internationally because of that policy of the United States and supported by a number of governments, including the Canadian Government, Mr. Chairman.

There's a lot of window dressing around those announcements of support, namely that if there is

negative impact on producers' income that the government is going to make up the difference. Mr. Chairman, those are nice statements but I don't think we're going to see many dollars flow, because it's so easy to fudge the issue as to how much the losses were and what caused them, and it's always a debatable point in international marketing as to what really triggers the cause for those losses or the effect of those losses. It's easy to get around that, Mr. Chairman, and I don't believe that there should be a federal/provincial conference this summer without the prairie Ministers taking a position on where Canada should be with respect to the boycott of sales of grain to Russia. It seems to me that the Chinese market, the Russian market, are the two best markets we've got for prairie grain, Mr. Chairman, and we should not be playing that kind of game with what I consider to be two of our best customers. In this case, only one is involved, but I don't believe we should be playing that kind of game because it is a game that is merely reducing dollars, income dollars, from prairie producers.

Secondly, if it was an effective game, let's assume, Mr. Chairman, that the desire was that somehow the Russians should suffer a severe penalty economically for their involvement of Afghanistan. Let's assume that was the real desire, Mr. Chairman, then perhaps one could rationalize to some degree, although I wouldn't accept it on the basis of the farmers paying the bill, Mr. Chairman. It would have to be shared by all Canadians or all Americans. But, Mr. Chairman, that isn't what is happening because the Russians sort of expect to realize about 240 million tonnes of grain annually, about one tonne per capita and, Mr. Chairman, a cutback of 17 million tonnes of grain represents a cutback of 7 percent on their supply side. Now, Mr. Chairman, statistically, if you look at Canada Stats for Canada and for the USSR or for the whole world, you will quickly come to realize that our fluctuation, that the fluctuations in supply of grain either for livestock feed or human consumption, is much in excess of 7 percent from time to time. In fact, it ranges from almost 30 percent either way, up or down, Mr. Chairman, and so to talk in terms of reducing a supply of grain to the Soviet Union of 17 million tons and that is somehow going to impose a severe penalty on the Soviet Union for their external involvements militarily, you know, is absolute nonsense. It is nothing more than political window-dressing in the United States designed to serve the success of the current President in the November elections and nothing more. Canadians should recognize it for what it is and not compromise the position of Canadian farmers by joining in that kind of a policy which in fact, Mr. Chairman, is purely domestic-oriented; it has nothing to do with penalties that would be imposed on another nation; it has to do much more with the chances of success at the polls for Mr. Carter in November. We should not be used in that way and we shouldn't do those kinds of things, Mr. Chairman, to what we should consider one of our best customers for prairie production. Russia is one of our best customers, Mr. Chairman. It is not usually the way one treats their best customer. Regardless of their involvement in other areas, I don't believe, Mr. Chairman, that we should use our food supply as a lever in order to influence their decisions in other

matters. Mr. Chairman, I think a marriage counsellor would say you shouldn't use sex as a lever in a dispute in a household, and I think this is about the same thing. It rates about the same way, Mr. Chairman. So this is the argument that I would put forward to the Minister that there is going to be a federal-provincial conference, Mr. Chairman, soon and this Minister will be hopefully attending that conference and I would hope that the three prairie provinces would not support a boycott of grain sales to any country, to any country, Mr. Chairman, because we need every dollar that we can get into this prairie economy; and especially the Manitoba economy which has been so stagnant for so long that we shouldn't compromise that income position. We shouldn't compromise that income position that is there because of blanket support for a political position of our neighbouring country to the south, especially, in the knowledge that we know that it will not realize the objective and, that is, the imposition of a penalty on the Soviet Union. Given the knowledge, Mr. Chairman, that boycott only represents a 7 percent reduction, the basis of their total needs for an annual period; and given the fact, Mr. Chairman, that swings in production are much greater than that from year to year everywhere in the world, including Canada.

Now, Mr. Chairman, what is to be gained by continuing to support that position? From what I can see there is nothing to be gained for Canada, not one iota, Mr. Chairman. I can see a tougher bargaining scenario on the next wheat agreement with Canadians, you know, I can see that and that's a negative result, Mr. Chairman. I can see a position on the part of the Soviet Union, or any country that is so affected, of trying to become more self-sufficient in this commodity in order to have less dependency on our exports or imports from this country. So, Mr. Chairman, everything that I can see about it is a negative for Canada; it's a negative for Canada. Surely, Mr. Chairman, the Minister should be in a position to indicate to this committee just what his position is and is going to be on this issue at the next federal-provincial meeting, because I think it has very important ramifications on what happens to the prairie economy, as to whether we are going to play that kind of game or whether we are going to be in the business of seriously marketing our production wherever the markets are obtainable throughout the world.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for St. George, unless the Minister wants to — the Honourable Minister.

MR. DOWNEY: Thank you. I'd like to make a comment on the imposition of restricting grain sales to the Soviet Union. I think the member has made it very clear whose side he would be on; of course, it would be the Russians and not the Americans. — (Interjections)— No, he has certainly indicated that to this committee and I have no reason to . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Lac du Bonnet on a point of clarification.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, the Minister is suggesting that this is a question of sides. I merely

point out to him, Mr. Chairman, that it is our side that we ought to protect and that is the continued availability of markets for our production, and that has nothing to do with bombs that are dropping all over the world or anywhere in the world. It has to do with feeding people; it has nothing to do with the war front.

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, the member has clearly stated his position that he would be in full support of Russians when it comes to providing them with food and if you have open warfare between that country and the United States, he would be still quite prepared to provide them with supplies. Mr. Chairman, we don't take that position; we took the position of supporting what the federal government, the Minister of Grain Transportation and Wheat Board, Don Mazankowski, at that particular time stated that they would carry out the sales that had already been committed to Russia; that they would not move to fill the embargo, the lack of grain that the Russians would get because of the embargo from the United States. That was a clear position; we stated our support for that position. We also supported the position and made it very clear, I made it very clear from Day One that the farmers of this province should not be expected to carry the results on their backs of such a move. The farm community should not be expected to do that.

Now, the member is suggesting we should have a study or study what the effects were. Mr. Chairman, I believe at this particular time we have seen what would be expected, an immediate reduction in the prices in grains because of the world backing off or the amount of grain, the 17 million or 18 million tons which was involved in the embargo, hanging over the world market as a cloud. Mr. Chairman, I guess we follow through from that particular period of time and we now see the Americans telling the Russians that they will honour part of that commitment on the longer term — and I think it's something like 8 million tons that they now say they will deliver on that initial agreement — which again changes the situation. The principle of course being, Mr. Chairman, that we do not support the aggression of the Russians in international moves. We have no choice but to take that kind of a position. What are the other weapons that we have available to us? As far as the farm community is concerned, I think that they shouldn't be expected to carry the burden; that has been communicated to the last federal government. The changes that are going to take place now with the Americans honouring part of that commitment I would think would resolve some of the problems that have been created. I believe, in the long term, the sales of grains to Russia as far as we're concerned haven't been put in jeopardy by those kinds of moves. I have had indication from the Canadian Wheat Board, the Chief Commissioner, that they intend to be selling on a normal basis to these countries. At this particular time we are selling all the grain we can move and there haven't been any problems with sales. I guess we go back to the government that initially started selling grain to the Soviet countries and that of course being the late John Diefenbaker who moved very aggressively and I think he should be commended by the people of Canada for doing that. —(Interjection)— Well, I

think, Mr. Chairman, the Member for Lac du Bonnet says he doesn't think he would, I think he would very much commend this policy. He was a very strong Canadian, a very outstanding Canadian, fighting for freedom.

MR. USKIW: He just flipped in his grave.

MR. DOWNEY: Well, Mr. Chairman, he flipped in his grave many times as far as the comments from the Member for Lac du Bonnet are concerned. But he strengthened our military powers, he was a firm believer in all opportunities, or Canadian having many opportunities and, as I said, moved aggressively and I think that he was to be commended for that.

At this particular time I would think that the impact of the move by the Americans in not selling grain to the Soviets is somewhat now going to put western Canada in a position of further assessing it at this particular time because the Wheat Board are going back to sell to the Soviets. I believe that the United States, living up to part of that commitment now, would somewhat change the pricing system for the grain farmers.

The other particular issues that I think we have to look at and that has been the abundant supply of oil seeds that have been available. They are now finding a market of, particularly in the last few days with the weather conditions that have developed with the drought in western Canada and northern United States, would somewhat make me think that we're going to see a firming up of all the prices. And again, I do not believe that it would be in the best interests of Canadians and international safety to have moved aggressively to continue to take advantage of the sales that were cancelled by the States to Russia, but in fact in the best interests of the future of freedom and the democratic system that both the provincial and federal governments, all the federal and provincial governments, have acted responsibly. The longer term effects I think will be shown in these coming weeks. As I have indicated we have seen somewhat of a strengthening of a lot of the grain prices and particularly barley, we've seen a tremendous increase in the barley price. Still I think we have to look at —(Interjection)— Well, the members say everything dropped today. I think the longer term trend that has been indicated by the Wheat Board is that we are looking at strong demands for certain feed grains and that information is current. Mr. Chairman, if we are to introduce any policies contrary to what I have just talked about, I would believe we might be in fact putting ourselves in the position of supporting the communists instead of being in direct opposition to their aggression in the international arena.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, it's a very interesting scenario here. The Minister alluded to the fact that it was John Diefenbaker who first launched a major campaign to open up a market in the communist world; that is true, Mr. Chairman. Up until that time, up until 1957, the Liberal Party of Canada consistently refused to trade with China on the basis of following an American policy. I recall very vividly, Mr. Chairman, that when the Diefenbaker government decided to change that policy, or to

reverse it, the American government openly discussed ways and means of frustrating the shipments of Canadian grain to the communist world, either through the misallowance of use of port facilities or load equipment; there are all sorts of mechanisms that were talked about as a means that would be employed by the United States in order to jeopardize movement of Canadian grain to that part of the world.

Mr. Chairman, the Prime Minister at that time, John Diefenbaker, was not swayed by those pressures. What he did was he unloaded all of those stockpiles of wheat that were piled up in the prairie region for years under a Liberal regime and decided that wheat was no place for ideology and that it was time to market that wheat and to put some dollars in the pockets of our prairie producers who were nearly bankrupt, Mr. Chairman, for lack of sales. That's the history of how we got into the markets in the communist world, Mr. Chairman, and I commend them for that; I think that was a very good move. It was followed by the Americans themselves deciding to enter that market, quite some period after, but it certainly followed through.

Now we're back to the status quo ante, Mr. Chairman. We now have the Conservative government of Manitoba going back to an old Liberal policy of pre-Diefenbaker years, of saying we're not going to trade with the enemy sort of thing. We're going to keep our grain in the piles and then we're going to . . .

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, I did not say that. I said that the sales were going to be carried on as normal. We supported that policy of selling — (Interjection)— Yes, Mr. Chairman, I stated very specifically that we supported the policy of not moving to take advantage of the situation as it had developed but would be continuing support of the position of continuing the sales that had been negotiated and would be negotiated with the Canadian Wheat Board and the Soviet Union. That's exactly what I said and if the member tries to infer something else, he's totally out of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Minnedosa.

MR. DAVID BLAKE: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. The whole matter is under the Canadian Wheat Board. The province has very very little say in whether the Wheat Board sells to the Soviet Union or whether it sells to Red China or not and I really can't see the point of the members opposite spending a whole afternoon of the committee's time on this particular item because really the decision here is only a very very small portion of the overall decision and you're certainly not going to influence whether Canada trades with the Soviet Union or whether it trades with Red China in this committee right here, so let's get on with the agricultural estimates.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your point is well taken, the Member for Minnedosa. The Member for Lac du Bonnet.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, the point is not well taken. The Member for Minnedosa, if he wasn't here for the full discussion I should then remind him, or if

he was he wasn't listening, I should remind him that we were discussing the fact that Manitoba ought to have a policy in support of expanding the grain markets in order to sell our production so that we can maximize our incomes in Manitoba, Mr. Chairman.

Secondly, Mr. Chairman, it was pointed out that the Minister will be attending a Federal-Provincial Conference relatively soon at which time it seems logical, from my point of view, Mr. Chairman, it should be logical from his point of view, that the three prairie Ministers take a position of maximizing sales of grain throughout the world. Bar none, Mr. Chairman — (Interjection)— No, they haven't got that position. As long as they take the position that they will play the Carter political game on this question, they are they not allowing the Canadian Wheat Board to — (Interjection)— Yes, it's Clark, but Clark is just a puppet of Carter, Mr. Chairman, a strange combination. It used to be that the Liberals were the puppets of the American regime. But it also became obvious that Clark became a puppet on this issue, Mr. Chairman. — (Interjection)—

Now, Mr. Chairman, the fact remains that there will be a ministerial conference and that it seems to me that the interests of the prairie region will be better served if we got on with the job of marketing all of our production to the extent that we wish to market it, and in order that we maximize incomes for the prairie region. I don't believe that we should be sidetracked because of an election south of the border, Mr. Chairman.

It cannot be demonstrated that this particular embargo is going to have any serious impact on the Soviet Union, it's tokenism in terms of its impact. It is merely a political ploy in order to garner some votes for President Carter in the United States. Since it is not going to have the impact that it is perceived it is going to have, then it seems logical that we shouldn't be party to such a farce, Mr. Chairman, and that we should maximize our sales to the extent that it's possible. If the Soviet Union wants 10 million tons more, we should sell them 10 million tons more, if we have it and if we can deliver it, Mr. Chairman. So it has to do with logistics and nothing more; it should have nothing to do with ideology; it should have nothing to do with the American election campaign. That's all I'm saying, Mr. Chairman. The grain is there and can be moved out; it should be sold and it should be moved and should be delivered to whoever wishes to buy it.

So, Mr. Chairman, it seems to me that the least that the Minister should be in a position to know is the cost of this boycott to the producers of Manitoba, to the producers of Canada. At least he should know that. He doesn't even know what it is, Mr. Chairman. Secondly, he doesn't know what the long-term effects are of this kind of posturing which demonstrates our unreliability as a supplier of grain, Mr. Chairman. That's another point that ought to be considered because to the extent that we can demonstrate that our warehouses of food are always going to be available to the world if there is a market for them and if we have a willingness to sell them, or if we have a desire to provide incomes to our own people who produce it, then, Mr. Chairman, that is the kind of credibility that is in the long-term interest of Canadians as a whole, not only the producers, but

the whole of Canada because of its economic impact.

It seems to me it's only a month-and-a-half away. I believe the annual conference of Ministers is in July. —(Interjection)- Well, we might still be in estimates, but that has not deterred the Minister from attending a conference, Mr. Chairman. We will give him leave. We may be reluctant if he doesn't want to sell our grain, Mr. Chairman, to give him leave, but we will even pare with him if he wants to go down to the next Ministerial conference and press for an all-out campaign to sell as much grain as can be sold to markets that are available bar none, Mr. Chairman, and quit messing around with the bit of nonsense that's going on in the United States at the moment.

MR. DOWNEY: On the point as far as the selling of grain, Mr. Chairman, I've indicated many times in these committee meetings that it's a matter of making sure that the farm community are not hurt. At this particular time it is difficult to quantify what the effects have been and that is being continually, of course, monitored by the —(Interjection)— Well, Mr. Chairman, they say by whom? I guess it's a matter of department people continually in touch with and watching what is going on. A specific study on that particular issue at this particular time, no, it isn't. But I have had staff keeping me up to date on what the effects are and as I've said earlier, and I don't think there's use in going over it again, I firmly believe — and I said this earlier — that I believe it would be more important to have a study on the effects or the input that provinces can have when it comes to the selling and marketing of our Canadian grains. I've said that, Mr. Chairman.

