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of the  
**Legislative Assembly of Manitoba**  
**DEBATES**  
and  
**PROCEEDINGS**

31-32 Elizabeth II

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**MANITOBA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
**Thirty-Second Legislature**

**Members, Constituencies and Political Affiliation**

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<b>ANSTETT, Andy</b>	Springfield	NDP
<b>ASHTON, Steve</b>	Thompson	NDP
<b>BANMAN, Robert (Bob)</b>	La Verendrye	PC
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<b>BROWN, Arnold</b>	Rhineland	PC
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<b>WALDING, Hon. D. James</b>	St. Vital	NDP

# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Tuesday, 29 March, 1983.

Time — 8:00 p.m.

## CONCURRENT COMMITTEES OF SUPPLY SUPPLY - GOVERNMENT SERVICES

**MR. CHAIRMAN, C. Santos:** Committee, please come to order. We are on Item No. (e)(1) - Mr. Minister.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Mr. Chairman, I'd just like to go back if I could, if the committee would wish to deal with the question dealing with Administration, the breakdown as to the increase in salaries for Administration.

The Honourable Member for Pembina asked for the breakdown for that particular appropriation, and I could refer him to the following figures. I had indicated before, I gave the overall breakdown for the increase and this is for this particular appropriation. The percentage for the shortfall in the base is 31 percent for that particular appropriation. The percentage for the total salary increase, general salary increase, for '83-84 in that appropriation is 39 percent of the increase. The percentage for the 27th pay period is 17 percent; the percentage for merit increases and reclassification and so on is 13 percent, so that adds up to 100 percent. It varies from appropriation to appropriation.

What I gave at the beginning was the average for the whole department and for further clarification, just with regard to the matter of the shortfall, the amount that the Budget was short last year, of course - the questions were asked by the Member for Pembina as to whether we were actually supplementing last year's Estimates with the increase this year. Certainly the Special Warrant takes care of the amount that is needed to cover the salaries for last year, over and above that which was budgeted. The Special Warrants are not included in the Reconciliation Statement for the previous year in the Estimates Book. As the honourable member is perhaps aware, it is only Supplementary Supply Acts that are included in those figures, not Special Warrants. Therefore, the Special Warrant requirement for salaries for 1982-83 is not included in those figures.

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

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Well, just a couple of questions, Mr. Chairman, following that information. I thank the Minister for it. Then what the Minister is saying is that the Special Warrants which have been passed to cover, for instance, in this particular line, (c)(1), to cover the 31 percent, as he describes it, base shortfall, was covered by Special Warrant and is not part of the Reconciliation Statement, hence does not appear on the left-hand column of figures.

Secondly, so the Minister can bank these and then we save time going back and forth, Mr. Chairman, does the total salary increase for '83-84, which equates the 39 percent of the salary difference in (c)(1), is that based on the 9.5 percent figure that the Minister indicated was appropriate for (b)(1)?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Mr. Chairman, first, the shortfall, it is correct the way it was described. It has not been included in the figures on the left-hand side, the Special Warrants, in other words. Those would be forthcoming, as a matter of fact, once the total amount is determined. Then the Special Warrant will be passed for the Salaries. The 9.5 percent that was mentioned for the previous figure, for the previous appropriation, is the same that is applied to this appropriation.

As well, I might add that in projecting, the honourable member referred earlier to the fact that then the deficit projections by the Minister of Finance would not be accurate if this was the case, that these were not included in the Reconciliation Statements on the left-hand side. If they were not included in all of the budgets then, of course, the Member for Pembina said that the deficit Estimates would not be correct. That is not quite correct because that is taken into consideration in estimating the deficit for the previous year.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** I thank the Minister. The Minister indicates that a Special Warrant will be passed, does that Special Warrant cover the salary increases yet to be passed?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** That includes the salary increases for the previous year that were not covered in the budget.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Is that Special Warrant yet to be passed?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Yes, pardon me, that Special Warrant has been passed.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Okay, I think that's sufficient for now, Mr. Chairman.

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

**MR. H. GRAHAM:** Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Now when these figures then appear in Public Accounts, will the figures for Salaries include the amount that was passed by Special Warrant?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Mr. Minister.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Yes, in Public Accounts.

**MR. H. GRAHAM:** So the figures that appear in Public Accounts will not be the same figures that are in here?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** My understanding is they will be the actual figures.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 1.(e)(1)—pass; 1.(e)(2).

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** I thought you said (a)(1), Mr. Chairman.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** No, 1.(e)(1) - the Member for Pembina.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Mr. Chairman, the Minister was going to try to get some information for me and I wonder if the Minister might have that information.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Mr. Chairman, is the honourable member referring to the information regarding EMO?

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** That's correct.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Mr. Chairman, I do have copies of correspondence that have been received by my office from the Emergency Measures Organization during the period of the ice storm that the member was referring to. Should I just provide the honourable member with a copy of this?

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Does that include the material from which the Premier referred on the 8th of March?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Mr. Chairman, that material was, I understand, the scribbled notes that were made by my assistant for the benefit of the Premier and we are including in this information the statement that is found in the Hansard, because that is exactly what he stated. Plohman)

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Well, unfortunately the First Minister allowed me to read the portion of that. It was not a scribbled note, it was a typed document. I did not pursue the matter and asked the Premier at the time to table it which probably would have been the appropriate thing to do. But I trust that the Minister will attempt to provide the committee with that information. It was not a scribbled statement. It was, in fact, excerpts from a typewritten report which I would assume had to come from the Minister's department. I wonder if the Minister might provide us with that.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Mr. Minister.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I would assume then that is included in the information I've just distributed to the honourable member. I don't know whether he's able to identify whether that is or not but I'm not aware of any other typed information that was available.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I'll just read this information and indicate to the Minister whether that's sufficient.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Is the Member for Pembina done with his questioning?

The Honourable Member for Morris.

**MR. C. MANNESS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I'd like to move into an area regarding the agreement, or the proposed agreement, between Ottawa and Manitoba regarding the sharing of emergency measure costing. I'm making reference specifically to an article from the paper December 4, 1982 plus a News Service release from your department June 5, 1981 and I'd like

to know where we stand regarding the attempt to reach an agreement with the Federal Government in the sharing of costs related to emergencies within the provincial jurisdiction.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Mr. Minister.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Mr. Chairman, the Memorandum of Agreement, or of understanding, that the honourable member is referring to is in draft form and is being considered and reviewed by my office at this time. Once we've had the opportunity to review all aspects of it and discuss it with my colleagues, and once it is then in the form to be signed, it would become public information.

The work on that memorandum resulted from the June 1981 meeting by the former Minister of the previous government, in which he attended a conference of all Ministers responsible for emergency measures from across Canada, and the people at the staff level worked on the Memorandum of Understanding. It was agreed to at the staff level and now it is being presented to the various governments for consideration.

**MR. C. MANNESS:** Maybe the Minister then could tell me what is in effect right now. What agreement is in effect if indeed there is any?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** In terms of cost-sharing it is the same agreement in effect that has been in effect for a number of years.

The Federal Government, at that time of the conference that I just referred to, was considering or was attempting I think to want to change that formula but it has certainly been to Manitobas advantage over the years previous in a number of emergencies, where the sharing formula that was in place benefited Manitoba, and I understand that with strong pleas from the province and from other provinces' support, that they have agreed to consult with us if they were considering any changes in that formula and there have been no changes up to this time.

**MR. C. MANNESS:** Well, two points here, Mr. Chairman, I would ask the Minister then, firstly, that the Memorandum of Agreement which he and the Government of Manitoba are considering at this time, it allows for no change in the existing formula for cost-sharing whatsoever; and secondly, what type of time frame are they looking towards to completion of this Memorandum towards a final agreement?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** The cost-sharing agreement would be the same. The time frame, hopefully, would have a final decision on that Memorandum by this summer or fall, so I personally would like to see that it has gone through the various stages of consideration by that time.

I would just mention that the formula that we're dealing with is that the first million dollars of emergency funding that is required is paid for by the province under the current formula, 100 percent by the province. The second and third million dollars are 50 percent provincially funded and 50 percent federally funded. The fourth and fifth million dollars are 25 percent

provincially funded and 75 percent by the Federal Government, and over \$5 million is 90 percent by the Federal Government and 10 percent by the Provincial Government.

**MR. C. MANNES:** Mr. Chairman, what emergencies does the existing plan cover? Is the Memorandum working towards a new contract? Does it cover the same number of emergencies or the same grouping of emergencies completely, or does indeed the coverage of certain disasters change?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** My understanding is that the kinds of emergencies that apply have not changed from the previous plans, agreements or workings that have been in place. Certainly they have not allowed certain groupings of them. It would depend on the kinds of emergencies that arise.

**MR. C. MANNES:** Then can the Minister tell me why it will take such a long period of time to complete this agreement? If in fact the cost-sharing hasn't changed, if the disaster numbers and groupings and types hasn't changed, what is the problem? If we are happy with the old existing agreement, what is taking us so long to sign an agreement which, in effect, is identical to a former one?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** There's been negotiation in terms of the promptness of payment by the Federal Government for situations where the province has incurred large expenses. What has happened before, everything had to be tied up and submitted before any payments could be received. We currently are attempting and have agreement, at least in the paper as it is now from the Federal Government, that they would consider advance payment for some of this to offset some of the heavy costs that could be incurred by the Provincial Government, and therefore put the Provincial Government in the difficult situation during emergencies. That is one of the major considerations.

**MR. C. MANNES:** Well, maybe the Minister can then tell me what delay, has traditionally taken place, from the time that the emergency has hit and final payments; and secondly, I would ask him to restate, if in fact, the promptness of payments is the sole and only, or the major condition, under which we're having some difficulty, or taking some time at least, to reach a new agreement.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Certainly that was one of the considerations. There's been a new plan - Joint Emergency Planning Program, JEP Program - that has been also taking effect that wasn't in existence before and it covers a wide range of peacetime programs that the province might engage in and receive federal funding for.

In this program, Joint Emergency Planning Program, the Provincial Government puts in its resources, its people from EMO staff, for example, which are considered the provincial input into that program and then the Federal Government funds, if they're approved under the Joint Emergency Planning Program - if that is approved by the Federal Government - then funds 100 percent of the costs of that particular program.

So that is one of the considerations that has been involved in these negotiations as well.

**MR. C. MANNES:** I'm not quite clear, Mr. Chairman. Maybe the Minister can tell me as to whether we, as a province, are in favour of the, as he calls the Joint Emergency Planning Program as laid down by - I don't know who laid it down. Was it at our request, as provinces, or was it a federal proposal and are we opposed to certain conditions of it?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Mr. Chairman, we are not opposed. As a matter of fact, we've had a number of programs approved under that, even though the Memorandum of Understanding has not taken place, has not been signed by this province.

In working with the staff from the Federal Government, we certainly have taken advantage of that program provincially, and for a number of JEP Programs, even in advance of signing of this agreement. They are hopeful that we will indeed sign the particular agreement, but they have gone ahead and financed a number of these programs at any rate. So we certainly believe that they are working to the advantage of the province.

**MR. C. MANNES:** I see a list has been provided to the Minister. Maybe he could give us a few examples of some of those projects that have helped Manitobans.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** There are a number of programs that are considered under that program in the last year. One is the emergency preparedness for hazardous goods - accidents, the Mobile Monitoring Unit which has been funded 50-50 with the Federal Government paid, I understand, February 10, 1983; that was completed. That is \$70,000 that we received under that particular program.

The Emergency Co-ordinating Centre for the City of Winnipeg was a major recipient of funding under this program as well; will be receiving \$106,500 under that program and putting up \$61,000 of their own. This was done through the province, but the province does not have any costs under that particular program.

The emergency equipment for remote communications in Northern Manitoba under the Department of Northern Affairs received \$45,000 as the federal share for communications equipment under this program. Thirty thousand is the provincial share from Northern Affairs. Those are some examples. There are a number of others.

They also pay for the STEP, Student Temporary Employment Program. We have a number of students doing surveys with municipalities of hazards and resources that they have available for them in the communities. The students have visited a number of the communities and I have a list of 42 communities in Manitoba where they have worked with local municipalities in establishing and doing a survey of the kinds of hazards that exist in those particular locations and the resources that they could use to respond and so on. That has been funded 100 percent by the Federal Government under the JEP program.

**MR. C. MANNES:** I thank the Minister for giving me examples of the projects under that particular program.

I'm wondering if he can tell me if and when Ottawa, the Federal Government, first of all, if they have to cover this renegotiated Emergency Measures Program, do they have to enact that by a bill of the House of Commons?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Mr. Chairman, I don't believe that they have to pass an Act to enter into an agreement. They have already signed agreements with a couple of provinces, I believe, under this program.

**MR. C. MANNESS:** Mr. Chairman, I guess I'm a little uncertain here. I would ask then the Minister whether the Federal Government envisages bringing forward any type of legislation that would give the Federal Government control, in effect, over emergency situations that arise within the Province of Manitoba and indeed within provinces of Canada. Is there any type of legislation contemplated within Ottawa in this regard?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** I don't believe that there is any legislation contemplated at this time, Mr. Chairman. I know that they have passed an Order-in-Council dealing with designating which departments to prepare for emergency situations and to identify their roles during emergencies, but that has been done by Order-in-Council, it is my understanding, not by an Act.

**MR. C. MANNESS:** Well, I suppose then my final question, Mr. Chairman, given that the next time - and hopefully it won't be for many years to come - but next time that there's a major flood within the Red River Valley, or indeed, there are major forest fires within our province, will our ability as a province, to deal with these measures within the confines of our province, have changed at all? Will we have total control to fight these particular disasters as they come due? Will it be impeded to any degree by any federal action?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Mr. Chairman, I have not been able to identify, nor have I been advised at any time, that we would be limited in any way at all, in our ability to deal with those emergencies. As a matter of fact, I stated in terms of the funding, that our ability to deal with them would be enhanced, not impeded.

**MR. C. MANNESS:** And again, my final question, Mr. Chairman, to the Minister. I would like him to again state for the record that right now the only reason, or the major reason, why indeed this Memorandum of Agreement - working towards a completed agreement - the only reason that it hasn't happened up until now, is that there's been some difference of opinion, regarding the promptness of payments, should disaster strike.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Mr. Chairman, that has not, at this time, I believe we have agreement with the Federal Government, that they have agreed that they could consider payment on an advance basis, rather than only after all of the costs have been paid out and incurred and then submitted by the province. So that is not the only matter holding it up.

We are reviewing it to see that it is comprehensive and complete in all details, as to the kinds of functions

that would best be designated towards the provincial jurisdiction, and those that would be best accomplished by the Federal Government, and so on, those are all included - the various roles. We want to make sure that it is complete and satisfactory to us and that is why we're taking the time to review at this time.

**MR. C. MANNESS:** Well, I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman, I have to break my promise. I was prepared to accept the final word from the Minister but now he leaves me a little unsure again, as to what other areas of concern there are regarding an agreement which, by his own admission, was one that was acceptable to this province, one that indeed - the major part being the sharing of financing, or the sharing of costing hadn't changed - what other areas are under review? Can he disclose that to us?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** I just stated that all of the areas dealing with responsibility to the both levels of government are being looked at and reviewed to see that they're all included in this agreement, the various functions that would be included. I think that is something that should be considered, when you're looking at a new agreement, to see that it is comprehensive, and once it has been decided to our satisfaction, that we're satisfied with that, we will be making this public. But at this time I don't think it would appropriate to discuss the specifics of it.

**MR. C. MANNESS:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I have to disagree. This is our only real time that we have, as members, to know what those other comprehensive factors are, and indeed are they being considered in the manner in which they should. It's a very real issue to somebody like myself, who has seen disaster strike, and I think it's only fair to my constituency, as a whole, that indeed some comment be made as to what those other comprehensive factors are.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** That's right. We have to consider this on our level of government. I say staff have agreed; they have presented it to us. I have not isolated particular issues that would be of major concern to us. It's a matter of going over certain matters, as to wording, and we want to make sure that we understand exactly what is stated in the wording as it is, and so sometimes we've asked the staff to go back and get clarification with staff from the Federal Government and so on in our first run at this.

I would want to consider this with my caucus colleagues, as well, before taking it to Cabinet as well, for approval, and therefore, I can't divulge the details of it at this time because we have not considered it to that point. As I said, staff has agreed to it and we have not identified major concerns, but I say, we are looking at the whole thing.

**MR. C. MANNESS:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I'm not asking for divulgence of the negotiating facts, in the sense of where the barriers of agreement and disagreement are to be drawn. I guess I'm basically asking, what is so different about this proposed new agreement in wording? What has changed it so significantly that indeed it now requires such a major review to take to

caucus. Because the Minister said, in my first questioning, that the former agreement was one that was very acceptable and that indeed the only aspect of it that was not acceptable was the promptness of payments. Now he's saying that there are some other areas that indeed may be of concern and I'm wondering if he can identify them in just a broad way, a conceptual way. I don't have to have the details specifically, as to what the Province of Manitoba's bargaining position is on any factor.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Mr. Chairman, the honourable member has to be aware that this is the first comprehensive agreement, the Memorandum of Understanding. One didn't exist before in that, and so therefore, we're dealing with something is completely new and comprehensive. There has been some arrangements for disaster financial assistance with the Federal Government before, but certainly a Memorandum of Understanding that deals with the broad definitions of emergency, the roles of the Provincial Government and the Federal Government in dealing with peacetime emergencies and so on, have to be outlined in general terms, and that is what we're dealing with in this particular Memorandum of Understanding, as opposed to something that is just renewing an old agreement. So we're dealing with something that is more comprehensive and new, in defining roles, as compared to something that just did not exist before in that.

**MR. C. MANNES:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I accept that explanation. If it's the first time that there's been a comprehensive agreement struck, I can see the desire by the government to make sure that the wording is proper.

So I guess my last question then is given that . . .

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Is that a promise?

**MR. C. MANNES:** Well, it depends what the final answer - was that the Chairman that made that comment?

**A MEMBER:** That was the Chairman! Hardly an impartial Chairman.

**A MEMBER:** Is this your last question or isn't it?

**MR. C. MANNES:** It depends, it depends. I would ask the Minister, given a flood situation like 1979, would there be anything in the proposal at all that would allow the Federal Government to reduce its contribution towards disaster assistance?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** There would not be anything that would reduce the benefits. As a matter of fact, there could be elements in there that would increase the benefits, such as having churches and co-operatives qualifying for assistance, where they haven't in the past. So there could be broadening of those that are eligible for financial assistance but certainly there would not be any deterioration of the assistance that would be available to us under this agreement.

**MR. C. MANNES:** Mr. Chairman, I thank you. That was my last question.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Thank you.

The Honourable Member for Pembina.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The Minister and I were having a discussion prior to the 4:30 adjournment hour and the Minister indicated, Mr. Chairman, that it was not considered an emergency for someone to be, you know, out of power for seven days, etc., etc.

The Minister also mentioned prior to 4:30 that EMO has been undertaking a consultative role with the various councils of, I assume, towns and villages, and municipalities to provide them with emergency planning advice. Could the Minister indicate what sort of a reporting role has been established - that consultative process between the councils and EMO?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** What consultative role, could the honourable member repeat that?

