



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

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

31-32 Elizabeth II

*Published under the
authority of
The Honourable D. James Welding
Speaker*



MG-8048

VOL. XXXI No. 39B - 8:00 p.m., TUESDAY, 5 APRIL, 1983.

MANITOBA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
Thirty-Second Legislature

Members, Constituencies and Political Affiliation

Name	Constituency	Party
ADAM, Hon. A.R. (Pete)	Ste. Rose	NDP
ANSTETT, Andy	Springfield	NDP
ASHTON, Steve	Thompson	NDP
BANMAN, Robert (Bob)	La Verendrye	PC
BLAKE, David R. (Dave)	Minnedosa	PC
BROWN, Arnold	Rhineland	PC
BUCKLASCHUK, John M.	Gimli	NDP
CARROLL, Q.C., Henry N.	Brandon West	IND
CORRIN, Brian	Ellice	NDP
COWAN, Hon. Jay	Churchill	NDP
DESJARDINS, Hon. Laurent	St. Boniface	NDP
DODICK, Doreen	Riel	NDP
DOERN, Russell	Elmwood	NDP
DOLIN, Mary Beth	Kildonan	NDP
DOWNEY, James E.	Arthur	PC
DRIEDGER, Albert	Emerson	PC
ENNS, Harry	Lakeside	PC
EVANS, Hon. Leonard S.	Brandon East	NDP
EYLER, Phil	River East	NDP
FILMON, Gary	Tuxedo	PC
FOX, Peter	Concordia	NDP
GOURLAY, D.M. (Doug)	Swan River	PC
GRAHAM, Harry	Virden	PC
HAMMOND, Gerrie	Kirkfield Park	PC
HARAPIAK, Harry M.	The Pas	NDP
HARPER, Elijah	Rupertsland	NDP
HEMPHILL, Hon. Maureen	Logan	NDP
HYDE, Lloyd	Portage la Prairie	PC
JOHNSTON, J. Frank	Sturgeon Creek	PC
KOSTYRA, Hon. Eugene	Seven Oaks	NDP
KOVNATS, Abe	Niakwa	PC
LECUYER, Gérard	Radisson	NDP
LYON, Q.C., Hon. Sterling	Charleswood	PC
MACKLING, Q.C., Hon. Al	St. James	NDP
MALINOWSKI, Donald M.	St. Johns	NDP
MANNES, Clayton	Morris	PC
McKENZIE, J. Wally	Roblin-Russell	PC
MERCIER, Q.C., G.W.J. (Gerry)	St. Norbert	PC
NORDMAN, Rurik (Ric)	Assiniboia	PC
OLESON, Charlotte	Gladstone	PC
ORCHARD, Donald	Pembina	PC
PAWLEY, Q.C., Hon. Howard R.	Selkirk	NDP
PARASIUK, Hon. Wilson	Transcona	NDP
PENNER, Q.C., Hon. Roland	Fort Rouge	NDP
PHILLIPS, Myrna A.	Wolseley	NDP
PLOHMAN, John	Dauphin	NDP
RANSOM, A. Brian	Turtle Mountain	PC
SANTOS, Conrad	Burrows	NDP
SCHROEDER, Hon. Vic	Rossmere	NDP
SCOTT, Don	Inkster	NDP
SHERMAN, L.R. (Bud)	Fort Garry	PC
SMITH, Hon. Muriel	Osborne	NDP
STEEN, Warren	River Heights	PC
STORIE, Jerry T.	Flin Flon	NDP
URUSKI, Hon. Bill	Interlake	NDP
USKIW, Hon. Samuel	Lac du Bonnet	NDP
WALDING, Hon. D. James	St. Vital	NDP

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Tuesday, 5 April, 1983.

Time — 8:00 p.m.

CONCURRENT COMMITTEES OF SUPPLY SUPPLY - LABOUR

MR. CHAIRMAN, C. Santos: We are on Item 2.(b)(1)—pass; 2(b)(2)—pass; 2.(c)(1)
The Member for St. Norbert.

MR. G. MERCIER: I think the Minister wants to make a comment.

A MEMBER: Does the Minister wish to say anything?

HON. M. DOLIN: No, I don't think it's necessary to introduce this section.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Turtle Mountain.

MR. B. RANSOM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd just like to ask the Minister a fairly general question in this area because I am sure she is aware, as I was aware when we were in government, of the difficulties that were being generated by the application of the fire code in arenas, especially in rural areas. There were situations and there are situations in the rural areas at least with which I'm familiar of where, once the operators of the arena undertake to make some improvements to it, there seems to be almost no end to the higher standards that have to be met. Communities have ended up spending far more money than they had ever expected to have to spend, far more money actually than the grants that were available even to pay for them, and there does seem to be many applications that don't really seem to make sense to most people.

Just as one minor example of the case in the arena in Boissevain, for instance, where there are metal posts supporting the upper floor, and they're told that they have to box in the metal posts with fireproof board because of the fact that a fire would eventually melt the metal posts and have the floor collapse. To most people, their feeling is there really isn't going to be anybody around by the time those metal posts collapse, and if they are, they're not going to be worth salvaging. By the time a metal post has been heated to the point where it's going to melt, the chances of anybody surviving under those circumstances are about nil.

To the best of my knowledge, there has never been a case in Western Canada, at least, where anyone has lost their life in a fire in an arena. There have been lots of arenas burned down, but to the best of my knowledge, there has never been anyone lose their life. So it's hard to make a case that life and limb are seriously threatened if some of these changes aren't made. I know from experience with the Souris Arena, for instance, when the Minister and Deputy and others went out and went through the arena and worked through some of the recommendations that had been

made and came up, finally, with some compromises that seemed reasonable at the time.

As a general question to the Minister, I would ask her what sort of reaction she is getting from communities generally; whether she thinks that the code may be too stringent; whether she's considering any kind of review of the code to see whether there could be something more practical put in place?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

HON. M. DOLIN: In the Boissevain situation that the member describes, I believe a solution has been reached for those people. In fact, whenever a complaint is brought by a municipality, if it is brought by a municipality or a group in the situation such as the member describes, that is dealt with. We have sometimes gone out and made sure that all of the people instructing those who are doing the renovations or the building, whatever it is, are co-ordinated in their approach to fire safety and building safety. You have two different codes, of course, that the building must comply with; one is the building code and the other is the fire code. I think co-ordination is an important issue. Whenever a specific complaint is raised over inability to pay for the renovations that have been indicated as necessary, or conflicting opinions of inspectors, and so on, we deal with that case and work with the people involved to reach a solution that is acceptable to all.

In general, I really can't make a statement on it. I certainly don't think it's appropriate to say that we're going to slack off on the fire code because people don't wish to comply with it or are finding it expensive to comply with or whatever. I think we have to deal with each situation as it arises.

MR. B. RANSOM: Mr. Chairman, that, in all due respect, seems to me to be an answer that is perhaps generated by the system, that maybe the Minister hasn't yet been exposed herself to some of the real problems that are encountered out there. It's easy to say that we do our best to work out these problems, but I can tell you from first-hand experience that they have gone on and on and on in many cases, that the local people are at their wits' end with frustration because of problems they're having in understanding what needs to be done and then in finally getting it done. I don't really wish to get into the individual problems as they're encountered, because what it really boils down to is the application of the code. A code, in my view after all, is only something that should be arrived at to serve the interests of people, to accomplish some purpose that people want to see accomplished. Just because there is a code doesn't necessarily mean that's the best code that could ever be, or that it shouldn't be changed.

So the general question was, has the Minister felt any need or any pressure to examine it to see if it is really doing what one would hope that it would do. Is it going farther than it's necessary to go? I get the

impression now that there are situations out there where people don't want to touch anything in the existing arenas, for instance, because they know from experience of other communities what it's going to lead to; that once they begin to make changes, they are going to have never-ending changes to make. So, nothing is done. What purpose is served by having that sort of thing happen in the country where people in charge just feel that they aren't touch it because they're going to open up something that they can't deal with, that it's beyond their financial means to deal with. I think we're going to see within a fairly short period of time situations where perhaps rural rinks and arenas are going to be shut down because they can't afford to upgrade to the standards that are required, and since no upgrading is being done in some cases, they are deteriorating faster than would otherwise be the case.

HON. M. DOLIN: Well, I think the member is aware that changes to the fire code are recommended to us by the Fire Advisory Committee. There is an Advisory Committee of people who are familiar with this field; who certainly can hear representations from groups who feel that the code is too strict in one area, or not strict enough in another. That is one avenue that people have for expressing their opinion and having that opinion then come in the form of a recommendation to the government.

The fire code itself is constantly under scrutiny and is monitored as to its effectiveness and so on. There are meetings not only in Manitoba, but across the country, with the national fire code and so on. We work to maintain a compliance with that code as well. The fire code is just that, but it's there for a reason. I think the member is quite aware of the reason for having a fire code in the first place.

I think that with an advisory group such as the Fire Advisory Committee available and being assured that certainly my office is ready to receive any indications from municipalities or groups that are involved in renovations of an arena, or whatever, with regard to the application of the fire code, with those invitations there for the acceptance of their complaints, opinions, concerns, we have a very open-door policy to that. I'm not sure what the member is suggesting that we should be doing other than that.

MR. B. RANSOM: I am suggesting what is happening out there is really beyond what would seem by all measures of common sense to be required. I suppose there is almost no end to how far one can go in trying to prevent an accident from happening, from injury or death from occurring, but in these cases, to the best of my knowledge, over the past decades even, there has never been a case where anyone has lost their life in an arena fire. So, it is very difficult, I believe, to say that all this is really essential in order to protect life and limb. I mean it is one thing to have good exits and lighting systems and that sort of thing for people to get out, but when you finally get around to the point where you have to begin to box in a metal support because it's going to melt and have the roof fall in on somebody in an arena waiting room, it strikes the average person, that that is going beyond reason. I am sorry I used that phrase, that may be a . . .

HON. M. DOLIN: We'll remember it.

MR. B. RANSOM: I am sure the Minister must have had complaints about it because I have run into so much frustration on the part of people dealing with these arenas. Now, if the Minister is telling me that if people make submissions and she is prepared to look at those and indeed it might be possible to see changes made, fine, I am glad to hear that. I don't want to be criticizing staff for enforcing rules that politicians have passed. You can't expect to pass laws and regulations and then tell the staff not to enforce them. What I am talking about is evaluating the laws and the regulations that have been passed to see if they are serving a purpose that the public would really want them to serve.

HON. M. DOLIN: All I can say to the member is to reiterate what I said before and refer particularly to the issue that he is raising as an example and that's the Boissevain situation where upon receiving a complaint about the strict enforcement of, actually it was the Building Code that deals with those posts. There was agreement reached, I suppose not entirely to the satisfaction of our people enforcing the code, but to the municipality's satisfaction. My understanding is that the difference in usage of the building and the upstairs is going to be used for parties and so on, social events, was the reason for the change in requirements in the renovations, or the change that had to do with the structure and the posts that upheld it and so on. But that situation was dealt with and that is the way that we handle these cases. If there is not satisfaction or if there is concern on the part of the people doing the renovations, all they have to do is let us know that and we will deal with it on a one-to-one basis.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 2.(c)(1)—pass; 2.(c)(2)—pass; 2.(d)(1) - the Member for St. Norbert.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, does the Minister have anything she wishes to comment on?

HON. M. DOLIN: I will just introduce this branch, if you will, by saying that they are responsible for the administration and enforcement of legislation that concerns minimum standards relating to matters such as hours of work, vacations with pay, general holidays, wages and their payment, and so on. There's no request for a change in staffing for this branch this year.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, could the Minister advise as to how much money was paid out under the Payment of Wages Fund during the fiscal year '82-83?

HON. M. DOLIN: At this point, \$407,000 has been paid out in the '82-83 fiscal year. That's not the absolute, final number; it will be somewhat higher than that.

MR. G. MERCIER: I believe \$150,000 was budgeted for the fiscal year '82-83.

HON. M. DOLIN: That's right.