So what they're suggesting that I should do is reintroduce to my counterparts and to the federal government, the changes in the Canadian Wheat Board where, in fact, the provinces have more direct input into the operation of the Canadian Wheat Board, something that I would agree with. I think that that has to happen; that if we're going to have a provincial input into the total agricultural — (Interjection)— Well, Mr. Chairman, I think the members pick up a little phrase that they don't want to read the full part of it. I'm a firm supporter of the Canadian —(Interjection)— Well, Mr. Chairman, I think it's a matter of being on the record. I'm a full supporter of the Canadian Wheat Board, as I am for the marketing of grains in the open system. I think this country can afford and needs two strong marketing systems with a transportation system to facilitate them. —(Interjection)— Mr. Chairman, they say two. They don't understand that there are a lot of grains. In fact, probably almost half the grains and oil seeds sold out of Manitoba are sold on the open system, whether it be sunflowers, rape seed, flax seeds and other commodities.

I do believe that we have to continually work in the area of transportation and supporting the farmers and we've done that. We've moved the grain. The members opposite want to study it. We've moved it. You can tell that just by going out into the farm community today and ask the elevator companies or the farmers what their grain deliveries have been. There are certainly no problems as far as delivering of grain this spring, in opposition to last year and the years preceding that. We have been in a system of

aggressively moving grain. He says we should go to the federal Ministers conference in July to recommend that we — I just forget what his recommendations were, something to do with getting back with selling grain to Russia. We haven't stopped and we will continue to expand the grain markets work towards the expansion of the grain markets for our grain farmers, as we will for the producers of other goods in this country, and other commodities.

He talks about what happens. We, last year, promoted — not only promoted, we were a part of nine provinces that were in disagreement with the Canadian Wheat Board policy on imposition of quotas on feed grains, that we wanted to be held off — nine provinces excluding the province of Saskatchewan — they did not agree with that. Mr. Chairman, we weren't hurt by the federal government. There was a strong feeling by all the provinces that we weren't in agreement with what was taking place but there wasn't any action. The Member for St. George says, hmm. Well, I think it's a matter of once again . . . —(Interjection)— Well, I think it's a matter of whether the federal government want to listen on issues that they want to or not. I think we deserve, as provincial governments, an opportunity to have ongoing input, not just at federal-provincial meetings. I think it's a matter of having continual input into that system and that I would suggest should be worked on through a study on how best that could be done.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for St. George.

MR. URUSKI: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There were a number of items raised in terms of the need for more research and/or at least positions that may or may not be taken by the provincial government. We've heard at least — maybe the Minister will get up and correct me — we've heard the Minister of Agriculture indicate that Manitoba does support the boycott with respect to the marketing of grains to the Soviet Union as has been imposed by the Americans and supported by his predecessor or his party's Prime Minister for a short period of time, and now the present Liberal government.

What we're finding, Mr. Chairman, is that this government is prepared to use farmers as the whipping boy of the re-election — at least it failed in the re-election bed of the federal Conservatives but it may help re-elect the present President of the United States — and they are prepared to sacrifice the incomes of farmers by using food as a weapon in the world. —(Interjection)— Mr. Chairman, even the President of the United States has backed off on his original sanctions in terms of the country of Iran, where he originally indicated that he would be prepared to cut off medical aid and food to that country in terms of the sanctions that he was prepared to put on that country, and he backed off on that movement. Yet we have a reluctance by this administration to at least come out openly and indicate their dissatisfaction with the continued policy of not selling grain to any nations in the world. We are prepared to lose and forfeit a customer that has been, I think, long cherished by this country and the producers of this country in terms of the grain that is sold to Russia.

Mr. Chairman, I predict what will happen is that Russia will not lose that grain. Mr. Chairman, what will happen is that grain will get to Russia and it will get to Russia by the black market system — and it may even be Canadian — some of it will reach the Russian shores. I'll tell you, Mr. Chairman, how it will get there. You have, I believe, six large multinational corporations who are in the world grain trade area, Mr. Chairman, and those companies will neatly — I don't think the grain will go from country to country. What will happen is that the invoicing system will go from country to country. The multinationals will sell to one of their subsidiaries in another country; that subsidiary will sell to a third subsidiary; and it may go through five or six hands and the invoice will change so many different ways, but the grain will go direct from either U.S. ports or Canadian ports and head to its destination, where the markets exist.

What impact will that be, Mr. Chairman? What will we hear from the Conservatives in Manitoba? We will hear that the Canadian Wheat Board in terms of export sales has not done a good job. But they will come and tell us how good a job the private grain trade has done in the marketing of grain around the world, Mr. Chairman. The need for two strong marketing systems, as the Minister has said, that's how much support he has for orderly marketing of grain in this country and in terms of internal use and external use.

The Member for Gladstone, I think he stepped out here, on Friday he raised the spectre, or the red herring I believe, of saying, look, the prices were that much better on the open market system for barley — I think he quoted the price of barley as compared to the wheat board price and I think he attempted to try and indicate that the domestic price of barley on the open market was far greater than it was on the export market, therefore the wheat board was doing a very poor job. Well, Mr. Chairman, the Minister should have at least done an analysis on the grain marketing situation as it exists directly in our own country and the losses that farmers have sustained over the last number of years. The Saskatchewan study, as the Member for Lac du Bonnet has pointed out on the marketings of feed grains within our own country, was if anything a complete condemnation of the present marketing system. It condemns and not only points out that the two systems are incompatible, totally incompatible, Mr. Chairman. Maybe the Member for Gladstone will listen, that there are in fact, two markets and there are two prices. There is the export market, which through the Canadian Wheat Board competes against other countries for the sale of grains; and there's supposed to be a national grain policy for the sale of domestic feed grains in this country, which was established I believe, as far back as 1974.

Now, the Canadian market is supposed to be geared to the selling of domestic feed grains based on a price that is arrived at of U.S. corn entering the Ontario market, with some formula to deal with soy bean for the protein content of the grains. That should be the average price of feed grains in this country. Now what has happened, Mr. Chairman, is that while there is an average established it seems that, in the last three years especially, the price that feed grains have been sold in this country have fallen, the price to producers have fallen, far below

what they should have received based on the corn competitive price, as it's called, for corn deliveries to Ontario. The average that corn was selling into Montreal, Mr. Chairman, and the Member for Gladstone might be interested, that the feed grain price based on that corn competitive price should have been: for wheat 3.57 a bushel — that's the average price over the last three years; for oats at 1.70 a bushel; for barley, the main feed, at 2.51 cents; the average price of that grain based over the years '76 to '79. But, Mr. Chairman, what has been the average price to producers? What we have found is that the street price, as it is commonly known, over the last three years we've had roughly 1.51 for barley, 99 cents for oats and 2.36 for wheat. Based on what? On the Winnipeg Commodity Exchange as an average price. Now when we take into account that price, plus the shipping costs, it ends up that producers in western Canada and in Manitoba have lost roughly 36 cents a bushel for every bushel of barley that they have sold on the open market; they have lost 16 cents a bushel for every bushel of oats that they have shipped; and they have lost 49 cents for every bushel of wheat that they have delivered on the open market system.

Mr. Chairman, what has happened and this government is prepared to stand by and not say anything other than saying that we do need competition in the grain marketing system. Mr. Chairman, we have competition in the grain marketing system till it's coming out your ears. To the detriment of whom? To the detriment of producers, Mr. Chairman; and to the benefits of two segments in our society, multinational grain traders who are primarily the sole marketers of that grain and they have been marketing the grain below the formula that was established as a national feed grain policy, they have marketed below that to the tune, Mr. Chairman, that they have taken approximately what one would consider about a 30 percent markup, a 30 percent theft from the producers of Manitoba, Mr. Chairman. Thirty percent of the increased costs that producers of Manitoba have lost of their income, 30 percent of their incomes in the marketing of feed grains have gone to the coffers of the multinational grain trade. The remainder 70 percent of that loss went directly to the producers in Ontario and Quebec.

The Minister of Agriculture in the province of Manitoba indicates that he wishes to expand and sustain the agricultural meat production in this province and he wants to build it up. Well, Mr. Chairman, surely one of the greatest moves that this Minister could say is that there should be a complete revamping of the present feed grain policy and the present feed grain sales and system in this country to be able to accurately reflect what the price of grain is to western producers, based on what grain can be imported into Ontario; not to give Ontario and Quebec producers an advantage in terms of what has happened over the last three years. But no, he says, we need the open market system, we need two strong competitive marketing systems. And what does he use as the reason that he wants to have more provincial input into the marketing of grain in this country? He wants to have the provinces involved in the Canadian Wheat Board.

Mr. Chairman, the Canadian Wheat Board has been the scapegoat for Tory administrations in Manitoba and Alberta. The attacks have continually centered on the Canadian Wheat Board, Mr. Chairman. Well, the Minister shakes his head and says no. Last Friday who entered into a debate, or at least attempted to enter the red herring, of saying that producers in Manitoba lost money by shipping their grain through the Canadian Wheat Board. Mr. Chairman, we have an established price, or supposedly an established price, of feed grain prices in this country, yet we were prepared to allow feed grains to be sold below that market price, Mr. Chairman. As a result, the Wheat Board hardly marketed any feed grains in this country because they were not permitted to do so, Mr. Chairman, because their set price had to be based on the corn competitive price and not on the open market system and the open market system cost producers in Manitoba at least 30 million.

Well, have we had that analysis done by the Minister of Agriculture? No, we haven't, we haven't had any analysis. We have had an analysis done I believe, that he doesn't wish to release to us yet, and that is the impact on transportation users of changing statutory grain rates. I believe that study was undertaken for the province by the professor from the University of Manitoba. If the Minister has that study, I believe that even before he has formulated some response or at least some governmental position, he should put it out to members and to the public to at least debate the issue and at least bring about some commentary so the Minister might know on what position he takes.

I want to tell you, Mr. Chairman, that I would hope that he does release it, that he does release that study rather soon because, Mr. Chairman, there has been a similar study done in the province of Alberta, and the study had also very critical remarks, to say the least, on what the impact will be on rural Alberta and the grain handling system in that province should be freight rates change.

Mr. Chairman, I asked the Minister whether he was aware of certain things a number of weeks ago about what would happen to our rural areas, our small communities, the number of elevators that would close, should the statutory grain rates change. Mr. Chairman, the province of Alberta did not want to even associate itself with a study that came to the conclusion that if we increased the Crow Rate five times, which would be the commercial rates, what would happen in that province. Mr. Chairman, if compensation is paid at five times statutory rates through the grain companies the number of elevators presently in Alberta would drop to 62 percent of the present amount of elevators; 40 percent of the elevators would go in the province of Alberta if the Crow Rate was removed and commercial rates, as is being asked for by the railways now, not compensatory rates, Mr. Chairman, but commercial rates that the railways are now asking for, 40 percent of the elevators would go.

The province of Manitoba, have they set up and made a position with respect to this, what the impacts would be on rural Manitoba? We've had no comments from the Minister of Agriculture. He wants more say in the way the Wheat Board is handling its grain policy. Mr. Chairman, this Minister clearly is not

operating his department in terms of providing the producers and Manitobans with as much information and as clear a direction, in terms of making sure that our producers have adequate incomes in which they can survive the cost price freeze which they are in, in the areas that we have touched upon today. Surely the Minister should be able to look ahead in some of these areas, rather than continually hinge his entire policies on the past, on a system that clearly has not worked, clearly is not working and is there at the expense of the producers. The system is gaining and is growing clearly at the expense of the producers of this province.

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, I just go back and re-emphasize one of the points that I made earlier, that we are marketing all the grain that can be transported and handled at this particular time. The markets are not affected, at this particular time, by the boycott as far as the actual marketing of the grain is concerned. It's been said many times by the Canadian Wheat Board. We are not in the position of cutting back our sales; we are aggressively pursuing them. That's one particular point that I wanted to make sure is highlighted.

One of the other areas that the Member for St. George is suggesting is that we are in fact in a position of allowing multinationals to take advantage via the black market. However, I guess he is aware, or should be aware if he isn't, that the majority of the grains that were embargoed to Russia were feed grains. The Canadian Wheat Board is the sole marketing agency for all feed grains leaving Canada, that in fact any price increases due to, or anybody selling grain out of Canada . . .

MR. URUSKI: It isn't in the United States.

MR. DOWNEY: Well, it is in Canada, Mr. Chairman, and at this particular time we're talking of the protection that the Manitoba farmers have and they have that through the Canadian Wheat Board. All grain sales, feed grain sales leaving Canada are sold by the Canadian Wheat Board. For the Member for St. George's benefit, approximately half the feed grain is sold in eastern Canada and half is sold in western Canada; that he as a turkey feeder or producer of livestock, or anyone is a livestock feeder, is buying at the domestic price. The people who are working in the packinghouse industry in Manitoba or working in any of the agricultural service industries then, in fact, are part of the whole effects of feed grain policy. My policies are to encourage the further use of feed grains in western Canada. The further processing of the agriculture goods right here in Manitoba and in western Canada would be in the best interests of the provincial economy. We support that policy and we have from Day One. A further diversified agriculture, as far as I am concerned, is a more stabilized agriculture and that is our main stand; that we have to further utilize the markets that are available on the domestic basis, on the international basis. I believe we have to further encourage that use of feed grain in western Canada, not at the expense of the feed grain producers but to further support the feed grain producers, we should be encouraging a lot greater use of feed grains in western Canada.

Now we look at the problems between the movement of raw products, the cost of moving raw products and the movement of other types of processed agricultural products and we have discrepancies. People who are shipping meat products out of this country are in fact paying the going rate. I think that it's a matter of not requesting that we go to the full cost of moving grain out of western Canada but we get more of an equalization of opportunities for further development of our raw goods in western Canada. To support a policy like the Member for St. George suggests is to further support the closing of the packinghouse industry in this province, as it would be to support the aggression of the Soviet Union on other countries that are innocent, to not oppose that kind of move. I believe we have to be very firm —(Interjection)— He says, what are we doing sacrificing our farmers? We make it very clear that we're not sacrificing our farmers, that it's in the best interests of the farm community that the government should protect them when it comes to the effects that the embargo has on them.

But let me tell you, Mr. Chairman, that I do not support a policy such as suggested by members opposite that we should support a country that marches in on other countries and then some day be in a position of sending our young people to war, farm people who have fought for freedom in this country, and if he supports that, Mr. Chairman, then, well, Mr. Chairma, I'm speaking as . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Lac du Bonnet really had the Chair's eye first..

MR. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, the Minister knows full well that no one on this side suggested any support for the Soviet Union's actions in Afghanistan, Mr. Chairman. All that we have argued for is that we should not curtail grain sales to the Soviet Union. The two are totally unrelated, the one is not even a subject matter of this committee.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for St. George on the same point.

MR. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, what we have said and contrary to what the Minister has said, what I have said is that we should not use food as a weapon, Mr. Chairman. Any country that is in the export position of food should not use food as a weapon against another country, Mr. Chairman. Not to support what he has suggested. —(Interjection)— Mr. Chairman, I have some questions for the Minister.

Mr. Chairman, the Minister made a statement that approximately one-half of the feed grains that are marketed in this country, about one-half of them are being marketed in western Canada. Mr. Chairman, I have figures for the years 1976 to 1979 which suggest that out of a total of excess of 300 million bushels of feed grains that were delivered to the open market system, approximately 100 million bushels were sold out of elevators to the prairies in B.C. during those three years. Has the Minister got other figures to indicate that these figures are somehow, for the three years that I've quoted, are

somehow out of line and not the 50 percent that he has mentioned?