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** What reporting system? What system of reporting and communication between EMO and the council members with which EMO has been consulting as the Minister indicates over the past year. What sort of a communication role has been established, and a reporting system has been established, so that the councils and EMO might work together during an emergency situation?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Mr. Chairman, first of all I just wanted to clarify that I did not say before the supper hour that it wasn't an emergency if an individual was without power for seven days. That would depend on the circumstances, I said that very clearly. And what might be defined, or perceived as an emergency by an individual certainly may not be perceived as an emergency where EMO has to get involved. And I think that clarification has to be made.

With regard to the involvement of the municipal advisors from EMO with the individual councils and municipalities, in developing emergency plans, I would assume that the honourable member is interested in not the communication that is ongoing in terms of developing these plans but what kind of communication would take place during an emergency.

If that is correct, Mr. Chairman, that the honourable member is concerned about what happens during an emergency, the people involved in the emergency plan, the municipal councillors and so on, when they're contacted would have their roles defined as to who they report to. If they feel there is a need to call EMO for any particular advice or with any information they will do that through the published number.

Now the municipal advisers as such would get involved if they felt it was necessary, or on request, to work with the community in formulating and dealing with the emergency as it evolves. They may not be involved during the emergency, the particular advisers, or they may be, depending on the extent of it.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Well, then am I reading the Minister's comments correctly that councillors should contact EMO officers and request assistance if they deem an emergency is existing?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Mr. Chairman, if they need assistance from the various departments of the

Provincial Government they would contact EMO and EMO would certainly direct them to the appropriate authorities or contact the appropriate authorities to get involved.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Well, I guess then, Mr. Chairman, I've got a problem with the Minister's answer to my letter of March 8th, where he indicates that if constituents require assistance, whether because of generator failure, or of another nature, and in the specific, another nature that we're referring to in here is power failure, the Minister says - they should seek assistance through their respective municipality. Why wouldn't the Minister have included in that letter that they should have the municipal councillors contact EMO if that's the reporting system that he indicates is established?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Mr. Chairman, obviously if individual citizens have problems that they encounter, during what they feel is an emergency, they could contact their councillors. And at that point the councillors would, particularly if they have an emergency plan, and were prepared to follow it, and were following that, and were familiar with what kinds of resources were available to them under certain circumstances, would refer them to the appropriate authorities, whether it be the Hydro in the case of power outages, or whether it be directly to EMO if they are unsure as to what agency they should be contacting, or if it is a greater emergency that they feel that they need additional co-ordination and help.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Well, that really is not quite a satisfactory answer but we'll pursue it at a later date. Is the Minister indicating that ice storms are indeed a part of an emergency response which would stimulate councillors to contact EMO?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** That is entirely possible, Mr. Chairman, depending on the situation. They could very well want to contact EMO for additional help, and I think that a number of councillors did, during that particular ice storm, contact EMO and representatives from various RM's, rural municipalities, whether it be councillors, or secretary treasurers, or whatever. And I think the information that I supplied to the honourable member will quite clearly outline that a number of people did contact EMO for information.

One of the things that did occur, of course, is that because of the honourable member calling EMO, and receiving what he perceived as information, that there were generators available from EMO, and then contacting the radio station and having this broadcast over the radio station, there was confusion created that there were generators indeed available at EMO.

Of course, there was not in fact generators that could do the job that the Member for Pembina thought, or was under the impression that they could do. So this caused confusion because then some calls were received for generators which was erroneous in that EMO cannot supply this kind of equipment. What EMO can do is direct people to the appropriate authorities. If everything is done properly they can direct the officials of municipalities to proper authorities.

In many cases, of course, if the emergency plan has been completed the local authorities are familiar with what their resources are in their community. That's part of the emergency plan and they can therefore can go directly to those resources to fulfill the needs of the citizens of their particular municipality rather than having to contact EMO.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Well, we'll deal with some of the information that the Minister has put on at a later date.

But first of all I'd like to ask the Minister what he believes EMO's role should be during an ice storm, what role should EMO play during the kind of an emergency that was perceived at the municipal and rural level during the latest ice storm? Does the Minister perceive EMO to have a role there?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Mr. Chairman, there certainly is a role that could be played by EMO, and as was played in this particular ice storm, there was a role played by EMO. A number of examples of assistance given by EMO are a preparedness to get involved where necessary. I can cite examples from Teulon where the duty officer at EMO was contacted by the Teulon RCMP and they advised that the power had been out all night and RCMP were concerned about the hospital and the care home, with the temperature dropping and so on. So they were seeking to lay out plans for evacuation of the members from the hospital and the care home. As it turned out, the Hydro was turned on in time, but in the meantime, the EMO officer was contacting the appropriate agencies to make sure and to locate proper quarters for these people if the emergency continued. And that is consistent with what I said earlier, that emergencies evolve and EMO has to be there ready to assist in any way possible when needed but not to jump right in head-first right at the very beginning when things are developing and the people locally are coping with the emergency. The agencies, the Hydro, for example, in this case, was handling the concerns and the calls to the best of their ability and therefore that job should be left to those who are experts in that field. EMO is contacted when additional help is needed and I feel that is the best way for them to operate.

Certainly part of dealing with emergencies is making people aware of what kind of emergencies can occur and that's part of the emergency plans that they are involved with, that EMO is involved with, making people aware so that they can contemplate what kinds of emergencies could be taking place and then how they would deal with those. They should be able to react on a local basis first to those kinds of emergencies and then secondly, at the provincial level, provincial outside help if it's necessary. But the first line should not be that they immediately run to the Provincial Government for assistance.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Well, now that we've established that people shouldn't expect first off, help from EMO because the Minister doesn't think it's an emergency until after several days.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Will the Minister state his point of order.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** The point of order is that I did not say that it is an emergency after several days. I said very clearly that it depends on the situation.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** And after several days it might be an emergency.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** It may be after several days, it may be very much shorter than that, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Fair enough. Would the Minister consider that an appropriate role for EMO under circumstances such as an ice storm, which you know happened fairly regularly in fairly big chunks of Manitoba and my constituency probably gets clobbered on top of the escarpment as often as anybody, would the Minister consider it to be a logical role that EMO might co-ordinate and have a list of available generators, whether they have them themselves or not, but a list of available standby generator units that are available for rental throughout the province, would that be considered to be a reasonable role for EMO to assume so that when councillors phone in they might be provided with that information from EMO? Would the Minister consider that to be a reasonable thing to expect from EMO?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I think that it would be reasonable to have generator sources listed, and I think it would be extremely reasonable for the local municipalities in their emergency plans to have this kind of information and I would actually be very adamant that this should be available and I understand that kind of information is available where emergency plans have been completed. I might point out that a number of municipalities have shown no interest to date in planning for emergencies and that's particularly the case - well not more the case in the honourable member's region, but certainly in that region is the case that the R.M. of Roland has indicated no interest to date and yet is the one that we received three or four calls from, EMO did, during that particular ice storm and it might be pointed out that if an emergency plan had been in place there that the members of the council and whoever else, their officials that phoned, would have known, would have had the information available to them as to what sources they should pursue with regard to generators and so on. But they have not at this time indicated interest.

I'm hopeful that they will so that in the future they will have an adequate level of preparedness when emergencies such as that occur and I would hope that the honourable member would certainly promote that with municipalities in his area so as to avoid that situation from happening again, particularly if there were frequent ice storms and so on in that particular area.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Mr. Chairman, I'll certainly pass on to Roland council the concern and the almost - well I won't put it on the record like it appeared - but I'll point out to Roland council the great concern that the Minister has for their lack of ability to plan for an emergency.

So, Mr. Chairman, I take it from the Minister's answer that might well be a reasonable role for EMO to undertake, that they have a list of available standby generators that would be available for use on an emergency basis. Could the Minister indicate whether such a list exists in the EMO organization?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Mr. Chairman, I don't believe that there is a central list for generators. As I indicated I think that is properly outlined in local emergency plans at the municipal level and I want to just clear for the record that I did not say that the R.M. of Roland, that I felt that they have a lack of ability in planning for an emergency. Certainly there is a difference between a lack of ability and actually having an emergency plan in effect and I said it was unfortunate that they did not up to that point take advantage of the service that was available through the emergency measures and that may have contributed to some confusion during the emergency and it does not matter how much ability people have. If they do not have the information available to them, they certainly may not be able to respond in the same manner and as efficiently as they would if they had that information available to them.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Is the Member for Pembina finished with this line of questioning because the Chair would like to recognize the Minister of Natural Resources.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** No, I've got some more questions, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, that would be an ideal situation where every council has an emergency plan all developed and I suppose if that were to happen we could eliminate the Emergency Measures Organization, but such isn't the case as the Minister well knows.

Mr. Chairman, the Minister indicates that he's not aware of any existence of a list. Shortly after this emergency was brought to the attention, I suppose, of the viewers of Manitoba via question period, I received a phone call from a major electrical firm in Winnipeg. It was interesting. This gentleman with the electrical firm indicated that approximately 18 months ago, at the request of the manager of a rental firm in Winnipeg, he contacted EMO and he provided them with information that he had 50 standby generators of various sizes that were available on a rental basis, left them with a 24-hour phone number so that should an emergency develop those generators could be made available to anyone who needed them, farmers, etc. He was very upset, if I can put it mildly, that having given the information to EMO, it was not available to anyone who requested it. That's why I asked the Minister if he doesn't think that would be an appropriate role for him.

I believe that in the case of ice storms, which happen very quickly - power may be out from anything from a day to seven days, as it was in parts of southcentral Manitoba - that it would be most helpful if EMO had a list of places where generators are available on a rental basis for the term of the emergency. This fellow provided that information some 18 months ago by telephone. The unfortunate part about it is, he doesn't have it in writing so that he cannot prove that he talked to anybody in EMO, but I take the gentleman's word for the fact that he phoned in. It seems as if EMO has done nothing with that.

I find that a little bit disturbing because, Mr. Chairman, I followed the Minister's letters and his explanations as to what actually happened on that Sunday afternoon of the ice storm where I contacted EMO. I want to assure the Minister that he hasn't necessarily gotten

the correct impression from information he has received to date. The Minister has referred and said that, naturally, Hydro should be contacted about power outages and how various farmers and various individuals cope with power outages. I want to assure the Minister that was the first phone call I made.

On Sunday afternoon, I phoned Manitoba Hydro, the Morden office, to get from them an idea of how bad the ice storm was, how long they anticipated there might be power outages. I was told by the people on duty with Manitoba Hydro that it was bad; that the ice storm could be equivalent or worse than 1977 in December, and that it would not be a bad idea to provide some advice to people who may be out of power for a prolonged period of time. What Hydro told me, and I phoned them back again, was that if you can find a source of generators, do not mention us because we do not have standby generators. We are swamped with service calls and we cannot help anybody because we don't have standby generators.

That, Mr. Chairman, was what stimulated the call to EMO. I want to assure the Minister that in my discussions with EMO, the EMO duty officer, I was specific. I didn't want generators to light lights. I wanted generators to service livestock operations and I was specific in my request. I was advised that there were 16 to 18 between the Government Services warehouses in Winnipeg and Brandon. I was also advised that Brandon had a severe ice storm, as bad what we had in Manitou, Crystal City, Pilot Mound area, and it may well be the case that those generators would not be available out of Brandon. That's why, Mr. Chairman, the news report, which I talked over at considerable length with the news director at the radio station, indicated only Winnipeg.

I was told by the EMO duty officer that I could not requisition generators. It had to be through the municipal councillors, which is apparently a system which has been developed. The municipal councillors must determine the nature of the emergency and contact EMO.

It's kind of interesting to note that my request for generators that would service livestock watering operations, all of a sudden, turned into ones that - these plants that were indicated were available to me would only run lights. I think the Minister's letter probably tells the story as well as anything, where your letter says, Mr. Minister, the "confusion seems to have developed because the duty officer was not quite specific enough in stating that the old war surplus lighting plants of 1.5 kilowatts were not capable of running the operations you specified." That's absolutely correct. The information I received was not quite specific enough. I was told there was no problem with that.

I don't fault anybody in this situation, but it did lead to considerable confusion and I was particularly upset when some of the municipal councillors that I contacted who had contacted me and I gave them the directions as to how to proceed on this, one was told, well, we don't have any generators, No. 1. That's what one individual was told, quite different from what I was told. There were no generators, period. Another one, a reeve of a municipality in my area, was told that, yes, we have generators but they've been cannibalized, etc., etc. There were even two different stories within a 12-hour period. There was mass confusion, Mr. Chairman, and I want to point that out to the Minister.

What was particularly upsetting was to receive a phone call on Thursday following. Question Period on Tuesday brought out some of the information, and what was terribly upsetting was to have a phone call from this Winnipeg electrical contractor and supplier saying that, a year-and-a-half ago, he had provided EMO with a list that he had of 50 generators that he had available for rental. Had the EMO officer or anyone from EMO simply told me that we don't have them, but here is a place you can contact. Here's a 24-hour a day number, seven days a week, and have your municipal councillors contact this person and they can line up standby generators. That information was made available some time ago to EMO, but it didn't go anywhere.

I suggest to the Minister, that is something that he should seriously consider having the Co-ordinator of EMO immediately do. Find out who's got rental generators on for standby use, for emergency use. Have that list available and make it known when you have your emergency co-ordinating meetings with the municipal councillors. Don't rely on the municipal councillors to contact whomever to find out if they've got generators. Have EMO do that. That is what we're paying them for. Have EMO get a list of generators that are available on a rental basis in the Province of Manitoba, in Brandon, in Thompson, in Dauphin, in The Pas, in Winnipeg. Have that list available so that EMO, when they receive a phone call of an emergency nature - and even though the Minister is nebulous as to what he considers to be emergency, there were genuine emergency situations as short as 24 hours after the power went out. These people, when they phoned, should have been able to rely on EMO to provide them with advice.

Hydro, as I said, wanted no part of it. They didn't have standby generators. They made that perfectly clear to me. They said, do not mention us, because we are swamped and they were and they did a tremendous job in putting service back in throughout this province. They deserve a lot of credit and congratulations for that, as they did in 1977.

But here, Sir, I submit is the legitimate role of EMO. An ice storm is an emergency because the farm community is isolated and often if you're at the end of that line, you can wait up to seven days, as happened in this last storm - six to seven days - before you get your power on. If you have any livestock at all and if you haven't got a big livestock operation, you do not go into the \$3,000 or \$4,000 necessary to buy a stand-by generating unit. Those people need the backup services of EMO and we're not talking about an expensive operation, we're simply talking about taking an hour of time, or two hours of time, and canvassing various suppliers throughout the province, getting them to give you a list, a 24-hour number where they can contact the manager after hours, so that people who need emergency stand-by generators can phone EMO through their councillor and get that information. If that had been in place, Mr. Chairman, we wouldn't be here discussing the role of EMO tonight, we would know what the role of EMO was. I seriously suggest to the Chairman that he give thought to that and he implement that, because it would be a very valuable service to those Manitobans who find themselves without electric service because of ice storms.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank the honourable member for his suggestions. I think that

there certainly is merit in having a list, as well as having that identified in the emergency plans, which has been the case where they don't exist at this time, certainly a list such as he's mentioning would be helpful, particularly in the case with power outages, where I think it does affect the farming community in a very unique way. I believe there's some room for considering that.

I would point out though, that the individual who called EMO would have done so - it was mentioned by the honourable member 18 months ago - which would have been of course, perhaps before the election even, and I would point out that the situation then existed previous to, and certainly before I was in charge of this department and even my colleague before me. However, I don't want to feel that was the fault of any particular government, it's just the fact that if that was not recorded, it is unfortunate.

Maybe even perhaps it was felt by individuals at EMO that it was not part of their particular role at that time, but I think they should have had that information if it was provided and I would like to look into that situation and find out why that wasn't recorded and was not available. As the honourable member said, it could perhaps supplement any additional information that would be available from other sources, if EMO did have that kind of information available.

So I think that private sources should be included, as well as the government departments. I can say that the government departments are compiling lists of equipment that they have available for use in emergency situations, and we should also have information on private sources of this kind of equipment that could be used in various kinds of emergencies, and it certainly could be made available quickly to the municipalities for use in their emergency plans in developing them, and also for those where emergency plans do not exist. So I think there's merit in the suggestion by the honourable member and I will consider that.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Mr. Chairman, I'd appreciate if the Minister would do that. We're not talking about the fault of the Minister in this case. I believe that he probably didn't even know there was an emergency situation that particular weekend, so I'm not faulting the Minister. I'm just saying that it is a procedure that he should instruct EMO to undertake, because it would not cost anything and it would be of immense benefit.

Can I ask the Minister if he received a copy of a letter that I got a copy of. The date is photostated out, but it's about March 11th, regarding the activities of one of the EMO officers. It was a letter addressed to the Premier. Did the Minister get that letter?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Mr. Chairman, I guess I would have to have more detail on that letter. I don't recall at this time having received that particular letter, although it may have been copied. The honourable member would know if it's been copied to my office.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Well, Mr. Chairman, the only copy on it is to myself and it is a letter to the Premier. It's complaining about one of the EMO officers and I'll provide the Minister with a copy of this providing it will photostat - it's a handwritten letter - and I will point

out that it is unsigned because it's a complaint by the neighbours against an EMO officer, indicating some of the activities he undertook during the time of the emergency. I'll provide the Minister with a copy of this and I would appreciate knowing whether the Minister had been instructed by the Premier to investigate this, because some of the allegations in here are fairly serious.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Mr. Chairman, since the honourable member has provided additional information on that letter, I recall that letter and I believe that, as I recall, we're looking into that situation.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Does the Minister of Natural Resources wish to speak?  
The Member for Pembina.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Mr. Chairman, would the Minister be able to provide us with a report on his findings on this letter, because as I say there are some fairly serious allegations made in here? Would the Minister provide us with a report as to the outcome of his investigation on this letter?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** In terms of the individual name, Mr. Chairman, I don't know whether it would be appropriate to provide that publicly, but I certainly would be able to provide any background to that incident to the member. I don't even recall whether the individual officer was named in that letter, but I would provide background on that incident if it can be substantiated.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Mr. Chairman, no, there is no name mentioned, but there is a licence number of the car that the man drives and there's also an address that the man lives at and his position is identified, so it wouldn't be terribly difficult to find out who the individual was and I'm not concerned about who it is. But the neighbours in here apparently have been dissatisfied for some time about just how great a role this individual has in EMO and if that's the kind of allegations that are being made, I think the Minister owes the individual, so accused, a proper hearing and also the taxpayer an explanation, as to whether any of these allegations are true.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** I think, first of all, it's premature to say at this time, because we have not had a report on it, in terms of whether this information is true or not. As you said it was an anonymous letter, so I can't even provide a letter answering the allegations to the individual who wrote the letter. So we would certainly follow it up, I can assure the member of that, and I would be prepared to provide any information to the honourable member, if he so wished, to come and see me at some time if he felt there was information that he wanted on it. I don't think that it would be appropriate for me to send information on that individual out to him, or to make a decision on that, until such time as I've seen the results of the report.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** I will wait with patience, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 1.(e)(1)—pass; 1.(e)(2)—pass; 1.(f)(1)—pass; 1.(f)(2)—pass; 2.(a)(1) - The Member for Virden.