MR. G. MERCIER: How much is budgeted in '83-84?

HON. M. DOLIN: \$700,000.00.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, the Annual Report indicates that the branch, upon receipt of a complaint with respect to unpaid wages, will attempt to recover the outstanding monies from the employer. However, if such recovery is thwarted or results in a protracted battle, the fund is utilized to ensure payment to employees as quickly as possible.

In a newspaper article last June, it was indicated by Mr. Moggey that if all reasonable efforts to recover money have been exhausted and a period of 30 days elapses, the employee is entitled to recover his wages up to a maximum of \$1,200 from a government fund established by the Conservative administration the previous year.

Today, I asked the Minister, Mr. Chairman, some questions with respect to claims involving Terry Balkan Chevrolet-Oldsmobile Ltd., in which it appears that the Employment Standards Division ordered Mr. Balkan to pay his employees some \$79,000 last October. Mr. Balkan appealed the order to the Labour Board and they reduced the amount by \$10,000 and he's now apparently appealing the order to the County Court. But in the meanwhile, the employees have not received any money. Can the Minister explain, in view of the statements in the Annual Report, that the fund is utilized to ensure payments to employees as quickly as possible, in the statement I quoted in the newspaper, quoting Mr. Moggey, why have the employees not been paid from the Payment of Wages Fund?

HON. M. DOLIN: Because the matter is before the court.

MR. G. MERCIER: But it seems to me that under the legislation the employees could be paid and enforcement proceedings could be taken against Mr. Balkan.

HON. M. DOLIN: The order of the Labour Board was disputed, and that's what's before the courts. Now, the courts may determine that there should be more or less paid, they may make another determination, and we cannot pay monies out of the fund and settle this matter until the court makes its decision.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, I would suggest that the courts may determine that either Mr. Balkan or the company have to pay the employees, and as to what amounts but, in the meanwhile, it seems to me that under this whole proposal, and this whole scheme that we established, the employees could be paid immediately, otherwise, it's almost a useless endeavour. The idea was to provide some money to the employees for lost wages as soon as possible.

HON. M. DOLIN: What is in dispute is the Labour Board ruling. Now, I would certainly hope that the courts would not overturn the Labour Board ruling, but that in fact, I suppose, could happen. They could also determine that a lesser amount, a greater amount, could be owed to the employees. When the matter is before the Court we can't proceed. It has to be settled before the court and then we can proceed. But what is in dispute is the Labour Board ruling.

MR. G. MERCIER: There appears to me to be something wrong here. I'm not sure, under what Act has the Labour Board made this ruling?

HON. M. DOLIN: Under The Payment of Wages Act.

MR. G. MERCIER: Is the Minister telling me that in every other case where some \$457,000 in monies have been paid out in the last fiscal year, that the Employment Standards Division has waited until they have an order from the Labour Board?

HON. M. DOLIN: To the best of my knowledge there's only been one other situation that was challenged that went before the courts. The others, the Labour Board makes a ruling and the employee (sic) either pays or it's paid out of the fund if the employee (sic) doesn't pay and then we try to recover it, so we don't get into this kind of a situation. But in this particular case, the ruling of the Labour Board has been challenged.

MR. G. MERCIER: Does the department wait in every case for an order from the Labour Board before it pays any money out of the Payment of Wages Fund?

HON. M. DOLIN: Not necessarily. If it's not contested, then it doesn't have to go before the Labour Board.

MR. G. MERCIER: My understanding of this whole fund is that it was designed to provide payment up to \$1,200 to employees who, for some reason or other, had not been paid by their employer, and that usually involved a few weeks pay that was very recent, and that this money was paid to the employees and the steps to recover the money really came second. If the money is paid out right now to the employees, cannot the action to recover from Balkan, or the company, or whoever, can still survive, can it not?

HON. M. DOLIN: Well, whether or not we consider that the ruling of the Labour Board was a correct one, I think is probably not relevant at this point. Obviously the owners of Terry Balkan Chev Olds feel that they have a right to appeal, which they do, that decision, and that is what they are doing, and the way that they appeal that is by taking it to court, challenging it, and that is where the situation is now. I'm sure that the member is aware that when that procedure takes place, that takes precedence over anything else; that's the procedure that you then must wait for. That's the court of appeal and so on, and that decision must be rendered. To act on the decision of the Labour Board without having the court case heard would not be proper.

MR. G. MERCIER: The fact of the matter is that under the Payment of Wages Fund, the employees are entitled to compensation up to \$1,200 for lost wages. Whether Mr. Balkan is responsible for that, personally, or the company, or to what degree he is responsible, is that not something that can be determined later and through these court proceedings but, in the meanwhile, the employees can be paid?

HON. M. DOLIN: Normally when there is a court proceeding under way, as the member knows, there is

a stay or a hold on all other proceedings. That's what we're talking about here. Also, in the past it has happened that a court decision has lessened the amount payable to the employees. We don't know whether that will happen in this case or not. But once an appeal is before the court on a decision of the Labour Board, then we have to wait to see whether the court is going to uphold or overturn that decision.

MR. G. MERCIER: Is the question before the courts whether Balkan is responsible personally or the company is responsible, or is the question as to how much is owing?

HON. M. DOLIN: The appeal is apparently whether Balkan is responsible himself for the payment of these wages.

MR. G. MERCIER: That's what I was saying then, Mr. Chairman, if it's a question of whether it's Balkan or the company, then that can be decided through the court action. In the meanwhile, employees should be compensated and the division can take action against whoever the court decides is responsible, at a later date. But, in the meanwhile, employees are suffering while the courts decide whether it's Balkan or the company.

HON. M. DOLIN: What is also in dispute is the amount owed. As I have said, that can be changed. It has been changed sometimes in the past. We don't know whether it will be changed in this case.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, I would urge the Minister to look into this matter perhaps in some greater detail that's available to her through her department, because it seems to me to be an injustice to the workers, created in the way in which this is being handled. The intention was to provide compensation to the workers and the legal actions to recover take place, they're important, certainly, and if there's a possibility of recovery then every action should be taken, but that is secondary.

Mr. Chairman, could the Minister indicate whether or not she plans on making legislative changes to The Payment of Wages Act at this session of the Legislature?

HON. M. DOLIN: Yes.

MR. G. MERCIER: And what changes would those be?

HON. M. DOLIN: Basically, the changes will affect the priority given to wages.

MR. G. MERCIER: How?

HON. M. DOLIN: It will give wages a higher priority than they have now.

MR. G. MERCIER: Over what?

HON. M. DOLIN: Over secured creditors; in cases of receiverships and so on.

MR. G. MERCIER: Does she - the Minister is being very vague, Mr. Chairman, it's difficult to deal with this

unless she's going to be specific. Will The Payment of Wages Act give priority over mortgages against property?

HON. M. DOLIN: I think that the member has to understand that we are ready to put the legislation on the Order Paper as soon as it is printed, and that detail will be available to him then.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 2.(d)(1) - The Member for Turtle Mountain.

MR. B. RANSOM: Mr. Chairman, sometime ago the Minister was kind enough to meet with me to discuss a problem that some of my constituents had and I subsequently wrote a letter to the Minister in January outlining this problem, and I think I should put some of it on the record here as to the background to it before proceeding to ask the Minister some further questions.

Last summer, there were 18 young people employed by a person in my constituency to help dismantle a grain elevator. These people had not been paid by the time this person went bankrupt. Six of those 18 young people had knowledge of the Payment of Wages Fund and made application to be paid from the fund within the time that was required by the Act. Those six people claimed in total at the time, \$1,312.84; they were subsequently reimbursed a total of \$3,075.27 because the rate of pay was not according to standard. The other 12 people were late in applying to be paid out of the Payment of Wages Fund because they had no knowledge that there even was a Payment of Wages Fund in existence. Some of these people had been directed to this job by the local job office, so that there seemed to be some feeling on their part that they were going to be advised, looked after - whatever you wish to describe it in terms of the problem that they had - especially once they learned that some of the people who had been employed were evidently going to be paid from the Payment of Wages Fund. Because one or more of the 18 was to be paid, the rest assumed that they also would be paid because they didn't understand the legalities of the situation involved.

As it happened, one or more of those 12 were subsequently advised that because they had missed the deadline, the case was closed, the file was closed and they would not be paid. So, the point that was arrived at then was that six of the 18 had not only been paid what they thought was due to them, they were actually paid over twice as much as they thought they had coming to them, and the other 12 were paid nothing.

Now, my question to the Minister was, would she consider taking some kind of action to see that these other 12 young people were treated in what anybody would regard as an equitable way and be paid out of the fund, even if that required the Minister to bring in an Act of the Legislature to extend the period of time for applying because I think the period to apply was simply one of administrative convenience, nothing especially significant about the period of time of 30 days that had been established. Because this fund was new, of course, and most of these young people were young people and hadn't been in the labour force to any extent, they had no knowledge that the fund existed.

My question now to the Minister is, what does she see happening by way of ensuring that these 12 young people will be paid the wages from the Payment of Wages Fund as were the other six of the 18.

HON. M. DOLIN: As I responded to the member on March 2nd by letter, we have included all the people on the list, all the young people he mentioned, in the investigation of this particular matter. The department is filing a Proof of Claim with the Trustee and as soon as we have verification from the Trustee, we will be making payment to these young people, all of them, out of the Payment of Wages Fund. My copy of that letter is dated March 2nd.

MR. B. RANSOM: I'm glad to hear that the payment will be made, Mr. Chairman. The letter that I have doesn't indicate that. It says that additional orders under The Payment of Wages Act will be issued to this person's brother. It doesn't say that the people will be paid out of the fund. Now the Minister is assuring me that this payment will be made?

HON. M. DOLIN: Yes.

MR. B. RANSOM: Can she give any indication of how long that might be as to when that could be done?

HON. M. DOLIN: As soon as we receive confirmation from the Trustee the payment will be made.

MR. B. RANSOM: I'm sorry, what kind of confirmation is required from the Trustee?

HON. M. DOLIN: That the amounts are correct. We need confirmation from the Trustee that the amounts are correct and then we will pay the money out.

MR. B. RANSOM: Just for information then, was that confirmation provided earlier for the other six people?

HON. M. DOLIN: In case of a bankruptcy, we always get confirmation from the Trustee regarding the payment of wages so that procedure would have been followed for them as well. This was a bankruptcy case as you are aware.

MR. B. RANSOM: Could the Minister hazard a guess then, as to why the Trustee seems to be taking so long to confirm this because earlier I gathered that the other six people must have received a rather quick confirmation because they received their money in reasonably good time. This has now been active for some period.

HON. M. DOLIN: The second group of young people to which you are referring did not apply with the first group under The Payment of Wages Act so there was a delay in the application to the Public Trustee for confirmation of the amount to be paid. The letter to you confirming that that had gone forward was written on March 2nd. It usually takes about a month to go through the procedure of having the Trustee verify the claim and have it get back to us and the payout be made. That month has elapsed and I would suggest that payment is imminent.

MR. B. RANSOM: Mr. Chairman, then I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the Minister for handling this situation in this fashion because up to the point that it had been brought to her attention, the 12 people were not going to be paid out of the fund and it did appear that there would be a very inequitable situation. I'm sure that they will be very happy to learn that they will be treated in a way that everyone would perceive as fair. I thank the Minister for her work.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 2.(d)(1)—pass. The Member for St. Norbert.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, could the Minister advise whether there have been any changes in membership on the Minimum Wage Board?

HON. M. DOLIN: There haven't been any changes on the Minimum Wage Board to this date.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, the last recommendation made to the Minister of Labour was March 3, 1982, with respect to a review of the minimum wage for Manitoba. Has the Minister received a further report recommending - or not recommending any changes in the minimum wage?

HON. M. DOLIN: The Board has not made a recommendation to me since I have become Minister of Labour.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, is the Minister seeking a recommendation or expecting to receive a recommendation shortly with respect to changes in the minimum wage?

HON. M. DOLIN: The matter of the minimum wage is under consideration now. The process that the Board goes through is that it only meets at those times when it is called into action if you will, to make a determination or a recommendation on a particular issue. So, that kind of situation will exist now. The matter of minimum wage is under consideration at this point.