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, I believe the figures the member is referring to, what would actually have been delivered to elevators and not what has been fed on farms and produced. There are other ways of marketing grain other than to elevators, Mr. Chairman.

MR. URUSKI: Well, Mr. Chairman, does the Minister then dispute the figures that Manitoba farmers, have lost more than 30 million in the last three years by selling their feed grains, on the present open market system, that were used to be fed, within this country, primarily in eastern Canada and if he does dispute them, I'd like to know his position in this respect — how he has come up with that analysis and where he stands on this issue.

MR. DOWNEY: Well, first of all, I dispute them because I think we have to take a lot more into consideration that what we have seen come forward from the Member for St. George. He is suggesting that because of the difference between what the price that was received at the market point, that was sold into the domestic feed grain market as opposed to eastern Canada, as opposed to what would have been received from the Canadian Wheat Board system . . .

MR. URUSKI: For eastern Canada, for domestic consumption.

MR. DOWNEY: . . . for domestic in eastern Canada, created that shortfall. I guess the point he's arguing is that what system of allocating that particular grain to eastern Canada is available to the eastern Canadians, or to the western farmers. Now, we have seen somewhat of a movement direct from farmer to feeder in eastern Canada over the past few months, which probably has corrected that somewhat. I think there's a lot more to be taken into consideration when you start looking at the interest costs that farmers have had to face because of a shortage of cash flow. —(Interjection)— The member says that grain has to be there anyway. I believe we have for too long expected the farmers to carry the costs of carrying charges, of interest, storage charges and the whole burden has been carried by the farming community. I believe that if we had a system of moving this grain and taking advantage of the markets as they become available, that we would remove a lot of the problems that are now carried by the farmers.

I go back to one other point that the Member for St. George makes, that I suggest the provinces have more control of the Canadian Wheat Board — I didn't specifically say that. What I said was that a study within the system should be taken to suggest how that could take place and if it would be acceptable to the federal government and the provinces. We have something like several, well the largest percentage of our incomes in western Canada come from the marketing of grains. I believe that on an ongoing basis there is room for a structured mechanism that would have, or at least allow the provinces to have an input into that

particular system. Not control, I don't think it's a necessity to have direct control.

We see a commissioner system, commissioners appointed by the federal government; we see advisory committee elected by the farmers. There is a void in there as far as the provincial governments are concerned in having any direct input or consultation on an ongoing basis with that system and I think, I really think we can strengthen the Canadian Wheat Board and its position in the marketplace, if we have all the provinces pulling co-operatively to market grain for western Canada, and that's basically my position. I believe we can strengthen the Canadian Wheat Board.

Let's just go back and look at some of the recommendations that came out of one particular study, in a task force done on the marketing of grain and agriculture, Agriculture for the '70s I believe, it was commissioned by the then Minister of Agriculture, Bud Olsen; Claig Elson, a few other individuals were on it, I think it was a five-man study. And one of their major concerns at that particular time, and what did the members opposite, they talk about airing public documents, what was said in there was pretty much the feeling of the farm community; but again it got put on the shelf and not discussed openly and I felt that some pretty good positive statements and direction were given from that report.

One of the concerns, and it is truly being demonstrated, the individuals who are in the farm community, producing grain, feel somewhat that they have been left out as far as the input is concerned, the new generation of farmers, that there was a lack of understanding what the objectives of the Canadian Wheat Board are. I believe, and I lived in the farm community when we've gone through a period of time when there was a concern that farmers were being taken advantage of and that's why it was implemented. I felt the same way, but I still feel that there is room for a continual update and monitoring of what has taken place in a system that is structured for and in the best interests of Canadian agriculture, and particularly Manitoba farmers. And I don't think it's in the best interests of grain marketing to suggest that we shouldn't have an ongoing opportunity to discuss what their policies are.

MR. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to ask the Minister whether he supports the feed grain policy of the government of Canada to establish a firm price of feed grains that would be sold in this country and primarily to eastern Canada, that was established on the corn competitive price with the soy bean formula. Does his government support that formula for the sale of feed grains as being a bench mark for the sale of feed grains in this country?

MR. DOWNEY: As far as far as the corn competitive price that the member refers to, do we support that formula? I think, you know, at this particular time, I think it's an opportunity to suggest that there is one other formula that I don't support and that is the domestic pricing for bread wheat. Not only in the feed grain, I suggest that in putting a ceiling on the domestic price for wheat has somewhat inhibited our producers from taking full advantage of the world

price for our bread wheats. I think some several weeks ago, the President of the United Grain Growers made a comment where, in the figures they presented at that time, it was costing the western Canadian farmers something like 1 million to 2 million a week because of the feed grain policy. No, when it comes to affecting the prices of farmer commodities at below what they would sell at on the world market, I believe that we should in fact be able to sell to the best advantage and when those kinds of policies affect that advantage, then I don't support them.

MR. URUSKI: Well, I'm not sure that I understood the Minister but I gather that he would support a policy then that our feed grains could be sold in competition with corn, which is on the world market or in other words, the North American market, coming into this country, and our prices would be geared to be able to compete with the importation of corn. Am I correct in that assumption? Because the price of — corn is coming into Ontario at a certain price or it can be brought in from the U.S. markets which is not a Canadian market, so that our feed grains really have to compete with the corn price, the average corn price, that is established in Chicago and could be brought into Ontario. Being that he favours our crops as he mentioned that he's not in favour of domestic wheat for milling prices being set, then I am making the assumption — and I want him to correct me if I am wrong — that he does support the principle of pricing our domestic feed grains to eastern Canada along the lines that grains can be imported from the United States. Is that correct?

MR. DOWNEY: Well, first of all, Mr. Chairman, we're basically on an international pricing system to start with.

MR. URUSKI: Am I correct then in assuming that you do support that type of a system of setting the price? I want to tell him that if that's our domestic feed grain policy of setting the price then do we support it or do we want change? If we don't support it, then there must be some alternative that the Minister is thinking about in terms of change as to how we arrive at a price in this country for feed grains. Do we establish a firm price that is to be sold or do we support the present way the feed grain system is being handled in terms of setting a price?

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, the member is asking me if I support — if I understand him correctly — the pricing of western Canadian feed grain in Ontario or eastern Canada at the same price at which they can purchase corn from the United States.

MR. URUSKI: Right.

MR. DOWNEY: I think before I would suggest at this particular time, that we have to look at many other things that have to be brought into, where we would end up if we changed it and again I think that just to come out and say that, yes, I support or, no, I don't; it would be unfair. I think we have to look at the import duties both ways, import and export

duties as they relate to the movement of product back and forth.

MR. URUSKI: There's no import and export duties on grain.

MR. DOWNEY: Yes, Mr. Chairman, there are import and export duties on grains moving in and out of the United States. That's one area; I think the other one that has to be brought into the picture is the transportation issue which again is something that puts a totally different light on the picture.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I guess I'll call it 4:30. This clock is a couple of minutes slow, committee, so I am leaving the Chair and will return at 8 o'clock.

SUPPLY — COMMUNITY SERVICES AND CORRECTIONS

MR. CHAIRMAN, Abe Kovnats (Radisson): This committee will come to order. I would direct the honourable members' attention to page 20 of the Main Estimates, Department of Community Services and Corrections. Resolution No. 29, Clause 3. Community Health and Social Services. The Item is (c), Home Care Services (1) Home Care Assistance — the Honourable Minister.

HON. GEORGE MINAKER (St. James): Mr. Chairman, on Friday afternoon when we broke off the Honourable Member for Seven Oaks voiced a concern that he was skeptical that we would carry out the expending of the moneys that are allotted for this year's budget and would watch with interest, in fact thought that we probably would not be able to expend our moneys. I can assure the honourable member that we anticipate that the funds will be expended, and just to draw back to the honourable member's mind the fact that when they were in government that I could draw to his attention that back in 1975-76 when the vote figure was some 5.14 million, that in actual fact only 4.747 million was spent; and in 1976-77, the following year, the amount in the estimates to be expended was 7.547 million when in actual fact only 6.129 million was expended for an underspending of some 1.4 million. The same thing occurred in 1977/78 and 1978/79, there were some underexpenditures. But I don't say that in a critical manner other than I think probably the government at that time may have been over-optimistic that they would be able to carry out the services and possibly the need was not there; or the ability to carry it out wasn't as thorough as they thought it might be. So I just wanted to point out to the honourable members that it is our anticipation that we will expend the moneys that are put into this year's budget and I would hope that he wouldn't remain skeptical like he was on Friday.

I think basically that was my only comment I wanted to make, to reassure the Honourable Member for Seven Oaks that we won't be dragging our feet in this area.

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

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, the Minister is right, or partially right. It is quite difficult to know exactly to the cent what you're going to spend. But the Minister should remember that the few years that he talked about when this was rather a new program, and we had no indication, we had no past record to go on. As far as 1977-78, there was a small amount of money that wasn't spent. The Minister should remember also that there was a change of government and the government that came in with all this hullabaloo of restraint. So what concerns my colleague and myself is that, all of a sudden, this year, and that seems to be the pattern, is that a very small increase, and all of a sudden, this year, there's a larger increase and this is why we are asking the Minister to make sure this is not just a gesture and that the money will be spent. We see that in certain areas, all through this department and others, but in areas that this year it is catching up after quite a reduction in previous years and that's also the case in certain cases of some of the employees that as soon as the government came in, there was a wholesale firing, or if not firing, at least not replacing all the staff and all of a sudden there has been a change.

Mr. Chairman, we should be practically finished with this without intending to muscle anybody, but I'd like to ask a question of the Minister and I know that, I think he's given this information but late on Friday and amongst all the other things I was trying to get done, I didn't get it. Could the Minister give us the average monthly number of persons receiving the different selective services.

MR. MINAKER: Mr. Chairman, under nursing services, which would be your registered nurses, we have in 1978 there were 2,871 — these are average monthly number of persons receiving these — and in 1979 it was 3,075. In the auxiliary services, which would be your licenced practical nurses, 845 in 1978; 1,111 in 1979. Therapy services, which would be Arthritis Society, 328 in 1978; and 294 in 1979. I think there was an explanation of the fact that — (Interjection)— Home help services in 1978, 3,835; in 1979, 4,396.

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, then the reason why I ask this question is that the Minister had in answer to a question by my colleague from Seven Oaks, that mentioned that the cost had gone down, there wasn't so much of an increase because it had been changed to nonprofessional service and the figure doesn't really bear this out at all. The nursing services in 1977, in our last year, was 2,841, that was increased to 2,871 and then to 3,075, so there was no reduction of that at all. The LPN or auxiliary services went from 658 to 845 to 1,111, and that's hardly reducing the professionals. The therapy — well, that is not a good indication — it was 328, went down to 294 but that is now covered in the hospitals. The home help service, that was increased approximately the same as, proportionate from 3,300 to 3,835 and now 4,396. So, Mr. Chairman, then the concern that we have that why was the average not that much higher, it goes back to a lot of that has to do with the wages and there's less than a 6 percent yearly increase — quite a bit less than a 6 percent increase — and I wonder if the Minister knows what

we're paying? I'm not too concerned about the nursing service and the LPN, the professionals, the home help services. I wonder what we're paying them now.

Mr. Chairman, I'd like further information also on therapy. The Minister is saying that now that is covered in the general hospitals and I think it is a good situation. I think that volunteers drive them there, but is there a special card — how does that work? For instance, is it only the people that are being panelled to go on home care that are getting the service in the hospital, because it isn't covered for outpatients in most hospitals. I'm talking about therapy now, the therapists. Do you have to be referred by a doctor, do you get a card to show that you have been panelled, that you are receiving home care? That's another question I would like to have the Minister answer.

MR. MINAKER: Mr. Chairman, maybe I didn't explain it carefully enough to the honourable member with regard to how the 89.48 average monthly cost of home care was arrived at, but basically it related back the total number of caseloads for the year that were dealt with became the divisor into our cost to provide the service. What the honourable member just received from me was the average monthly number of persons receiving these services. It could be that one person could be receiving two or three of those services.

So how we arrive at the average cost per caseload is to deal with the number of caseloads that we've dealt with over the year, which was some, I think, 15,500 roughly, if one added those figures. That has gone up from the year before and as I said that becomes a divisor, then your caseload cost is going to be kept down to a lower figure than if our caseloads drop and our administration cost in providing the service haven't dropped, then obviously it's going to shoot up the caseload cost. So what I'm saying is, there was a growth in this 15,500 as compared to say your professional growth from 145 to 167 registered nurses. That appears to be a fairly good sized growth, but what I'm saying is the way we calculate it out, the caseloads become a part of the governing factor of how much it will increase for the year.

But with regard to the other question on the cost relating to therapy, etc. we could try and work that out for the honourable member if he wants it. It's fairly complicated; it would be difficult to get at but we could work it out if he thought that was necessary.

MR. DESJARDINS: No, Mr. Chairman, I thank the Minister for his offer but certainly I wouldn't want to put him through that, there's no necessity for that, I was just making an observation that I don't want to prolong. I understand exactly how you reach the average. you look at the people that have received services and then it is divided also by your total cost. I understand that. And the Minister said there was an increase although the increase doesn't show it's about the same, it's approximately the same that we had in 1977. Our last complete year was roughly around the 15,000. We had more people admitted, we had more people discharged and it was about the same thing, so I understand that is and we've used

that in other fields. For instance in the dental program, as you have more people in of course it costs less. We appreciate that and we hope he's right. We're not trying to get the cost to go higher.

But the Minister definitely said also that one of the reasons is that they were lower-paid people, personnel working, and he said that there more people receiving, there would be less professional and this is what I'm talking about, about that answer of the Minister, that he's said there were less professional and more of the homemakers because they were better organized. And I never thought that a better organization would mean that you replace a nurse by a homemaker and I don't believe it. But I don't want to prolong that now. The only thing the Minister, I guess, didn't understand, he was getting some information on the therapy service. I wonder if the Minister would go through, how do they get . . . they are transported by volunteers to the hospitals, but then do they have to be panelled first as receivers of home care. I'm talking about getting therapy in the hospital now, the Minister said that is done in the hospital, because that is not covered under Medicare at this time but it is supposedly covered under home care. The therapy, if I understand, is now being received, that care is taken care of in the hospital. Now, do they have to be panelled as receiving home care; do they have to be referred by a doctor and how does it work and then do they have a card or something so that they can be taken in and maybe given preference so the work could be done fairly soon.

MR. MINAKER: Mr. Chairman, it's my understanding that they, No. 1, do not have to be panelled; and No. 2, their normally brief — (Interjection)— they don't have to be panelled to qualify. The second is that their doctor would refer them to the outpatients department to have the therapy provided and I understand that way it is covered under the hospitalization.

MR. DESJARDINS: The Minister is saying now that there is no need, there's no longer any need for this to be covered in home care because, well I'm lost then. The Minister said you don't have to be panelled so nobody tells the hospital this is a home care patient because they haven't been panelled and you're just referred by the doctor. Well, if you're just referred by the doctor, if I'm referred by the doctor I should be covered. There's got to be some kind of identification, you've got to identify these people and if they haven't been panelled and if they're not receiving home care and if they have no card, nothing to show that they are home care people that are sent there, well I don't know how it works at all.

MR. MINAKER: Mr. Chairman, I can assure the honourable member that there is no cutback in the service, those people who require the service at home get the service at home. But prior to, I understand, the last couple of years or is it this year, I believe, that normally that service wasn't available through the hospital but now it is being made available through the outpatient department. So that if a person can get out to get that service they go out and get that service. But it is covered, Mr. Chairman, my understanding if their doctor refers

them as an outpatient to the hospital and there's no fee, so that where it is more efficient for the patient to go to the hospital, then it's done in that manner. If they cannot get out then obviously the therapy is provided at home; and either way they don't pay for the service.