**MR. H. GRAHAM:** Mr. Chairman, we are approaching that area where the Minister has promised to give us some information. I realize we won't get that information for two or three days, so we are prepared to go ahead pending the information being available to us and we can probably raise our questions then on the Minister's Salary.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Mr. Minister.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Mr. Chairman, I do have I believe most of the information available that the honourable member was asking for. I'm not certain that we have it in the form that he would want it. There's certainly a great deal of information in those areas and first of all, we have a list of all of the buildings that are in the Energy Program that we discussed earlier. I have that list that I can provide for the honourable member.

I also have information on the daily temperatures for each of the years involved put out by Environment Canada and it's a monthly record of temperatures for all the months of the year that he was asking for. We also have a breakdown on individual buildings of the amount of energy that was used, the hydro, gas, oil and so on in 1979 and as well in 1982-83, and costed out to today's rate so that we could project a cost avoidance for each of those buildings.

Now each of those buildings comes in a volume like this with a monthly report and the list of buildings is somewhere in the area of, it must be 50 or 60, so there are volumes of material and I don't know exactly how much detail the honourable member wanted to cover this subject at this time. So I think we'd have to get some clarification from the honourable member if he wanted to have all that information made available to him, to peruse at his leisure.

He could certainly contact my staff if he wanted to. I have questions on that, Mr. Chairman. As well I have figures for various locations in the province: Thompson, Winnipeg, Brandon, Churchill, Dauphin, The Pas, on the degree, day-per-month chart. It is a chart that's used in energy management to determine the variance of the temperature from 18 degrees celcius, which is the average temperature that the buildings would be kept at, and that is computed for all days, whether it be winter or summer and they're able to determine the variance for each month, then for each year and you can get a total and compare it from one year to the next. That seems to me like the kind of information that the honourable member would have wanted, to be able to compare logically in terms of energy the variance from 1979-80 as to 1982-83. It also gives the norm for that so we can see whether 1979-80 varied further from the 18 degrees celcius overall than 1982-83 and those units would indicate the amount of energy required.

We have to remember that it's not only in wintertime, that if it's colder we require more energy, but also in summer if it's very hot that more energy is required. So this shows all months of the year and I think it is a worthwhile piece of information for the honourable member.

So those pieces of information are available and certainly that is not the only item that is considered under this item in the Estimates. I don't know exactly

why the honourable members would want to hold back on the discussion at this time.

I can point out as well that we could also discuss this matter under Energy Management which is (j) under the same appropriation. So perhaps the honourable members would like to focus on Energy Management's program at that time as opposed to now.

**MR. H. GRAHAM:** On the contrary, Mr. Chairman, we wanted to expedite the affairs and carry on as quickly as possible with the opportunity to peruse the information after we have adjourned this evening, and then probably the next time we meet. If we've gone past the item in the Estimates we're not concerned, we can still do it under the Minister's Salary. So we don't want to hold things up in that respect.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Mr. Chairman, I'm just not clear what exactly then we're passing over at this time.

**MR. H. GRAHAM:** First of all, we would like to see the summary and I presume the Minister is providing the information only on certain buildings, certainly not on all buildings. Is that correct?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Mr. Chairman, the list of all buildings that are included under the Energy Program is being provided. In terms of the detail in consumption and costs for each building, I've given one, the Central Powerhouse. I believe it's one building that I've given there. But there is the same information for each building if any of the honourable members would like that information.

**MR. H. GRAHAM:** This is only for owned buildings, there's nothing on leased premises here.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Mr. Chairman, that is where we are applying our Energy Program, on our own premises.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Pass? 2.(a)(1)—pass; 2.(a)(2)—pass; 2.(b)(1)—pass; 2.(b)(2)—pass; 2.(b)(3) - The Member for Pembina.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** What's the big decrease in Workshop Minor Projects?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Mr. Chairman, I'm trying to determine. I believe the honourable member is on 2.(c)(3) rather than 2.(b)(3). Is that correct?

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Oh, sorry.

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

**MR. H. GRAHAM:** Mr. Chairman, perhaps when we are dealing with Physical Plant, this might be the proper place to raise the issue of the physical changes that occurred in the Legislative Chamber. Or is there another place that you would like to discuss it?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I believe we could discuss that particular item under Construction Acquisition which will be at the end of the Estimates

and we'd certainly have the information available at that time.

**MR. H. GRAHAM:** Under Construction Acquisition?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Mr. Chairman, that would be 6.(a) Expenditures Related to Capital Assets, Acquisition/Construction of Physical Assets.

**MR. H. GRAHAM:** Mr. Chairman, perhaps it might be more appropriate under Project 4, dealing with space requirements for the various departments.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Mr. Chairman, this is dealing with the Legislative Chamber, so I don't think that would be appropriate to deal with space requirements under . . .

**MR. H. GRAHAM:** We will wait then until 6.(a).

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** What is the pleasure of the . . . ?

**MR. H. GRAHAM:** Go ahead, proceed.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for Sturgeon Creek.

**MR. F. JOHNSTON:** Mr. Chairman, the Preventative Maintenance remains at exactly the same amount as it was last year, and with the knowledge of increased prices, parts, anything we purchase today has pretty well gone up in price over last year, where is the decrease in maintenance? What will not be taken care of as well as it was last year because the price is exactly the same?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Mr. Minister.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Mr. Chairman, we have allowed for that increase in another appropriation, in Acquisition/Construction, for repairs and it will be shown in there. There is an increase of approximately \$240,000 in that area that also deals with repairs primarily to existing buildings. That is in addition to the Preventative Maintenance Program listed under this appropriation.

**MR. F. JOHNSTON:** Thank you.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 2.(b)(3)—pass; 2.(b)(4)—pass; 2.(c)(1)—pass; 2.(c)(2)—pass; 2.(c)(3) - the Member for Pembina.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Just hold it now, Mr. Chairman. How come that project, Workshop Minor Projects, Mr. Chairman, what's the nature of the decrease, \$500,000-plus decrease in Workshop Minor Projects?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Mr. Minister.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Mr. Chairman, there was a double accounting that was taking place for salaries in that appropriation in previous years, and the Auditor has requested that we take that amount out of there because salaries were accounted in that figure of 870,000 in previous years as well as in the salary

appropriation for that area. So it was a double accounting and this accurately reflects the amount that is needed for Workshop Projects.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Then where do we assume the salaries which, if I understand the Minister correctly, account for the reduction of \$500,000.00? Where do we find this \$500,000 worth of salaries, in what line of the Estimates?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Mr. Chairman, it was being shown, of course, in 2.(c)(1), as well as in 2.(c)(3) in previous years. Now it is just being shown in 2.(c)(1). I might also point out that we have cut a number of SYs, I believe 20 from that appropriation as well, so you would not see a drastic change in there. That's why you don't see a drastic change in that appropriation.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** From the Minister's explanation, does one assume that the deficits - how long has this double accounting being going on, a number of years?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Mr. Chairman, I understand it has been going on for many years.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Do we assume then that the deficit during the four years of our government was overstated then?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** I would imagine whatever applied during the four years of your government also applied to our government last year.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Then that means that your deficit was only \$494.5 million in one year, where ours was \$467 million over four years then. — (Interjection) — Oh, Peter.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Mr. Chairman, I don't want to get into that particular area. If the honourable member wishes to continue to talk about deficits at this particular time, that certainly is his prerogative.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** I want to thank the Minister for that.

I just want to make sure I understand the Minister correctly, that this \$541,000 is a combination of 20 less people being salaried in that appropriation. Now does one assume that means 20 fewer staff people in the whole department?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Mr. Chairman, I would just like to clarify here in terms of the question. I stated at the outset in my statement that there were 12 fewer SYs, 12 fewer employees in the whole department, and I explained how that figure was arrived at. The honourable member is correct in saying that there is a reduction of 20 in this particular appropriation.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 2.(c)(3)—pass; 2.(c)(4)—pass; 2.(d)(1) - the Member for Virden.

**MR. H. GRAHAM:** I'll wait for (d)(2), Mr. Chairman.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 2.(d)(1)—pass; 2.(d)(2) - the Member for Virden.

**MR. H. GRAHAM:** Mr. Chairman, we have a considerable increase here in Leased Accommodations. Could the Minister give us the increased accommodation that has been required this coming year as compared to last year?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Mr. Minister.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Mr. Chairman, approved in last year's Estimate was 1.08 million square feet at a cost of \$8.481 million. Adjusted to this point in time with all transactions to March 31, 1983, the square footage is 1.146 million square feet, an increase of 65,885 over the previous year and budgeting projections by March 31, 1984, is 1,235,382 which is another increase of 89,263. So the total then for '83-84 is the 1,235,382 square feet that are required for \$10.817 million.

There are a number of specifics and I don't know whether the honourable member was asking for individual increases for programming and consolidation of space and so on, requests and requirements over this past year. If he wants to go into the individual leased accommodations that have been added I would be able to provide him with that information.

**MR. H. GRAHAM:** If the Minister would, we would appreciate it.

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

**MR. H. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, it's interesting to note that the demands for space of government are, to my rough calculations exceeding the general growth of government which is running at between 17 and 18 percent.

We're projecting a growth of some 384,000 square feet of leased space which would mean that the demand for growth in physical space, in this particular area of leaseholds is running pretty high. What is it 25, 30 percent additional space requirements?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Did the honourable member want the percentage increase in square footage for this particular year over last year? Is that what the honourable member's asking for?

**MR. H. ENNS:** That's right. My rough calculations say that you're, you know, taking your 60 and 82,000 in the last two years is some 384,000 feet.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** There's an increase of 27 percent in the costs of rentals over the previous year.

**MR. H. ENNS:** No, but we're talking square footage here now. We're talking square footage, actual space.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Mr. Chairman, we haven't computed the percentage increase in the number of square feet. I just listed the totals and the number of square feet increase so that's easy to compute but I do not have the percentage increase.

**MR. H. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, another figure in the area that is always of some interest to the taxpayers of

Manitoba who foot the bill, of your total space that government now rents, leases, in one form or another, which is some 1,146,000 square feet, if I understood the Minister correctly, a few moments ago, how much of that space is empty at this particular time for which the taxpayers are paying rent?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** There's less than 1 percent of usable space is empty at this particular time, at any time, but there's other space that's not usable, some of it that's being held for renovations, some of it are historical buildings and so on. But the amount of usable space is less than 1 percent that is vacant or not being utilized.

**MR. H. ENNS:** Can the Minister assure me that is, you know, 1 percent sounds reasonable. Let's understand though that's talking in excess of 100,000 square feet of space.

One can visualize the amount of empty office space that taxpayers are having to pay rent for. Can the Minister simply indicate to me that is up or down from the previous year, or what direction is that going?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** I'm advised that the government has over the years traditionally been around the 1 to 2 percent range. We are currently at .7 percent, just to clarify further from what I said earlier .7 percent, a total of 56,000 square feet.

**MR. H. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, I ask these questions because they are, you know, one of constant concern, and one where the management of the department has to constantly be concerned about in terms of the acceding to additional request for space, the additional request from departments coming in as they do to this department, in this case for an additional 60,000 square feet in the past year, and a projected 84,000 additional square feet of space this year.

You know, the department is called upon to exercise all its discipline to ensure that 1 percent figure is kept as low as possible. I know that I can say with some assurance, and comfort, that the figure is an awful lot better than that of the Federal Government, in Ottawa, where entire blocks, and towers are standing empty due to the kind of politicking that goes around in Ottawa, at the expense of the taxpayers in moving, you know, departmental agencies and offices around. But I simply say to the Minister, and I know that he takes it in the way it is meant, that this is a particular area that he wants to pay continuing attention to, to ensure that spending of the taxpayers dollar is kept to an absolute minimum in this area.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Mr. Chairman, I certainly share the concern of the honourable member. I just want to advise him as well of the .7 percent that I referred to that is currently vacant, approximately 2/3 of that is currently under renovation for use, and so that is a natural amount that is always necessary. During turnover and renovations that are necessary there's going to be a small portion of square footage that is not being used because renovations are taking place on a constant basis for movements of departments and branches and new programs and so on. So certainly

it is being kept to a minimum and I believe that we are doing everything we can to keep this from expanding.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** What is the pleasure of the committee to 2.(d)(2)—pass; 2.(e)(1)—pass - The Member for Pembina.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Just on the whole appropriation (e).

When is Employee Housing used and where is it?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Traditionally, Mr. Chairman, Employee Housing has been provided for members of various department employees when housing has not been available from private sources, or the employee is on call at a hospital, correctional institution, provincial park, or so on, or the employee is subject to frequent transfers.

So there's a number of departments that currently have employee units. There are 127 units; 109 permanent houses, and 16 mobile homes, 2 apartments that are included in the total of employee units and they're spread throughout the province.

Some of them are located in remote areas, certainly where the issue of supplying alternate housing for employees is a very important factor and where frequent transfers occur where it would be very difficult to provide housing. Natural Resources is one of the departments that utilize a number of employee housing units as well as Community Services has them, Department of Health, Department of Highways, Labour and Manpower and so on. So we have attempted to cut back on the number of units that are available, particularly where these criteria do not apply and we are attempting this year to reduce the number of housing units in several areas.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 2.(e)(1) - the Member for Turtle Mountain.

**MR. B. RANSOM:** Mr. Chairman, in this area of Field Services, in the past there have at times been substantial Special Warrants and this applies overall in the area of Field Services. Perhaps the question would best have been asked under Executive Administration, but maybe the Minister would answer it here. In any case, can he tell me approximately what the extent of the Special Warrants were in this area, if any, in 1982-83?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Mr. Chairman, I will attempt to get that information as soon as possible for the honourable member.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 2.(e)(2)—pass; 2.(f)(1) - the Member for Lakeside.

**MR. H. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, the Minister that had preceded the present Minister, on the matter of Security Services, made very pontificating announcements about the substantial amounts of money that would be saved by discontinuing the awarding of contracts for Security Services to other than government employees staff and he embarked upon an ambitious program to reduce

the requirement for outside private service agencies to provide some security services that the government and its attendant buildings required. Can the Minister indicate to me what has transpired in the year or six months since the former Minister made those pronouncements in the House?

I believe the figures that he used in the House in announcing this change of policy were in the range of \$2 million that were to be saved. I don't see that kind of saving anywhere here in the Estimates, but perhaps I'm not looking at the right place.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Mr. Chairman, I guess maybe the honourable member is - I don't recall ever the previous Minister saying that there was going to be substantial savings or any savings by going to in-house delivery of the Security Services. In terms of the actual dollars paid for Salaries, there were a number of SY's included in the last year's Estimates. There has been no increase this year but, last year, there were a number added, a number of buildings that did revert to in-house security services to improve the quality of service, at the same time providing employees with the same salaries that they were receiving, that other Civil Service members were receiving in other buildings employed by the government.

So certainly there has been a number added in the previous year and there was not a saving in terms of dollars for Salaries. I don't believe the previous Minister ever did indicate that there would be any savings with regard to Salaries.

**MR. H. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, through you to the Minister, I don't have the documentation before me or the specific press release before me. Indeed, as I recall it, it was a Ministerial statement made to the House announcing a very specific change in policy and my recollection certainly is - and I remind you, Mr. Minister, I sit somewhat further away from the Honourable now Minister of Transportation than you do. That claim was indeed made in the House and I will do my research and pursue it on another occasion.

Mr. Chairman, moving on in a similar related field and you may wish to rule me out of order, although I'd rather suspect you won't because we are being so agreeable today. I notice in the papers, it comes under the entire Appropriation of Field Services. I, perhaps, should have raised it a little earlier though, but it's related in the same way of contracting out certain services. In this case, we're dealing with Security. I note that ads are appearing in the paper from time to time under your signature calling for tendering. In this case, it's janitorial services. Would the Minister care to express current government policy in this regard as well as in the particular area that we're dealing with, Security Services? Does the government still pursue what, in my sense, was a pretty reasonable and justifiable policy and that is, where it makes sense, to employ and to contract out to the private sector janitorial services, security services? I will be satisfied if this Minister simply restates that policy that was pursued by such notable Ministers as myself or the Member for Pembina when we were last in office some 16 months ago.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Mr. Chairman, with the indulgence of the members and I would be pleased to answer the

question just asked by the honourable member, but there was a question just asked a few moments ago by the Member for Turtle Mountain with regard to the Special Warrant for the Department of Government Services and Field Services in particular.

The Field Services Division has a Special Warrant of \$662,000 this past year and almost all of that was for leased space accommodation.

I could go on with regard to the previous question that was asked and that is that we have continued the policy that was announced by the previous Minister, Mr. Uskiw, last year, that we would be reverting to in-house security and maintenance in larger buildings in Winnipeg and Brandon, but not in the rural communities and smaller communities in rural areas where some of the private contractors would depend a great deal on the contract they had with the government. So we have not terminated those contracts. We have recognized the sensitivity of that area and we have instead only reverted to in-house with regard to buildings over 30,000 square feet approximately in Brandon and Winnipeg.

**MR. H. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, as indicated, I will have to pursue the specific statements made by the previous Minister, Mr. Uskiw, and attempt to reconcile them with what this Minister is now telling us, particularly with respect to suggested savings to the taxpayers in the new policy guidelines as set out by Mr. Uskiw.

Mr. Chairman, again on Field Services, General Maintenance, I wish to relieve myself of a complaint that has been growing and that is the manner and way in which this building, the Legislative Building, is being looked after. I appreciate that it's not entirely - you know, the issue didn't resolve while you were under your ministry. Indeed, I'll acknowledge that we were running into that difficulty and it has to do with labour contracts having to do with the maintenance and cleaning of this building. But I register the strongest possible protest about what's happening to this building. This building should not be cleaned before 12 o'clock midnight.

What's happening now is that the building is constantly dirty. Washrooms are cleaned at 10:00 and 11:00 o'clock in the morning; caucus rooms, offices are cleaned at 1:00 or 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon. I assume the same thing is true for Minister's office, so the net result is the building always looks dirty. You used to be able to walk into this building in the morning and the halls were clean; your caucus rooms were clean; your offices were clean; your washrooms were clean. One did not find it unreasonable that by 4:00 o'clock, or 3:00 o'clock even, the amount of traffic this building sees from time to time that things got used-looking and the maroon carpets as you walked in the front door had the footsteps, the imprints of the many worthwhile citizens that come and see and do business with the government from time to time.

What's happened now is that the building is dirty all the time. I know the Minister will tell me they're spending exactly the same man hours in cleaning this building, you know - and I don't want to become ideological about that - but that's the whole problem with the socialist system, you see. You put in the exactly the same hours, the same cost to do something, but you

don't do the job. The building's a mess. Not only that, it's dangerous.

My colleague, the Member for Fort Garry, slipped in negotiating the wet stairs that are now mopped at 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon, at 10:00 o'clock in the morning and severely sprained his ankle. Mr. Chairman, when you consider that he is, after all, among others, considered to be a potential leadership candidate. The fact the way the maintenance is being carried out in this building is a mean and underhanded attack upon my colleagues and I don't think it's fair.