MR. G. MERCIER: Has the Minister called them into action?

HON. M. DOLIN: No, not at this point.

MR. G. MERCIER: When does the Minister expect to receive a recommendation then?

HON. M. DOLIN: As soon after I ask them for one.

MR. G. MERCIER: When does the Minister expect to ask them for one?

HON. M. DOLIN: As soon after I finish Estimates. I don't have much time in my office right now.

MR. G. MERCIER: Is it the intention of the Minister to follow the majority report of the Minimum Wage Board, or does she have her own personal views?

HON. M. DOLIN: I would certainly have to wait until a recommendation was made before I could even hazard a guess on answering that question.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, for the benefit of others, I only raise that question because last year the Minister followed the minority report of the Minimum Wage Board and not the majority report.

HON. M. DOLIN: It seems to me that's the option of the Minister or the government.

MR. G. MERCIER: It was for the first time, I think.

HON. M. DOLIN: Well, we're innovative. That's right. We're not followers, we're leaders.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, last year we discussed with the then Minister whether or not the Minister was going to introduce legislation related to the protection of young night staff; the Minister said that was under study.

HON. M. DOLIN: I believe you are talking about the legislation related to workers working alone. That legislation or recommendation for legislation, or whatever, will be brought forward by the Minister responsible for Workplace, Health and Safety. We have been working very closely with that department, but that is the department that is responsible for Workplace, Safety Legislation. That is where it will be brought forward.

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

MR. D. ORCHARD: To the Minister, I am not sure I'm in the right section, whether (e) or (d) would be the right one. I don't want to do anything that would have the Chairman calling me out of order. So, is this where one would discuss issues relating to The Construction Industry Wages Act?

HON. M. DOLIN: Yes.

MR. D. ORCHARD: —(Interjection) — Mr. Chairman, if the Minister of Cultural Affairs, keeps it up, he's not going to win the smiling contest. He's entirely too jovial lately.

To the Minister, is the Minister aware of activities I assume of, I don't know whether they're inspectors or what their positions are within the department, that are calling upon the various municipal offices and finding fault with the hiring practices of some of the municipal offices in terms of their employment of their equipment operators and requiring the municipalities to bring their employees under the wage schedules that are negotiated and published under The Construction Industry Wages Act?

HON. M. DOLIN: Yes, I am aware of the situation that the member describes, although I don't believe it is exactly as he has described. I don't think that our inspectors are questioning the employment practices, but rather they are making sure there is compliance with The Construction Wages Act in the payment of municipal employees. However, there is a complicating factor here and that is that some municipalities employ these people year-round and they do so for several

different jobs. That is an issue that I have discussed with the Union of Manitoba Municipalities, and have indicated to them that we have taken this concern under advisement and I have referred it to the Construction Wages Board as an issue that is slightly different from the one that they deal with when they design the construction wages and make recommendations for the wages to be included in that Act.

MR. D. ORCHARD: The Minister has referred the issue for review. In the meantime, are there any orders being made by her department to require municipal councils or municipalities to comply completely with The Construction Wages Act and require them to pay certain employees more money?

HON. M. DOLIN: If there have been underpayments under the Act - according to the Act if there have been underpayments made, yes, then the department does issue an order to comply with the Act.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Are there a number of these orders outstanding right now?

HON. M. DOLIN: The majority of such orders have been complied with at this point.

MR. D. ORCHARD: I think the Minister has gotten herself into a bit of a problem with this. I don't fault the Minister, because I don't think she's aware that it was necessarily happening and I certainly don't think she would have directed it.

The municipalities in their hiring practices over a number of years have built up a staff of competent people who undertake probably two or three different types of work for the municipality, from snowploughing in the wintertime to road maintenance, even road construction, in the summertime. Now, these people who have been there for a long time prefer to be paid not on an hourly basis according to the hours they work, but they like to have their income spread out over a 12-month period. They are, by and large, satisfied with their salary packages. They may work 60 hours certain weeks in the summer and 10 or 15 hours, or maybe none, some weeks in the wintertime. Now, the Minister, in requiring the municipalities to comply to the letter of the law here, are creating some interesting contrasts amongst the employees. I'll give you an example.

In one municipality, the employee that had been there approximately 20 years, I suppose, is making somewhere in the neighbourhood of \$18,000.00. Now, in his classification according to your Heavy Construction Wage Act, he should be paid 22,080 hours at \$8.15, and he comes in being paid that. Now, they've hired on a young man, and this young fellow, they want to keep him year-round because he's got potential. Last summer was his first summer. He only worked a few months of the year, and they've kept him on year-round. He did run some pieces of heavy equipment, which would qualify him for the \$8.15, and the board has made the ruling that because he is still employed, that you must guarantee him that minimum of 2,080 hours. So here is the 20-year person getting paid \$18,000; and by the directive of your board, the fellow

that just got hired on last year as a brand new worker is also going to be getting in the neighbourhood of that \$18,000 per year.

The option that you're forcing the municipalities to undertake is to disrupt their normal hiring practices and hire this person only by hourly wage rates, and then come fall, lay him off and put him on unemployment insurance or whatever other means of support he may have. The employee doesn't want that; the municipality doesn't want that; the only people that want that is your department. I think the municipalities make very strong and legitimate arguments that their hiring practices have not been to the disadvantage of the employee. They have in most cases been to his benefit, because he has preferred to be on a 12 equal-monthly payment so that he doesn't have an up and a down in income and, indeed, that he isn't laid off in the wintertime. I think the Minister can appreciate in the wintertime a staff of five is probably not needed; a staff of two would take care of most of the winter work; but a staff of five is needed in some municipalities for the summertime; but they're attempting to provide year-round employment and that attempt is being thwarted by a ruling from your department.

I think the municipalities make a legitimate case that they should not fall under this Act, because if they do fall under, they'll comply with it to the letter of the law, pay hourly wages and, as I say, lay off in the off months. I don't think that's to the advantage of the worker.

I would ask the Minister if she would not require any further compliance with the Act, any outstanding orders to put a hold on them, until you take a look at the way of resolving this problem, because it is a serious problem for the municipalities.

HON. M. DOLIN: Well, Mr. Chairman, I think I have answered this question very fully, and I don't understand really why the member is reiterating and restating everything again.

I have said that the issue was discussed with the principals involved. I personally discussed it with the representatives of the Union of Manitoba Municipalities. They expressed their concern to me. I have referred the issue to the Construction Wages Board. The staff of the department certainly does not make up these rules. We have an Act which they are charged with monitoring and enforcing. The Act itself has been referred to the Labour Law Review, and may or may not be changed within the next little while.

All of these things are taking place, and I'm sure that the concerns that the member has expressed are being dealt with. It is being given serious consideration on two different levels and a solution will be reached.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is the Member for Pembina through with this line of questioning?

MR. D. ORCHARD: No, I'm not, Mr. Chairman. Are there any outstanding compliance orders that haven't been paid yet?

HON. M. DOLIN: I can get that information for the member. There may be one or two outstanding. I don't have the orders here tonight.

MR. D. ORCHARD: I think there's at least one. My question would be to the Minister; since she's got this

under review, since she is fully cognizant of the problem that is being caused, will she insist that this municipality, despite the fact she's got this under review, be required to comply with the Act? That may solve your problem.

HON. M. DOLIN: Mr. Chairman, I'm not going to give that promise tonight without having seen the compliance order that the member feels is outstanding. I don't even know that it is outstanding. I will have to see what that situation is. To grant non-compliance with an Act is not something one does lightly.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Well, Mr. Chairman, I'll just ask the Minister if she could investigate the circumstance surrounding the R.M. of Louise. What I believe and I'm not 100 percent positive, but at last checking, the compliance order was still outstanding, that the R.M. had to make a payment to two of their employees. The order is anticipated. I don't know where your staff is at, but they have let it be known to the R.M. that there are, in their view, wages due to two employees; and at last word, they were going to insist on compliance with the Act. I would like the Minister, since she's got it under review recognizing the problem, if she would give consideration to having those people not so imposed upon?

HON. M. DOLIN: I have indicated to the member what we are doing to look at this situation. There is no provision within the Act for the banking of hours or for any change in the way that the Act is applied. That is what we are looking at, to see whether it is appropriate to make that kind of change in the Act. That is the only assurance I can give the member at this time.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Well, Mr. Chairman, the Minister can't give the kind of insurance that naturally the R.M.s would like to see, and that's fine; she's got it under consideration.

The other question I would have is; obviously, The Construction Industry Wages Act has been enforced, I believe, since mid '70s and obviously the Municipal Councils have been operating in this method for a number of years, yet it is only in the last several months that they have been called upon to comply with the Act. The question I have would be to the Minister, did you ask staff to investigate the Municipal Councils to assure that they were complying. Did you initiate the kinds of directives that went out?

HON. M. DOLIN: The procedure followed by the staff is that there is a survey done annually and that is where this information was picked up. The Construction Wages Act, I believe, has been in place longer than 10 years - I'm not sure of the date of enactment. Perhaps a clarification - there was an amendment brought in to The Construction Wages Act about two years ago that brought municipalities under The Construction Wages Act and that would explain why they are picked up in the annual surveying done by the department now and they hadn't been in the past - 10 years ago or whatever.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Now, two other questions on this subject. I noticed the schedules are laid out of wages. Are there any apprentice wages that are part of this schedule?

HON. M. DOLIN: No, there are not.

MR. D. ORCHARD: What's the rationale for not having apprentice wages, because obviously people aren't instantly as skillful as a several-year employee when they just start?

HON. M. DOLIN: It's my understanding that the Construction Wages Board has not been able to agree and therefore come forward with a recommendation on an appropriate rate for training for apprenticeships.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Is that something they are looking at right now?

HON. M. DOLIN: No, the Board has not come forward with any recommendations and isn't pursuing the training or apprenticeship level at this point in time.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Is there a process of appeal, for instance, for a person who has been ordered to pay wages? Is there an appeal process?

HON. M. DOLIN: To the Labour Board.

MR. D. ORCHARD: There is an appeal to the Labour Board under The Construction Industry Wages Act?

HON. M. DOLIN: Yes, they may appeal a decision made under that Act, to the Labour Board.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Minnedosa.

MR. D. BLAKE: Mr. Chairman, my case was identical almost to the one the Member for Pembina has just so eloquently put before the . . . I'm sorry I fed you all that material, Don.

Mr. Chairman, I can't reiterate too strongly what my colleague, the Member for Pembina, has stated because that is creating a problem with municipal people and I appreciate the Minister's answers and she has indicated she is checking into some of them. I would like her to check into the RM of Glenella who have apparently been ordered to pay \$5,500.00. Along the lines as the Member for Pembina said, if the municipality hired someone on a flat monthly fee of say, \$1,300 or \$1,500 a month, whatever it may be, he's happy, he can meet his budget, he makes his mortgage payments and various other things. He may work long hours during the summer and he may work very small hours during the winter, unless they have a bad blizzard or something like that and he's required to work for a couple of days and then he's finished until the next blizzard arrives. His only alternative is to be laid off in November and be called back in May and draw unemployment insurance or whatever else he requires to provide for his family in the interim period.

The Minister mentioned the rules of the game earlier on, and as she well knows, rules I think are made for guidance; they're not hard and fast. I think when she's looking at the problem, if she works with the municipal people and arrives at something that's mutually satisfactory with the hiring practices of the municipalities as long as it's agreeable with the employees, I think she will find that things go along very, very smoothly

and we won't be required to go into these investigations, and in some cases, there may be some abuse of the hiring on both sides, I don't know, but I would just reiterate what my colleague from Pembina has said and urge the Minister to look into these various cases. I'm sure that the people investigating do consult with the employees and find if they are happy with the working relationship they have, or if the cause of complaint has been instituted by the employee, or whether it's just on the whim of the department that they're checking this out and find out that they can maybe do better for the employee and are going to stick it to the municipalities, because there is no question that's what the municipalities feel is happening.