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, I assure the Honourable Minister that I am not trying to trap him and I'm not after any ulterior motive. I just want to know how it works. Now the Minister is saying, and I'm satisfied that if it has to be done at home, it's done at home. He said there was a reduction of that because now, and this is what I want to know, I'm aware of this, there been some changes, that this service is given at the hospital. And I understand if that is given at the hospital, then it is not covered under Medicare unless there's been some changes, unless they are patients of the hospital and there's only certain areas that are covered — certain hospitals — not every hospital has that.

Now having said this, I want to know what differentiates a person receiving home care, and it might be the only care that he will receive under home care and he might be able to go to the hospital and he has the facility of doing so by getting the transportation through volunteers; but I want to know what's the difference with him and myself who might have a sore back and whose doctor might say, okay I refer you to a hospital, what is the difference? Is there a card? The Minister stated they didn't have to be panelled, so what is the difference that these people would be getting home care? Is that done, is the Minister saying that the whole population of Manitoba now can get that service done if they go to the hospital and if they are referred there by their doctor, and are all Manitobans, in this case, if they follow this procedure, is every single Manitoban covered and can they do that? And if not, if it is only the home care, how do you differentiate them and how do they get the door opened for them?

MR. MINAKER: Mr. Chairman, the honourable member realizes that there is always home care provided whether an individual has been panelled or not, and the family physician is usually always involved with part of the providing of the medical service. And it's my understanding that if, when the doctor is dealing with his patient, he recognizes that therapeutic work is required, that in those areas where it is available as an outpatient department service, then that is one of the avenues that can be taken, and that is why it is not necessary to be panelled, so that a reference by the doctor to the hospital will allow that patient to go to the outpatient department and have that particular type of therapy provided. In lieu of that, if the patient is sick at home, then it follows the normal routine that we provide that type of service right in the home.

MR. DESJARDINS: I'm sorry to be so dense today, Mr. Chairman, and I can assure you that I don't want to prolong that. Now, the Minister, I don't think we should play on words, the Minister said he doesn't have to be panelled. I'm not talking about the paneling that has to decide whether he's going into a personal care home or not, but the Minister and the Minister of Health have used the word panel to

say that before home care is given that when there is care — care period, any kind of care — needed, people are called in and they make an assessment and they say you go in a personal care home or you receive home care and maybe my choice of words wasn't good but this is what I'm talking about. The assessment. In other words you know you have a record of the people that are enrolled in the program. It is not everybody, you have a program. Now they are identified, if not you couldn't give me all the information, you couldn't tell me how much it costs and you couldn't tell me how many are accepted, discharged and how many people you've seen. So there is a record of that.

Now the thing I'm not too sure about and I would welcome that if there is a change, that I'm unaware, the Minister said that service is done, is given in certain hospitals for outpatients. Now I'm asking this and I'm asking again. Forgetting home care, can anybody now, can anybody, people like my friend here and myself, can we, if we see our doctor and he feels we have to see a therapist, that we can go ahead, he'll refer us, we'll go to a hospital and receive this care period. I know that is not the department but now that we've touched it, I want to know the difference between the two. Or, is it only those that have been identified as receiving home care, as being on the program, that can get the service — I'm talking about free, covered by Medicare or home care — is it only them, and then how are they identified when they go to the hospital? That is my concern.

I know, for instance, that I've gone to a certain place to see a therapist and I got a pretty good bill, I didn't think that was covered. I know that it is covered for somebody in the hospital, patients in the hospital, and that wasn't covered at too many hospitals at one time. I know I fought for years to have that covered at St. Boniface Hospital because they had the facility, it wasn't covered, it was covered at the Rehab Hospital at first. That was the first one to go. And then I know there has been some change in our time and I think there has been some other change but I'm not too familiar with the change. Now is that covered for everybody under Medicare and if not, then it only stands to reason the Minister said they will get that for nothing, they don't have to pay for it, so they must be covered under part of the home care program and it is that information that I want to get. Are they identified and what are the procedures?

MR. MINAKER: Mr. Chairman, it is my understanding, and I guess the Minister of Health is the one that should really give the full details, is that the Health Services Commission, I understand, some three years ago started to develop this program that where there are outpatient departments with the therapy service available, that it doesn't matter whether you're in home care or whatever, your doctor can refer you — and it comes under Medicare — can refer you to the outpatient department. The only time we get involved to a large degree is if the care is needed directly in the home then we would provide it. My understanding is this has been a three-year program and there are hospitals in the rural area now which can provide this service as well.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (1)—pass — the Honourable Member for Transcona.

MR. PARASIUK: Mr. Chairperson, I was away on Friday morning when home care was discussed and I know that the general policy regarding home care has undoubtedly been debated, but I do have one specific case study that I wanted to raise regarding home care service and I believe this is the proper item to raise it under, and that's namely the provision of home orderly services through the home care program. But the provision is being done by a private company and I believe the name of the company is Home Orderly Service, and that is an incorporated company and it is operating as a vehicle which I think receives contracted-out work from the government and I just wanted to ask the Minister if this is the appropriate item to raise this issue on. It is? Okay, on that basis then I would like to proceed with my comments on it.

I don't really know why we have to provide home care services through a contracted-out company. I don't know if we again have to introduce the profit motive in the provision of home care. I believe that the home care program is an excellent program. It is one that is path-breaking across the country. It is really a model for the rest of the country and it is quite excellent. That doesn't mean that it couldn't have room for improvement and I believe this is possibly one area that could be improved upon. I don't really particularly raise this in any partisan manner in that it is quite possible that Home Orderly Service was providing home orderly services under the previous administration as well as this one. It's just that I know that the home care program is able to get dedicated people working for it directly as civil servants or casual help and that the government then has a very good method of ascertaining quality of service and providing direction for the program. And by and large, I am able as an MLA receiving constituency calls to in a sense monitor the way in which the home care program operates in my constituency and frankly, by and large, the home care workers do an excellent job. The nurses do an excellent job. There are instances where occasionally some people complain because the home care workers don't get down on their hands and knees and scrub the floors the way they might have done it thirty years ago when they were younger and more able to do it. That's understandable from the patients' perspective and I think at the same time it's understandable in terms of the homemaker not really doing it that way but rather using a sponge mop.

However, in particular, with respect to the specific of Home Orderly Service, I believe that by contracting out and by relying again on a private, and I say profit-making company, to provide care for people who desperately require this care, that the introduction of the profit motive does provide an incentive to reduce the quality of service to the barest minimum. Now maybe that helps the government in terms of having a reduced expenditure in this area. Maybe it even helps the government because if it contracts out this service, it has fewer staff man years allocated to this particular appropriation, so it makes it look as if it's reduced a number of civil servants. But really it hasn't because it's senseless using people of the Home Orderly

Service Incorporated has an extension of them but the extension isn't a good one. I don't think it operates particularly well and I have a case study to prove that.

The case is one of a paraplegic who is married and frankly, in my estimation, that case is one of the great love stories of all time. A paraplegic who had polio when she was about five years old, who lived in an iron lung for a great deal of her life, who indeed was able to get out of the iron lung by having a respirator, battery-operated respirator. If the respirator ever goes she's dead within fifteen minutes, but she is a very courageous person who has decided to try and live as full and as normal a life as possible despite some very considerable handicaps. And in the course of using Handi Transit — again a service provided by the government, or paid for by the government at least in large part — she met one of the Handi bus drivers, Handi Transit bus drivers, and they fell in love and despite tremendous odds, they got married. And they are living in a home and they are in fact quite a phenomenal family, providing quite an example to the rest of the community of Transcona because they're quite well known within the community. And, of course, I think that in this situation, undoubtedly, this family places some very heavy and unusual demands upon the home care service. But at the same time I think that this person's being able to live outside an institution is a saving for the government and that it's important for the range of services to be provided to her to enable her to live outside an institution which is very expensive on a per-day basis. And I don't fault the government for the way in which it's been a bit flexible in trying to meet this particular case which, in my estimation, could be a bit of an example and a model for other people, especially at a time when people in fact are decrying the loss of values, the decline of values, the fact that they don't really appreciate the family. This experience in Transcona is providing an example to the contrary.

However, one of this person's requirements is Home Orderly Service, someone who will come around and help her deal with her bodily functions especially, and also put her to bed when her husband is working — and her husband works on swing shift. He is a bus driver and he is not able to be there all the time. Her mother, who has looked after her very admirably for most of her life, is a pensioner who has a heart condition and she's not able to provide that much assistance. The neighbours and friends have provided superb support services all through this person's life.

Despite all these other support services of a voluntary nature, there is a requirement for Home Orderly Service and I have, I think, been closely enough associated with this particular case to know that this company isn't performing well enough; that I don't think there is sufficient monitoring; that I believe that this situation exists because the government isn't providing the service directly. I think its means of accountability aren't as good in this particular instance, as it would be if it was running the Home Orderly Service for home care patients directly.

I would hope that the Minister would investigate this particular matter. I know his staff know about it.

I've talked to some of them before in the past. And I say to him that I believe that the decrease in quality exists because there will be a pressure on the part of the company providing the service to cut corners, and by cutting corners you jeopardize the health of the patient — and in this particular instance, because the orderlies didn't show up in many instances, or some instances, or were late — it reached the situation where this patient had a badly stretched bladder and had to go into hospital; and it reached the situation where she has had to, in desperation, try and go into hospitals to get some relief because the orderly didn't show up. To me, this just isn't a good enough situation and I would hope that the Minister would personally look into this matter and provide me with some report on it before we finish the estimates of this department.

This is a particular case but I think there are some general observations that can be raised from it. My understanding is that the staff of the Home Orderly Service really have no uniforms or have no identification. I say that's somewhat dangerous in that the people treated are usually paraplegics; they do have to leave the door open; they have to rely on knowing that the people coming to deal with them are, in fact, qualified people who are coming there to deal with their health matters, not for some other reasons. I think the company is trying to cut corners. It's not providing uniforms. It's not training its staff. I think it's paying its staff close to minimum wages, if not minimum wages, and I think this creates a tremendous danger for patients who don't know whether they should admit the person coming to the door, or not admit the person coming to the door. And you have to understand that the Home Orderlies will be coming at different times and if they're one or two hours late they might be coming late at night. For some of these people who are trying to lead normal lives, this is a very frightening situation. I believe that the training of these orderlies should be upgraded.

Maybe this is all possible through the private company. It hasn't happened to date and I think it would be more probable if the service was incorporated under the public aegis and the Home Care Program provided this type of service directly to the patients as it provides homemaker services, as it provides nursing services. I think the VON basically operates as a non-profit entity. I believe that the homemakers operate as people who are on contract, personal services contract, or casual help with the Home Care Program. I don't know of companies being set up as middlemen to set up a company of homemakers, within contract with the Home Care Program and then go out and provide homemaker services to people who are under the Home Care Program. I don't know of private entrepreneurs setting up nursing companies, companies of private nurses which indeed go out and provide that type of service. I can't understand why we have a private company which has set up an orderly service. Maybe some of these companies existed before the Home Care Program came about. But now that the Home Care Program has been established and has been established successfully for some years, I believe it's time that we brought these services under public auspices; that we train the staff properly; that we provide safeguards for the patients and we ensure

that what we are trying to do here is meet the needs of the patients rather than try to cut corners on costs. As my colleague, the Member for St. Boniface says, all too often the health concerns of this government are characterized by the term, cost first, needs second, and I think this is a particular case where needs come before costs. Secondly, I believe that if the public provided all these services under the Home Care Program directly, they would indeed save money. So I think it can meet both needs and costs at the same time and really upgrade its services tremendously here.

So I ask the Minister to look into this case specifically and to report back to me on it. I think it has some particular relevance, obviously to the patient concerned and I think other physically handicapped people, chronically ill people who do receive home care in their homes. And I think it also has some general relevance with respect to the whole issue of the extent to which private profit-making companies should be involved in the provision of health care. Is it an area for them or aren't these services best provided directly by the public?

MR. CHAIRMAN: (1)—pass — the Honourable Minister.

MR. MINAKER: Mr. Chairman, I will take the information that the Honourable Member for Transcona has given to me this afternoon. I would hope that he would, possibly after committee, give me the detailed information and the name of the people involved, etc.

The Honourable Member for Transcona raised the question about how are the orderlies presently contracted with, and so forth. I might first say that nothing basically has changed over the past few years in the way that this type of service is being provided, either by the former administration or the new administration; that we do in the city of Winnipeg contract on a fee-for-service basis in addition to using the orderlies in care attendance employed directly from the community where we employ directly with the individual. And outside of Winnipeg we pay directly to those people providing the service.

How we follow the quality of the service is that staff within the regional office or in the home care end of it, will follow up to check with the people receiving the care, to see if it is satisfactory; and where a complaint occurs, then the people involved in providing that service are interviewed and dealt with. I can convey the honourable member's concern to my colleague, the Minister of Health, who would probably — if we got involved into the licensing of orderlies — would be involved in this decision. We'll take the particular case in question and have it reviewed and get back to the honourable member before, hopefully, we deal with our salary — I think it will be interrupted by the Budget Debate — so that he'll have the time and I'll have the time. I can assure you it's not to cut corners that we provide this service but one really that was established, this type of service, and we've been carrying it through in this manner.

I might add that we have changed it slightly in that we have a new category where we employ directly,

what we call, Home Care Attendants and this means a program is gradually getting away to some degree from the dependency on say, a commercial company, which seems to be a concern to the honourable member. So I just thought I'd introduce that particular information in case he wasn't aware of the fact that we have introduced a new category, which is on a one-on-one type of basis.

MR. PARASIUK: Yes. I thank the Minister for his answer. I really wasn't trying to raise this in a partisan manner because I do know that the Home Orderly Service is a commercial company providing this service and was doing so under the previous administration as well. I can in fact sympathize with some of the private companies that are in existence, when a public program comes onstream; even I'll extend my sympathy in terms of the transition to proprietors of nursing homes.

At the same time, I think that if one looks historically at the way in which other public programs of a universal nature have evolved, you find that there is this transition period where some private firms were involved but that ultimately you do lead towards a stage where you do provide the services directly. If you look at education, that's one case; if you look at hospitals, that's another case; and I think this is another one. I know that there might be some difficulties with it but at the same time I do think that if the public is paying the entire costs of a program, it should look to do so in the most efficient manner. Frankly, I do think that if someone is trying to get a return on investment, which is something different than management fees, then there is a problem, because if you have demand which is there because the public is paying the cost of it; if you have in a sense guaranteed demand; if you have the program payments structured in such a manner that salaries are paid for, that operating expenses are paid for, that management fees are paid for; then there really is no risk.

Any dictionary or any economic book that I've looked at in terms of defining profit — profit is always defined as that compensation paid for risks incurred — and for the life of me I can't determine what risk the owner of a private orderly service is undertaking; and what risk the owner of a private nursing home faces; and that why would there be some type of return on investment? Because if one sells a nursing home, or if one sells their private orderly service to someone else, you will sell it for a price. Then you have to say, well, what is that price, that's a gain? What's it for? Is it for goodwill? Or does that represent the return investment? That's the problem that I have with the whole issue of private profit-making firms providing health care, which is paid for by the public as part of a universal accessible program to all people.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (1)—pass; (2)—pass; (c)—pass. On (c)? On(2)—pass — the Honourable Member for St. Boniface.

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, I noticed that there is not even a 6 percent increase on that over the years. I'm not talking about last year. And I notice that the Age and Opportunity Centre is

receiving less than last year. Can the Minister tell us why?