Well, Mr. Chairman, I'm attempting to make a point and I think the point is being understood by honourable members. The building is being used, particularly when we are sitting in Sessions and as these Sessions get later, it would be pleasant to walk into this building, into our caucus rooms, into our individual offices, and to start the day off with your wastebaskets clean, your ashtrays cleaned. With the building generally, it's hallways. — (Interjection) — I know, you don't let anybody smoke in your office. But anyway, Mr. Chairman, the Minister of Natural Resources is distracting from my otherwise serious complaint.

I know the Minister has a problem. It is obviously a negotiated labour contract that says that the cleaning will take place during normal working days, whatever it is, 8:30 to 4:30 or 5:00, but I think that this building is different from other buildings. I think that consideration should be given and indeed the additional cost, minimal as it might be, for differential night work. I recognize that in making this case that there would be some additional cost involved.

I say to you, Mr. Minister, with all joking aside, that surely you have noticed it. Well, maybe not. This was starting to creep into the system in the last little while, but I can assure you that some years ago one really felt good about walking into this building first thing in the morning. You don't do so now. The building, as I said, constantly looks dirty; yet, I'm sure that the same amount of man hours, or close to the same amount of man hours, are being spent in the cleaning of the building.

I would really say to you, Mr. Minister, you know, there's an opportunity in every department to rise to the occasion, to make your imprint in the department, to do something grand, something that you'll be remembered for by future visitors that come and visit us and indeed those of us that have to work in this building. If you took this situation in hand, sat down with the MGEA, told them your problem, worked out a solution to the problem, and in my judgment the solution is simply this, that we have to revert back to night cleaning of this building.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Mr. Chairman, I'm very pleased that the honourable member is concerned about me making an imprint. I know that the janitor's file has certainly worked on this and I finally found out who the janitor is on television here today. I just didn't recognize him before.

**HON. A. MACKLING:** They say he's a good actor, too.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** I would say though, that I appreciate the honourable member's opinions on the

cleaning of this building and I would hope that he would feel free to let me know his opinions on these things at any time. Certainly with our offices being wide open to the public and encouraging people to come into this building, there is more traffic in the building. I believe you've heard of the open-door policy. We certainly encourage people to utilize the building and to come into it, and I think that might lead to some of the observations that the honourable member has made. But I certainly have not heard - I don't know that this is the prevailing opinion of employees that work in here, certainly they seem to be pleased to see the maintenance staff at work during the day. They certainly come in early enough, and the offices are cleaned early in the morning and the hallways, starting I believe at 6:30 in the morning.

So either the honourable member is a very early riser and gets here before they can get the job done or else he's here late at night, and of course from the day's activities the hallways are a little bit dirtier in the evenings, obviously, because they don't begin cleaning till the morning. However, I don't believe that the overall impression has been left with the public that the building is not clean.

Again, I will just mention, in terms of the employees, it was not a contract that was agreed on; it is not in contract that the cleaning is being done during the day. It was discussed; the employees are definitely in favour of it. They are very pleased that they can work during the daytime and I believe that we get better performance. They are happier at their work and I believe we have less sick time, certainly better performance, as a result of having day cleaning in this building as with all buildings, so I would not apologize for moving to day cleaning. In addition to saving energy, it's certainly been a morale booster for the employees.

If the honourable members have a question or two yet, I would be pleased to entertain that. I would hope that we could have committee rise shortly then.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for Turtle Mountain.

**MR. B. RANSOM:** Mr. Chairman, I'd just like to add a word to what my colleague, the Member for Lakeside has said, and respond to some extent to what the Minister has said about the morale and the working conditions of staff and so on.

I happen to be one of those who normally comes into the office at 7:30 or thereabouts in the morning, because it's that first hour or hour-and-a-half or so in the morning when one is able to get things done. That happens to be the time, shortly after that, when the office is cleaned. I like to see people, the people who do the work are very pleasant people and do a good job and so on, but when you've got vacuum cleaners running up and down within the office and that sort of thing, it is rather difficult for people like myself to do the work. It's always been my view that the building is here for the accommodation of people such as ourselves and the government staff to accomplish their work and the services that are provided are there to facilitate that and not the other way around. It may seem like a minor thing, but I don't think it should be treated too lightly.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Mr. Chairman, I hope I didn't leave the impression that we were dealing with this particular

issue too lightly. I think it is very important and I am pleased to see that the honourable members have raised their concerns. I think that no matter what time you have cleaning, you'll have some people who like to be in working, and you will affect certain people who like to stay up all night and work, with cleaning and vacuum cleaners, as well as those who come in early in the morning. So I think you'll have those problems no matter what schedule you have, and you have to look at the benefits that offset those drawbacks.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 2.(f)(1) - the Member for Lakeside.

**MR. H. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, I'm sorry that the Minister either hasn't observed what happens in this building or simply refuses to, because I will tell him that tomorrow my office gets cleaned at 10 o'clock in the morning and the back entrance gets cleaned usually around noonish and that means that when the subsequent traffic that still comes in during the day and then at 4:30 they leave during the day, that's the condition of the hallway and the entrances when we come back to work in the morning.

The point that I was making, that the building never looks in the shape that it ought to be in. The Minister can observe that at about 10 o'clock or 11 o'clock in the morning, they will be swabbing the hallways here. Now they may start on the third floor at 7 o'clock, or they get down to the second floor at 10 o'clock - I don't know - or at different times, but the net effect of it is, is that the building never presents itself in the way this beautiful building should present itself to people when they enter the building in the mornings.

Certainly the building will show the wear and tear of traffic towards the end of the day, that's to be expected. But you do not come into this building in the morning, either in the front or in the back, where you have the feeling that, hey, you're walking into a building to do a day's work, that has been properly cleaned. This is not directed against the staff. The staff are certainly doing every bit as much work as before and I acknowledge it - sure, perhaps it's a morale booster for them working in the daytime rather than at night - but the net effect of it is a shame because it is the pride and joy of all of us and of all Manitobans, I might add, that the building always has that worn look, as a result of cleaning during the day.

I ask the Minister to observe that during the next few weeks and days, to see whether or not what I have just put on the record is in fact the case.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Mr. Chairman, I'd like to thank the honourable member for his suggestions and I will certainly consider them. We're always looking to improve the situation and I appreciate hearing his views, as I stated earlier.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 2.(f)(1)—pass - The Member for Virden.

**MR. H. GRAHAM:** Mr. Chairman, I would like to go back to an issue that was raised by the Honourable Member for Lakeside, dealing with the Security Services and the fact that on buildings over \$30,000, as the Minister has stated, in the City of Winnipeg, in the City

of Brandon, the province has gone to hiring their own staff rather than contracting out, as had been the practice in the past.

I would like to ask the Minister several questions about the results that have occurred since that time. We have noted in the Press in the past, where a member of the security staff recently was charged with some thefts in the Archives Building and I would like to ask the Minister if that particular member was one of the new staff that had been hired, or whether it was a member of the staff of longstanding.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Mr. Minister.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Mr. Chairman, I would be pleased to discuss that particular situation in depth with the honourable member, but I think with the time being 10:00 o'clock if they would not mind, we could deal with that on Thursday. We haven't passed any part of Security Services and I would think this might be an opportune time to have committee rise.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** What is the pleasure of the committee?

**A MEMBER:** Committee rise.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Committee rise.

## SUPPLY - AGRICULTURE

**MR. CHAIRMAN, P. EYLER:** Committee, come to order. We are considering the Estimates of the Department of Agriculture, Item 4.(d)(1) Soils and Crops Branch, Salaries - the Member for Rhineland.

**MR. A. BROWN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We were on the topic of special crops when we broke for lunch. I wonder if the Minister can tell me, as far as marketing is concerned, is he becoming actively involved and seeking markets for some of the special crops that we grow, namely, beans, and I would like to give an example of what is happening as far as the Federal Minister of Agriculture is concerned. There was a surplus of white beans, and these just happened to be grown in the particular area that he is representing, and we had a Food Aid Program to one of the underdeveloped countries. We shipped white beans to that underdeveloped country, paid for by the Federal Government, in order to relieve the situation in this particular area. Now, the product that was wanted was not white beans, it was black beans or pinto beans or any other kind of beans but white beans. We have a surplus of black beans and pinto beans. As a matter of fact, last year's entire crop of black beans is still in storage. I wonder if the Minister has ever made any presentation to the Federal Government to see if we couldn't move some of our beans or whatever special crops we have through some of these foreign aid programs.

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

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, if the members wish to get into some detail in terms of marketing in the

area of marketing that will be dealt with in two items after this one. I am prepared to get into some discussion as to what work we've done in international marketing, what contacts we have made and some of the projects or advances that we are making currently in terms of international marketing, Mr. Chairman. So I would prefer to leave my remarks in terms of the promotion and marketing until we get to the marketing section with respect to that question dealing with black beans, if that would be all right.

**MR. A. BROWN:** Last year when we were on this particular item, if memory serves me correctly, we had some people out here who were involved with the Soils Branch with soil testing and so on. I see that this year we don't have anybody present. I would like to ask the Minister whether the shortage of nitrogen in the soil, whether that is province-wide or whether it is just in my particular area. I had some soil testing done in the fall and soils which grew peas, beans, which usually are very high in nitrogen in the fall after you've grown a crop, there is almost no nitrogen at all this year. If that is the case throughout the entire province, then fertilizer dealers had better be made aware of this fact that we're going to need a lot of nitrogen. I wonder if the Minister could tell me whether this is a situation throughout the entire province.

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

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, the releases to that effect have gone out from the department pretty well indicating that it is a province-wide situation. I can tell the honourable member, in terms of our own situation in the Interlake and in the opposite end of the agricultural portion of our province, that we are as well short of nitrogen in terms of our soil testing results that we've gotten back. The department has made releases dealing with this question of fertilizer, testing and the like, but the precise situation is it's fairly general throughout the province.

**MR. A. BROWN:** I wonder then, Mr. Chairman, whether the Minister has alerted the fertilizer dealers and the processors about the situation that a lot of nitrogen could be required so that they will have sufficient supplies on hand once we start spring operations.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, I am advised that information is communicated to the dealers. While there may be from time to time shortages in particular areas for a short period of time, but we're advised that there are more than ample supplies of fertilizer available.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for Turtle Mountain.

**MR. B. RANSOM:** Mr. Chairman, a question to the Minister. I believe that the Minister or his department has entered into a contract dealing with organic farming, I wonder if the Minister could provide us with some details.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Mr. Minister.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, we do have a contract. In fact, there are two aspects of some work being done

in examining the matter of organic farming in the province, trying to correlate existing data and examining some aspects of it. The study basically entails what has been going on, what information there is, some of the aspects of ongoing work done by individuals in the province, some of the data that is available and some alternatives. There is a regular monthly liaison between staff and the persons conducting the study. They are also looking at, in part, in terms of the study as to what type of projects might be considered as pilots to be set up or co-operated with, with farmers looking at alternative farming practices.

The study is not specifically directly related at just say organic farming - I guess that is the word that is used - but it's looking at alternate farming practices and all areas of examining whether input costs can be lowered and whether and how feasible it can be done on a larger scale than has been done up till now.

**MR. B. RANSOM:** Could the Minister tell us what the costs of the contract are and who's involved in carrying it out?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, the individual who is involved is by the name of V. Scott and the cost of the contract is \$47,000.00.

**MR. B. RANSOM:** What was the term of the contract, the period of time?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** It was a six-month contract.

**MR. B. RANSOM:** Mr. Chairman, that's almost \$8,000 a month according to my quick calculation. Why would a project of this nature be so expensive?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, the contract does not involve only one individual. There's more than one individual involved in the work in respect to this contract.

I should get the breakdown as to the various cost components of that contract and the relations for him. If the member wants I will get that for him.

**MR. B. RANSOM:** I'd be interested, Mr. Chairman, to have a little more detail on the contract and the projections and such.

Could the Minister tell us then who the other people are that are involved on this study?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, in terms of staff time, I know there was economists time to be put in, and some other resource persons time in there, but those people that were involved I believe were not involved for the length of the time and depending who was involved at any particular time, but there was more than the contractor himself.

**MR. B. RANSOM:** Are there other people involved in this contract then that are by way of student assistance or are they all professional subcontractors for example?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, I'm advised that most of the assistants are professionals but I'll have to check that out, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. B. RANSOM:** Mr. Chairman, would the Minister undertake to get the details in respect to the study

then of the people who are involved, the people who will have money paid to them as a consequence of this \$47,000 contract because it seems that a six-month contract for \$47,000 is, on the surface at least, rather a lucrative contract. It's quite a bit of money for a simple review of existing information, or to even to look at projects that are ongoing.

We'll be back, no doubt, dealing with the Estimates on Thursday. Perhaps the Minister would have an opportunity to have that available by that time. Could he tell us then what are the qualifications of Mr. Scott who is the person with whom the contract has been taken out?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, I'll get those details for the honourable member. I don't have his background qualifications in terms of his academic qualifications here with me.

**MR. B. RANSOM:** We'll be interested in seeing that, Mr. Chairman. The thing that I'm interested in here, is why it was necessary to get outside people to do this kind of work. I know that there are many capable professional individuals within the Department of Agriculture. Perhaps the Minister could tell us now, or later, just why it was necessary to go outside of the department to have this kind of work done, because on the surface, at least, it doesn't sound like it's an especially technical or specialized type of work.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, the honourable member should be aware that there are people who have been involved in organic farming around the province. The information that is generally available to those people, in terms of contacts with the department historically, I would say the relationship hasn't been of the utmost. The terms of the proposal and the study was to raise the consciousness within the department and also liaise with the farmers who are involved in organic farming. I believe a conference has been held with farmers, as part of the work that was undertaken as part of the study.

Those are some of the areas that this outside person has been involved and we have attempted, through this process, to basically raise the consciousness within the department to as well examine what we have been doing in the past and formulate our strategies after this study is complete.

**MR. B. RANSOM:** Mr. Chairman, you should be able to raise quite a lot of consciousness for \$47,000.00. How was this project initiated then, Mr. Chairman, if the department itself evidently didn't initiate it, because they need their consciousness raised in this area? Did the Minister initiate this project? How did it come about?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, we received proposals from, in fact, a number of people dealing with this and the proposal eventually was accepted by the department.

**MR. B. RANSOM:** Is the Minister telling us then that this was a sort of project that the Minister went out and sought proposals from the public? Was it tendered,

for instance, and how many proposals did the Minister have?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, we have two studies under way in the area and there were two proposals in two specific areas dealing with alternate methods of farming.

**MR. B. RANSOM:** Who made the second proposal then, which the government is involved with?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Paul Robinson.

**MR. B. RANSOM:** How much would the cost of that contract be then, Mr. Chairman?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, the contract with Mr. Robinson, Mr. Robinson is a student at the University of Manitoba. The study is in support of his thesis and the cost of the study is \$9,000.00.

**MR. B. RANSOM:** I take it then, Mr. Chairman, that this \$9,000 is in addition to the other \$47,000 and that the Minister had one proposal in one area and one proposal in another area. Now there are \$56,000 worth of contracts that have been let here. Did the Minister seek other proposals before letting these contracts?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** No, Mr. Chairman, I did not go out and seek other proposals in terms of other contracts.

**MR. B. RANSOM:** Did any member of his caucus or his backbench colleagues help bring forward these proposals to the Minister of Agriculture? Did the Minister of Agriculture go out and seek these or how did they come to him? How is it that these people were able to walk into the office of the Minister of Agriculture and get \$56,000 worth of consciousness raising contracts?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, as a matter of fact, we have had letters from farmers raising this issue in terms of the specifics of these two. As a matter of fact, I recall the V. Scott proposal was - in fact, in a letter, I believe, to myself, early on after our election, that proposal was put forward. We did not use it at the time because we wanted to see what was happening internally and the like before we would consider those kinds of proposals. I believe that we, likewise, had approaches to our department from Mr. Robinson as well.

**MR. B. RANSOM:** Mr. Chairman, then the Minister is telling me that this was strictly a question of these individuals coming forward with proposals to the Minister of Agriculture; that they were not promoted by any of his colleagues, not brought to his attention in that way; they were not tendered; he didn't seek out any other people to see if they might be able to carry out this work, especially the contract for \$47,000.00. That's quite a bit of money in these days of repriorization, within the Minister's department, even. So we would be very interested in knowing exactly how those contracts were let and if this now is a new policy that government has, that someone walks in off the

street with a proposal to the Minister, that he might well accept that proposal without going out to see if there are other people who might be able to do the same kind of work. Or I'll be interested in seeing that the details of the study and the qualifications of the people carrying it out to know if there weren't already people existing within the Department of Agriculture who could accomplish this work for a substantially less expenditure of money.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, the member should be aware that there have been representations made to me. In fact, I've received letters from a number of farmers in Manitoba who in fact have been promoting the individual in question in terms of indicating that they were well aware of his interest in the area of alternate methods of farming. I did receive a number of letters over a period of time indicating their support for this individual. I can tell the honourable member that I believe that there are members of my caucus that do know V. Scott. I personally did not know the individual prior to assuming office and prior to seeing some of the submissions that were made to me and were put to the department. But in terms of promoting, I'm sure the honourable member is aware that from time to time there are a lot of people who are being promoted by a number of people, but I can tell him that I have received letters from individual farmers indicating that they knew this individual. They hoped that we would be able to provide some financial assistance to carry on some work and some of the proposals that he had made to us. There is no doubt about that.

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

**MR. H. ENNS:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I am intrigued with the Minister's response as to how the department got involved in some expenditure of some \$56,000 and the questions that the Honourable Member for Turtle Mountain is raising are really, in the first instance, the mechanics of it - I think that's always the job of the opposition to ask how the decision to expend these public funds are arrived at. But, Mr. Chairman, I want to assure the Honourable Minister that the fact that there have been individual people in Manitoba and others that have long expressed an interest in organic farming, as it's known, is of course . . .

**HON. B. URUSKI:** You have some very good constituents. In fact, they were some of those that wrote to us.

**MR. H. ENNS:** . . . not unknown to those who wrote to us. I'm pleased to put on the record that I have such a constituent by the name of a Professor Grussendorf, who some time ago came specifically to the Interlake area, sought out a less than prime piece of land, had been settled on it to do precisely that, to prove to himself what can be accomplished through organic farming. This particular individual, I'm pleased to say, has the very highest of qualifications. I believe he was with the Faculty of Agriculture for some period of time, at the University of Manitoba. I believe he was originally brought in as a consultant to help with the Altona

Oilseed Crushing Plant. He worked as well for the Manitoba Sugar Company and has done really some very wonderful things with respect to organic farming, taking off three crops of alfalfa, for instance, in my marginal Interlake land.

Now, the reason I raise these questions, I think there is no intent in the questioning on this item to suggest that an interest in organic farming isn't a legitimate concern of the Department of Agriculture, or as the Minister puts it, one should heighten the concern within the Department of Agriculture with respect to organic farming.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Alternate methods.