I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman, I didn't catch the remarks of the Member for Wolseley. The Member for Wolseley said, Mr. Chairman, that they used to say that slaves were happy and I don't doubt that many of them were. It would depend what fringe benefits they had to enjoy, I suppose, for the circumstances they were living under. But I don't think you can compare the employees of municipalities throughout the Province of Manitoba in any way, shape or form to the situation that the Member for Wolseley refers to. I think we've advanced far beyond that, and as I mentioned earlier, there are working relationships set up with the employees and with the municipal people that are mutually satisfactory to them both, without the interference of the Employee Standards Board, to squeeze an extra few dollars out of the municipality, that in most cases is going to result in a detrimental situation to the employee, because they're going to say, that's fine Charlie, you're a great guy, but in November we can lay you off and goodbye. You draw unemployment insurance, we'll call you back in the spring when we need you and we'll hire a private contractor to clear the roads if we have a bad blizzard this winter.

That's what I'm saying, as long as the arrangement is satisfactory, I think you have to have a regulation that's flexible enough to allow for a harmonious relationship between that employee and with his employer.

HON. M. DOLIN: The RM of Glenella has been added to my short list with the RM of Louise, and we will check on that. I would just like to point out to the member that this information was picked up in a survey done annually by the department; it's nothing new. What is new is the amendment to the Act brought in, not by my immediate predecessor, but the one before that, two years ago, which added municipalities to those groups covered by The Construction Wages Act.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 2(d)(1)—pass;
The Member for St. Norbert.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, at the last Session of the Legislature there were amendments to The Employment Standards Act to include domestic workers who were employed 24 hours or more per week. Subsequently regulations were passed effective November 1st by the department. I wonder, could the Minister indicate how many domestics come within the protection of the Act and the regulations who work more than 24 hours per week?

HON. M. DOLIN: The exact number of people employed as domestics, be there slightly less or more than 24 hours per week in that particular role, is very difficult to assess. What the regulations, and, of course, inclusion in the Act does is give them the right to the same employment standards as other workers and they can therefore come forward under that Act and claim those rights.

MR. G. MERCIER: Unless someone comes forward to claim the protection of The Employment Standards Act the department has no knowledge of whether or not someone is working more than 24 hours per week, is that right?

HON. M. DOLIN: Unless someone comes forward, well, what we do, of course, is we do our very best to let people know that they are covered and included in The Employment Standards Act. We've had two cases come forward under this particular provision and both have been resolved in the employees' favour.

MR. G. MERCIER: But you don't have any idea how many people are . . .

HON. M. DOLIN: Are actually employed in that occupation? No, we don't have a figure to put to that occupation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 2.(d)(1)—pass; 2.(d)(2)—pass; 2.(d)(3)—pass. 2.(e)(1) - the Member for St. Norbert.

MR. G. MERCIER: Does the Minister want to make any comment?

HON. M. DOLIN: Perhaps I could just outline the functions of the Labour Board. They are two. As the Manitoba Labour Board it deals with the applications filed pursuant to The Labour Relations Act and Workplace Safety and Health Act. As the Wages Board appointed under Section 2 of The Payment of Wages Act it deals with complaints referred to the board by the Employment Standards Division under The Payment of Wages Act. The Employment Standards Act, The Vacations with Pay Act and The Construction Industry Wages Act. There is no change in staffing for this year.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, could the Minister indicate how many applications were made for first contracts?

HON. M. DOLIN: There have been nine.

MR. G. MERCIER: How many first contracts have been imposed?

HON. M. DOLIN: There have been none imposed.

MR. G. MERCIER: The legislation is working better than I thought. — (Interjection) — That's right, whether you believe in free collective bargaining or not.

HON. M. DOLIN: We knew it would.

MR. G. MERCIER: Is the Minister intending to make changes in the Legislation at this Session of the Legislature?

HON. M. DOLIN: As the member knows we have a Labour Law Review about to begin and certainly within the aegis of that responsibility all labour laws will be looked at and codification or recommendation for such will come forward.

MR. G. MERCIER: So after there are public hearings on the review of labour law legislation there may be some amendments but there will be no amendments at this Session of the Legislature with respect to the first contract laws?

HON. M. DOLIN: I wouldn't say that there is absolutely no possibility of that not happening sooner but certainly I can assure the member that the whole area of labour law will be looked at under the review.

MR. G. MERCIER: But the Minister is not certain yet whether there will be amendments to the first contract amendments that were brought in last year?

HON. M. DOLIN: I can't say at this time whether there will be amendments brought in before the full labour law review comes forward with its recommendations and subsequent legislative changes.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, does the Minister during the term of this government, intend to bring in legislation that would be aimed at banning the use of non-union workers during a labour dispute?

HON. M. DOLIN: The member himself has called for public hearings and for a widespread discussion of the changes to be made to labour law. These will all take place and there will be opportunity to discuss the recommendations coming forward from those persons doing the labour law review and at that time all possibilities will be discussed and will be weighed and everyone will have an ample opportunity for input.

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

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, you have to appreciate I only received the report of the department today.

Is there any increase in staff man years in this department? Last year when we discussed this area there was discussion about adding additional conciliation officers.

HON. M. DOLIN: No, there is no increase in the staff years.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 2.(f)(1)—pass; 2.(f)(2)—pass.

Resolution 105 - Resolved that there be granted to her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$6,180,100 for Labour and Employment Services for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March 1984—pass.

We are now in Item 3.(a)(1).

HON. M. DOLIN: This branch was previously known as the Employment and Youth Services Branch and the name change is the result of the recent reorganization of the Employment Services Division reflecting

increased activity in the area of non-youth-related job creation activities. Another major effect of the reorganization on this particular branch, has been the transfer of the southern regional field unit to the new Employment Training and Regional Services Branch. Finally, the responsibility for administration of Youth Employment Program was transferred to this Branch during the 1982-83 fiscal year.

MR. G. MERCIER: Could the Minister explain the increase in expenditure in this particular area from \$51,900 to \$126,400.00?

HON. M. DOLIN: There is an increase that relates to our job creation activities of four persons.

MR. G. MERCIER: What is the responsibility of those persons?

HON. M. DOLIN: Their responsibility is the monitoring, reporting, financial administration and so on, of job creation activities.

MR. G. MERCIER: Of which job creation activities? Where is the expansion in job creation activities?

HON. M. DOLIN: All job creation activities - the co-ordination of all of these job creation activities, whether it be from the Jobs Fund or from ongoing programs within the department.

MR. G. MERCIER: This is where the co-ordination of the Jobs Fund activities will take place?

HON. M. DOLIN: The responsibility for the administration of job creation activities lies within this part of the department and part of the responsibility is within this particular Branch.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, where is the expansion of job creation activities?

HON. M. DOLIN: The \$200 million appropriated within the Budget is the expansion of job creation activities. Those are going to be - some of them - coming under way in the future, during this fiscal year. Some of them are in place right now.

MR. G. MERCIER: What programs have been approved to date under the Jobs Fund?

HON. M. DOLIN: The programs that have been approved to date under the Jobs Fund will be discussed when we discuss the Jobs Fund. The responsibility for monitoring and reporting to the government on the administration and so on, that kind of detail of job creation activities, is a staff responsibility within this branch. The activities of the Jobs Funds itself are within another appropriation and properly discussed there.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, we are being asked to approve an additional four persons in this particular area, whose apparent responsibility is to look at . . .

HON. M. DOLIN: Point of order, there are actually two additional staff people within this. There are four people though who have been assigned to this responsibility.

MR. G. MERCIER: Pardon me, two additional people, whose responsibilities are involved in the co-ordination of job creation activities including the Jobs Fund. I am asking a question as a result of that answer, what projects have been approved to date under the Jobs Fund, that these people are involved in. The Minister has said they're involved with the Jobs Fund.

HON. M. DOLIN: Three that I can name for the member include Careerstart; the construction of the trading facility at Red River Community College; the Rural Sewer and Water Program.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, Careerstart - the Red River Community College Project is a Capital Works Project, is it not? The Red River Community College Project is a \$6 million addition to the physical plant there.

HON. M. DOLIN: That's correct.

MR. G. MERCIER: What involvement does this area have in that?

HON. M. DOLIN: Again, the job of the people in our department is to monitor that situation, to report back to the government on the job creation that is taking place around that particular project or any of these other particular projects. If you wish to discuss that project, it is appropriate to do so when the Minister of Education is present during the discussion of the Jobs Fund.

MR. G. MERCIER: What do they monitor to date on that project? How many jobs are going to be created?

HON. M. DOLIN: The start-up date on construction of that particular job has not occurred yet; I believe it's late April or May; it's in the late spring anyway. So there would be no report on actual job creation at this time. When the announcement was made of that particular project, it was indicated that the start-up date for construction was the late spring.

MR. G. MERCIER: Has the contract been tendered?

HON. M. DOLIN: It is not my responsibility to tender the contract on that.

MR. G. MERCIER: This area is monitoring the job creation on the Jobs Fund. This is one of the projects. I am trying to find out what they're monitoring. Has the project been awarded?

HON. M. DOLIN: That question is properly asked to the Minister of Education. The Jobs Fund co-ordinates job creation throughout the government. The \$200 million is not being spent directly by the Department of Employment Services to create jobs. There is co-operation and co-ordination throughout this government with many projects being brought forward to create jobs for Manitobans. Obviously, someone has to look at the overview of the entire endeavour and come up with the administration for it; to come up with the monitoring and the reporting back to the

government on what the entire package is producing. That is the role of the job creation unit.

MR. G. MERCIER: That's exactly what I'm trying to find out is what sort of monitoring is this department doing. The Minister stated in her opening remarks that ". . . as the co-ordinating department for our government's \$200 million Job Creation Initiative, we intend to deploy those resources with the utmost effectiveness . . .

A project has been announced, and it's been announced by the Minister of Labour coming out of the Jobs Fund. I'm asking her, has the project been tendered. That's a pretty simple question. She made the announcement announcing the project.

HON. M. DOLIN: The member obviously doesn't recall that I made that announcement in conjunction with the Minister of Education. We both made the announcement. It was not my announcement. It was our announcement. That Minister is responsible for the program. This particular component within my department, the Administration unit, is responsible for designing the rules, regulations, application forms, delivery mechanism and so on; all program administration requirements. This is done co-operatively with the department responsible for the delivery of the program.

They also establish and co-ordinate financial control and allocation procedures in conjunction with the Department of Finance and the delivery departments, a liaison between the Department of Finance as the controlling authority for the monies involved, and the departments that are delivering the programs. They also consult with the Research and Planning Branch and design program-monitoring systems for all of these programs that are taking place. They intend to maintain updated information on individual programs and prepare cumulative or aggregated status reports. Obviously, it's early in the game to do that.

They will assist in the design and implementation of evaluation systems of the various projects in co-operation with the Research and Planning Branch. That's the job of my department. That's quite different than the delivery of an individual program, and questions regarding the delivery of an individual program are correctly asked to the Minister responsible for the delivery of that program and that can easily be done during the Jobs Fund Estimates.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, the Jobs Fraud Fund was created ostensibly to provide employment in a war on unemployment. Now, Mr. Chairman, how many jobs is this project going to create, and when are they going to be created?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Does the Minister wish to reply?

HON. M. DOLIN: I will repeat again that the construction start-up date, if you don't count those people involved in the architectural planning, the design and so on - certainly those are jobs too - but, if you want to start with the construction date, jobs will be created related to the construction of that facility when construction begins which is in the late spring, as I have said. Other

jobs will be created upon completion of the construction phase because there will be jobs created in the area of teaching.

There is also work-related training involved as new spaces for training in that particular field open up, and in the use of the old building which is being renovated. So there is job creation in that area as well.

Obviously, these are phased in. Construction must take place first; renovation of the old building must take place. So you have construction workers at work first, and then you have professors and teachers at work, and you have people coming into the training course and going on out into the job market with their new, more saleable skills.