MR. MINAKER: Mr. Chairman, there was a reduction of funding due to the reduction of one SMY and a lower rent cost at one of the agency's Home Welfare Association, which was agreeable to both parties and it hasn't affected the actual input of dollars to say, Meals on Wheels, but that's the only area where there was some reduction of staff man years. In actual fact the amount of money expended last year in one of the programs was under a few dollars. So we've put in what the realistic figure is this year from what we can estimate. But that basically affects that part of that budget.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (2)—pass; (c)—pass. (d) General Purpose Grant—pass; Clause 3.—pass. The Honourable Member for Transcona.

MR. PARASIUK: Yes. I'm just wondering here if the Minister can just give us a quick rundown of the people to whom grants are given. Maybe he's done that already. As I said, maybe he did that when we discussed External Agencies. —(Interjection)— Oh, you did. Is it covered in this particular group then?

MR. MINAKER: We have Canadian Association in support of native people; Canadian Council and Social Development; the Social Planning Council of Winnipeg; Canadian Diabetic Association — am I going too quick?— Indian and Metis Friendship and Migration Centres; Lunch and After School Programs; Community Projects; Manitoba Indian Brotherhood; Volunteer Centre; Citizen Advocacy Manitoba Incorporated; Old Grace Hospital loan payment; Brandon Citizen Advocacy; John Howard and Elizabeth Fry Society; Manitoba Society of Criminology; Native Clan Incorporated; Open Circle; Frontier College and Rossbrook House. — (Interjection)— Is the honourable member serious?

MR. PARASIUK: Well, this is quite a list for one line and I am not trying to imply that the Minister was trying to hide anything and as I said — (Interjection)— right, I appreciate that he had given us the list and I guess one of the problems I have with this, and I wasn't right in the room when 2. was discussed, sorry 1.(d) but 1.(d) is entitled Office of Residential Care and External Agencies and you know we have the person there and I believe it's Joe Cels who manages departmental relationships with External Health and Social Service Agencies and that's Item 1.(d) and I would have thought that might have been an appropriate spot for maybe all these things to be lumped, so you had some idea of, in a sense, the breadth and depth of the grants to external agencies in the areas that were covered and you might get some idea of those that weren't. And then you then would be able to get back to the item that I've raised before — how does one provide that monitoring, who looks at this overall program to determine whether the grants are sufficient, to determine whether indeed certain groups maybe are receiving funding that possibly is a bit redundant or possibly passe because the circumstances have changed, and maybe other groups aren't receiving that much funding even though the service they

provide is very great. And I've noticed throughout the estimates of the Department of Community Services and Corrections there is an item that is called external agencies and maybe that's been discussed already and I wonder whether in fact that's the best way of dealing with external agencies; because I guess you can deal with them in terms of the external agencies relating to a particular function and maybe that's one of the reasons why they have been grouped that way.

At the same, I guess, there's the whole question of how much money goes to external agencies as a way of providing services and how much is spent or provided directly by the department? I've just got the list, I haven't had a chance to look at it, I'll make a few more comments and I'll try and take a look at it and maybe I'll come back on this item in about 20 minutes. I do feel that when you get into items like the Social Planning Council, you do have funding of an agency that does some planning and has done some very good work in terms of trying to define problems that exist, especially in the inner city.

One program, I guess there's two that I really want to focus in on and one in Lunch and After Four Programs which I think are desperately needed in Manitoba, especially in Winnipeg, and really I think desperately needed in suburbia. You have a situation in suburbia where both spouses have to work in order to pay for the home and what you have in suburbia are usually new families going out there, trying to buy a house, finding that both spouses have to work in order to pay off the mortgage, and in a situation where mortgage rates have increased the way they have, some people have found they would lose the house if both spouses didn't go out to work. And you have a situation then where young children, school-aged children are going to school, they have nowhere to go at lunch and they have nowhere to go after school and in most instances, neither spouse gets home until about 6:00 or 6:30 or 7:00. And then of course one asks the question, where do the kids go? We will be coming to day care I know later on and I've got very grave concerns about day care, but frankly in terms of surveys, very rough, crude surveys that I've conducted at the door in canvassing in federal campaigns recently, within my own constituency, when talking to people at the door in terms of asking what type of service they probably need most, because we do have only one day care centre in Transcona and there's a long waiting list there, I find that many people are responding by saying that they really do need more lunch and after four programs. So I just say that as an introductory statement regarding Lunch and After Four. I intend to look at this list in a bit of detail and I might come back to it.

The other item that I want to pass comment on is Rossbrook House, which I think is providing a rather different and I guess unique type of need or service for weird needs that really can't nicely fall into particular programs and I think maybe what's required here is that the government take a fairly generous attitude toward this program; and secondly, that it not try and hamstring this specific program with too many rules. I believe it's the policy of the provincial government that Rossbrook House, which acts as a sanctuary for teenage children primarily, in the inner core, cannot take in children if

they are under 16 years of age because the Children's Aid Society believes that the children should be sent there. I've been to Rossbrook House a number of times, at different hours of the day and different hours of the night and different hours of the morning, and I find there have been children there who are under 16-years of age, and I certainly wouldn't want Rossbrook House forced by a position taken by the provincial government into refusing children sanctuary at Rossbrook House. Because when you have an 11-year child going there, they are going there out of desperation. There may be a big party taking place at their home, their may be an abuse of children taking place.

I don't have the report with me, but I was just looking at some surveys that were done in the United States, which indicates that one in five children, are physically or sexually abused. So when you have conditions of, I think, deterioration and some social disorder that do exist in the inner core, I think you are going to have many situations where children basically are going to flee the house, I'm not calling it a home, calling it the house they live in and they go out in the middle of the night, looking for some sanctuary and they know that sanctuary exists and I think Rossbrook House is fulfilling a function that possibly in other years and other places is filled by churches. But churches aren't open 24-hours a day any more, and there are very very few community facilities and services in the inner core that are available on a 24-hour basis. And I think Rossbrook House provides that, fills that need — it doesn't fill that need completely and I can appreciate difficulties that may exist with the Children's Aid Society. But at the same time I believe we need to be more flexible, more pragmatic in this particular area and that really we should look at Rossbrook House as a bit of an example in terms of how we should run some of our other services. I believe we should have some more decentralized services; right at the community level, and have ready access to residents in the inner core, open on a 24-hour a day basis., And I drive through the inner core and all the public buildings which are grand, they are all closed. And if I ask where is the location of the Winnipeg Regional Office of the Department of Community Services, I believe it is on Portage Avenue, if I am not mistaken. I certainly know it is not in the inner core of the city and again I'm quite surprised that isn't the case.

So that's all the comments I have at this particular juncture except to say that I am sorry that we haven't taken a more flexible, more aggressive and dynamic approach with respect to the hours of service and the provision of really ready-contact services, when people need it, which really isn't 9:00 to 5:00, but usually is some time between 8:00 and 4:00 in the morning.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Fort Rouge.

MRS. JUNE WESTBURY: Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. I just wanted to speak about Rossbrook House and some of the comments of the Honourable Member for Transcona on the relationship between Children's Aid Society and Rossbrook House. I used to be on the Board of the Children's Aid Society and I was also a member of a sub-committee, the chairperson of which was Mrs. Myra Spivak, who was

also on the board of CAS at the time, and this committee was trying to solve the problem, trying to find a way to solve the problem of these runaway youngsters who were in need of sanctuary, perhaps in the small hours of the morning, and who would go to Rossbrook House and I think the Honourable Member for Transcona felt that the Children's Aid Society didn't believe they should be at Rossbrook House because they felt they should be at Children's Aid Society.

I suggest that's not quite an accurate reflection of the position of Children's Aid Society. The problem as far as they were concerned was that there isn't the security at Rossbrook House and the children might go there and then run away again and perhaps be found on the streets and be taken advantage of or hurt in some way because they hadn't been looked after and prevented, in a non-punitive way, of course, from running away again; That any such sanctuary needed to be a place where the children were safe and wouldn't go out onto the streets again. And I can't really say that I know what occurs at Rossbrook House after they go there but I don't think there's any security for keeping runaway children there. I know the sub-committee of which I was a member was working, consulting also with the juvenile division of the Winnipeg City Police, who also had a concern in this matter of runaway children, especially for runaways from brutal homes, where the children couldn't be returned to the home — and I'm also talking of incestuous homes as well, when I talk of brutal homes — where the children couldn't safely be returned to their homes. As a matter of fact I was very pleased when the Minister announced, I think it must have been just within days of his appointment to this Ministry, that these children would not be taken to the youth centre in Tuxedo any more but other provision would be made for them; that in other words these runaway and often abused children would not be kept with children who were suspected of juvenile crimes and so on.

So, the point I wanted to make here was that it's not through any wish of the Children's Aid Society that Rossbrook House is not the definitive place for runaways to be kept. They really need a secure case where they will be safe and won't be perhaps tempted to run away again and be found on the streets by perhaps undesirable people, who might abuse or hurt them further.

I also had something to say on Lunch and After School. I was amazed to find out that this came under here, General Purpose Grants, and I wonder, Mr. Chairperson, if I may have a copy of that same list that the Honourable Member for St. Boniface just handed to the Member for Transcona, so that next year I can be prepared for this. I was almost going to overlook this particular item in the estimates. It seems to me that Lunch and After School Programs should come in the same category as day care services, which we'll be debating later on, because really day care, it is another part of day care for children and children do not automatically become adults at the age of six. The Child Welfare Act, I understand, requires that children be adequately supervised until the age of 12, and yet what is happening, as the Member for Transcona has pointed out, is that children who are from one-parent

families and that parent working, or children from two-parent families both working, too often from the age of eight or nine are not being adequately supervised. So I'm suggesting that when we talk about lunch and after school programs, they should be included under day care. Even though it may be under another category of day care, I think instead of being under General Purpose Grants, if they will put it under Day Care we could talk about them almost at the same time.

There is no doubt in my mind that lunch and after school programs are urgently needed both in the former suburbs of the city and in the inner city. Unfortunately, the care that some people are able to find for their children is not good care. It should be just as good care as that provided or required — I hope will be required eventually — for children under the age of six who go to day care facilities now, but there is no indication that children between six and twelve are necessarily being adequately cared for. I would like the Minister to inform us, if he would, whether there is any increase in the provision for lunch and after school programs, whether it is intended to fund any new lunch and after school programs. Is any part of this increase that's shown here for lunch and after school programs?

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Transcona.

MR. PARASIUK: I think I might avoid a bit of repetition if I just raised a few questions in relation to lunch and after school programs and I think the Minister could answer us both. Just before I get into that, I wanted to point out that I wasn't saying that I thought the Children's Aid Society was in a sense raising these concerns about Rossbrook House. I believe that it's the provincial government, through the Director of Child Welfare, who is laying down some requirements for Rossbrook House, and while I can understand what he's trying to get at, I believe that if we have no physical alternative to Rossbrook House, then I think that Rossbrook House cannot just turn children away who are under 16 years of age. I believe that is a big gap in the inner city. A few years back when there were some makework program money projects around, there were some of these places that were open on a 24-hour basis for young people to go to. We only have one left and I just say that in the absence of other facilities, let's not stop this entity from being a sanctuary, albeit an imperfect sanctuary, for children under 16 years of age who feel that they must seek sanctuaries sometime.

With respect specifically to lunch and after school programs, I see that there is a fairly substantial increase in the budget from 62,000 to 204,000, but I think the thing that the public doesn't know is how they might go about applying for this program. That is, I guess, the 64,000 question because as soon as they find out, Mr. Minister, let me assure you, they will come knocking on your door. I believe this may in fact be one of the reasons — and I pass along to the Honourable Member for Fort Rouge — this may be one of the reasons — why this item is buried in this particular appropriation. Well, I accept the Minister's nod to the negative on that, but I think it is

important and this, again, is an area that I think we have to move in. I think it's important for us to highlight lunch and after school programs as a program. I think we should put it, if not right into the day care appropriation, in close enough proximity to the day care appropriation so that we can treat it I think as a whole.

I think it's important for us to proceed more aggressively in this manner and to allow the public to come forward and indicate the real demand that does exist for this program, and it's just not demand, it's need. It is need; it's a need certainly that does exist in the inner core, but it's one that really does exist in the suburb as well. It's one that I think where there is a somewhat universal need. It's a very difficult area and, frankly, some people sometimes comment negatively about day care, and lunch and after four, and they say, well, you know, all it's doing is, it's really taking over for functions that should be performed by the family. But the point is economic circumstances in most cases are forcing people into situations where both people have to work and in those situations, day care and lunch and after four indeed help keep the family together and keep the family operating and allow both spouses to perform necessary economic tasks with some feeling of security that the needs of their children are being met.

So rather than looking at day care and lunch and after four as somehow undermining the family, I believe that in most instances they act as supports and reinforcements for the family. So, specifically, I'm wondering if the Minister can point out how some of my constituents who have asked me about lunch and after four programs can get on this program because certainly I think it's possible, very possible, for them to demonstrate that they have need for this program as well as any of the groups presently receiving money in this particular program.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. MINAKER: Mr. Chairman, I concur with the Honourable Member for Transcona and the Honourable Member for Fort Rouge that — and I'd like to call it noon and after school program — is an important service that we would like to see grow because it's tied in many ways back to the day care program in that, as the honourable member knows, originally the day care program was established to get mothers who are on Mothers' Allowance, to give them the opportunity to get out and to take an active part in the workforce if they so desired. What is happening is the honourable members recognize and I recognize that in those specific cases, when the child does reach the school age and the mother is out working, then she has to arrange to have someone supervise the child in the morning, at noon and after school. So that if we support the day care program, which we do, then one has to also support to some degree the noon and after school program. I can assure you that I am working towards this end and I am convincing my colleagues every day the importance of it as my colleague, the Minister of Health, did when he was in this responsible position.

The reason I say, noon and after school, I still believe that the supervision is the key item, that the mother can still make that sandwich the night before

and pack it in a little lunch box like we did when we were kids and maybe take a thermos of soup of whatever. I would think that — and people that I have talked to that now provide this type of service that — quite often that most of the lunch end of it ends up being as a glass of milk or possibly a bowl of soup. I would not want to see us get into a full meal program in all of these different areas when and if noon and after school programs develop. So that's why I call them noon and after school, because I think supervision is the prime objective that we're trying to achieve. I recognize the importance and I am working towards that end of trying to improve the program.

The 204,800 is all for lunch and after school purposes and at the present time we have supported through a grant those, I think, five centres that were started up some three or four years ago, I believe, on an experimental basis and we've carried and continued on the grants to these. In addition to that, the moneys will have to be distributed, and I have indicated to the people who have met with me that represent a group that are presently providing a noon and after school program which was started through federal money, that I had believed that what we should do is support the existing system, the same way we have done in the day care program; where we could reinforce those in existence, we would do so. So that we will be supporting those particular services that are now non-supported, supporting to the point of a grant, which will be established. At the present time in terms of trying to get a noon and after school program going if you're not or at least partially funded, normally, the request have come to myself directly or they come via the External Agencies' Department and are brought to my attention. We will be deciding on those that will qualify, whatever number of spaces we can achieve with the additional funding that we have available this year.

The other question I think that came up, the reason why it wasn't under this section. Well, at the present time, noon and after school programs are not under the regulations of the Day Care Centre Act or that portion of the Act that we deal with day care centres and similarly they are not cost-shared under CAP. So that what we have in this particular section under General Purpose Grants are those grants that really don't fit anywhere like, obviously, the grants that come through Joe Cels' department for ARM or Skills or these other agencies that deal with mental retardation. Well, they obviously come under the mental retardation part of the estimates so that you'll find, as we go through our estimates, those external agencies that are providing a service in that particular field where there's rehabilitation or whatever, then the grants will be listed under there. The grants that we have here are for where we can't fit them nicely into a section. So, this is the catch-all section under this area and that is why you have the various items that were mentioned; that they don't really pertain to any specific section or department.