**MR. H. ENNS:** But I simply put on the record that there are these kind of, in some instances, qualified individuals around, individuals who have some national - and I may say in the case of Professor Grussendorf - some international recognition. He's submitted papers on this subject matter, and again I would ask the Honourable Minister, particularly inasmuch as we share backyards together in the Interlake, for instance, was this particular individual given an opportunity to have some input into the development of the studies now under way by the department in organic farming?

I accept the Honourable Minister's acknowledgement that he would provide some of this further detail for us when next we meet, perhaps on Thursday, so I'm satisfied with him taking this as notice.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for Turtle Mountain.

**MR. B. RANSOM:** In providing the information to us on Thursday, Mr. Chairman, will the Minister provide us with a copy of the contract, the terms of reference, study outline, that sort of thing? Could he undertake to provide that for us?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Mr. Minister.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, I'll have to take that under advisement. The contract is not completed yet; the work is still being done. I'm not sure of the legal technicalities, but basically I'll take it under advisement. But certainly in terms of what's within the contract, I have no difficulty in providing that.

**MR. B. RANSOM:** We were probably getting along much better with the Minister of Agriculture until he started to take advice from his colleagues on both sides, Mr. Chairman. There no doubt was a contract entered into . . .

**HON. B. URUSKI:** There is a contract.

**MR. B. RANSOM:** . . . because he's talking about spending \$47,000 in the one case.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** The study is — (Inaudible) — that's all I said.

**MR. B. RANSOM:** That's a fairly substantial amount of money; there was a contract entered into. There must have been terms of reference set out in that

contract, what he wanted to accomplish, how the money was to be expended. As representatives of the taxpayers in the province, I see no reason why we should not be able to have that information and I'm asking the Minister, two days hence, if he'll provide that for us? That's all. I think he's prepared to do it, but his colleagues seem to be counselling him against it.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, the honourable member wishes to read into the situation. All I said and I say it again is that the contract is still in force. I don't know the legal ramifications of it, but basically I will provide the information that's within the contract.

**MR. B. RANSOM:** Mr. Chairman, I would like to see the contract. If the Minister will provide that, fine. If he won't provide that, then of course we can use other means to get it, by means of filing an Order for Return. I know that a government that likes open government as much as this one professes to do will make the information available, and of course it's much simpler to simply make it available and not make an issue of it.

So, Mr. Chairman, on Thursday, I would like to either see the contract as such containing the terms of reference and the outline for the study or else have an answer from the Minister saying, no, I'm not going to provide it.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, that's fair comment and that's basically what I said. If it is the norm to allow contracts to be tabled while they are in the process of being concluded, I certainly have no difficulty. I'm not sure that's the norm and that is why I indicated I want to check it out.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 4.(d)(1)—pass; 4.(d)(2)—pass; 4.(d)(3) - the Member for Minnedosa.

**MR. D. BLAKE:** Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wonder if the Minister, if this is the right section, if he could tell us what's happening in Northern Development in the way of developing gardens in some of the remote reserve areas. Some of the things that came out of the North Feeding the North Conference, I'm sure, were very worthwhile, Mr. Chairman. I know that two young ladies, three or four years ago, from the Mennonite Church went into Cross Lake and in a very short time with a couple of tillers had I think about 27 people in there raising vegetable gardens. The growth, I think, astounded them and we know that many years ago, they grew tremendous gardens in that particular area. I know, from some of my journeys up North, Mr. Chairman, when you see them paying \$26.00 a bag for potatoes north of Berens River when there is a great tract of land at Berens River that was under cultivation a few years ago when the former NDP administration set up a cattle operation in there that was an absolute disaster, that land has been allowed to grow back and I just wondered, under this contract, would they not be encouraged to grow garden crops and, in particular, potatoes that are so expensive in the North.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Mr. Minister.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, this program covers two areas of program delivery in the North. Basically,

it is carried on north of the 53rd parallel wherein we are providing services to small remote communities like Thicket Portage or to larger centres like Thompson and Flin Flon. The department assists in providing equipment and working, land tilling, greenhouse and garden demonstrations and technical backup.

Mr. Chairman, 26 communities have been involved last year in the season in terms of youth gardening and gardening workshops in which some of these services have been provided, which resulted in 125 gardens in 15 communities in 1982.

The department is also involved in co-operating with the forage section in the delivery of Joint Youth Gardening Activity in eight remote communities involving about 100 participants; and is also co-operating with the Frontier school division's Nutrition Advisor Program in developing a horticulture resource person at the local level. Co-operation in the form of technical backup services is given to the provincial Special ARDA program in the delivery of their agricultural projects.

I could give the member a list of the various communities in which the Northern horticulture program is being used and it includes communities such as Berens River, Brochet, Flin Flon, Grand Rapids, Hole River, Island Lake, Ilford, Matheson Island, Moose Lake, Pukatawagan, Red Sucker Lake, South Indian Lake, Wabowden. Those are just some of the communities in which these services are provided.

**MR. D. BLAKE:** I thank the Minister for that information, Mr. Chairman. I wonder if he could tell us, does this include some of the tunnel greenhouses? Could he give us some indication of what the production has been on these various projects? Has there been enough food produced to sustain the communities or partially sustain them from their fresh vegetables and their potato crop, or what has been the production results?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, part of this does include the use of the plastic tunnels in terms of crop production. I think it was in about 15 communities in which these demonstrations were done. These demonstrations and this activity has yet to satisfy the entire needs of communities, but it does satisfy partial needs of individual residents of those communities by the production of, say, potatoes and some of the crops that can be readily grown.

I'm not sure that we would want to go in a very great way of expanding the program. I would think that any program expansion should be at the pressure and the desire of the local community to build up the needs, the ability to carry on and progress from where they're at. So it should be an ongoing presence and added assistance so that, generally, the community desire and wants are there in terms of expanding this program.

**MR. D. BLAKE:** Further to that, Mr. Chairman, I wonder if any of these funds are used in the greenhouse operation at Churchill. There has been a fairly substantial greenhouse operation there for a number of years.

Also, could he tell me what studies have been done in the Sipiwek area which has some of the richest soil in the northern part of our province, equivalent they

tell me to the Peace River Valley? Has there been any further research done in there with these funds and what have been the results?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, none of these funds are being channelled directly to the Churchill operation. However, technical advice and assistance is provided in an ongoing basis to anyone in the North and on assistance on an as-need basis.

The question of the soil survey is one that is, I believe, within our Estimates. I would have to take as notice to provide the honourable member more detailed information as to the extent of the survey, the completion of the survey, and the advice and the precise details of it. I'm not aware of the details of the survey right now and to what extent we've completed it, or at what stage we're at, but I will get that information for the honourable member.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 4.(d)(3) - The Member for The Pas.

**MR. H. HARAPIAK:** Mr. Chairman, I was present at the North Feeding the North Conference and it seemed to concentrate on the small individuals to grow the produce for their own use. I was a bit surprised - seeing as the Conference was sponsored by the Conservatives when the Conservatives were in government - I was a bit surprised that they didn't appeal to the private entrepreneurs in the North to expand the size of these operations to supply the produce for all of the North. I am wondering if there is any effort on the part of the Department of Agriculture to expand this concept and to supply the produce for the North seeing as the transportation costs are rising at this time, if there are any plans by the department to increase the size of the operations that are in the North at this time.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Mr. Minister.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, we will be expanding the program in the North, but I am very hesitant to say that there should be just a great boom and expansion in any area of endeavour without the ability and the desire of local people to promote it and work their way through it. Because as we know, as the honourable members knows, someone going into agriculture full time and making very large expenditures during these difficult times, no doubt even in the best areas of the province, are having great difficulties.

The areas of achieving self-sufficiency has to be, I believe, on a community-by-community basis, rather than very large commercial enterprises, because of many difficulties that may not be able to be technically overcome and financially overcome. So we don't want to go in and promote some very large enterprise that may or may be doomed to fail right from the beginning, but we believe that people themselves building up their expertise, building up their confidence, and their ability to expand on an ongoing basis to meet the needs of their communities certainly is very worthwhile and we should encourage that and foster that.

We are going to be providing some equipment use - availability of equipment to home gardeners and commercial growers. I understand that a rhomb disc will be provided for use by some commercial growers

and there are some requests on file, so we'll be able to provide some of that funding towards that in the north.

We've also provided assistance for land breaking services for home gardens and community projects. We anticipate approximately 100 new gardens will be established possibly throughout this year in various communities in the north. So those kinds of assistance in land breaking will be provided.

As well, as the honourable member talked about, small rototillers for general use are provided to the nutrition advisors in 14 communities, so that the community has the use of that kind of equipment, and it is primarily the community's responsibility to look after the equipment and deal with their needs and expand as the need arises.

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

**MR. H. HARAPIAK:** Mr. Chairman, in a study conducted by the Department of Agriculture, there was approximately 5.6 million areas of arable land identified north of the 53rd parallel, which extends as far north as Wabowden, and I would quarrel with the Member for Minnedosa, who says that the experiments that were carried on in Wabowden were a failure. They proved that barley can be grown there and forage crops and

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Order please. The Member for Minnedosa.

**MR. D. BLAKE:** Yes, on a point of order, I have never said that the experiments carried on in Wabowden were a failure. I said 50 years ago, they were growing crops across the lake that were very, very successful, but over the years it became easier not to grow them and ship them in by rail, I suppose, and they ceased growing gardens. I say now, that's coming back again and it's very encouraging to see that interest being taken in something that had been proven many, many years ago. I know there's been very many successful experiments in Wabowden.

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

**MR. H. HARAPIAK:** Mr. Chairman, I must have misunderstood the member because I thought that he had said that it had been a failure.

Now that Manitoba Forestry is taking out forest in many of the areas which are arable, I'm wondering if there is any study being conducted by the Department of Agriculture to see if the agriculture can be expanded in some of these areas, where some of the forest has been knocked down, so it would cut down the cost and bring some of this land into production. So I'm wondering if any of these monies for Northern Development - if any of these monies are being set aside for this study?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Mr. Minister.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, some of the work that's been done by the department, in response to individuals who wish to use some of the Crown lands

for agricultural purposes, outside what would be, I guess, best described as outside the traditional agricultural boundaries. There is in fact, I believe, over 10 million acres in the Province of Manitoba, outside the traditional boundaries, which may have some potential for expansion of agriculture production. — (Interjection) — Pardon me? Yes, yes.

Mr. Chairman, there is a fringe area - the unsettled area lying south of the 53rd parallel and east of Lake Winnipeg and southeast of Wanipogow River and east to the Ontario border is part of the area. The second area is the remote northern area, all of the area lying north of the line of the 53rd parallel. I guess you would say that the fringe areas would be about 4 million acres and the north area would be in the neighbourhood of 6 million acres in terms of acreages available. The member knows, I believe is aware, that Agriculture Canada did have at one time, many years ago, a research station in Wabowden for a number of years, which subsequently, I think, in the '60s was shut down. In fact, I believe the manager of that station still resides and is doing some farming in the Wabowden area and our staff have been involved with him and other members of the community in assisting them in terms of advice on land clearing and the like.

I would say that we have not gone into the area to just go out and promote for the sake of promotion. I believe that whole north area should evolve gradually in terms of opening the area up for production and the need and the desirability, and I guess, the wants of the people have to be expressed themselves, in terms of opening up to this land.

I believe that we do have a limited amount of money annually in our Budget for the development of Crown lands which has primarily, because of demand, been used in the southern areas of the province. That's not to say that we couldn't consider arrangements and requests for the matter of land development under our Crown Lands Improvement Program, however, I don't believe there have been any requests from the north to any large or larger development of clearing of land, but we would have to consider that. I would have to admit that this is an area that we are not moving into very quickly. The growth and the expansion has to be done gradually and by community desire.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Swan River.

**MR. D. GOURLAY:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I think it should be put on the record that the Member for the Pas indicated that my colleague had indicated that agriculture in the Cross Lake area had not been successful.

The Minister of Agriculture did indicate that the Canada Department of Agriculture had undertaken an experimental substation at Wabowden and this is correct, it should show on the record that for some 10 years, I believe, there was a parcel of land under contract with CDA, a substation from the Brandon Research Station, that carried on extensive research on horticultural shrubs, alfalfa, forage crops, and some feed grains. They felt after some 10 years that they had sufficient data to prove that the area was successful in growing those types of crops.

That information is available today through the Canada Research Station. They do know that it is a viable situation in the Wabowden area and I happened to be the employee of the Department of Agriculture out at the Pas for some three years, 1963-66. I worked very closely with the chap that was a resident at Wabowden, Mr. Peter Braun, who is still there, and is still farming some of that same area that was used under the research station. Certainly the land is available there; it can produce; and certainly, if and when that area is needed for development, certainly it can produce food and crops for livestock and food for humans in that part of Manitoba.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the remarks of the Honourable Member for Swan River.

The honourable member though should be aware that while there's no doubt that it is feasible to grow the crops, the shrubs and the like that the honourable member makes mention of, feasibility and viability are two separate areas, and part of the viability question includes such things as drainage and economic feasibility as to the expansion opportunities in terms of planning that kind of development.

The technical information as to the ability of the soil and the temperature to grow those crops, the member is accurate, there's no doubt. Whether or not an operation can become viable, and whatever other requirements might be needed to make that operation viable, more work has to be done in terms of making sure that, yes, it is technically feasible to grow. The question is there are many unanswered areas as to the future potential and viability of that operation. It is technically feasible, no doubt about it.

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

**MR. S. ASHTON:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

There's been some rather interesting discussion, I feel, on an issue that's of interest to northerners right now, in perhaps an increasing way, and that being the possibility of establishing a greater amount of agriculture in the north.

Some of previous speakers have touched on the great potential that lies in that region. I think one statistic says quite clearly just how much potential there is in the north, and that is the fact that 28 percent of the agricultural land reserved in the province at the present time is in the northern regions. Specifically, there's a major area, the so-called Northern Clay Belt that extends from Cross Lake and Wabowden northwest through Thompson and Nelson House to South Indian Lake. Now this is approximately 1.1 million hectares of marginal land, and there's also .2 million hectares of land in The Pas-Wanless area, which also offers great potential for agriculture.

Some people touched on the question of the potential of this area in terms of specific crops. As one previous speaker mentioned, there was extensive testing of this at the Wabowden Research Station in the 50's and 60's. The studies there, as well as other studies, have shown that there was potential in terms of barley, in terms of flax, in terms of rapeseed, in terms of — (Interjection) — Well, Mr. Chairman, some people

suggest that not rapeseed, there's been very positive results in terms of testing a Polish variety of rapeseed. I'm quite willing to show the test results to the members opposite if they question that fact. There's also been some encouraging results in terms of potatoes, also in terms of grasses and legumes for seed, and also, of course, alfalfa.

So there's quite a variety of potential crops that could be grown in the north and quite a variety of potential uses that agricultural land could be put towards. Basically, I would see about four different areas, Mr. Chairman. Basically, first of all, cereal and oilseed; second of all, livestock operations, the cow-calf in particular; thirdly, some potential for limited specialized production; fourth of all, Mr. Chairman, quite a great deal of potential for what I would classify as market gardening, either by greenhouses or else by other specialized small plots of land.

**SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS:** Oh, oh!

**MR. S. ASHTON:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I know that members opposite don't consider this issue to be that important, at least I would take from their comments they don't. I would suggest they talk to some of my constituents because they're very much interest in this particular area. As I said, Mr. Chairman, there's a great deal of untapped potential in the north and I would like to see a great deal of effort placed in tapping some of that potential.

Now some mention has been made of some of the possible reasons why that potential hasn't been tapped in recent years. I would like to highlight a few that I have had brought to my attention. Basically one of the areas of concern is in terms of clearing and I'm encouraged to hear the Minister the Agriculture suggest that perhaps some effort be put forward in terms of clearing Crown lands in the north, because that's always a major problem.

There's also another problem that people face, Mr. Chairman, and that is in terms of the competing uses of land, first of all; also the problem simply of surveying an area of land in the north. It can be very expensive to use traditional surveying methods. One possible way around that would be in terms of using aerial surveys. In fact that would be far cheaper than using standard surveying methods. I would certainly encourage the Minister of Agriculture to work with other appropriate departments to find a way around this problem.

But in general I think, Mr. Chairman, one of the biggest problems is there's been a lack of overall co-ordination, both with local residents, local government bodies, and also various departments of government. You know, we've had various efforts at trying to start further development of agriculture in the north.

One particular effort was the North Feeding the North Conference in September of 1980, in which the government and the Norman Regional Development Corporation undertook to try and get things started. But really, there's continuing problems in the varying different government jurisdictions.

I would, at this time, like to make a plea, I suppose, to the Minister and various other Ministers to see if there aren't ways in which we can actively encourage the opening up of land in the north. I know of a number

of constituents of mine who are interested in various different developments.

One group of people is trying to establish a buffalo farm shortly, Mr. Chairman, and they'll be contacting the Department of Natural Resources. I would appreciate would appreciate it if the Minister of Agriculture could have his department keep in contact with developments in that area because I think it has a great deal of merit.

There is also interest in terms of establishing market garden plots, Mr. Chairman. In this regard I point out that one constituent has already done that on an experimental basis in the Setting Lake area and has proved that one could be quite successful, both in terms of growing crops and also selling them. They found a very ready market, both in Wabowden and with cottage owners at the Setting Lake area. So there certainly is the interest up there, Mr. Chairman.

I would suggest, in fact, if projects like these were to come into place and they were to prove successful, there'd be a great deal more interest because we have a lot of transplanted farmers in areas like Thompson, Lynn Lake, and Leaf Rapids. There are a lot of people in other northern areas who have previously been involved with farming. There are many really amateur gardeners at heart who have found that with proper methods of cultivation that one can grow a great deal of agricultural produce and grow a great deal of flowers and other plants in areas like Thompson.

So I would ask if the Minister, if at all possible, can perhaps have his department get involved with some of these particular developments, because even though they don't specifically deal with the Department of Agriculture, I think that additional push from his department can make all the difference?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member for Thompson has certainly raised his comments and ideas dealing with the promotion and establishment of gardens, the need for further land-clearing and preparation of community gardens, land preparation and variety trials for various crops. That kind of assistance we will continue to provide and we will expand on a community basis as the need arises. As I say again, we just don't want to walk in and say here, we know what has to be done and here it is. We think that there has to be the community desire, the community will and if we provide the background information on crops and livestock production, that will enhance the ability of Northerners to continue and expand in terms of Feeding the North, and we certainly will continue our work there. We don't want to raise the desires and the expectations of Northerners by saying we will do so many things and not be able to deliver and that's why we have taken the approach of basically a go-slow, cautious approach, but a continuous presence in the North and we will continue to do so.

**MR. D. BLAKE:** Mr. Chairman, before we get off this, the Minister has indicated a strong interest and desire and I would hope that when a community does come to him and wants 20 or 30 acres of prime land that could be cultivated, put aside, that they may be able to develop it, I would like to see them not hung up for three or five years in red tape trying to get control of

it, or getting access to it, as has happened in so many places.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, part of our policy to assist communities in terms of making land available, the question of title in many areas may be a problem, but in terms of the question of use, I don't think that there should be a great problem in terms of the availability of land. But the question of title, I venture to say in terms of ongoing discussions in many communities dealing with land claims, dealing with hydro land settlements, some of the land in question may be part of ongoing negotiations. But in the main, Mr. Chairman, the availability of land and the use of that land shouldn't be very difficult to use. But, as I understand it, it may be very difficult to give an accurate legal description and a title to it; that may be a problem.