So job creation will take place on an ongoing basis on this particular project. It's one that is going to impact on many different sectors of the work force.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, the Minister keeps referring to the start of construction in late spring, but she doesn't know if the project is being tendered. She said in her opening remarks, ". . . We intend to deploy these resources with the utmost effectiveness towards the creation and preservation of employment within the province . . ."

If that statement has been carried out then surely she would have some idea of how many jobs would be created by the expenditure of \$6 million on this project, and when these jobs would be created. She would know that in advance, not down to the last hour of work, but she would have some reasonable estimate.

HON. M. DOLIN: It is not my responsibility to offer the tender for that project. It is not within the responsibility of my department. That question is more properly asked to the Minister responsible for the delivery of the program, who is the Minister of Education, who was with me and announced jointly that project.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, does the Minister wish to withdraw her statement then that she is the co-ordinating department, etc?

HON. M. DOLIN: Of course not, Mr. Chairman.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, you know, the answers we're getting are a complete farce. This is not an unusual project. It's not an unusual Capital Works Project for any government to be involved in. Did she not know in advance how many jobs would be created by this project?

HON. M. DOLIN: If it would please the member, I'm sure that we can work out the number of projected work weeks in the construction phase of that particular project. That doesn't take into account, of course, the preplanning, the architectural work, the design work, or the impact on other parts of the work force, such as the teaching work force or the student or retraining work force. The construction work weeks can be predicted, but what is far more important to us is to monitor it carefully and have some accurate and actual figures to come forward with as the project also goes forward.

MR. G. MERCIER: The Minister went on in her statement to say that ". . . our efforts will be targeted

to those sectors of the economy and population that have been most severely affected by unemployment . . ." I would think that the construction industry is one area that has been very severely affected by unemployment.

In considering other projects under the Jobs Fund will she be, through her co-ordinating department, assessing projects and approving them or recommending them on the basis of, I suppose is one important factor, the number of jobs that will be created.

HON. M. DOLIN: Certainly, the labour intensity of the various projects is a point of concern to us, and that is one of the major parts of the recommendations that come forward and are discussed by the Jobs Fund Committee and so on.

MR. G. MERCIER: Will she and her department make the final recommendation to Cabinet as to which projects are to proceed out of the Jobs Fund?

HON. M. DOLIN: The Jobs Fund Committee makes that recommendation.

MR. G. MERCIER: Will she make recommendations then from the Labour Department's perspective to the committee as a result of their assessment of the projects?

HON. M. DOLIN: As a member of that committee, certainly, I make comments and recommendations, and these are based on information gathered from my department, of course.

MR. G. MERCIER: The Minister referred to a second project, Rural Water and Sewer Services Project. How much is that expected to cost?

HON. M. DOLIN: That is a project of \$1.5 million, which is a 50 percent increase over a similar project last year, the same kind of project.

MR. G. MERCIER: In which department was the similar project last year?

HON. M. DOLIN: It's the Water Services Board that has responsibility for that.

MR. G. MERCIER: How much was spent under the Water Services Board in this area last year?

HON. M. DOLIN: \$1 million last year.

MR. G. MERCIER: The total amount of \$1.5 million is included in the Jobs Fund this year?

HON. M. DOLIN: That's correct.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, this is another instance of demonstrating that this is a Jobs Fraud Fund and not a new initiative. Mr. Chairman, what they have done again is pulled out of a department an ongoing program, put it in the so-called Jobs Fund, and tried to pass off to the people of Manitoba that this is a tremendous new initiative of the government.

How many jobs are expected to be created under this program?

HON. M. DOLIN: First of all, the existence of the Jobs Fund in the first place has allowed this program to take place. It has been accelerated and it has been increased, the funding has been increased by 50 percent in this area. Without the Jobs Fund and the existence of the Jobs Fund, that wouldn't be happening. The number of jobs to be created under the program is determined by the take-up on the program as well. It's an undetermined number depending on the take-up on the program.

MR. G. MERCIER: The Minister has no idea how many jobs will be created?

HON. M. DOLIN: I have variables such as the location of the work, the size of the project, the amount of work needed to be done. As I say, the number of projects that get under way, all of these variables will vary the number of jobs, the number of work weeks created. Again, number of jobs created is really not an appropriate way to determine an impact. You have to look at the number of work weeks created, because there is such a wide variable available within any project for the number of work weeks created for each particular person on the job.

MR. G. MERCIER: Does the Minister know where the projects will take place and when they will take place?

HON. M. DOLIN: That hasn't been specified at this point.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, having just heard those answers, I return again to the Minister's statement in her opening remarks. ". . . We intend to deploy these resources with the utmost effectiveness towards the creation and preservation of employment. Our efforts will be targeted to those sectors of the economy and population that are most severely being affected by unemployment . . ." And the Minister doesn't know what projects will proceed, she doesn't know where they will proceed, she doesn't know how many jobs will be created, and she's made this kind of a statement to the committee.

For one thing, that proves that this is an ongoing program that has merely been taken out of the departmental budget and included in this program, because they know this program has to be continued each year, that it is an ongoing program and they're trying, once again, to show that it's a new initiative when it's not.

HON. M. DOLIN: Mr. Chairman, I really feel very strongly that this entire discussion is out of order. I have said repeatedly that the appropriate time to discuss the Jobs Fund, and the projects under it, is under Appropriation 29 when the appropriate people are present to respond to the questions being asked by the members. If they wish to ask questions concerned with the way in which we are going to monitor the actual activities of the staff or the programs that we are offering and that come directly under the responsibility of Employment

Services, I will be happy to answer them. Questions related to the Jobs Fund as a whole are not appropriate at this time, and I would hope that you would keep the members to the subject at hand.

MR. CHAIRMAN: May I remind all the members of the committee to please confine their remarks of relevance to the item under discussion.

The Member for Pembina.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, I just want to ask the Minister a few questions about this \$1.5 million that has been announced about three weeks ago, which, I take it, is to undertake the construction and installation of sewer and/or water projects, or both, in various communities throughout the province.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I just remind the members of the committee to please confine their remarks or debate on the item of the Budget under discussion, 3.(a)(1).

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, we're talking about an expenditure of funds for people who are monitoring and co-ordinating the program, and that's why we're going to talk about the Jobs Fund.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Springfield.

MR. A. ANSTETT: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. There are several opportunities in the Estimates book for wide-ranging discussion on the Jobs Fund. I understand the Minister, when he tabled the Estimates, made reference to the Jobs Fund and the fact that full-detailed examination under Resolution 145 would be available to all members, and all the Ministers involved who are available at that time would be in the House to answer specific questions.

In addition, there will be situations where, such as the Rural Water Services Board, additional monies over and above that which appears in the Acquisition/Construction of Physical Assets in the Department of Agriculture will be added from the Jobs Fund to that particular program, but it will not show up in the Acquisition/Construction of Physical Assets in the Estimates right now. There will be additional funds. I understand that several weeks ago an additional \$1.5 million was put into that specific program over and above what was in there before.

No one can expect this Minister to be able to respond for projects which are going to add to the capital available in the Acquisition/Construction of Physical Assets in all the various departments of government. For that specific reason, the Estimates were set up this way to provide for a Jobs Fund debate. This will allow a review of all of the various construction programs that are part of the Jobs Fund.

In addition, under the Acquisition/Construction of Physical Assets within every department, members will be able in Education to ask about Red River Community College; in Agriculture to ask about Rural Water Services and exactly how the Minister and his programming and how the Jobs Fund Committee is going to appropriate the additional money that's been given. But to expect this Minister to answer those questions is expecting a bit much, but also, Mr. Chairman, I submit it's totally

out of order. No Minister can be expected to know those things because that's not her responsibility. I suggest that any discussion of the details of what the Jobs Fund Program is doing, in terms of Acquisition/Construction of Physical Assets or, under the Jobs Fund itself, Resolution 145, with somewhere in the neighbourhood of \$40 million-\$50 million in that Appropriation, should take place under those resolution items. Any discussion on those items, in this Committee now, is definitely out of order.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Honourable Minister, did you announce a \$1.5 million fund — (Interjection) —

MR. CHAIRMAN: I'm being forced by the Member for Pembina to order him out of order because I already indicated before, under Rule 64(2), his speeches in the Committee of the Whole House, must be strictly relevant to the item under discussion.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, the Minister has said we're discussing here two additional staff persons who are involved in monitoring and in the co-ordination of the Jobs Fund activities. This is the Minister of Labour. We're talking about employment in the Province of Manitoba and all of these questions are relevant.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Natural Resources.

HON. A. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, on the point of order, I can see that the members of the opposition have some difficulty, but the point is, as they know, that the Jobs Fund was announced in the Budget. It is a new item in the Estimates this year. When the Minister of Labour indicates that her staff will be involved in monitoring and assisting in the work of that fund, that is not inconsistent with the position she takes that she doesn't have the detail.

One year from now, two years from now, it will be a matter of public record and she will have the kind of detail as to what projects were developed, how many were involved and so on. But at this stage, the formative stage of the Jobs Fund, that information is not available from her. It is available directly from each department where a specific project takes place. It is clearly unacceptable and out of order to demand that information from this Minister because it is provided in the Estimates, under different departments, and there the answers can be sought and obtained.

MR. G. MERCIER: There is money provided in other areas of the Estimates. We're talking here about expenditures of funds for at least two additional people and two existing people, whose job is to monitor the job creation projects under the Jobs Fund, and these questions are relevant.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Thompson.

MR. S. ASHTON: Mr. Chairman, we discussed the same point yesterday and it seems to me that you, as Chairman, have been quite lenient with members opposite. They've been throwing editorial comments

like crazy on this particular matter, editorializing about the Jobs Fund, when that's clearly out of order. But for them to start asking specific questions about specific programs not within the jurisdiction of the Minister, or to ask about the direct delivery of those programs under a section which is specifically in regard to the monitoring and co-ordination of the Jobs Fund, is completely and absolutely out of order.

I hope that not only will you rule these questions out of order, but you'll rule some of the editorializing out of order. I find it a bit hard to take sitting here, hearing the same bunch opposite that froze construction in 1977 when times were a lot better than now, now throwing editorial comments about the Jobs Fund because that's completely and utterly inconsistent.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The function of the Chair is to facilitate the discussion of the budgetary item under discussion. The Chair is trying to be as neutral as possible and that is the function of the Chair or the Chair has no business being the Chair. The speeches in the Committee of the Whole should be strictly relevant to the item or clause under discussion.

The Member for Pembina.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, attempting to stay strictly on the item that we're discussing, it's my perception that this is the Minister who is co-ordinating the monitoring of the Jobs Fund, a \$200 million fund, and I assume that the Minister is monitoring it because the Jobs Fund, theoretically, has been introduced by this government to create employment.

What we would like to know from the Minister, in her capacity of monitoring the Jobs Fund, we'd like to know what criterion under which the Minister, as a member of the Jobs Fund Selection Committee, we'd like to know what criterion she chooses and her committee chooses, by which they will approve projects such as the \$1.5 million Sewer and Water Project, or for that matter, the \$5 million construction project at Red River Community College. Specifically I'd like to ask the Minister, is part of the decision-making process involved in the number of jobs that will be created from each project.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Does the Minister want to comment on that?

HON. M. DOLIN: I will just tell the member that the question is appropriate under the Jobs Fund Estimates. I have outlined very carefully and in detail, the jobs of the people in my department, related to monitoring, to working with departments to design application forms and monitoring mechanisms and administrative details.

I went into great detail to make sure that the members knew what the responsibility of the staff in my department is, in this area. The question that is asked now does not relate to that, but rather to the determination by the committee, which is not my committee, I might add, on how job creation projects are chosen. That is appropriate under the Jobs Fund discussion, not here.

MR. D. ORCHARD: As the Minister of Labour and Employment Services and as a member of the Selection

Committee for the Jobs Fund, does this Minister offer advice on projects which could be chosen from a range of projects, no doubt available to the government? Does the Minister provide advice to members of the committee as to how many jobs would be created via the expenditures of funds on given projects?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Does the Minister wish to reply?