With regard to Rossbrook House, I can tell the Honourable Member for Transcona that we do support the Rossbrook House. I don't know whether he was aware of not that we have committed ourselves to 40,000 a year for the next three years with the city of Winnipeg and a private charitable

agency. It was not a director of Child Welfare that was so concerned about the general operation and agreement to it, but it was myself, the Minister, because it is a new approach, providing 24-hour care to children that just maybe come off the street, because the question always comes up if the parent becomes agitated for the fact that Sister MacNamara maybe has their child under her care. Then a number of legal questions can arise, so that I was satisfied when we went into the arrangement with Rossbrook House that those particular concerns were looked after. But it was not the director, but moreso the Minister, who is the one at the end of the run when a situation occurs. I just wanted to clarify that, that we do support Sister MacNamara's service that she is providing to the inner core area of our city.

I think the Honourable Member for Fort Rouge indicated that we do now have Seven Oaks set up where there is a child on the street needing some kind of assistance in the evening then, they can stay overnight at Seven Oaks until the situation is corrected. It's a short-term facility where, if we do take a child in under Children's Aid Society, they can look after getting it a foster home if that's what is required, or settled in a situation with the parents to get things straightened out. Now that we have separated the child welfare from the juvenile justice system, we feel that this is another service that is provided to the Winnipeg area and seems to be working fairly well because now the police, in order that they drop one off at the Manitoba Youth Centre, have to be prepared to lay charges. Before this used to be an area where they thought, well, we can just drop the child off at the Manitoba Youth Centre, not concerning themselves with the impact necessarily of mixing the child who needs help with the child who is in the delinquent system. So those basically are my comments at this point in time and I hope I covered all the questions that were raised.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (d)—pass — the Honourable Member for Seven Oaks.

MR. SAUL A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, looking at the General Purpose Grants two things I notice, that the large increase that appears to have occurred, if you delete from that the Lunch and After School Program, the actual increase is very minimal. Last year 896,000, this year 995,000, and Rossbrook being new, Frontier College being new, the Open Circle being new —(Interjection)— no, no, not Open Circle, the Frontier College and Rossbrook being new at 50,000, then the increase actually is more like about 49,000 for all of these agencies and I'm wondering how the Minister expects these various organizations to meet their obligations with no increase at all in some instances.

Social Planning Council 35,000 is the same as last year, since 1977-78 it hasn't moved an inch, it's the same, and yet it must cost them more to provide the service; I notice there is the Community Projects 20,000, the same for a number of years; Manitoba Indian Brotherhood has been the same since 1977-78, it certainly is the same as last year; the Volunteer Service is down slightly by 500 so it's not much of a decrease, but what I'm wondering about is why no increases. How does the government expect these agencies to provide the increasing levels of service

they are called upon to provide or at least to hold their own if, in fact, the grants don't show any appreciable increase at all.

I notice in the case of the John Howard and Elizabeth Fry Society, in 1977-78 it was about 66,000, then it was down last year, it dropped to 45.7. It's up slightly this year but it's still well below the 1977-78 level. So it's in these areas, the other is the Native Clan, pretty well the same, pretty constant since 1977-78, so I'm wondering how the Minister can justify what, in a sense, is really a freezing of the grants to the vast majority of these agencies or these groups which are receiving government support through some sort of financing and whether this Minister is satisfied and feels that it's adequate to just leave them frozen as he has over the last number of years.

MR. MINAKER: Mr. Chairman, a number of these grants are more or less recognition grants and not tied to the operations of the agency or where we support directly the program, or partially. I think where we do we have increased the grants accordingly so that in the area of those particular items that the honourable member raised that there has been no increase, that it's indicated it's sort of a recognition grant towards the agency and not tied with administration costs, etc. In the case of the Indian Metis Friendship and Migration Centres and obviously there is an increase there where we support that program. The same thing applies to community projects of Manitoba Indian Brotherhood. They are primarily funded by the federal government and we form a very small portion and I don't believe, to my knowledge, any of the times where any of the moneys came from the provincial government, were they ever tied to a direct program. It was left open as sort of a recognition grant which we have followed through in this case. I think in their budget of this coming year that 130,800 is approximately about one-eighth because I think they get funded approximately 800,000 or more from the federal government.

In the case of the Volunteer Centre, the project was primarily about six months behind schedule and there was only approximately 32,000 expended last year and this is why it was left at 63,500; it seemed to be a realistic figure for a year's operation. I haven't got the reason why it was sort of six months behind schedule other than it takes a while for these things to roll, as the honourable member recognizes, that one can put money in and you don't necessarily get it expended in the first year.

The same answer applies to Citizen Advocacy in Brandon. It's a recognition-type grant; the same with Native Clan and Open Circle and Manitoba Society of Criminology. I would advise the honourable members that I am seeking additional funding for a directors salary under the John Howard and Elizabeth Fry Society. When that is approved, hopefully by the Treasury Board and Cabinet, that would be increased by a proportionate amount of approximately 25,000 to 30,000; the other 54,000 is shown there. That still is in its final stages. But those are the basic increases and the reasons why they have been increased and why they haven't.

MR. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, I appreciate and recognize that they may be recognition grants but if a grant was made three years ago or four years ago in recognition of the work that these people are doing, and although it may not have been tied to a particular percentage or a formula, nonetheless, recognition in 1980-81 should be greater than the recognition in 1977-78, because if you're just talking recognition, not related to program or responsibility or anything else, then just pay them 1.00, you're recognizing them. Obviously it's more than just recognition; it was funds made available to assist these organizations in fulfilling their objectives, in delivering a certain service and although it may not have been by a formula or relating to a total budget, nonetheless it was a recognition that these people are doing work which otherwise the governments would have to pick up, they're doing work which the government recognizes is valuable and so to simply say, well, it's a recognition grant and therefore it doesn't have to go up, I'm sorry, that doesn't wash. The government can save a lot more money by simply making a 1,000 grant across the board saying we recognize you, that may even help them to raise funds as charitable organizations according to tax purposes, and that's a recognition. It makes them qualify. But I think it's more than just a simple recognition. It's a recognition of the work they're doing and there is no doubt in my mind they can't deliver, whatever it is they're delivering now in the way of services, for the same costs they delivered in 1977-78. Their overhead costs have gone up, their salary costs have gone up, everything has gone up, and to simply say, well, it's just a recognition and we recognize them, in my opinion, we are not supporting the agencies beyond recognition if we take that attitude. It's simply a nod of the head, that we're really not supporting these agencies even though the Minister indicates, from his comments, that he's not in disagreement with what these people are doing or that he's not opposed to what they're doing. So that, in my opinion, the government is not really participating as it should and I say just nodding your head to them and saying good work, good job, and here's a recognition without recognizing the increase costs of providing the service, is in my opinion simply not adequate.

I'm pleased to hear that the Minister says that he is trying to get a salary for a director at John Howard and Elizabeth Fry Society. That will mean an increase of 25,000 maybe, if it goes through Treasury Board. Now where that money will come from, I don't know. Will he be cutting somebody's grant to provide it, or somewhere else in the same appropriation, because that would come out of General Purpose Grants. It's pretty well fixed as to the amount, 1,137,000, and if he's going to find 25,000 more for them, is he hoping that somebody will underspend, or will he be cutting somebody else's grant to find it, or will he special warrant it? So, Mr. Chairman, I am concerned about the explanation given by the Minister. I don't think it's really an explanation, it's a justification for doing nothing, and that's really where we're at.

With regard to the luncheon-after-school programs, these were pilot projects, as the Minister indicates, a number of years ago, but by now they're not pilot projects anymore. If I heard him correctly,

this didn't reflect an increase in the number of programs, it simply reflected an increase in support for the existing programs. I think there were five all told. Firstly, if it's simply assistance of the existing programs, I'm wondering, since it's a number of years since these pilot programs came into effect, whether or not the government now is looking at this to make this more than just another pilot program, but whether it's looking to make this a universal program, because I think the pilot programs have proved that the need is there, that the increase in itself is an indication that the government is satisfied that these five programs are in fact delivering a service.

But we know they're just scratching the surface, that luncheon-after-school programs are a growing need in a society where, my colleague from Transcona indicated, more and more the husband and wife are both working, where they have to work, and therefore some arrangement has to be made for the children, otherwise known as latchkey children, where there is nobody home at lunch, there's nobody home at 4:00 o'clock, there's nobody home till the adults get back from work. And it's very well to recognize the existing ones by giving grants, but what about the expansion now to all of Manitoba, certainly into the core area, where the need is perhaps greater; and maybe even greater still in the suburban areas where young couples got into homes which require very large monthly payments and find that they must both work in order to maintain the home and continue to make the payments on the home.

So I would like the Minister's comments on how he approaches this whole question of luncheon-after-school programs and what is their intention, apart from this very small recognition that the five pilot projects are good projects, have proved themselves and do warrant support, and in the light of that support, what is going to be done for those areas of Winnipeg and Manitoba, where that program is not available.

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

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, I would like to add a bit to what my colleague for Seven Oaks has said. The Minister classified these grants in two categories. They are some, he says it's just a recognition, so therefore it's a set amount that follows year after year and then there are others that these programs are recognized and then you're actually reviewing the budget, the office of Mr. Cels reviews the budget with them to see if there is any need for increase. But the Minister, I would understand that not necessarily this wouldn't be done every year, but those that he calls these recognition grants, the budget of these associations have increased, and it seems to me that periodically they should be reviewed. I think that this has been done, and why I say this has been done, for instance, the first ones that you have on the list, the Canadian Association Support of Native People, Social Planning Council of Winnipeg and Canadian Diabetic Association, are all the same and were the same in our last year. But to show that there has been some review, for instance, Canadian Council on Social

Development was 8.5 and then in the last few years it's been 9.3, so that has been looked at by the Minister. So his explanation is not valid anymore. The Indian and Metis Friendship, he says that this is something else. Well, we'll accept that.

I want to come back to Lunch after School. Community project is the same; the Manitoba Indian Brotherhood is the same. The Volunteer Citizen is a new one. The Native Clan was 41 and now 42.4. The Open Circle was 3 and it's now 3.3. In fact, two of them, Frontier College and Rossbrook House were receiving something a few years back and last year, nothing. It seems that the then Minister reviews everything and then cuts it down or eliminates it altogether and then they have a change of heart in certain areas. So I would suggest then, Mr. Chairman, I would join my colleague in suggesting that maybe, with this inflation being what it is and what it has been for the last few years, that maybe the Minister should entertain the thought of reviewing those for the next year.

Now, the Lunch after School Program is one of concern. If I understand the Minister correctly, it is just the same pilot project that has been existing for awhile, that are increased. Now, I agree that eventually you'll have to make up your mind. You can't increase that. It's very good for these people to increase it but then limit it to a certain part of the city, or part of the province. This is a concern. The Minister and the government will have to have a policy on that fairly soon. Now, I'm not sure. I think that there are certain programs that are existing now without any contribution from the government at all and they're the ones that's our concern. Are they going to get anything at all? Well, I think that the Minister, to do him justice, should explain that because previously he mentioned that it was only the same programs. I'm giving him a chance to explain that because there's a lot of concerned people and I've received calls on that.

The John Howard and Elizabeth Fry Society have always been known as saying what they think and sometimes it doesn't sit too well with different governments. Now, it's fine, the Minister said that there's a possibility of another increase but I'm looking at the past record also, as we stated on Home Care and other programs. For instance, there was a reduction from 66.6 to 45.7 and these are some of the complaints that we had in those days, Mr. Chairman. So with those added comments, as far as I'm concerned, there's nothing else on this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (d)—pass. Resolution No. 29—pass. Resolved that there be granted to . . . The Honourable Minister.

MR. MINAKER: I'll be very short. I think the Honourable Member for Seven Oaks asked a few questions that he wants answers to before it's passed.

First in reply to — I'm just thinking backwards here to the Honourable Member for St. Boniface — these grants that we have here, they're reviewed every year by our department. They have to provide us with an audited last year's statement and this year's budget before the moneys are sent out to them, if they are approved. —(Interjection)— Yes, yes. So that quite often, Mr. Chairman, that a figure

in here of say 2,500 to Brandon Citizen Advocacy, they may not have applied already for the grant, but they have in past years so we presume that they will again; but before they get the grant they have to provide their audited statement of last year plus this year's budget. So this is one of the reasons why . . . Well, it's not the only reason but why there isn't an increase necessarily. As the honourable member says, from time to time we do increase the odd grant, depending on their budget from the last year and their estimate for the coming year, etc.

With regard to the Noon Hour and After School Program, I'm sorry if I didn't explain it clearly when I indicated in answering the Honourable Member for Fort Rouge and Transcona, that there are existing, I believe, five or six Noon and After School Programs that are not funded in any way by ourselves, the provincial government. They were receiving grants from, I think, Canada Manpower, if I remember correctly, these federal organizations. I have had a meeting with the association of those particular Noon Hour and After School people and indicated to them that I felt that the program was a useful one and that I would reinforce the existing system which meant to them, really, that they would get some assistance this year from us because we felt they were doing a good program. So they would be receiving grants from us this year. It would appear that we have funds available, approximately, for somewhere in the order of about 500 to 550 spaces. I don't have in front of me, at the present time, the number of spaces that were in the Noon and After School centres that are not funded in any way by us at the present time.

The existing ones that were on an experimental basis have approximately 200 spaces in them, the five, the majority of which I might say are in the centre core area of the city. So the allotment of the unused spaces will try to be established based on need and I am presently trying to set up a general program of how Noon and After School Programs can be developed in other areas, as funds become available. I'm setting the guidelines on that at the present time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Seven Oaks.

MR. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, then I gather, from what the Minister says, that the reason for the increase is that there's been an expansion, as far as the province is concerned, to cover those projects which were launched under the various federal programs, LEAP or LIP or whatever they were, and now that those funds are running out, the province is stepping in to fund them. So in fact, there are more projects being funded by the province than before, not just the original five pilot projects.

I'm interested in the comments the Minister made in the very last comments that you're studying the whole area and can we look forward to an expansion of the Lunch and After School Programs beyond the very limited few that are in existence by the Manpower, or the old ones which are covered by the province? Is the Minister really looking to make this a universal program irrespective of what the criteria for entrance may be, but nonetheless more universal that exists today?

MR. MINAKER: Mr. Chairman, we estimate about 450 spaces. I'm not too sure of the number of spaces in the program that was federally funded, so we're looking at a greater expansion. I am working towards greater expansions if we can, in the coming year, if I can convince my colleagues because I feel it is a useful program and one that is needed in our area; so there will be an expansion with the moneys available here, to approximately, we estimate roughly, about 450 spaces. Again, that's relating to the type of service that's being provided at the present time, which I've indicated earlier that I favour more of the supervision part of the program rather than the nutrition end of it; you know, hot meal, etc.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution No. 29—pass. Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding 24,770,300 for Community Services and Corrections. Community Health and Social Services, Regional Operations, 24,770,300—pass.

The hour is 4:30. I am interrupting the proceedings for Private Members' Hour and committee will resume at 8:00 o'clock this evening.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' HOUR

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. We are now under Private Members' Hour. Mondays, the first order of business on Private Members is Resolutions. The first resolution is Resolution No. 27. The Honourable Member for Point Douglas.