**MR. D. BLAKE:** Very difficult to develop if we can't get that.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 4.(d)(3)(a)—pass; (b)—pass; 4.(e)(1) Technical Services Branch: Salaries - The Member for Roblin-Russell.

**MR. W. MCKENZIE:** I have only one question on this item. Can the Minister advise the names of the members of the Farm Machinery Board and the Pesticide Committee?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Mr. Minister.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Yes, we'll just get that information shortly.

Mr. Chairman, Chairman of the Farm Machinery Board is Mr. Lionel Stone from MacGregor; Mr. Wes Penner from Landmark; Mr. John Boychuk from Lenswood; Mr. Mike Kochuk from Dauphin; Mr. Aime Rivard from St. Pierre; Margaret Hayward from Sinclair and Mr. Frank Wilson from Hodgson.

The Pesticides Committee, Mr. Chairman, I'll get the names for the honourable member. Mr. Chairman, the Pesticides Committee is made up of staff members: Mr. Oatway, the Director of our Technical Services chairs that committee; the secretary is Marianne Betellier, secretary, she is also from the Technical Services Branch of the Department. Members of the Committee are: Wayne H. Burton, farmer from Minnedosa; J.D. Radcliffe, Agricultural Chemical dealer in Waskada; C.B. Orcutt, Director of Environmental Control Services, Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Environment; Dave Harms, Reeve of Snowflake; Peter D. Funk representing the Manitoba Aerial Applicators Association and J. Mooney, Greencross Products Limited, representing the Canadian Agricultural Chemicals Association.

The staff persons would not receive any remuneration. In terms of members who are not staff the rate is, as I understand it here, \$64.71 per diem and expenses.

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

**MR. C. MANNES:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One short question, does the grant that's given to PAMI, does it come under this area and if it does what is the

total amount that has been forwarded or granted within this fiscal year?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, the grant does come under this appropriation, and the grant is \$525,000, the same as last year.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 4.(e)(1)—pass; 4.(e)(2)—pass; 4.(f)(1) Marketing Branch, Salaries - the Member for Morris.

**MR. C. MANNES:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I would ask the Minister, are there any changes in thrust or objective within this department? It seemed to me, by my understanding, that the efforts to market breeding stock in Mexico, and other places particularly, have diminished and I'm wondering if you could give us some overall understanding as to what the thrust of this department is in the coming year.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Mr. Minister.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, in response to the honourable member, the Mexico situation is primarily due to the financial situation within that country. We were and have been in discussion with other provinces in an attempt to co-operate towards a major ongoing sale of breeding stock.

In terms of special crops, we have undertaken initiatives in '83-84. Special crops activity, Mr. Chairman, will be focussed on Caribbean countries and Venezuela.

We are undergoing presently a follow-up to the possibility of bartering some of our commodities, and we've started discussions last fall in terms of black beans. Black bean trade in South America is also anticipated as is trade in other commodities, particularly oilseeds. But the process generally that is being looked at is the possibility of making a trade of agricultural products for products of other countries, such as rum, using — (Interjection) — yes, liquor, Mr. Chairman, from Caribbean countries in terms of trying to trade. That, of course, many of these countries, would like to trade some of their products for and purchase some of ours.

For example, Mr. Chairman, in the country of Guyana, they would like to export rice into Canada in exchange for canola oil for margarine, for example. Costa Rica would like to trade coffee for black beans, as the Honourable Member for Rhineland had raised earlier. There are discussions with St. Vincent in terms of the sale of Brown Suris embryo transplants, and of course St. Vincent would like to exchange rum.

The financial situation in many of the countries is fairly difficult in terms of payment and negotiations, but those are the kinds of discussions we are undertaking in an attempt to promote and sell agricultural products. As well, with Venezuela, we are discussing the possibility of the sale of peas. But, Mr. Chairman, this does require a tremendous amount of co-ordination and will take a fair bit of effort and time, if indeed it can be worked out, but we certainly are attempting to promote this and use that means as a way of promoting trade.

In terms of black beans, for the Honourable Member for Rhineland, we did take three Manitoba company reps to Venezuela, Colombia, Costa Rica and Cuba in February of '82 to look at possibilities on policies on

peas, beans and lentils. There haven't been any sales. I have to say that no sales have resulted and there haven't been any in the past one to two years or so due to very low prices on black beans from Mexico, Chile and Argentina, Mr. Chairman. Because of these low prices and the financial problems in some of these countries, we have looked at the barter possibilities. We do sell large quantities of peas to some countries in that area, but it's still an ongoing process and that is the avenue that we have been utilizing to attempt to increase trade and sales for Manitoba producers.

**MR. C. MANNES:** Mr. Chairman, I'm a little intrigued with this whole barter area. I know that there are other people in world trade, certainly representing many products, that believe that it's the only outlet to them regarding any manufactured product. I want to know whether the Marketing Branch, in attempting to develop this concept, is there anything concrete or right now is it nothing more than a concept?

Certainly, the Minister has given us some idea as to those products that other nations would be prepared to send this direction, but is it anything more than that, firstly, or is it just assumptions and hypotheses at this time, No. 1? And No. 2, who is going to expedite this whole trade or bartering system, through what systems do we have now that can accommodate the actual physical trading of goods?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, the honourable member should realize that the financial situation and economic situation of many of these countries is as such that they are not in a position to pay cash on the barrel. So their needs, while they're still there, are to attempt to say, look, you have a product we want and we have something that we hope that we would like to export.

We've only made one trip into those areas and our second round is just coming up this spring, Mr. Chairman, so that this whole attempt is in the developmental stages. There is no doubt that this, as far as we know, may be the only barter activity being considered and conducted in this country in terms of trying to promote trade - well, the honourable member shakes his head - at either Provincial or Federal Government levels on agricultural commodities.

We, through the Branch, have initiated the formation of a mechanism to accept barter agreements through the negotiation with the Canadian Commercial Corporation. That's the avenue. The commodities involved of course, as I've indicated before, are coffee, rice, livestock, hardwoods and rum at the present time.

**MR. C. MANNES:** I don't want to belabour this point, Mr. Chairman. Certainly I realize that there are many nations in the world that cannot pay hard currency today for our goods. I suppose my question again to the Minister was, specifically, what machinery is in place to allow for physical bartering of goods? He indicates that he is not aware of other manufacturing entities within this country that are bartering. Well I'd like to inform him that when the Prime Minister of this nation was in the Far East a while ago, that indeed there were many business people that were there. Some of them were prepared to supply, I believe, railway equipment

on the basis of a barter system and they had the same problems. They didn't know at that time what machinery was in place to physically handle the barter arrangement and all I've asked him to tell me, is to whether indeed right now, we're just going from nation to nation and finding what we can trade, but as yet, we're not sure what mechanism is in place to facilitate that trade.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, there's no doubt that in terms of industrial products, those kinds of arrangements have been made in the past. I was speaking about agricultural commodities and agricultural products, in terms of my remarks, in terms of other Provincial Governments and our Federal Government.

We are utilizing some expertise south of the border, as well, in terms of companies who do nothing else but attempt to arrange barter arrangements, and so we're using all the resources, I would say, in North America that might be available at our disposal and contacts to try and not only promote, but put that kind of a package together, so that is the avenue that we are going. There are people in North American that are involved, not in this country, but are involved in barter arrangements and we're using that kind of expertise to assist us in getting our, shall we say, foot in the door and the ability and the knowledge of how to put such kind of deals together.

**MR. C. MANNESS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Minister for that candid and concise answer. That's specifically what I was looking for.

I would ask him, within this area, whether he supports the formation of CANAGREX in Section 14, which affords buy and sell opportunities to the Federal Government specifically under the development of that particular institution, which would allow the government to move into that whole area. Is he a supporter of CANAGREX in its present form?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, as I understand Section 14, it is based on request. — (Interjection) — Pardon me?

**MR. C. MANNESS:** It allows for buying and selling.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** That is correct. The principle of CANAGREX, the Province of Manitoba, has indicated that in general we have not been opposed to the formation of CANAGREX, notwithstanding some of the opposition, even from within this province, from groups who originally thought up the idea of CANAGREX and put it forward, Mr. Chairman. As I've stated before, we will have to see how it evolves and where it's going to come down. Right now, I'm not sure where it's at - with the ending of this Session and a new Session coming up, so who knows where it will end.

**MR. C. MANNESS:** A final question. I wasn't quite clear in the Minister's answer. It was a little different answer, in a clarity sense, than the one previous. Will he support Section 14? Would he have any opposition whatsoever to Section 14, specifically the buy and sell provision?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, as I understand it, the Section 14 is to be amended on the basis of only

responding to requests and to buy and sell. Mr. Chairman, one could see some great potential in the area of buy and sell and of countries wishing to deal government to government. I have no difficulty with that, Mr. Chairman, as I said earlier. In general, we support the legislation that is coming into place. We have some problems in some of the areas, but when we talk about support, we talk in general terms, in terms of principles.

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

**MR. A. BROWN:** Mr. Chairman, I would like to continue this discussion. We all know that for years and years we have been spending hundreds and millions of dollars, buying, paying cash for our fruits, vegetables, during that period of the year that we cannot grow them over here and there's a lot of fruits like bananas and so on that we can never grow. We import all of them and we always pay for these vegetables in cash.

I am very much interested and for quite some time I've been very much interested to see if we could not, by going just a little bit farther south, whether we could not barter and trade off some of our produce for some of these vegetables and fruits that we need. I know that if we pursue this, I'm quite confident, because we have a lot of product which we grow over here - beans, of course, being one of them - but we have a lot of other products, peas already has been mentioned, and we have found some additional markets, from where our traditional markets used to be, but it seems to me that we have to be serious about establishing markets over there and establishing barter with some of these countries.

I would just like to see the department be much more serious about this and putting in a real effort and try to reach some kind of an agreement, which would be beneficial to both of us. Rather than just always paying cash for these products, why can't we barter with these? I'm certain that the potential is there and I'm just wondering whether the Minister is going to pay just a little bit more effort to that particular section.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Mr. Minister.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I'm pleased that the honourable members are supporting our efforts in terms of attempting to promote this area as one of the - I would say, the pioneers in this country, in terms of provincial efforts of attempting to set up barter relations. I thank the honourable member for his support and I'm sure that our staff in the branch, likewise, thank the honourable members for that support.

In terms of attempting to promote sales, we're working on this concept and trying very hard to see whether that can come about. I have no difficulty with the honourable member's comments in saying, look, why can't we get away from this cash for goods. Frankly, there are countries who prefer that kind of arrangement and don't want to discuss it, but in terms of the economic situation that many countries face, that is the only area that's open for them in terms of trade and we want to try and promote it and see if we can get it off the ground.

That's not to say that we shouldn't as well do a fair bit of work within our own country to try and get as

much of the share of markets, in terms of fresh vegetables and the like in this country internally, to make sure that we don't leave our own area alone. The offshore area is one that is constantly looked at, but it never is too sure. What you have to do along with that, is to have the balance of promoting and continuing the amount of sales and market ability of product within our own province and within Western Canada, within our country as a whole. That's the area that we also have to pay attention to and we are concentrating on that area as well.

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

**MR. D. BLAKE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just while we're on Marketing, there is just one question that I have for the Minister and it results from an article in *The Co-operator*, February last, from Guelph. I'm quoting from the article, Mr. Chairman, it says, "Waddles, the ill-fated turkey of a restaurant that farmers launched and receivers grabbed in July of 1981, has finally been sold. There will be no money for the turkey farmers and a long list of other creditors, according to Rick Morowitz of the Mississauga office of Price Waterhouse Associates Limited. The bank suffered significantly, he added, it was terrible. The turkey restaurant was the brainchild of George Grey, then manager of the National Turkey Marketing Agency, who sold visions of a chain of franchised restaurants which would boost turkey sales. He persuaded more than 100 turkey farmers, including most of the leaders of the marketing agency and provincial marketing boards, to invest in the venture on Woodlawn Road in Guelph. The farmers reacted by firing Grey from both his post in the restaurant company, called the Great Canadian Turkey Corporation, and with the marketing agency. Morowitz said, the restaurant has since been sold."

I just wondered, did any of the provincial funds from the Province of Manitoba go into this ill-fated venture. I hope the Minister will confirm that he is not anticipating a provincial operation of this type.

**A MEMBER:** They call it "Country Kitchen" now.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Mr. Minister.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, I don't think the honourable member should just, by reading that article, get the impression that the idea was harebrained and out of place. Mr. Chairman, all you have to do is go south of the border and I'm sure that he will realize that, in terms of poultry meat and turkey in particular, the limits of availability of product in such items as frankfurters and hamburgers and the like is there.

**A MEMBER:** Look what we do with geese in Teulon.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** We have yet to whet the appetite of our palates, Mr. Chairman, in terms of the use of that product, for example, cutlets or smoked turkey which is available to some degree in this province. But the restaurant in question, Mr. Chairman, may have been, in terms of our life span, so to speak, in terms of the time that it has come in and the area that it's come in, it just didn't take off.

I believe, Mr. Chairman, that there may have been Manitobans, as individuals, involved in shares within this proposal because they thought anything to promote the . . .

**A MEMBER:** How many did you have?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, if the member is asking, how many did I have? - as a matter of fact, Mr. Chairman, I must confess to the honourable member that my interest was aroused at one of the annual meetings of the Turkey Board. I did not, unfortunately or fortunately as the case now is, participate in this, but the Province of Manitoba is not involved financially in any such operation.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for Roblin-Russell.

**MR. W. MCKENZIE:** I just have a couple of questions. (f)(1) the Salaries, have there been SMYs added? It's up from \$239,300 to \$286,800.00.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Mr. Minister.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, no. The same explanation in terms of the adjustments because of the really two contract periods and the 27th pay period that are involved in the staff figures here account for that change.

**MR. W. MCKENZIE:** Thanks, Mr. Chairman. I believe last year, the Minister indicated that he was expanding marketing promotions. I'm wondering if that was successful. I believe there were some added dollars last year for marketing promotions, and I am wondering who is heading these marketing promotions to these offshore countries.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, it really depends on who has been working on some of these projects. As the member knows, the Director of the Branch is sitting here; he is, I would say, intimately involved in what is happening. He may not be the person that is involved in terms of all the transactions and the actual contacts, but it's a group effort in terms of the Marketing Branch as to how the project is set up and who actually goes, but the whole Branch would be involved to one degree or another.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 4.(f)(1) - the Member for The Pas.

**MR. H. HARAPIAK:** Mr. Chairman, there are some excellent swine breeders in Swan River Valley, and I know of one who has built up an excellent reputation and he is marketing his swine for breeding purposes in Mexico, Malaysia, the Philippines, and now they're in the process of finalizing a deal in Singapore. They are presently using a private exporter who has received a number of grants from the Department of Agriculture, and I'm wondering if these grants couldn't go to the Swine Breeders' Association so they could develop their own marketing which could be done for the benefit of all breeders, rather than just one private exporter.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Mr. Minister.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, we do not provide grants to private groups but, insofar as our activities dealing with swine breeding stock, last year we helped the Manitoba Swine Breeders' Association set up an export committee to identify swine for sale and to assist breeders with selection missions and to promote Manitoba swine breeding stock internationally. We hope to assist them this coming year in attempting to make sales to East Asia and also to provide regular assistance to local exporters with contacts and information and prices.

As well, we assisted the Northwest Swine Breeders' Association, which the member speaks of, in designing a marketing strategy for Manitoba swine breeders in that region, who I guess had the feeling basically of isolation, of being out of touch and not being involved, sort of in the stream of things in terms of marketability of swine. We are hoping to set up a pilot type swine sale for the fall of this year in Dauphin which we hope will encourage all the breeders from the northwest area to sell stock to one-time buyers from all over Canada. We're trying that this year, and if the concept is successful similar swine sales we hope will be held in other regions of the province.

Mr. Chairman, in June of '82, an eight-man buying mission from Japan was taken to several purebred swine farms in Manitoba, and they purchased seven hogs valued at approximately \$7,000 in our province. Another Japanese swine buying mission is being invited to visit Manitoba this spring. There is a Swine Olympics in Japan in 1984. It's being investigated for the marketing of Manitoba swine breeding stock in conjunction with the Manitoba Swine Breeders' Association, so we are involved in the international market as well.

Staff have just come back from St. Louis, Missouri, from the American Pork Congress. The department has been involved in a large display at the Congress and our staff manned this display, along with the Chairperson of the Manitoba Swine Breeders' Association Export Committee. We are hopeful, as a result of that kind of advertising, that there may be further promotion and sales of breeding stock on behalf of producers in this province.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 4.(f)(1)—pass; 4.(f)(2) - the Member for Morris.

**MR. C. MANNES:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just one short question. The reduction in this Appropriation, is it due specifically to a decrease in travelling?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Mr. Minister.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** That is correct, primarily.

**MR. C. MANNES:** Thank you.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 4.(f)(2)—pass; 4.(g) Land and Water Branch, (1) Salaries - the Member for Roblin-Russell.

**MR. W. MCKENZIE:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister could give us an outline of what happened to the irrigation project at Roblin? How successful was it and was the money well spent and what's the hay

crop like that come off of the irrigated lands? I wonder if the Minister could give us an idea of what happened?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, we'll provide that information. There is an ongoing part of the Agro-Man Agreement for that area, there is ongoing monitoring of the project by students who are involved under the direction of professors at the University of Manitoba. I could probably provide the honourable member some further information when I have that report.

Mr. Chairman, the involvement in the progress report for '82-83 has been prepared by Dr. Concava (phonetic) of the University of Manitoba. The irrigation began in early June following some startup problems. Pipelines and equipment had been almost completely installed during the summer and fall of '81. It's estimated that over 23 million gallons of water were pumped, or an equivalent of approximately 11 inches of precipitation, through the irrigation projects.

The water supply during 1982 was judged to be inadequate for the requirements during the season and irrigation was stopped August 24th due to lack of available water. While detailed yield results are now being calculated, it is estimated that the increase in yield on the brome-alfalfa mixture was very significant.

Preliminary observations indicate that there may not have been any hay to harvest at the second cut stage had there not been any irrigation. A different area adjacent to the lagoon site owned by the same farmer and seeded to a similar forage mixture was flood irrigated during the fall of 1981. Yield samples in this area also indicated significant yield increases, both in the first cut crop and the second cut.

Testing for environmental and health aspects has indicated that all aspects are well within safe limits. Collection of samples including soil water, which is effluent in ground water; plant tissue; and air, was done under contract with the University of Manitoba and chemical testing was carried out by the Cadham Provincial Lab.

A cost analysis, including Capital Expenditures, is being prepared by our staff in the northwest region.