HON. M. DOLIN: Yes, I do.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Well, Mr. Chairman, would the Minister mind telling us how many jobs she saw being created in the construction of the college, of the building at Red River Community College, and how many jobs she envisioned being created by the \$1.5 million Sewer and Water Project Fund, in making her recommendation to have those two projects chosen to be part of the \$200 million Jobs Fund?

HON. M. DOLIN: I have already indicated to members present that I will get the projected number of work weeks, I will get that figure for the members. I don't have it here tonight. Now we are back around asking the same question again. That is purely a research item. I can get the information for you.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Then are we assuming that the Minister had that information on the number of jobs and provided that advice, when the committee made the decision, or is this something that was figured out after you made the announcement of the project and we started to ask you how many jobs are being created?

HON. M. DOLIN: Obviously, Mr. Chairman, the labor intensity of the project is part of the background information provided by staff to that committee.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Well it would seem to me, Mr. Chairman, that here's a government that has been telling the people of Manitoba that we are the saviours of the unemployed. We are the saviours of the unemployed because we have a \$200 million Jobs Fund which is being monitored by the Minister of Labour in this department, in this line of the Estimates. Now any government who was making those kinds of claims to the taxpayers of Manitoba, I would think would be proud, would be wanting to tell the people of Manitoba, how many jobs are being created. You wouldn't have to come here and beg and conjole to get the Minister to give us that information. It would be something that would be up front.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please, the hour being 10 o'clock, what is the wish of the committee.

Committee rise.

A MEMBER: Oh no, it's going to be the same editorial crap.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Yeas and nays. We don't agree with the motion. Who put the motion on the floor?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Those in favour of committee rise, say aye. Those against, nay. The ayes have it.

Committee rise.

SUPPLY - HEALTH

MR. CHAIRMAN, P. EYLER: Committee come to order. We are considering the Estimates of the Department of Health. Does the Minister have some opening statements to make?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Yes, I have. Mr. Chairman, I present my departmental spending Estimates for 1983-84, with a mixture of pride and sobering thoughts. Pride, because I think we have started to travel along a road leading to improved health and more efficient health services for all Manitobans; sobering thoughts because the total Budget for Health is now over \$1 billion. That is a staggering sum, Mr. Chairman. The health needs of our citizens compels me to ask for permission to spend it. I wish to emphasize that it represents an increase of 11.6 percent over last year's Budget. It contains provision for some new and expanding programs, some changes that will mean real economies in the future, as well as some substantial economies in the present. I intend to say more about this later in my opening statement and also in the discussions that follow it.

Before I do, however, I must commend the staff of the Manitoba Health Services Commission who have worked, and continue to work so tirelessly, to help control costs in our hospitals, personal care homes and health centres where a high percentage of our Budget is spent.

I also want to acknowledge the efforts of all staff members in the Department of Health who continue to provide excellent public health and preventative programs. The staff in Continuing Care and Mental Health Programs must also be commended for the dedicated and caring manner in which they provide their services to those of our citizens who are in need of them.

I must also recognize with gratitude and respect, the contributions of those devoted men and women outside government who serve in our health care institutions, community organizations and voluntary agencies. They are the backbone of the health care service. It could not function without them, and I wish to thank them for being so compassionate, industrious and dedicated to the health of Manitobans.

You will be interested to know that a number of important organizational changes have occurred in the Department of Health, changes that will add impetus to our goal of better health for all Manitobans.

At the Manitoba Health Services Commission, Messrs. McCaffrey and DeCock, long time employees of the Commission have been designated as Associated Executive Directors to relieve my Deputy Minister, T. R. Edwards, of the day-to-day operations of the Commission. Mr. Edwards remains the Chief Executive Officer of the Commission, as well as Vice Chairman of the Commission Board.

Mr. Chairman, I'd like to leave my text here to share the committee my pride and pleasure to be associated with the team that I have. I think it's one of the best teams in Canada. We've been very, very fortunate in recruiting the people that we've had and those that have been there for many years.

I certainly want to pay respect to one person that I feel is the most dedicated, the hardest worker, and certainly one of the most efficient, if not the most efficient of all the Deputy Ministers. I'm talking about my own Deputy Minister, Mr. Reg Edwards, who I feel we're very fortunate to have.

As announced earlier this year, I have appointed a new seven member Commission Board. We're talking about the Manitoba Health Service Commission now. We meet every two months at a substantial saving to the Manitoba taxpayers. Dr. Jack Wiltok is now Assistant Deputy Minister in charge of Community Health Programs, in addition to being Director of the Cadham Provincial Laboratories. . . ., the Provincial Diagnostic Laboratory and X-Ray Program.

Under Dr. Wilt's direction, community health programs emphasizing prevention and health education are being reexamined and restructured, so that they will offer the maximum protection to all our citizens. To help further this objective, it is our intention to promote the use of health clinics wherever possible and practical. These have the advantage of providing ready access to medical and other health related services. We propose to pursue a policy that supports those community clinics already established, while at the same time, studying the health clinic concept and its place in our spectrum of health services.

These matters and our other priorities, Gerontology and mental health, are all being assessed for our new Director of Planning and Research, Mr. David Pascoe, appointed in October of 1982. Mr. Pascoe has had many years experience in the health industry and who worked for the Manitoba Health Services Commission in the mid 70s, will integrate long range planning for the commission and the Department of Health. Adding a planning group which will soon be fully operational, he is preparing a five year plan to address the high priority areas I've just mentioned and to allow for the orderly growth of all programs necessary for improved delivery of health services in Manitoba. He also heads a mental health working group composed of members of the Health Ministry and Dr. H. Prosen, head of the Department of Psychiatry, University of Manitoba.

A third group under Mr. Pascoe's direction consisting of senior members of the Department of Health and the Manitoba Health Services Commission will be examining all aspects of our Personal Care Home Program and the Continuing Care Program. The object of this study is to recommend ways to strengthen alternatives to personal care home placement.

L'Assemblée mondiale sur le vieillissement, commanditée par les Nations Unies et à laquelle j'ai eu l'honneur de participer l'été dernier à Vienne, en tant que délégué du Canada, donna aux participants le sens de l'urgence de la situation. Nous en sommes revenus convaincus que nous n'avions pas de temps à perdre et qu'avec un pourcentage de plus en plus élevé de notre population âgée, nous devons planifier immédiatement afin de nous assurer que ces citoyens ne seront pas un fardeau pour la société, mais qu'ils seront bel et bien en mesure d'avoir des vies actives et productrices aux niveaux social, politique et culturel, tout en préservant leur santé et leur indépendance.

A mon retour de Vienne, j'ai engagé le processus qui nous mènera vers ces buts en embauchant une gérontologue provinciale. Cette dernière est Madame

Betty Havens, de renommée internationale dans le domaine du vieillissement. Son rôle est de fournir des conseils, sur la politique et les programmes à adopter, aux cadres supérieurs du gouvernement aux organismes communautaires et au public.

Pour lui permettre d'accomplir ses tâches efficacement, Madame Havens siège à plusieurs comités de travail interministériels, y compris le comité sur la réforme des pensions, le comité sur le logement à caractère social, le comité qui étudie les abus envers les personnes âgées et qui a pour but de présenter des éléments de solution, et celui qui a comme mandat d'étudier le bien-être des jeunes personnes handicapées dans les foyers de soins personnels. Elle est aussi membre d'autres comités qui eximent les programmes de mise en condition physique pour personnes âgées, le transport pour les handicapés moteurs et les institutions externes.

Pour renforcer l'efficacité du Bureau du gérontologue provincial, des agents de liaison ont été nommés par chacun des ministères, des institutions pertinentes et des sociétés de la couronne. La gérontologue provinciale peut s'adresser à l'un ou à plusieurs de ces agents afin de résoudre des questions interministérielles. Un exemple de cette coopération fut la préparation de l'exposé du Manitoba qui faisait partie de l'intervention canadienne lors de l'Assemblée mondiale.

L'intervention canadienne influença fortement le Plan d'action international, premier résultat pratique de l'Assemblée mondiale. Accentuant le besoin d'éviter les "ghettos" de vieilles personnes, le Plan débute comme suit:

"Nos efforts en ce qui concerne la santé des personnes âgées et plus particulièrement les efforts que nous faisons pour mettre au point un programme de soins fondamentaux, devraient aboutir à donner aux personnes âgées l'occasion d'avoir des vies indépendantes au sein de leurs familles et communautés aussi longtemps que possible plutôt que d'être forcées à vivre en périphérie de la société et de ses activités."

Spécifiquement, le Plan recommande que les gouvernements accentuent les programmes de soins à domicile, de garderies pour adultes, d'hôpitaux de jours et de soins occasionnels, ceux-ci étant les moyens les plus économiques et socialement rentables pour le maintien de l'indépendance des personnes âgées. Je ne peux pas être en désaccord avec ceci. Ce qui compte est la façon dont nous allons réaliser ces projets.

Monsieur le Président, je saisis cette occasion pour dire que lorsque j'ai quitté Vienne, j'étais fier d'être Canadien et surtout Manitobain. Ici, nous avons des programmes pour les personnes âgées qui sont les meilleurs au monde. Nombre de ces programmes virent le jour durant le gouvernement Schreyer: par exemple, le programme d'assurance pour les prestations offertes dans les foyers de soins personnels et l'établissement du Bureau des soins permanents.

En poursuivant cette politique, le gouvernement précédent a reconnu la valeur de ces programmes et je l'en félicite. Pour ma part, j'ai l'intention de renforcer et d'étendre ces programmes. Je crois que le programme de soins à domicile est la pierre angulaire de nos services aux personnes âgées.

Voilà pourquoi j'ai demandé des augmentations budgétaires de 20.4 pour cent pour les soins prolongés, et de 20.1 pour cent pour les soins à domicile.

Les soins à domicile comprennent l'assistance ménagère, les soins infirmiers de garde-malades et, si nécessaire, d'autres formes d'aide de nature sociale. Ce service est ouvert à tous, mais les principaux bénéficiaires sont les personnes âgées ou leurs familles. Sur le plan social et économique, nous savons que ces services sont rentables parce que sans eux, bien des personnes âgées se retrouveraient dans des foyers de soins personnels, des hôpitaux, ou à la maison sans les soins qui leur sont nécessaires.

Pour vous démontrer l'efficacité économique des programmes en question, je tire quelques chiffres de l'étude Canada/Manitoba sur les soins à domicile, publiée en avril 1982. Le coût moyen, par mois et par personne, des soins donnés en institution—des centres d'accueil jusqu'aux hôpitaux—se chiffre à 1,184.00. Le coût des soins à domicile s'élève à 161.00, soit une différence de 1,023.00 par personne et par mois.

Je ne voudrais pas créer la fausse impression que ces chiffres sont la seule raison ou même la raison principale pour l'expansion prévue dans ce domaine. Les désirs et les préférences de nos personnes âgées sont de première importance. Elles veulent les soins à domicile parce qu'ainsi, leur indépendance est préservée. Elles prennent leur indépendance et nous aussi.

Notre bureau de soins prolongés collabore avec la section des foyers de soins personnels de la Commission des Services de Santé afin d'établir des Garderies pour adultes dans des foyers et dans des endroits non-institutionnels.

J'ai l'intention de demander des fonds additionnels à cette fin. Ceci permettra aux personnes âgées de recevoir des soins de jour, de temps à autre. Outre le soulagement qu'elles procurent aux familles, ces garderies permettent des rapports sociaux, fournissent des occasions d'évaluer les besoins sociaux et médicaux des participants.

L'augmentation sollicitée nous permettra de multiplier le nombre de foyers de soins personnels offrant ce service et de mettre en oeuvre de nouveaux programmes hors-institution.

Nous croyons que les possibilités des garderies pour adultes en tant que système permettant de prolonger la vie en communauté n'ont pas suffisamment été exploitées. Nous voulons offrir ce service dans des endroits de la province où il n'existe pas et où il serait utile à un certain nombre de gens.