RESOLUTION NO. 27 — MINIMUM WAGE

MR. DONALD MALINOWSKI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Wellington, that:

WHEREAS under a Conservative government, increases in the minimum wage have failed to keep pace with increases in the cost of living, and

WHEREAS this has resulted in reduced purchasing power and a lower standard of living for the minimum wage earners, and

WHEREAS changes in the minimum wage structure imposed by the Conservative government have created an artificial inequity between certain minimum wage earners in different occupations, and

WHEREAS the Conservative government has consistently refused the urgings of the New Democratic Party Opposition and others to impose a standard formula for the determination of minimum wage rates, and

WHEREAS Conservative government policies in regard to minimum wages in Manitoba have resulted in extreme economic hardship for the low wage earners.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the government consider the advisability of immediately placing the matter of minimum wage structures before a legislative committee for the purpose of designing and implementing an equitable formula for increasing the minimum wage in a systematic and orderly manner, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the government immediately raise the minimum wage to a level that will accurately reflect increases in the cost of living since the last increase in the minimum wage and that

it continue to do so every three months until such time as a permanent formula is implemented.

MR. SPEAKER: I have heard the motion put forward by the Honourable Member for Point Douglas and I would like to refer him to Citation 424 of Beauchesne which reads: (1) When a member hands a motion to the Speaker, after having spoken in support of it, the Speaker may, before putting the question to the House, make such corrections as are necessary or advisable in order that it should conform with the usages of the House.

It's my belief that the member intended that the government consider the advisability of both of his resolves, and so I would ask the indulgence of the House to allow a minor correction in the BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the government further consider the advisability of immediately raising the minimum wage, just to make sure that we cover both. If those changes are agreeable and acceptable to the House, I would make those corrections. Is that agreed? (Agreed)

MOTION presented.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Point Douglas.

MR. MALINOWSKI: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, we, on this side regret that the Minister of Labour had some time ago already stated the government's position not to increase the minimum wage. The government, of course, has the power to hold the increase in the minimum wage, Mr. Speaker, but the government is unable to stop the cost of living from going up. In the preamble of the resolution before you, Mr. Speaker, we point out that the minimum wage has failed to keep pace with the increased cost of living. This has reduced the purchasing power of the people living on the minimum wage and has lowered their standard of living.

I also wanted to stress the point in the resolution about the artificial inequity between certain minimum wage earners in different occupations. We find this hard to justify. Mr. Speaker, we have in the past pointed out the need for a standard formula for determining minimum wage rates so that these rates would be adjusted automatically according to an established principle as the cost of living rises. No lengthy arguments are needed to prove the policy of this Conservative government has resulted in extreme hardship for low wage earners. Mr. Speaker, honourable members, by using their imagination, can get an idea of how they and their families would get along if they in this House were paid only the minimum wage.

Mr. Speaker, we again call upon the government to place the matter of the minimum wage structure before a legislative committee for the purpose of devising some equitable formula for increasing the minimum wage on a regular systematic basis. But, in the meantime, we call upon the government to reverse its decision and immediately raise the minimum wage to a level that will at least more nearly reflect the increase in the cost of living.

Mr. Speaker, last year in debating this issue, my honourable friend, the Minister of Highways and Transportation, said we on this side are not

presenting enough facts and statistics to prove our case that the minimum wage should be raised. But if they refer to a page in Hansard, they would notice we presented all kinds of facts and statistics. For the benefit of the slow learners on the other side, my colleague, the Honourable Member for Churchill, even brought a bag of groceries into the Chamber to prove the cost of living had gone up, while the minimum wage in Manitoba had not gone up accordingly. These are the two basic facts. What more facts do you need?

It is hard to find a logical reason why the minimum wage should not be established at a fair rate and that there should be automatic increases as the cost of living goes up. It would be the job of the legislative committee proposed in this resolution to devise some such plan of formula. Members of the government's side have, in the past, produced all kinds of statistics in minimum wage debates. They have quoted reports prepared by the very conservative economists; they quoted a professor who is a 100-percent supporter of private enterprise. There is nothing wrong, Mr. Speaker, with private enterprise. We are for it, but be reasonable; we are for not only to pay but to profit as well with the private enterprise. Mr. Speaker, they quoted a Brookings Institute; they dug down deeply in the . . . floor of Conservative economics. This convinced them that raising the minimum wage is as impossible as raising hair on a bald head.

Mr. Speaker, despite all their statistics, the argument of the Conservatives always boil down to about three points. They said it would hurt certain businesses or even force them out of business. They said it would result in the loss of many jobs, it would increase unemployment. Mr. Speaker, these are the arguments the honourable friend of mine, the Minister of Highways, who was debating last year, and other members of the government's side have used on every occasion this issue has come up.

Mr. Speaker, in the Throne Speech debate I pointed out that Saskatchewan has a minimum wage of 3.65 per hour, the highest in Canada. At that time, I mentioned another very important fact. I hope all the honourable members who have been asking us to present more facts will make note of this. In that speech I made reference to the article which appeared in the weekend edition of the Free Press, on February 23, this year. We know the Free Press is not in the least sympathetic to the New Democratic Party, Mr. Speaker; in fact, it is more Conservative than any member in this House. However, in that article the Free Press had some very nice things to say about the province of Saskatchewan, and I will quote just one sentence as it relates to the minimum wage. Here it is: For seven of the last nine years, Saskatchewan has had Canada's lowest unemployment rate.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to say again because maybe they don't understand. If they will try to understand, maybe they will be unable to comprehend and I would like to repeat again, For seven of the last nine years, Saskatchewan has had Canada's lowest unemployment rate. So here we have the province with the highest minimum wage and the lowest unemployment rate. Here at least is one fact which demolishes the Conservative

argument that the higher minimum wage results in loss of jobs and increased unemployment.

Mr. Speaker, I want to point out that Saskatchewan is not some kind of a foreign country on the other side of the ocean. It is a province next to Manitoba, almost in the heart of Canada. It is still a part of Canada although the former Conservative leader of that province wants to move Saskatchewan and other western provinces to the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I'm just asking myself, why; probably they don't know how to run the business, how to run the government. They don't know how, so that's why they would like to go to their neighbour and ask them, please, be so kind, come help us, show us how to do it, not how to do it.

The Honourable Minister of Highways said, Silly. That's what you said is silly. I am giving you the facts.

Mr. Speaker, some Conservative leaders are good for moving things here and there. We all know how successful the former Prime Minister, Joe Clark, was in moving the embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem; it didn't work. —(Interjection)— The honourable member said that they will move it to Warsaw. Well, we will be glad to have something like that in Warsaw. Why not, we have lots of space down there.

Mr. Speaker, the point I want to stress is this: If raising the minimum wage to 3.65 an hour in Saskatchewan did not result in more unemployment, but would it not result in more unemployment in this province or any other province? Of course, they don't have a Conservative government in Saskatchewan; they have a New Democratic Party government, a government for the people. A New Democratic Party government that believes, Mr. Speaker, in developing the province's resources to the limit, a government that believes all citizens of that province are entitled to a fair share of the wealth produced. A high minimum wage is one way some people can be assured of a larger share.

People on the minimum wage in Saskatchewan get about 20 more a week than those of Manitoba. But talking about price-wise, Mr. Speaker, if you will take any product you want to just name, probably even in Manitoba is higher than in Saskatchewan. Of course, in Manitoba we have a Conservative government, a government that believes in restraint. Restraint in development, of all kinds of resources; restraint in building programs, as a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, I saw last week statistics show that construction labourers, in Manitoba itself, they are looking for jobs, is exactly what the statistics says, 8,400 people looking for jobs in the industry field. But still they are looking for restraint in education, restraint in the minimum wage, but no restraint on the top incomes, no restraints on profits, oh no, they are leaving this to the free enterprise.

Again I would like to refer to my honourable friend the Minister of Highways and Transportation, in the previous debate on this he said, raising the minimum wage would only make the consumer price index go up still higher, employers paying their workers the minimum wage would put up their prices; he said he would be feeding the fires of inflation by raising the minimum wage. Mr. Speaker, since January 1980, when the minimum wage starts here 3.15 but certain articles in groceries, Mr. Speaker, went at least 20, 30 or some of them even 50 percent. Mr. Speaker, it

is a sad fact of life that we are living in an inflationary period, businesses of all kinds jack up their prices to get the higher returns on their investments, even doctors demand over 30 percent increase so they can be the highest paid people. Organized workers demand and get wage increases. —(Interjection)— Thank you, Mr. Speaker, five minutes, yes. Thank you so much.

Members of Parliament and the Legislature get hefty pay increases, all who can try to increase their pay to keep up with inflation. Some get such big increases that inflation will never affect them. Mr. Speaker, the Financial Post lists about 20 executives in Canada with incomes from 210,000 to over 300,000, almost 400,000 a year. But the Honourable Member for Pembina and his fellow Conservatives want to deny the minimum wage earners from joining in this scramble to keep up with the cost of living. Mr. Speaker, until such a time when the government in Ottawa and the provinces can succeed in curbing inflation there is no justification, absolutely not, for the holding down of the minimum wage while prices, profits and all other incomes are going up.

Among the minimum wage earners are some heads of families, Mr. Speaker. There are widows with children to look after, there are young people trying to earn enough money to pay the increased university fees. The Honourable Minister of Labour has told us he is against raising the minimum wage, which is now 3.15. He said he is satisfied with the minimum wage. I beg your pardon, I'd better change that sentence, he didn't say he would be satisfied in getting the minimum wage, but he thinks it is good enough for those over 40,000 Manitobans, Mr. Speaker, who are getting it. After all they get a 10 cent increase in January — mind you, 10 cents, big shtook, big deal. Mr. Speaker, the 10 cents an hour increase that went into effect in January is really a cruel joke. What would you say if Justice Hall had recommended a 10 cents increase for all members in this Chamber, including Premier and all Ministers?

The Honourable Minister of Labour takes prides in the fact that Manitoba has only the third highest minimum wage in Canada, but why are Conservatives so easily satisfied? Why don't you support our motion and put the province in No. 1 place instead of only third place? Mr. Speaker, there are no logical or sound economic reasons why the minimum wage in this province shouldn't be on a par with what we have in Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, I strongly suggest that all workers of Manitoba have the same right as members of the Manitoba Legislature to enjoy minimum wage increases which keep pace with the increase in the cost of living.

In concluding, Mr. Speaker, if the government is not prepared to bring Manitoba's minimum wage in line with that of Saskatchewan, you should at least consider some increase immediately. As far as a permanent solution to this problem, I strongly urge this House to support the main part of this resolution, I plead with the government, I hope and even pray that you will support the idea of placing the matter of the minimum wage structure before a Legislative Committee; the purpose of this committee would be to devise an equitable formula for increasing the minimum wage in a systematic and orderly way. Thank you very much.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question? The Honourable Member for St. Matthews.

MR. LEN DOMINO: Mr. Speaker, this resolution reminds me of several other of the resolutions that have been presented by the members opposite. The request and the resolution itself bear no relation at all to the facts at hand. I would take a look at some of the fact presented by the Member for Point Douglas, some of the assumptions he makes and I think we'll find they don't match the facts.

The Private Members Resolution presented here today makes no mention, or only slight mention at the very end, of the fact that Manitoba's minimum wage was increased twice in 1979; on July 1st of 1979 it was increased from 2.95 to 3.05 an hour and again on January 1st, 1980 it was increased to 3.15 an hour. —(Interjection)— I will deal with the cost of living, that's what I plan to do, at least early on here. Nor does the resolution mention that Manitoba presently has the third highest minimum wage in Canada, only Quebec and Saskatchewan have minimum wages that are higher. Further, Saskatchewan's minimum wage indeed, as was mentioned, is 3.65 an hour, but it was only raised to 3.65 an hour on May 1st of this year. So we haven't had time yet to see if indeed a minimum wage which is 50 cents an hour higher in a neighbouring province will indeed destroy jobs or chase people away from jobs. It may do that.

While Manitoba's wage compares favourably with other provinces' minimum wages, just a rough comparison, a straight comparison across-the-board of minimum wage rates, is not a fair comparison, and I'll admit that. If you want to make an interprovincial comparison of minimum wages, you have to take into consideration, local circumstances. For example, you have to take into consideration the incomes and salaries individuals earn within that local economy. You have to take into consideration the productive capacity of that local economy and you have to take into consideration the prices that people have to pay for essential commodities when they are working and living in an economy; and those prices vary and those incomes vary and the ability to produce varies all across this country. They are different in Saskatchewan than they are in Manitoba and they're different in Newfoundland than they are in Manitoba. So for this reason, other economic indicators are frequently applied by economists and people who take this situation seriously, and they take the two most common economic indicators that are used to judge and to compare the minimum wage are 1), the relationship of the minimum wage to the change in the cost of living, consumer price index; and 2), the relationship of minimum wage to changes in the average weekly earnings, for the industrial composite. When you take a look at Manitoba's minimum wage in comparison to both of these, the average industrial composite and the CPI, Manitoba's minimum wage compares favourably and it compares favourably with Saskatchewan's to.

Let's take a look at what was said earlier about the minimum wage not keeping pace with the CPI. From 1971 to 1979, Winnipeg's consumer price index rose by 92 percent; during that same period, Manitoba's minimum wage increased from 1.65 to 3.05 per hour, or 85 percent, and this doesn't

include the January 1st, 1980 increase in the minimum wage. If the present minimum wage of 3.15 is considered, the percentage increase in minimum wage between 1971 to the beginning of 1980 is 90.9 percent, a difference of less than 2 percent when compared to the increase in the CPI between 1971 and 1979.

So the facts show that Manitoba's minimum wage has virtually kept pace with the CPI. Now, the idea that minimum wages should be linked to the average weekly earnings or the industrial composite was first brought to prominence in 1968 by the Special Senate Committee on Poverty. The general ratio of minimum wages to average earnings has fluctuated all across Canada from about 40 percent to somewhere around 50 percent. Manitoba's minimum wage of 3.15 represents 47 percent of the January industrial composite. That's the fourth highest in Canada. PEI their minimum wage is 53 percent of the average industrial composite, Quebec's is 49, Saskatchewan's is 48; 48 percent Saskatchewan's minimum wage is. Saskatchewan's minimum wage is higher, their average salaries are higher, their average costs are higher to operate and live in that economy too. Both Alberta and British Columbia, their ratios are below 40 percent.

This Private Member's Resolution expresses or requests that the government now immediately raise the minimum wage to a level that will accurately reflect increases in the cost of living since the last increase in minimum wage and that it continue to do so every three months until such a time as a permanent formula is implemented.

As mentioned, increases in Manitoba's minimum wage have been tied closely to the increase in the CPI. Now from July of 1979 to January of 1980, CPI increased four percent in Manitoba while the minimum wage increased 3.4 percent, that's a difference of .6. It's a difference of .6, but when you consider that the consumer price index is really just an approximation of living costs, I think that's pretty fair. According to available data, the minimum wage has increased faster from July to January than the average industrial composite, because the average industrial composite only went up 2.2 percent.

So on one scale we've kept pace, at least immediately, on the other one we're ahead. If the minimum wage were increased to reflect exactly the 4 percent increase in the CPI between July and January, the minimum wage today would be 3.17 an hour, rather than 3.15 an hour, and the ratio of the minimum wage to the average industrial composite would then rise to 47.2 percent, compared to the present rate of 46.9. There's really very little difference in Manitoba's present minimum wage and the increase that the member is asking for, at least the increase the member was asking for on the basis of his resolution. Very little difference.

The member wants to talk about facts. Well, last year we had this debate, the members scrupulously avoided facts; they made emotional pleas, they tried to score the cheap political shot, but they didn't talk about reports or facts or anything of that. They did everything from eat apples and throw garbage around the Legislature, to shed tears.

Further, the resolution calls for the government to consider the advisability of immediately placing the matter of minimum wage structures before legislative

committee for the purpose of designing and implementing an equitable formula for increasing the minimum wage in a systematic and orderly manner.