The irrigated yield measured increase over non-irrigated yield was 2.07 tonnes per acre, for an added value of \$103.50 in terms of the irrigation value of that area. Calculations in the last table of this report indicate that a yield increase of 2.97 tons per acres is required to recover the cost of the pivot and pumping equipment.

So we have not yet reached the stage of economic recovery in terms of the cost expenditures that we've put in, however, it certainly, in terms of this project, has increased the yield substantially but not yet, that we can determine, to the point of being commercially viable.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for Roblin-Russell.

**MR. W. MCKENZIE:** Can I ask the Honourable Minister, are there other community interested in using the effluent for irrigation purposes in the province?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Mr. Minister.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, there is no doubt that the project that we are involved in, in Roblin, in

my mind has potential and the data that we are able to collect and get from this project, I would see leading in the future to other communities, who may have the problem of having a lot of water and lagoon space being limited, this kind of project certainly should be considered for many of those types of communities. Rather than going to a great expansion of lagoon, it may be this type of a project would be just what is required and necessary to deal with the extra water from an irrigation. We are certainly very pleased, and it will give gain a lot of experience for us, and I'm sure probably pilot this type of a project in this country to make sure that waste water can be efficiently used and put to good use, rather than building extra large capacities and lagoons.

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

**MR. A. DRIEDGER:** Just a question, Mr. Chairman, to the Minister. In this section here - this section deals with irrigation I understand, or to some degree - to what extent has the Minister or his people been involved in the bill that the Minister of Natural Resources brought in, The Water Rights Act, Bill No. 12? Have his people had input into that kind of a bill?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, the development of the legislation by the Department of Natural Resources, who have the jurisdiction for water in the province, our staff have been consulted, but the development of the legislation was primarily the responsibility of the Department of Natural Resources.

**MR. A. DRIEDGER:** But the Minister is saying, though, that his staff have been involved in the initial formation of the legislation to some degree or had some input into it.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, not in the actual development of the legislation, but in discussions and consultations leading up to the development of the legislation.

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

**MR. C. MANNES:** Mr. Chairman, I'm wondering if the Minister might make a comment as to whether there's been a change in policy regarding the filling of farm dugouts. Now I understand that there's a certain amount of money allocated each year and after that it sort of falls back to a user-pay concept. I'm wondering, seeing it was a timely topic here two or three weeks ago, and it certainly was a topic within my specific area before we had this inch rainfall some two or three weeks ago, I'm wondering if he could do two things. I'm wondering firstly, if he could tell me what the . . .

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Water Services.

**MR. C. MANNES:** Is that a different department?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Yes.

**MR. C. MANNES:** Where was that? Further on. Fine, I'll defer to that time.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Yes, under the Water Services Board 5.(h).

**MR. C. MANNES:** Thank you. Fine, I'll defer my question until later on.

However previously, before the break, the Minister detoured me to this section when I asked a question specifically regarding soil erosion. I'm wondering if he can tell me whether his department, in conjunction or in combination with the Natural Resources Department, is considering any legislation either in this year or indeed to come, or in Municipal Affairs possibly too, dealing with soil erosion and regulations that may apply to farmers that would force them to bring into practice different farming habits.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, it's as if the honourable member happened to attend the luncheon that I had with the rural broadcasters and writers today because the very same question arose during our question and answer period with the farm broadcasters and writers that I had the privilege of meeting with today.

Mr. Chairman, our intention is not to legislate at this present time. We hope that to encourage soil conservation and better land management on the basis of promotion of better practices, education, and demonstration projects that we hope in terms of our overall strategy. That will be the general thrust of our department to try and promote areas such as, well, management of saline soils, the control of wind erosion and water erosion by the use of fall seeded crops, and various other cultural practices; control of wind erosion by planting and maintenance of field shelter belts. Those kinds of activities we are looking at, but it will be primarily on the basis of demonstration, education, and promotion.

**MR. C. MANNES:** Thank you. I'm encouraged by that answer and certainly I support many of those same initiatives that probably have been in existence for some time and will continue to be supported by the government.

I guess my final question is, after the comments made by the Minister of Natural Resources making some mention as to his concerns about the way North Dakota farmers farm, I would hope that indeed that the Minister of Agriculture's same attitudes or same feelings that he's just espoused here in the last few moments will carry the day and the weight in Caucus and that indeed his colleague will not have his way in the sense that he led us to believe that, if we took the interpretation that regulations may be coming . . .

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, I'm glad the honourable member qualified his remarks as indicating what we were led to believe of the comments that the Minister of Natural Resources used. Mr. Chairman, I was not there. There's no doubt that when one flies over an area and sees, especially this winter, the soil erosion on our snowbanks all over Western Canada, Manitoba, North Dakota, wherever, it certainly has to raise the consciousness of one as to our long term where we are headed in terms of soil conservation practices and the like. I'm pleased that the honourable member qualified his remarks.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 4.(g)(1)—pass; 4.(g)(2)—pass; 4.(g)(3) — the Honourable Member for The Pas.

**MR. H. HARAPIAK:** Mr. Chairman, I think there's some money for Northern Development Agreement and I'm wondering if any of this money is earmarked for the Polder III area in The Pas area?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Mr. Minister.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, no none of the funds here are directly scheduled for the Polder III area. The reduction in terms of funds stem from the amount of work that we are able to undertake within the department. Although our budget was substantially higher last year, we were unable to use all the funds that were budgeted for. As a result our budgets have been readjusted to the amount of work that we will be able to undertake in terms of studies — (Interjection) — yes, done in Northern Manitoba, yes.

**MR. H. HARAPIAK:** Mr. Chairman, I'd just like to ask the Minister if there was a lack of work there, because it just seems as if the farmers from the area are continuously asking for some improvement in the drainage and that's an area that we're going to have to develop if we're going to expand the agricultural capabilities of the North. I would hate to think that the department thought there was a lack of work there to cut down on the department, on the dollars that are put into the Estimates.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, capital works projects in terms of drainage and the like as the member is referring to do not fall under the Department of Agriculture. Those types of projects are carried on by the Department of Natural Resources, Water Resources Division in terms of construction. The funds provided for in the Northlands Agreement are specifically dealing with studies and work in terms of northern agriculture and the like.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 4.(g)(3)—pass.

Resolution No. 11 - Resolved that there to be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$10,068,900 for Agriculture, Agricultural Development and Marketing Division for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March 1984.

Is it agreed? (Agreed)

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** No. 5, Farm and Rural Development Division, 5.(a) Administration (1) Salaries.

The Honourable Member for Roblin-Russell.

**MR. W. McKENZIE:** Mr. Chairman, I wonder could the Minister give us breakdown as what he anticipates to do under this, it is up about a little over \$1 million, or can we expect the money to be expended?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Mr. Minister.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, the budgets, excuse me, in this whole division represent the regional activities throughout the province in terms of extension which takes in all our extension work, our ag reps, our

specialists in 4-H. Instead, we've dealt with it on the basis of regions so that regions are able to have more flexibility in terms of operating under the budgets that are voted to them, Mr. Chairman. These funds are also in place dealing with the Agricultural Training Branch, Water Services Board and Agricultural Crown Lands Branch and are all part of the funds voted for in this Resolution No. 12 in the various parts. On the regional basis, the honourable members should be aware that all the components of extension are tied into the regional budget, in terms of the specialists within the region, in terms of the ag reps, in terms of the grasslands, livestock specialist, farm management specialist, 4-H and youth, home economists, all those budgets are there on a per region basis dealing with the staff in those regions.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for Roblin-Russell.

**MR. W. McKENZIE:** I wonder, regarding the Agricultural Crown Lands, the leases have been increased . . .

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, we can get to the Crown Lands at (j), if the honourable member . . .

**MR. W. McKENZIE:** I wonder then, can the Minister give us any ideas, have there been any changes in the ag reps in the various regions as spelled out in this section of his Estimates.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, I provided on the record today the number of positions that have been filled as a result of vacancies, transfers, retirements or what have you. In terms of regional staff, and I'll just go through . . .

**MR. W. McKENZIE:** Just the ag reps. Are there any changes from one to the other in the last year?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** . . . the positions, Mr. Chairman, in terms of agricultural representatives in place, the same number of offices that have been in place are in place in terms of ag reps. There's been no change in the number of offices. There have been some positions that were not filled in the past, haven't been filled, but the number of offices and the full-time staff that have been placed are there.

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

**MR. A. DRIEDGER:** Thank you. To the Minister then, could the Minister indicate specifically under which section the 4-H area would be covered? Is that under (g), or would that be under this heading here?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Mr. Minister.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, 4-H is involved right through all the regional expenditures. In whichever region the honourable member wishes to raise it, we can discuss the matter of 4-H. Once we get into the regions, as far as I'm concerned, whatever region he wants to start the discussion, it's open to him.

**MR. A. DRIEDGER:** Well, it creates a little bit of confusion doing it on that basis. What I'm trying to

establish is exactly how much money has been designated to be spent under 4-H this year versus last year?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, the 4-H Program in the regions basically consists of three components, and that is the support for 4-H aides, local people who can assist with the program, that is the aides; support for leadership training; and support for leadership training 4-H camps. In fiscal '82-83, the dollar support for the three program areas amounted to \$255.3 thousand. This year, for '83-84, this has been reduced to 242.1 thousand, a reduction of \$13.2 thousand. However, this year the budget, Mr. Chairman, has been reorganized by regions and the purpose for this was to give more management responsibility and flexibility to regional directors to use the dollars allocated to them for the programs that they, in consultation with their 4-H leaders and their aides, determine as the highest priority for their own regions.

Mr. Chairman, I would have to say that in my time as Minister I can only say that I have the highest regard and respect for the 4-H Programs and for the outstanding support and encouragement this program gets from local leaders, parents and the local community.

Even though it's been necessary to reduce our dollars for 4-H this year, I want to assure members opposite and I have assured the 4-H leaders that our government will continue to support 4-H Programs now and in the future. I believe that our regional staff working with our 4-H leaders and members, and with the support of the community, will have good 4-H Programs this year and in the future. However, 4-H should not be judged in isolation from the general thrust of the budget presented where the government has made a major commitment to stabilize farm incomes and to assist with farm financing. In order to do this, we had to reduce some programs but, Mr. Chairman, in terms of the specific costs, we looked at the area of conferences, 4-H camps and the like, and 4-H camps were funded 100 percent by the province. We felt that if regions in their wisdom wanted to continue, to the same level as they did in the past, it would be within their discretion as to how they were to use the regional funds. But I don't believe, Mr. Chairman, that in terms of funding for conferences and in many areas that the small reduction that we have made in this area will at all change the scope and the impact of 4-H in rural Manitoba.

**MR. A. DRIEDGER:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I have great difficulty with the concerns or the comments of the Minister of Agriculture. What has happened, if he wants to look over the development of 4-H over the many years, years ago when I, myself, and many others were involved in 4-H, it was a sort of upsurge and upswing at one time and then it sort of tapered off for a while. Then in the latter years, in the last five years, I'd say there's been a very definite swing and increase in the activity of 4-H in all aspects of it, including the horse clubs and all these kind of things. The fairs are coming back again, and that is basically where 4-H has their achievements and what have you. The Minister says, well, we are concerned about 4-H, we're still supporting 4-H, we will always support 4-H. The difficulty I have

with that, I think, and he's trying to explain away something that I can't agree with. I'm very concerned that the Minister is not being realistic and he's feeding us a bunch of words, that basically his heart is not in the area of supporting 4-H.

When we see at a time when 4-H is just starting to come back again, there is more and more interest all the time, this Minister sees fit to cut down the financial participation by \$13,000.00. Why it is a sore point with me, when the Minister was part of the group that authorized the funding for the Marxist Study Conference that was taking place here to the tune of over \$7,000 and supported that, obviously, and here he turns around and he's cutting down on the 4-H end of it. That to me is a very sensitive issue and I think it's a very sensitive issue to the people in the country.

This Minister has to accept that part of that responsibility because obviously he voted for the money to be spent for the Marxist Study Conference and for our young people that are the grassroots of this country that are trying to develop, you know, as good farmers of the future. — (Interjection) — Ah, the Minister is raising his voice and he's trying to interrupt because he's feeling guilty, because he is the one who is responsible for reduction in his department in 4-H to the tune of \$13,000 and support some kind of Marxist movement that is the undermining of our democracy. Here are the young kids that are the ones that we're teaching and trying to promote in terms of being good people in this community in this province and these are the ones that . . .

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Order please, order please.

**HON. S. USKIW:** Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the member would yield to a question. Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the honourable member whether he recalls that the \$7,000 that he is alluding to has been spent by his side of the House on numerous other projects in the course of the last week and he keeps referring to \$7,000 still being made available?

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

**MR. A. DRIEDGER:** If that was a question or a statement, I don't know what it was.

What bothers me is the direction and the thinking behind these people here, that they set a priority for a Marxist Study Conference and then they cut down our young kids where there is a steady increase in this kind of thing and that is where he decides to cut money. That is a matter of contention and I think the people of Manitoba should know where his priorities lie and it's showing up every time. I have indicated this many times in my speeches in this House, that this Minister, he can talk very nice and explain all kinds of things, but he is not being honest in terms of where his priorities lie in terms of agriculture.

I don't think he is that concerned about agriculture. He spoke for 15 minutes trying to justify the reduction. I see no justification in the reduction. There should be an increase. The next thing he'll say, well, you can't have it both ways. But certainly, this is one of the grassroots type of programs that we should be promoting and he reduces that and is trying to fudge it away as

the Minister of Highways and Transportation is trying to do the same way. They'll try and raise a few red herrings to try and get away from the real issue, that they supported that kind of a conference out there, the Marxist Conference, and they're cutting down for our kids in this province that are learning the true democracy and learning the value of belonging to a 4-H club and I have great difficulty with that.

I would like the Minister to justify to this House how he could agree to have his budget for 4-H cut by \$13,000 and support something like he did a little while ago.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Mr. Minister.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, the honourable member should be aware that in terms of our analysis of this Budget, part of the area that has been involved is - the member should know that the numbers across the province in 4-H, of course, have been decreasing and it's not a new phenomena - the numbers in 4-H have been decreasing. In fact over the last five years, there's been a reduction from about 7,700 in 1978 to 6,900 in 1981. In 1982, it's been down as well.

Well, Mr. Chairman, the area of funding primarily dealt with conferences and dealt with camps. There is no other program in the Province of Manitoba dealing with summer camps that I am aware of. There may be some small areas that have funded camps 100 percent, Mr. Chairman.

Maybe that's the problem, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. A. DRIEDGER:** What is the problem?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, the area that we looked at was the area of conferences and costs, and I believe that 4-H leaders themselves will admit that in terms of length of stay, in terms of conferences, could be reduced in terms of hotels and costs, as well as the costs of the camps which were funded 100 percent. I don't believe, Mr. Chairman, that it is unreasonable to suggest that some of the costs of 4-H camps be borne by participants in terms of summer camps. If the honourable members wish to look at their own areas as to funding, I'm sure that their communities will want to donate and assist those communities in the funding for those camps.

Mr. Chairman, the Minister of Transportation mentioned about the \$7,000, Mr. Chairman. Maybe the honourable member is not pleased that we wouldn't fund the National Conservative Convention that is now being held in Ottawa in terms of . . .

**SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS:** Oh, oh!

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Order please.

**MR. A. DRIEDGER:** You're dragging red herrings and you know it.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Well, Mr. Chairman, the honourable member says, we're dragging red herrings.

**MR. A. DRIEDGER:** Deal with the issue, Billy. You're dragging out red herrings.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Order please. Order please. Order please.

Mr. Minister.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member for Emerson speaks of red herrings. Mr. Chairman, the Minister of Transportation was absolutely right. The honourable members opposite have spent that \$7,000 umpteen times over in the last several weeks in terms of where that money could be used. Speaking of red herrings, Mr. Chairman, I don't know but I think I can take a back seat to the Honourable Member for Emerson any day.

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

**MR. A. DRIEDGER:** Mr. Chairman, what bothers me, the Minister protests it too much. As I indicated from my seat, that red herring - he tries to bring in the Progressive Conservative Convention here in Winnipeg and say, well, we didn't fund that. That's not the thing. He is trying to drag red herrings across there. He has a guilt complex because he knows that he has erred in reducing the 4-H contribution when they're funding some other stupid organization there. I say that with even tongue-in-cheek.

But what I would like to have from the Minister, a little bit of information. He indicated three categories under 4-H, and I wonder if the Minister could indicate the spending in those categories, a breakdown between those three because he's talking about hotels, we've cut down hotels and stuff like that.

The other thing I would like to know, how many 4-H clubs were in existence last year and the trend that is developing? I indicated without having the proper information that I feel there is an increasing trend and participation in 4-H clubs. I would wonder if the Minister had information to indicate which way the trend is going in 4-H.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, the membership is going down in terms of 4-H. The honourable member should remember. In 1977, there were 6,800 members, Mr. Chairman, in 1977, 6,849; 1978, 6,722; 1979, 6,373; 1980, 6,240; 1981, 5,925. During the last five years, there has been a reduction of approximately 1,000 members in 4-H over the four years that the Tories were in office, Mr. Chairman. There has been a reduction of approximately 1,000 members in 4-H clubs over the years 1977-81 inclusive, Mr. Chairman. That in terms of numbers is a fact of life of what has happened over the last number of years and it is indicative of the trend over the last 20 years.

For example, I have the 1961 statistic and I will give it to the honourable member. There were 8,762 members in 4-H clubs in 1961, so you see where it's moved to over the last two decades. It has been a progression and the progression continues notwithstanding, Mr. Chairman, the amount of money that may be spent or not spent.

The budget is a global budget, Mr. Chairman, to be determined by regions as to what they feel with their aides and their 4-H people as to their priorities. If they feel that they wish to continue to fund 4-H camps at 100 percent level, then they will have to make a decision as to whether they raise money or curtail some of their activities in other areas. I don't believe that it is

unreasonable to suggest that in terms of camps, some community activity and local initiative could be used to raise part of the funds of camps and other activities as available would be continued at whatever level they desire, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. A. DREIDGER:** Well, Mr. Chairman, the Minister is again referring to camps. Is this the area where the cutback has taken place, in the camps specifically? Because he indicated initially three categories and I asked him before whether there's a possibility of breakdown, because he's referring to the camps as the ones, you know, it's a luxury that maybe the 4-H's should not enjoy, and as the Member for Morris indicated, maybe collect beer bottles to raise money, whatever the case may be. If that is the case, if he's referring to camps, is this where the cutback is? I'm asking because I don't know how many kids are going to these camps, because I know many of them have achievement days and go all over the place, but my kids that happen to be in the 4-H don't happen to go to these camps. So is that where the reduction is taking place at \$13,000, in the camp aspect of it, or where?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, our dollar estimate, as I've indicated, it really depends on the regional priorities as to where they wish to spend their money. But one of the areas that we've suggested, or the two areas that I've suggested that there are possibilities to look at and review, is their cost of conferences and the like and the issue dealing with camps. It is basically a local, regional decision as to how they wish to reallocate funds in this area.