Le logement à caractère social est un autre de nos champs d'action. Au mois d'avril 1982, un comité interministériel commença à dénombrer ces unités de logements qui pourraient fournir à leurs résidents plus d'indépendance si de plus nombreux services de soutien s'y trouvaient. Le comité présentera son rapport plus tard dans l'année.

Nous verrons une amélioration dans nos services gériatriques par suite de l'acquisition de l'Hôpital Deer Lodge le 1er avril, dans le cadre du plan quinquennal de la Commission des Services de Santé. Avec une subvention de 30 millions du Gouvernement du Canada, destinée à des travaux de rénovation, nous serons en mesure d'offrir des services de soins personnels et des soins prolongés à 400 Manitobains.

Les anciens combattants auront accès en priorité à 50 lits réservés aux malades nécessitant des soins intensifs dans les hôpitaux communautaires et à 155 lits pour soins à long terme à Deer Lodge. Les coûts

seront pris en charge par le Ministère des affaires des anciens combattants.

Monsieur le Président, j'ai revu en détail nos programmes relatifs au vieillissement. J'ai cru bon de le faire car j'aurais été négligent si je ne vous avais pas fait part du message que j'ai reçu à Vienne. Je n'aurais pas été fidèle à ce message si je ne vous avais pas communiqué ma sincère intention d'améliorer les programmes que nous avons actuellement et de mettre de nouveaux programmes en place, selon les besoins. J'ai l'assurance de recevoir l'assistance du Conseil manitobain sur le vieillissement, conseil qui sera restructuré et agrandira le nombre de ses membres. Par l'entremise de la gérontologue provinciale, le conseil assumera la double fonction de faire des recommandations au Ministre et d'informer les personnes âgées sur les programmes gouvernementaux.

Nous viendrons en aide à certains organismes communautaires tels que la Société manitobaine des personnes âgées, dont le rôle auprès de notre population du troisième âge, toujours plus nombreuse, est essentiel.

(English Translation)

The United Nations' World Assembly on Aging, which I was privileged to attend in Vienna last summer, as a Canadian delegate, inspired all participants with a sense of urgency. We came away feeling that there was no time to lose, and were convinced that we had to begin at once to plan for a future with a growing percentage of older citizens; citizens who would not be a burden to society, but who, with their measure of health and independence, would be active contributors to our social, political and cultural life.

On my return from Vienna, I initiated the process, which will lead us towards achieving these goals, by appointing a provincial gerontologist. She is Betty Havens, who is an internationally recognized authority in the field of aging. Her role is to give advice on policy and programs to senior government staff, community organizations and the public.

To enable her to do this effectively she sits on several inter-departmental committees including one on pension reform, one on social support housing, one to investigate abuse of the elderly and to recommend safeguards against this; another to consider the wellbeing of young disabled persons in personal care homes. She is also on other committees which study physical fitness programs for seniors, transportation for the mobility disabled and external agency review.

To reinforce the effectiveness of the Office of Provincial Gerontologist, liaison officers have been appointed from each department of government, relevant commissions and crown corporations. The Provincial Gerontologist may call on any one or a combination of these officers to resolve inter-departmental issues. An example of such co-operation was the preparation of Manitoba's contribution to the Canadian Government Report to the World Assembly on Aging.

Canada's input had a strong influence on the International Plan of Action, which was the practical outcome of the World Assembly. Emphasizing the need to steer away from "Old People Ghettos", the Plan's preamble reads as follows:

"Health efforts for the elderly, in particular primary health care as a strategy, should be directed at enabling the elderly to lead independent lives in their own families and communities for as long as possible, instead of being cut off from the activities of society."

The plan specifically recommends that governments place emphasis on home care, adult day care, day hospitals and respite care as the most economically and socially responsible ways to maintain the independence of the elderly. I cannot disagree with this concept. The important thing is how we achieve it here.

Mr. Chairman, I take this opportunity to say that I left Vienna feeling proud to be a Canadian and especially a Manitoban. We have programs for the elderly in this province that are second to none in the world. Some of these were started during the Schreyer administrations, such as the program to ensure personal care home benefits and the institution of the Office of Continuing Care.

I credit the previous administration with recognizing their value and continuing them. For my part, I intend to see them strengthened and extended. I consider home care as the very cornerstone of our services to the elderly.

It is for this reason I am asking to increase our budget for continuing care services by 20.4 percent and for home care assistance by 20.1 percent.

Home care, consisting of domestic assistance, nursing care or social support if required, is available to all, but it is used primarily by the elderly or their families. We know that it is socially and economically valuable because without it many older people would have to be placed in personal care homes and many more would have to stay in hospitals. Still others would be at home without adequate care.

To give you an idea of the cost effectiveness of these programs, I draw your attention to figures cited in the Canada/Manitoba Home Care Study published in April 1982. The average cost per person per month for institutional care at all levels from hostel to acute hospital was \$1,184.00. For home care it was \$161; a difference of \$1,023 per person per month.

I don't want to leave you, Mr. Chairman, or any other member of this committee with the mistaken idea that cost savings are the only, or even the principal reason for expansion in this area. The wishes and preferences of our elderly people are of paramount importance. They want home care because it preserves their independence. They value their independence — and so do we.

Our Office of Continuing Care is working closely with the Personal Care Homes Division of the Health Services Commission to establish adult day care in personal care homes and non-institutional premises.

I intend to ask for an increase in funding for this program. This will allow elderly persons to receive occasional daily care. Besides relieving strain on relatives, these centres will provide for social interaction and opportunity to evaluate the social and medical needs of the participants.

The increase requested will enable us to add to the number of personal care homes offering this service and to implement new programs in non-institutional settings.

We feel that the potential of Adult Day Care as a support for continued community living has not yet

been reached. We want to expand this service to areas of the province where it doesn't yet exist and where there are people who could benefit from it.

Another area of activity which we are pursuing is support services housing for elderly persons. In April 1982, an inter-departmental committee began identifying housing units which could provide greater independence to their occupants if more support services were available. The committee will report its findings later this year.

We will see an improvement in our geriatric services as a result of Manitoba's acquisition of Deer Lodge Hospital on April 1, under the Five Year Capital Program of the Manitoba Health Services Commission. With a \$30 million grant for renovation from the Government of Canada, we will be able to provide personal care and extended care to 400 Manitoba residents. Veterans will have priority access to 50 acute care beds in community hospitals and 155 long term beds at Deer Lodge, to be funded by the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. Chairman, I have dwelt at length on our programs related to aging. I have done this because I felt I would be irresponsible if I did not preach the message I received during my trip to Vienna and thereby communicate to this committee the depth of my concern for strengthening our present programs and for implementing new programs commensurate with the needs. In this I have the assurance of assistance from the Manitoba Council on Aging, which will be restructured with an expanded membership. Reporting through the Provincial Gerontologist, the Council will have the dual function of advising the Minister and of relaying information from government to senior citizens.

We will also be supporting certain community organizations such as the Manitoba Society of Seniors, which perform a unique role in serving this growing sector of our population.

(End of translation)

Mr. Chairman, it is restating a truism if I say that one way to reduce health costs is to promote prevention. However I must add that our concern for cost must not blind us to the real value of good preventive health services. The real value is to improve the quality of life, to give our citizens a sense of security, to protect our most valuable natural resource - the lives and well-being of Manitobans.

Amongst the measure for which I will seek funds is a program to recruit and train full and part-time specialists in community medicine as a cadre of well-trained medical officers of health. This is being done in co-operation with the University of Manitoba. A training program, taking account of the many changes that have occurred in public health delivery systems and the need for new programs to control non-communicable diseases, will seek to redefine the role of medical officers of health as a primary care practitioner of preventive medicine.

This role will be to oversee preventive health programs; to encourage better diagnostic and treatment services for children and adults; to increase the emphasis on nutritional services for all age groups; supervise hypertension studies and preventive health support services for the elderly.

I will also be asking for funds to support a pilot program in the early detection and management of hypertension, as well as for a grant to the Winnipeg School Division to support the audiological services offered by the Child Guidance Clinic.

The proclamation of the Manitoba Health Research Council Act on June 30, 1982 drew wide interest. Under the auspices of its Act the new Manitoba Health Research Council is chaired by Dr. Lionel Israels. Total funds for the Council in 1982-83 included \$700,000 for research grants and operating expenses.

1983 will see the Manitoba Health Research Council continue its support of researchers in the form of fellowship grants, as well as providing direct operating grants to carry out health care research in the province. Over the next few months, the committee will be assessing the possible advantage to the public of integrating Winnipeg's Public Health Services with those of Manitoba.

The city and the province share an interest in delivering these services as efficiently and economically as possible and will jointly waive the consequences of an amalgamation. We will implement a new immunization program for the control of Hepatitis B infection using a new vaccine.

We are considering an enhanced immunization program aimed at eradicating common childhood diseases, such as, Red Measles. One of the most fruitful, preventive measures open to us is to improve the standards of maternal and child health. We have this year appointed a prominent Manitoba Gynaecologist and Obstetrician, Dr. J.R. Mitchell, Director of Maternal and Child Health. During the year an Advisory Council will be appointed to co-ordinate community programs. The directorate will then begin to implement some of the recommendations made last year by the community task force on Maternal and Child Health.

We're also initiating a pilot study at St. Boniface General Hospital on the feasibility of early discharge of mothers and newborns with homecare where necessary. Included in the study is provision of homecare supports for selected patients who require prolonged antenatal hospitalization. We have also implemented an antepartum outreach program to improve maternal and child health in outlying areas. Now, pregnant women from outlying areas must be transported to Winnipeg if they are suspected to be at risk. The outreach program conducted in co-operation with the perinatal programs at the St. Boniface Hospital and the Health Sciences Centre will allow professional staff to make on-site, initial, investigations to identify those needing the refined services of a tertiary hospital.

One of our most successful preventive programs is the routine PKU screening of all newborn infants. This detects a metabolic error that can have serious mental and physical consequences if untreated. Recognizing that the unborn child can be affected if the mother herself has the disease, we are expanding this program to test mothers whose blood samples routinely come to the Cadham Provincial Laboratory where the work will be done.

In mental health, another of our priorities, we are going to try to direct the shortage of psychiatrists by establishing, in co-operation with the University of Manitoba, a career residency program to encourage

trainees in this discipline to join Manitoba's Mental Health Service. Discussions are under way to establish a training unit at Selkirk Mental Health Centre. Also as part of the continuing development plan we are seeking approval for \$6 million capital expenditure. Part of this is for new 100-bed facilities at Brandon and Selkirk Mental Health Centres. The centres will be for those patients who cannot be treated in the community. Before we commit for construction at the Brandon Mental Health Centre we will have looked at other alternatives such as the building of facilities juxtaposed to the Brandon General Hospital to ensure that we are not continuing to invest in a plant that ultimately should be phased out.

Our plan is to work closely with community mental health organizations to provide services needed to facilitate the re-entry of mental patients into the community. To this end we will be asking for funds for a year's cost for a community residence in Winnipeg.

The Manitoba Health Services Commission is also proceeding with construction of an adolescent psychiatric facility in the core area of Winnipeg. We are, of course, continuing to support the Children's Mental Health Services allied to our community based service.

Nous demandons aussi 18.5 pour cent d'augmentation pour la fondation de lutte contre l'alcoolisme du Manitoba. Ceci est en partie dû au fait que la Fondation doit payer les coûts de fonctionnement, pour une année entière, de l'édifice situé au 1031-1041, avenue Portage, anciennement occupé par l'Institut National Canadien pour les Aveugles. Le personnel de l'Institut quittera ces locaux lorsque les siens seront prêts, plus tard cet été. Entre-temps, le Centre a un nouveau service d'accueil, offre un programme de résidence pour hommes, et abrite le "Winnipeg Youth Treatment Centre" qui peut maintenant se vanter d'une réputation nationale.

La Fondation de lutte contre l'alcoolisme a pris possession, pour un dollar, d'un édifice appartenant à Inco Metals Ltd. à Thompson. L'édifice loge les services de la Fondation pour la région nord, et un centre de réadaptation pour hommes.