Mr. Speaker, this is gross hypocrisy, this part of the resolution, gross. In 1976 the minimum wage board, which was appointed by the members opposite when they were in government, made a recommendation to the Minister of Labour at that time, who was an ND Party member. They said, let's raise the minimum wage that's tied to a formula. That formula was rejected. The raise was rejected, and so was the formula by the government of the day.

I won't quarrel with the fact that they rejected that formula at the time because it would have hurt poor people, just as if we're not careful when we toy with the minimum wage, we'll hurt poor people now. My only quarrel is that they were smart enough and wise enough to reject it then but they're not honest enough now to reject that sort of a solution right now.

Mr. Speaker, I'm not opposed to raising the minimum wage, I'm not. Mr. Speaker, I've spoken out against my own party on one occasion and voted against my own party, which is more than can be said for many of the members opposite, who I suspect vote with their own party even when they know their party is wrong. I'm not opposed to minimum wage. I'm not even opposed to a formula, to tying the minimum wage to a formula, but I am opposed to ignoring the Minimum Wage Board. If we don't want the Minimum Wage Board, let's do away with it or otherwise let's use it. We've got a board of independent people and those people haven't been changed, by the way, in the last two-and-a-half years. The same individuals sit on that board who used to sit on that board. We've got a board of independent people who are supposedly experts in its field, who work in the field, who make recommendations. I'm sure, and I hope that the member — and I'll recommend to him right now — and I hope the Minister calls together that board in the next few months and they can take a look and maybe there's need for further increase in the minimum wage. Maybe there's need for a formula, but not a formula like what was suggested last year to tie the minimum wage at 60 percent of the average industrial composite, and certainly not a need to increase the minimum wage 50 cents an hour.

Mr. Speaker, if I thought for one second that a 50-cent raise in the minimum wage today would help people who work near or at the minimum wage, I'd vote for it, and I'll tell you there's not a member in this House who could stop me. The Premier, the Leader of the Opposition, all of you together couldn't stop me from doing what I thought was good for my constituents, because a large number of them are poor, a large number of my neighbours are poor, a large number of the children I teach at school. I see the problems of poverty, but I'm telling you all, if you're honest with yourselves, raising the minimum wage rapidly and distorting the wage structure in the province will not help those poor people, it will put them out of work. And if you want, I've got time, I'll go through the facts again. I'll show you the Ontario Economic Council Report, the Fortin Report in Quebec, the Brookings Report from the United

States. All of those reports have studied the effect of raising the minimum wage above 50 percent of the average industrial wage. All those reports talked about what it did to the young inexperienced worker and to the unskilled or handicapped worker and in each of those circumstances, Ontario, Quebec, and the federal minimum wage in the United States, the conclusion was that it reduced their chances to work, it reduced their opportunity to make a living and it hurt them. And these aren't all conservative professors or anything like that, God, the Brookings Institute is so liberal I'm afraid to read the reports in the Conservative caucus room even. — (Interjection)— I'm not going to burn it, I read it. Unlike some members opposite, I read everything. I'll read Galbraith, I have. I read everybody. I'll read socialists; I'll read fascists; I'll read everybody who might suggest an answer to a problem, because I'm willing to consider all views.

Mr. Speaker, let's take a look at what the Brookings Institute said. I'm going to quote from their 1977 report. By the way this is an institute, it's a think tank for those members who might not have had a chance to read any of their material; it's a liberal think tank, considered very progressive thinkers in the United States. They for years were calling on the federal government to raise the minimum wage and they said, if the raised the minimum wage, you'll help the poor. And then they did a very extensive study in 1977 which was released and published in December of 1977, entitled *The Report Concerning the Effects of Minimum Wages*. Let me quote from it: When minimum wage rates move beyond the historic range of 40 to 50 percent of average wages, the chances of all minimum wage earners of obtaining jobs are reduced. Another quote, Increases in the minimum wage hit young workers particularly hard because employers tend to hire older workers for their jobs or to replace workers with capital investment. Not Conservatives, very Liberal progressive people saying this.

Let me talk about the Fortin Report which is even more recent in Quebec. The Quebec government has experimented with semi-annual adjustments to the minimum wage in line with the CPI changes. However, the government's changed the legislation this year because it appears they're appearing to back off because of what came out of the Fortin Report on minimum wages in Quebec. That study was critical of the high level of minimum wages in relationship to Ontario and the United States, competitors for jobs. The study argued that the effect of maintaining the Quebec minimum wage at 20 percent above rates in Ontario and the United States had a detrimental effect on the competitive position of Quebec industries. Let's remember that industry, like it or not, produces most of the jobs in Manitoba. It also estimated that a 10 percent rise in the minimum wage, relative to the average Quebec wage, would result . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order please. The honourable member has five minutes.

MR. DOMINO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If you were to raise 10 percent, the result would be between 18,000 and 30,000 more unemployed persons in the

14 to 25-year-old age bracket at a rise of 1 to 1.5 percentage points in overall unemployment. If you want to help the poor . . . And I'll accept the Member from Point Douglas, whose constituency is every bit as poor as mine, I'll accept that his motives are good and that he really wants to assist the poor people; you don't do it by jacking up the minimum wage because you force them out of jobs. The answer is not to lower the minimum wage, no. The answer is continue doing what the members opposite did to try and increase the life standard, the life style of those who live on minimum wage, and what this government is continuing to do and what I, as a member, realistically urge my caucus and my government and all members of this legislature to do, and that's the chance for more income through direct means; that's to supply more day care because when supply day care you're supplying a direct subsidy to people on minimum wage. I'd supply more public housing or, if not more public housing, more SAFER Program, because if you were to take the SAFER Program and make the people who work at or near the minimum wage, if you were to make them eligible for the SAFER Program, you give them more income, you give them more money, but you don't hurt their jobs, because you don't distort the labour market.

I have good reason to believe that we're going to do that, because if we don't do it, I'm not going to stop talking about it, because I've suggested this for the last three years and I've badgered this government, and I'm not the only one. I shouldn't try to take all the credit. A lot of people have been asking for programs of that sort, and their going to come because that's the real solution to assisting the poor; it's to supply them with transfer of income directly from the governments. —(Interjection)— People who receive welfare don't work at the minimum wage. I have a lot of people who are on welfare in my constituency and I think that they're certainly not living well, but I'm more concerned about those just above the welfare level, and those people need assistance and they need to be allowed to qualify for things like SAFER and direct income supplement programs to help people.

Mr. Speaker, don't let members opposite get away. I don't want them to get away with suggesting or saying that I suggested we abandon the poor people, or we abandon those who for one reason or another can't compete as well as the rest of us in this society. I am suggesting you weren't listening. You don't want to listen, you just want to score cheap political points. I'll tell you if we took your advice they would suffer friend, but you're probably too ignorant to even realize it.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order please. I'd suggest to the honourable member he withdraw that statement.

MR. DOMINIO: Mr. Speaker, if I suggested that the former Speaker of this House was ignorant, I'm sorry.

Mr. Speaker, the real solution, as I have just finished saying, lies not in unrealistic high minimum wages but it lies rather in more direct government subsidies and in more intelligent government programs to supply income to these people. I have no doubt the Member for Logan's motives are

sincere, and that they're good and that he really wants to help the working poor. I'm not arguing with his motives —(Interjection)— Pardon me, the Member for Point Douglas. I'm arguing with his economics because they're bad. And when we come down to judging a resolution, an act of this Legislature or anything that this Legislature does, we should disregard the motives because the motives don't count. What really counts is the actual effect, and the actual effect of this resolution would be the very opposite of what the Member for Point Douglas suggests. If we were to raise the minimum wage to 3.65 tomorrow, people on low income would have less money because they wouldn't have jobs. They'd fall out of the labour market onto welfare because their jobs would be destroyed. They'd be replaced by machines, or they'd have their hours reduced, or the companies that they worked for would go out of business. —(Interjection)— Some members suggest we try it; it's fun to play with other peoples lives. I don't experiment with others' lives. You may be willing to experiment with their lives, your cheque is guaranteed but theirs isn't. They have to go out each day and most of these people have no job security, no unions.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please, the honourable member's time has expired.

The Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. JAY COWAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd hoped to follow the Minister of Labour, whom I know has a keen interest in this matter, and fully expect him to enter into the debate at a later time. But at this time, not having seen him rise to his feet, decided that it would be best, perhaps, to put my thoughts on the record in regard to what the motion that has been introduced by my colleague and seat mate and in regard to what the Member for St. Matthews has just put on the record.

I have to admit that I had heard the speech before from the Member for St. Matthews. It's much the same speech that he gave us the year before and much the same speech that was given the year before in response to what we believe to be some very sincere and some very honourable resolutions towards trying to create a better a society; towards trying to create a better standard of living for those who are known as the working poor, for those who must survive on the minimum wage. And let us not kid ourselves, let us not gloss over the fact that we are talking about a large number of persons; we are talking about a large number of persons within that group who have to support either themselves or their families. There has been too much talk in the debates previous that what we're talking about, and I forget which backbencher it was but it was one of the members opposite, when they said it is a minute situation. Those are their words, a minute situation and therefore should be of very little concern to us.

Mr. Speaker, it is of great concern to us, because the test of a society and a test of a government that hoped to build a better society is how they treat the working poor and how they treat those who are at the lower edge of the income scale and are, for that reason, primarily without bargaining power. It's easy to be kind to those that are putting pressure on you. It's easy to be kind to those that are constantly

prodding and pushing but it is a test of a government to be able to be kind without that pressure, to be able to be kind without that prodding, to be kind because you have what are the best interests of those people at heart. —(Interjection)— The Member for Kildonan says that you have a conscience. Well, indeed, that is the question. Do they have a conscience in regard to the working poor? I've listened to the arguments time and time again and, as a matter of fact, have engaged in the debate in throwing studies back and forth across the Chamber, and statistics back and forth across the Chamber, and we have heard the members opposite say a number of things consistently: (1) as the member just told us, that it is going to reduce employment opportunities; (2) that it is going to hurt the minimum wage earner because it is going to drive them out of work.

Well, they have not been able to put on the record any significant documentation that is indeed the case. As a matter of fact, if we look at the minimum wage standards across the country today in Canada, and if we look at the levels of employment, we will find that their argument does not hold true, even within the context of the Canadian system; that it does not hold true; that those provinces that have the highest minimum wage rates also, in many instances, have the highest levels of employment and the lowest levels of unemployment. And that is a fact that they can't deny, and we need only look to the sister province to the west, Saskatchewan, to validate what I say.

But I want to, before my time runs out today, address myself specifically to some of the remarks that the Member for St. Matthews said. What he was telling us towards the end, and if I understand him correctly, Mr. Speaker, was that we should not increase the minimum wage but, and these are his words, that we should have more direct government subsidies. In other words, let us not pay people a wage upon which they can live in a lifestyle that is becoming to them but let's give them handouts. And if you think that is a simplification of the member's statement, you need only look at the policies of that government, because you can't look at minimum wage in isolation; you have to look at it in the conceptual and the philosophical sense. And the fact that the minimum wage has only been increased by 6.78 percent since September 1976, to a great extent an examination of that will show a reflection of how this government perceives the working poor and perceives the economy of the province of Manitoba.

Trapped in their neo-conservative economics they want, and they will continue, to promote a low wage economy; and that is why, when we have the statistics that came out the other day that the Member for Brandon referred to, we see that Manitoba's wage earners are earning, on an average weekly wage basis, the least amount of any of the other provinces. That is the legacy that is going to be left to us by this government opposite, because they want to see a low wage economy for the province of Manitoba. That is why they had their restraint policies which affected the extent of wage increases throughout society.

The other day, when questioned by the Member for Brandon East, the Minister of Labour suggested

that the problem in Manitoba's average weekly wage right now was that the unions were not setting a high enough trend for the rest of the economy to follow. In other words, because the unions weren't negotiating high contracts the average weekly wage was going down. Well, I would suggest to the Minister that the government restraint policies that we have seen for the last number of years have had more impact on the average weekly wage than have the union settlements; that when a government keeps its increases on a yearly basis, to the low percentages that they have, they encourage and they promote and they support private industry to do the same thing. And that is why we have seen extended throughout our society a lowering of the wages. And what does that mean? We're not just talking about wages, Mr. Speaker, we're talking about a standard of living. Because our inflation rate hasn't decreased in comparison to the other provinces. No, the inflation rate has kept pace, it is only our wages that have decreased, and therefore, the workers of Manitoba because of that government, and they must assume the responsibility, including the Member for St. Matthews, they must assume the responsibility for the fact that we are seeing a decreasing standard of living, for not only the low wage and the minimum wage earners in this province, but we are seeing it for all the wage earners, that it has a ripple effect throughout our economy.

The Member for St. Matthews tried to say that since the last time the minimum wage was increased, in July of 1979, that it has kept pace with the CPI. Again, he wants to take a particular segment of time and draw a parallel and extrapolate from that a general trend, and it cannot be done. Because what we must do is go back to the previous increase; we must go back to September of 1976, and the difference between that, September of 1976, and today is 6.78 percent. In other words, the minimum wage has increased in the province of Manitoba since September 1976, 6.78 percent. Does that sound like it is keeping up with the cost of living; does that sound like it is keeping up with the consumer price index? No it is not, no it is not, Mr. Speaker. And what does that mean? That means we have seen a very significant decline in the standard of living for low wage earners and for minimum wage earners in this province because of the policies of that government, because of the policies of that government primarily. They can't foist the blame off on the unions, we won't allow them to do that; they can't foist the blame off on economic conditions, we won't allow them to do that. They must accept responsibility; they have chosen to govern, they must govern, and they must govern in the best interests of all our society, not just the elite, not just the few, but they must show kindness to all.

Let's go through some of the statistics very briefly. They have suggested, and it was suggested, that because Manitoba has the third highest, the third highest minimum wage, that we are in fact keeping pace with — it happened under a NDP government because that's what we had during that time. Well it is correct that we had the third highest, but let's look at the figures now. Saskatchewan has a higher minimum wage; Alberta has a higher minimum wage; Quebec has a higher minimum wage; and I believe,

although I may stand corrected, that one of the eastern provinces just increased theirs to the same that Manitoba's is now but they don't have the built-in differential for 18-year olds and for people who receive tips. So we are either now tied for fourth or fifth in relationship to the other provinces. The point at which our minimum wage has been decreasing in relationship to the other provinces, and it has been decreasing under that government, they have dropped it from third to either fourth or fifth, and it will decline more because they believe so strongly in the low wage economy that they will not, they cannot, increase the minimum wage to a significant degree whereby we will be competitive in regard to other provinces, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, with the few moments that are left today, and I do intend to continue on with this subject at the next time it comes before us, I just want to pay attention to one other remark that the Member for St. Matthews said. He said that what his government intends to do is to continue doing what the members opposite did, and that was to better the standard of living for the low wage earners. Let's look at what happened under the New Democratic Party administration. In December of 1968 the minimum wage, as a percentage of the average industrial wage, was 49.6 percent, and it increased consistently throughout the period of the New Democratic Party administration until September of 1976 when we made the last change; it had gone up to 54.9 percent. And I am using figures that the Minister of Labour gave us in June 14, 1978. Very quickly it went from 49.6 to 51 to 50.9 to 51 to 50.6 to 51 to 51.7 to 52.8 . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The hour being 5:30, I am interrupting - the next time this subject matter comes up the honourable member will have 9 minutes.

The Honourable Government House Leader.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister Without Portfolio that this House do now adjourn and resume in Committee of Supply at 8:00 o'clock.

MOTION presented and carried, and the House adjourned until 2:00 p.m. tomorrow afternoon. (Tuesday)