**MR. A. DREIDGER:** Mr. Chairman, I'll just make a final comment on this category here. I have to express very deep regret at the attitude of this Minister in terms of reducing the 4-H and the kind of stupid money they spend on other projects when this is one of the emotional grass-roots type of thing that money should be spent on. This Minister has indicated in his figures that he gave us where his priorities lie, and I have to indicate that I am very very disappointed in him, and I'm sure the people of Manitoba will be as well.

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

**MRS. C. OLESON:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to mention to the Minister that during his remarks when he introduced the Estimates for Agriculture, and again I believe this evening he raised the point that the 4-H Club should raise their own funds for specials, for camps and so forth.

I'd like to take issue with that because I was at a do for a 4-H Club from my area last night and that particular 4-H Club had spent a great deal of their time last summer in community service in restoring a park. Now that among many many other things that 4-H Clubs do are very important in communities, and if these people now have to go out and spend their available time raising funds for 4-H activities, I think that is going to be a great loss to the communities involved.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Mr. Minister.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, the honourable member should be aware that in terms of many of the

projects that people in communities are involved in, notwithstanding 4-H, if they want to undertake a fairly extensive project, it will entail the raising of funds, notwithstanding whichever area they may be involved in there may be some raising. The funding for camps is not eliminated, Mr. Chairman, by no means.

The entire budget has been reduced by \$13,000 and it really comes down to the preference of the regions and the people within the regions as to the priorities they wish to set in terms of the continuance of whichever programs. If they feel that part of their costs of camps could be borne by individuals participating in those camps, Mr. Chairman, that's their decision. If they feel that some other area should have less emphasis, that they feel they can get by, that is up to themselves, but in terms of total, it will be a regional decision. It may very well be, Mr. Chairman, that the regions themselves in their global budgets may feel that some other area within the regional expenditures may not come up in terms of what they had estimated they would expend, and monies from other areas within the region can be used for the entire 4-H Program. But we've left it fairly flexible within the regional budgets that they deal with them as they prioritize their needs.

**MRS. C. OLESON:** I just wanted to make the point, Mr. Minister, that I don't think that any of us want the 4-H Clubs to become primarily fund-raising outfits. We want them to continue with the programs, the very excellent programs that they have been ongoing for a number of years, and we don't want them to become a fund-raising operation.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, I have no difficulty with what the honourable member says, that primarily that shouldn't happen. But the honourable members knows that part of growing up and going to school means that there are projects that you may want to undertake, whether it's for a trip somewhere, whether it's for your yearbook, many projects that you're involved in, and 4-H is one of those, that you may have to raise funds in order to do some special work and some additional work, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for Turtle Mountain.

**MR. B. RANSOM:** Mr. Chairman, could I ask the Minister then, did he make these cuts because he thought they were good, that the 4-H members should have to go out and raise money, or did he make these cuts because he didn't think he had the money to fund them?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Mr. Minister.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, any cut, in terms of the provision of services and repriorization, is always a difficult cut to make. There is just no doubt about it. Mr. Chairman, in terms of repriorization and the possibility of regions still continuing on to the level that they had in the past, that will be a regional decision. But in terms of what we have indicated that we felt could be accommodated without affecting the basic program, we did in terms of this cut. But it never is an easy situation.

**MR. B. RANSOM:** Mr. Chairman, can I ask the Minister then, did some of this \$13,000-and-some that was cut back or repriorized in the 4-H Program go to fund the \$47,000 contract for organic farming?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, in terms of our total commitment in the department to income stabilization within the province, one could say that in terms of our overall, our commitment was towards income stabilization in the livestock sector. But in terms of maintaining programs, the basic program, we believe that the program will be maintained, notwithstanding the small reduction.

**MR. B. RANSOM:** \$47,000, I think, seems to have stabilized someone's income, when you get \$47,000 over a six-month contract, Mr. Chairman.

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

**MR. L. HYDE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do want to follow up this little issue that was brought to the attention of the Minister by my colleague, the Member for Gladstone.

I too, was at the dinner that was sponsored by one of our Imperial Banks of Commerce last evening. They honoured some 16 members of the 4-H clubs of the Town of Westbourne and they were honoured for their year's activity, which improved this park that was earlier mentioned. However, I want to say that I was very disappointed that the representative - the Member for Springfield was there representing the government last evening - he spoke and he put praise upon those who voluntarily gave their service, to the leaders and the different supporters that they do have, including the Imperial Bank of Commerce. But then he went on to say how his government, they supported them and all that, but heavens to betsy, what did they do? They reduced their funding \$13,000; they gave the Marxist movement who attended a conference in our province \$7,250.00. I can't understand . . .

**A MEMBER:** That we know of.

**MR. L. HYDE:** . . . that we know of, that's right, and I don't understand how on earth you, as a Minister of the important Department of Agriculture, can let this happen; that you would allow the 4-H membership of the Province of Manitoba reduced \$13,000 and then you would turn around and your government would give the Marxists a \$7,250 grant. It's ridiculous.

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

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Mr. Chairman, a short question to the Minister. What does 4-H mean to the Minister?

**A MEMBER:** That's a good question.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, head, heart, hands and health.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Well, I'm certainly glad that the Minister knows at least four of the words, and I want to tell the Minister just exactly what the correlation is.

The 4-H pledge is: "My head to clearer thinking; my heart to greater loyalty; my hands to greater service; my health to better living for my club, my community and my country." Now the Minister says hear, hear, at the same time that he's cutting back funding to the 4-H clubs that provide that kind of instilled values in the youth in our province and he says, hear, hear, while he's cutting back the funding.

Now, you know, Mr. Chairman, the Minister takes this all quite lightly and no doubt his urban colleagues take it quite likely, too.

**MR. H. HARAPIAK:** No, we don't.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Oh, the Member for The Pas says, no he doesn't. But once again, there's no doubt that the Member for The Pas was silenced, once again around the Cabinet table and around the caucus table, when he protested obviously against the cutting of 4-H funding, he was silenced again. His voice meant nothing to this government representing a rural constituency such as he does.

Now, Mr. Chairman, the 4-H movement of Canada, I'm very proud to say, originated in Roland, Manitoba, and that is in my constituency.

**A MEMBER:** What year?

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** It was before the turn of the century that 4-H originated in this province. The 4-H has created good citizens in rural Manitoba for decade after decade.

**MR. C. MANNES:** For both boys and girls.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Yes. My colleague from Morris says, for both boys and girls and that's right. They learn public speaking. They learn how to debate. They learn how to judge various classes of animals, livestock, vegetables, sewing. They learn how to judge debates. They learn how to judge public speaking. They learn how to run meetings because they get elected to offices within the 4-H clubs. And in running those meetings they learn about democracy first hand. They learn about the value of a properly conducted meeting. How to make a motion. How to debate a motion. How to pass a motion. How to keep funds as treasurers for the 4-H clubs.

The skills they learn in the 4-H movement, is how to care for animals, from beef animals in the beef clubs to various dairy clubs. They learn how to look after gardens in the garden clubs throughout the province. In the seed clubs they learn how to propagate and keep seed varieties pure. They learn various skills in the sewing clubs and in the woodworking clubs of this province.

**MR. H. ENNS:** Right, sewing, knitting.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** They learn good management. Good management practices in all of those endeavours. They learn leadership. They learn good citizenship and probably most important, they are instilled with a sense of achievement because that, Mr. Minister, is why they call them 4-H Achievement Days, where those club members that have worked in their various clubs with

their various endeavours over the past six to eight months go to an Achievement Day to compete openly and in good spirit with other club members from differing clubs, in an Achievement Day, to see which club can put forward the best combination of learned skills, citizenship and leadership.

Now, the Minister must not be able to sleep very well at night when he is willing, and is probably forced by members such as yourself, Mr. Chairman, an urban member who probably has had nothing to do with the 4-H movement in your life, to cut the funding to a club who opens each and every meeting that they hold with the pledge, "that I pledge my head to clearer thinking," something that I will admit is rather foreign to members on the opposite side of the House, where they open that meeting with the pledge of my heart to greater loyalty, something that at least eight members over there don't have too much sympathy with when they participate in demonstrations at which flags are burned.

— (Interjection) —

Well, the Member for Thompson says, that it's justification, because we're in Canada to burn an American flag. Now, isn't that a wonderful analogy that the Member for Thompson is giving us now, that because we're in Canada, we can burn an American flag. Well, go home and tell your people in Thompson that because you're in Canada you can burn an American flag. I'm sure they're not going to agree with you.

So, loyalty, "my heart to greater loyalty" is something that's terribly foreign to at least eight members in that caucus over there. "My hands to greater service." Well, I'm not so sure that members opposite understand what greater service means. And "my health to better living for my club, my community and my country." It's very very interesting that this government in their repriorization, the repriorization pulls money from the 4-H movement, a movement that will develop good citizens in rural Manitoba that this Minister of Agriculture and this government would kick the crutches out from underneath the 4-H movement in this province.

You know, Mr. Chairman, it's interesting to note that the Minister has cut the funding by \$13,000 - and this government is always telling us that we should provide them with suggestions on how they can better spend the taxpayer dollar in this province - I've got a suggestion for the Minister of Agriculture and I want him to answer, where in the world he was around the Cabinet Table when he allowed his colleagues to cut \$13,000 out of 4-H in his repriorization, and bear in mind, ladies and gentlemen, that some 4-H member of a family in rural Manitoba, who may not be terribly well off, is probably going to be deprived of going to summer camp because of this Minister's cutbacks. His repriorization is going to deprive some 4-H member in rural Manitoba, without question, of the opportunity of going to summer camp. Now, I admit summer camps are an evil organization that this government must stomp upon and stop. In their perverted wisdom, no doubt that is a threat to the socialist philosophy of this province.

But this government looks for suggestions, and I'll offer the Minister of Agriculture a suggestion, that the \$13,000 that he cut from 4-H in his repriorization could have been made up in the majority in two very simple ways: he could have stopped his Minister of Cultural

Affairs from giving a \$4,000 grant to the Salvadoran Allende Centre in Winnipeg; he could have stopped his Minister of Cultural Affairs from putting \$1,000 into the Marxist Conference in Winnipeg; he could have stopped his Minister of Education from putting \$3,125 towards the Marxist Conference in Winnipeg; he could have stopped his Minister of Economic Development from putting \$3,125 towards the Marxist Conference in Winnipeg. He would have had \$11,250 to make up for his \$13,000 shortfall in his repriorization of cutting funding from 4-H children and giving it to left-wing organizations and meetings in this Province of Manitoba. These people have given money to the study of Marxism and to the support of the Salvadoran Allende Centre and they have cut the funding to the young people of Manitoba who want to belong to the 4-H Club movement, a movement that instills leadership, achievement, and good citizenship amongst the young people of this province.

If that's repriorization of the New Democratic Party in the Province of Manitoba and how they chose to repriorize spending, where Marxism is in and 4-H is out, then the people of Manitoba are going to say that the NDP are out and sane government should be in. Any Minister of Agriculture worth his salt, able to bring his message to the Cabinet Table in an honest and a forthright way, would never have allowed his colleagues to cut \$13,000 from the 4-H program in his alleged repriorization program, which saw three of his colleagues fork the equivalent amount of money into the study of Marxism in the Province of Manitoba.

This Minister has done many many shameful things and has led the Department of Agriculture in a very dubious way in the last 15 and 16 months that he has been the Minister. He has attempted many half-baked ideas and schemes and he's had to pull back from some of them. But, Mr. Chairman, the cutting of 4-H funding is one of the most despicable things this Minister of Agriculture has ever undertaken, and I believe that this Minister of Agriculture, if he had any integrity, any clout and any power with his Premier and his Cabinet colleagues would immediately restore the funding to 4-H that he has cut out in his repriorization.

This is a shameful mark on the Minister of Agriculture, where he was willing to forget about the children of Manitoba that choose to belong to a 4-H Club to learn the kind of very valuable things that they will need as citizens of Manitoba and citizens of Canada in their adult years. It's shameful, but it clearly demonstrates just where this government's priorities really are. They don't care about the children of rural Manitoba, they care about Marxist scholars more. They don't care about the development of good citizenship of Manitoba, they care more about promoting an ideology that oppresses people. That's what they really want. — (Interjection) — Oh, the Minister says, that's garbage, but he can't justify why he dropped \$13,000 in funding. He cannot offer one simple justification for cutting \$13,000 and allowing three of his colleagues to put over \$11,000 into the promotion of Marxism.

Mr. Chairman, I'll offer the Minister one further suggestion, to more than make up the difference and indeed increase the funding to 4-H, all the Minister had to do was cut his extravagant desire to drive the most expensive car a Minister of the province has ever driven in the history of this province. And to buy a car instead

of paying \$3,000 more than a comparable car driven by our leader bought at a same period of time, those \$3,000 could have been added to the \$11,250 that are gone to promote Socialism and Marxism in the province and increase the funding to 4-H. But no, this Minister wants to drive in the most expensive car that a Minister has ever bought in this province and see funding go to Marxism in the Province of Manitoba.

Some repriorization, Mr. Chairman, I know it doesn't mean anything to you, but some repriorization. And you people in government should be truly ashamed of yourself if you had any care for the future citizens of this province.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, the honourable member, I believe, really belittles the quality of the youth of this province by his assessment of their so-called inability to be able to carry on the program. It's as if, Mr. Chairman, we were in fact taking away mother's milk from the younger children by the sounds of the honourable member's speech. Mr. Chairman, that's exactly the tenor of the thrust of the member's remarks, that somehow we were taking the life-blood of the youth that are involved in 4-H by this reduction of \$13,000.00.

Mr. Chairman, the same amount of money that the members opposite have used in about umpteen examples every time that there is an expenditure, where that money could have been used towards. The honourable members will continue, I'm sure, to make their points in this debate in terms of the expenditures of funds to areas in this province and organizations, but to suggest, as the honourable member has suggested, that somehow we are here promoting one group or the downfall of democracy, in fact, by what we are doing, Mr. Chairman, is most downright low gutter politics that I have ever seen coming from the Honourable Member for Pembina.

Mr. Chairman, I guess I shouldn't expect anything else from that member and maybe some other members, but I still have some faith that some of the honourable members have some integrity and sense of fairness in terms of public debate in this Chamber, Mr. Chairman. But, Mr. Chairman, the fact of the matter is the youth of our province will continue to have as good a 4-H program as they ever have, Mr. Chairman.

There is no doubt that the regions will have to make a decision in terms of their activities whether they want to use funds from other areas, in terms of continuing the camps but, Mr. Chairman, I don't believe it's unreasonable in terms of funding, that there be some local initiative and it hasn't.

You see the Honourable Member for Pembina leads one to believe that there is no longer any local initiative on behalf of the youth of this province; that they can't do anything for themselves. That can't be further from the fact of the matter, Mr. Chairman.

During these difficult times, Mr. Chairman, youth of this province who are our future, who through 4-H and the various community projects that they will be involved in, will show the Honourable Member for Pembina and other honourable members of what they are really made, Mr. Chairman. They will show that they will have one of the best programs that any group in this province can provide notwithstanding the negative criticisms and negative carpings of the members opposite.

**MR. B. RANSOM:** Mr. Chairman, I know I've received calls of concern about this 4-H area. I'm wondering if the Minister can tell us, has he had an opportunity to sit down with representatives of the leaders of 4-H clubs in Manitoba, and does he have their approval of this kind of cut, their assurance, that as he says they're going to be able to carry in the same quality of programming that they had before?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, I have met on numerous occasions with the 4-H leaders, the aides and the like, and have indicated that they have been affected in terms of budget reductions as many other areas of our expenditures. To say that anyone holus-bolus agrees with any reduction of funds, Mr. Chairman, no one likes to have any reduction of funds per se. There's no one that's going to say to you, you have our blessing and we agree with everything that you do in terms of dealing with budgets.

But, Mr. Chairman, as I've indicated there is some flexibility within regions in terms of their overall budgets, that if it is maintained that the 4-H Program in those regions cannot be maintained as desired, there are other areas that the regions can allocate from their global budgets, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. B. RANSOM:** I believe the Minister made the statement that he was hopeful that the same high quality of programming could be carried out by the 4-H Program.

I want to know from the Minister, did he in meeting with representatives of the 4-H movement, the 4-H council, or whatever the body of representatives would be, does he have the assurance from them that having cut \$13,000 that they will be able to meet that objective that the Minister has of carrying out the same high quality programming?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, it is our hope in terms of our discussions and our staff discussion with the leaders that they certainly can provide the program and live with these reductions.

**MR. B. RANSOM:** Mr. Chairman, the Minister doesn't seem to want to answer the question. I asked him, does he have the assurance from the 4-H leaders?

Now if he doesn't have the assurance all he has to say is, no, I don't have it. If he does have, say so.

What he gives me is he hopes they'll be able to carry on. Well, I hope they'll be able to carry on too, but I don't know how they're going to be able to do it with a cut of \$13,000.

I know that this government prides itself on having open doors. We're told by the Minister of Government Services that the reason the building looks dirty all the time is there's so many more people coming in to talk to this government.

Well, when some of the 4-H people came in to talk to the government, did they tell them, yes, Mr. Minister, if you cut \$13,000 we'll still be able to carry on the same level of programming?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, we have been advised by the leaders that they can live with these cuts.

**A MEMBER:** Answer the question, Billy. Answer the question.

**MR. B. RANSOM:** What choice have they got.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 5.(a)(1)—pass; 5.(a)(2) - The Member for Morris.

**MR. C. MANNES:** Mr. Chairman, I'm not going to ask you a question specifically to this line but I notice that the second part in every one of the regionals starting from (a) right down to (f) has been decreased by a proportional amount.

Maybe the Minister can tell us why the Other Expenditures within all the regions and within Item (a) Administration, have all been cut, maybe you can tell us to reflect what?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, part of the reductions were to, as I've indicated at the beginning of the Estimates, were to cover the health and post-secondary education levy as well as arrangements dealing with travelling and the like within the regions. They're general reductions that staff have indicated they should be able to live within the budget guidelines in terms of the provision of services, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. C. MANNES:** Well, for further clarification, I'm sorry, I missed part of the answer. Could you be a little bit more specific? What items do they feel that they could restrain within the departments that would allow for this saving? Travelling did he say?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, part of it is travelling; part of it is overall general tightening up in terms of administration; and part of it is the health and post-secondary level of education; part of it the 4-H budget of \$13,000 spread throughout all the regional budgets.

**MR. C. MANNES:** Well, how can there be a saving in the payroll tax, Mr. Chairman? This tax hasn't been removed and if it's been pulled out of this area, where has it been transferred?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, at the opening of our Estimates I indicated there was a global sum that would be generally reduced through the whole department - it's \$370-odd thousand that has been transferred to an appropriation in, I believe, the Civil Service Commission appropriation. These funds are reflected in reductions in the actual departmental budgets.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 5.(a)(2)—pass; 5.(b)(1)—pass; 5.(b)(2)—pass; 5.(c)(1)—pass; 5.(c)(2)—pass; 5.(d)(1)—pass; 5.(d)(2)—pass; 5.(e)(1)—pass; 5.(e)(2)—pass; 5.(f)(1)—pass; 5.(f)(2)—pass; 5.(g)(1) - Mr. Minister.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** I think there's the will to have Committee rise, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Committee rise.