La Fondation, en collaboration avec le Ministère de l'Éducation, lancera un projet pilote traitant de l'alcool et des drogues qui s'adressera aux élèves de l'école primaire. Ce programme fera partie du nouveau dossier éducatif sur la santé qui sera bientôt à la disposition des élèves manitobains.

La Fondation a augmenté ses services de traitement à Winnipeg grâce à une subvention de \$425,000, accordée au Projet rue Main, pour acquérir et aménager de nouveaux locaux. Ces locaux permettent au "Projet" d'administrer une auberge où peuvent être reçues pour de courts séjours les personnes ivres qui auparavant passaient la nuit au Centre de détention.

Le budget d'immobilisation du Ministère, qui se chiffre à \$6 millions, prévoit le remplacement et l'aménagement de cinq infirmeries dans le nord: à Moose Lake, Pikwitonei, Thicket Portage, Ilford et Easterville. Ces aménagements accroîtront notre capacité d'offrir des services de santé de bonne qualité aux résidents du Nord.

Outre le projet de construction à l'hôpital Deer Lodge dont les 30 millions seront payés par le gouvernement fédéral, la Commission des services de santé

demandera des fonds pour poursuivre son plan quinquennal de construction d'installations médicales. Je présenterai les détails des divers projets pendant la discussion sur les divers points des prévisions budgétaires. Outre qu'ils satisferont des besoins évidents dans notre système de services médicaux, ces projets de construction auront aussi pour effet de stimuler l'industrie de la construction.

M. le Président, je voudrais faire un retour en arrière et faire quelques commentaires au sujet de l'ampleur du budget de mon ministère.

Il est claire, dans mon esprit, et dans celui des personnes avec qui je travaille, que nous devons faire quelque chose pour ralentir les augmentations budgétaires.

Comme vous le constaterez en lisant les prévisions, les coûts attribués aux hôpitaux et foyers de soins personnels se chiffrent à près de \$600 millions. Depuis quelques années, ceux-ci augmentent à un taux moyen de 18 pour cent par année; mais en 1983-84, l'augmentation se chiffre à 11.2 pour cent.

(English translation)

We are also asking for an 18.5 percent increase for the Alcoholism Foundation of Manitoba. This is partly due to a full year's operating cost for the new facility at 1031-1041 Portage Avenue, formerly the Manitoba Headquarters of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind. CNIB personnel will leave these premises when their new quarters are ready later this summer. Meanwhile, the centre is now operating a new reception unit, a residential program for men and the Winnipeg Youth Treatment Centre, which now has a national reputation for excellence.

The Alcoholism Foundation of Manitoba has also acquired a new facility in Thompson, sold by Inco Metals Ltd. for one dollar. The building houses the A.F.M. Northern Services and a men's halfway house.

The Alcoholism Foundation of Manitoba, in cooperation with the Department of Education, will also pilot a new alcohol and drug education program for elementary school children. This program has been developed as part of the new Health curriculum which will soon be available to all Manitoba students.

The Foundation has expanded treatment services in Winnipeg through a grant of \$425,000 to the Main Street Project for that agency to acquire and renovate a new facility. The new building will now enable the Main Street Project to operate a short-term hostel and accommodate the majority of intoxicated persons presently held overnight in the Remand Centre.

Included in the Health Department's Capital Budget of \$6 million is provision for replacement and upgrading of five northern nursing stations at Moose Lake, Pikwitonei, Thicket Portage, Ilford and Easterville. These improvements will greatly enhance our ability to deliver good public health services to residents of Northern Manitoba.

In addition to the \$30 million construction program at Deer Lodge Hospital, to be paid by the Government of Canada, the Manitoba Health Services Commission will be asking for funds to continue with the five-year construction program for health facilities. I will release details of this program as we debate the specific items in the Estimates. In addition to providing needed

improvements to our health facilities, Mr. Chairman, these projects will also stimulate the construction industry.

I should now like to return to the beginning, Mr. Chairman, and make some general references to the size of the budget I am asking this committee to approve. It is clear to me and to all those who work with me, Mr. Chairman, that we must do something to reduce the ever-escalating costs of health.

As you will see from a more detailed examination, hospital and personal care home costs are approaching \$600 million. They have been rising steadily over the past few years at an approximate rate of 18 percent per year, although the increase in 1983-84 over last year is 11.2 percent.

(End of Translation)

Late last year, Mr. Chairman, the Minister of Finance and I had a meeting with hospital board members and administrators. It was, I believe, a successful meeting. The message was very clear, no more deficits unless occasioned by some unforeseen emergency, or some commitment agreed to at the time of Budget approval, with a real effort being made to increase efficiency without jeopardizing patient care.

We called upon our institutions to increase productivity and reduce cost. We made it plain that the taxpayers' purse is not a bottomless reservoir. We asked them to assume the responsibility as guardians of medicare and providers of a health service we all need and want. I asked them to involve all health workers, professionals, paraprofessionals, and nonprofessionals in their goals and plans. I emphasized that cost-containment is not just the result of a temporary economic recession, cost-containment is here to stay.

I have said the same things to members of the Canadian Union of Public Employees. I intend to repeat myself every time I get the chance. We must cap the well, Mr. Chairman, while at the same time providing more and better services. This is not going to be easy but it can be done.

It is my hope, Mr. Chairman, that the Manitoba Medical Association and its members will be willing participants in this process. I'm looking forward to meaningful discussions with the medical profession through a consultative process on various issues affecting program delivery. I have made it plain, and I do so again, that everyone must co-operate; government, hospital boards, administrators, the medical profession, the nursing profession, all the other health disciplines and health workers, and also the consumers. All of us must unite to promote programs that reduce the risk of illness, prevent disease, and promote health.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to take this opportunity to comment on a matter of health that is not directly related to my department Estimates. I refer, Sir, to the continuing and increasing need for donations of human organs for transplant or other humanitarian purposes after death. In this respect, it has been my pleasure as Minister of Health to proclaim April 4-10, 1983 as Eye Donor Week in Manitoba. I was given a number of pledge cards for the Eye Banks of Canada. I would like to send a number of them to the critic of the

opposition and also to the Whip of our party. The pledge of eyes and other organs can also be made, as my friend from across is showing me, on his driver's licence, if you sign that on the back. I want to emphasize this. This is meaningful. We know — (Interjection) — I beg your pardon? Everything but your liver. I don't think they accept pickled liver, I'm not sure. I do wish to be serious. I think that we all know the need of blood. I think this is something that in the past some people have been reluctant to give. It's something that will not hurt the disease, of course, and can save lives. I would like to send you some to the critic of the opposition and also to our caucus chairman and to see if we can distribute them. The need is great, Mr. Chairman, and I urge all Manitobans also to seriously consider donating all or part of their body after death in order that others may enjoy longer, healthier and happier lives.

Mr. Chairman, before I conclude, may I draw to the committee's attention the death last fall of Dr. Morley Robinson Elliot in his 83rd year. Dr. Elliot was formerly Deputy Minister of Health of Manitoba and we honour his memory.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman, for permitting me to make this opening statement, and I thank the members of this committee for listening to me. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Rhineland.

MR. A. BROWN: I thank the Minister for his opening statement. I hope that he doesn't expect me to remember everything that he has said. It was quite a lengthy statement, and some of the issues which he spoke of, I probably will be asking questions on, and I hope that he's going to bear with me because I don't have a copy of his statement here. I probably wouldn't be able to read it anyhow, at least parts of it, if I did have it. So the Minister will have to bear with me when I ask some of the questions which he already answered in his opening statement.

I am pleased to see that the Minister is quite optimistic as far as the Health Program is concerned. I share his concern with the ever increasing cost of health. The Minister has said that there was an 11.6 percent increase in the Budget of the Department of Health, which brings us to the \$1 billion stage for health alone. That, of course, is a very large cost. At the rate that we are going, then it's going to be about six or seven years, and we'll be at the \$2 billion stage. This really is a very large concern I'm sure to all of us.

I appreciate the work that is being done with the aged, because that is one of the major problems, I suppose, that we'll be facing. It's a good problem to be facing in Manitoba where people are living longer and they have to receive more care and attention. I wonder, though, whether the Minister would be able to give me some kind of an indication as to how many people have been panelled at the present time for personal care homes; whether that list is decreasing or whether it is increasing. These are questions which we will want to be addressing ourselves to as we go along within the Estimates.

First of all, Mr. Minister, I would like to ask you with the changes in the SMYs - I know that you gave me some of these figures from last year to this year in the Executive Function in 1.(a) - I wonder if the Minister would be able . . .

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Excuse me, Mr. Chairman, just on a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister on a point of order.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Is the member finished his responding to the opening remarks? Is he in the line-by-line at this time?

MR. A. BROWN: That's right?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Oh, okay, go ahead.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I believe it's customary to do 1.(a) at the end.

The Member for Rhineland.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, if I may, before the member starts. I want to make the committee aware of the arrangements that I've made with the official health critic of the Conservative Party and also with the acting critic. It would be understood that we could go tonight and finish Page 82 and 83. When we start at the top, we wouldn't go even if it's 9 o'clock or 10 o'clock, or whatever, we would stop at the top of Page 84. That's the commitment that I made and I think that'll be all right.

MR. A. BROWN: As the Minister knows, I have not been involved too much in the Department of Health for the last five years or so. I used to be quite up-to-date with what was going on when I happened to be the critic of this particular department when I first was elected. So I wonder if the Minister would be able to provide some kind of a chart for me where I could see just exactly how the Department of Health is structured. I notice that a lot of departments have this and you must have this too - I believe that you furnished me with this at some time a number of years ago - so that you can see who is responsible to who within the Department of Health. I always found this quite beneficial to get to understand the department a little better.

I have one concern, Mr. Minister, and that is I understand that Mr. Edwards is still the Deputy Minister, is still the chairman of the Manitoba Health Services Commission, and I believe that you said he was also acting as vice chairman. I know that Mr. Edwards is a very capable person. I know that he is going to do his utmost to fill all those functions to the best of his ability; yet I can't help but wonder, Mr. Minister, whether we are not stretching this man's capabilities a little too far and whether it would not be wise to separate the Manitoba Health Services Commission from the Minister's Office.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, as requested, I'd like to send a few copies of the total staff here of the department of course, we're not talking about the - I will send over to the member a list of the staff year, adjusted vote last year, requested this year, and the increase and decrease. I might as well send them now at this time, the grants to external health agencies. We'll deal with that later. As requested, I am sending him an organization chart of the department.

There will be some changes apparently so, but this is the present one.

Mr. Edwards is not the Chairman of the Manitoba Health Services Commission. He acts as Vice-Chairman, he's the Deputy Minister. He is also the Executive Director, but he spends very little time, he was at one time, and this is what I was trying to say that we have the two associate Executive Directors of the Commission, Mr. DeCock and Mr. McCaffrey, so he is still working quite hard but he is managing quite well.

I should say that the commission does not meet as often as it did in the past. The commission meets now roughly about once every second month.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Rhineland.

MR. A. BROWN: I am pleased to hear that there has been this separation there with the Manitoba Health Services Commission because I could see some problems arising by having one man involved in two of those very very important functions.

The Minister in his opening statement, made reference to community clinics and I don't know whether he would want to discuss this under this particular item, or would he rather want to discuss this under Planning and Research which is the next item.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, I would prefer that we try to do this in an orderly manner. We are on now Executive Function (a) Minister's Salary, and anyway the community clinics will come under the Commission. Hospitals, personal care homes, clinics and so on are all under the Manitoba Health Services Commission.

Right now if we could go ahead with, we are on the Minister's Salary. Of course we leave that don't we . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: I believe we are 1.(a)(2) which is Salaries.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: I believe that the member did ask me what the staff was, the people there. There were 7.5 last year and as the chart I gave you shows, it is the same people. There is the Minister, the secretary, a clerical support, administrative secretary, special assistant, executive assistant, Deputy Minister, secretary to Deputy Minister and assistant to the Deputy Minister. I might say - the honourable member might know this, Mr. Chairman, but my office is located outside of this building. I don't wish to comment on how other Ministers run their departments. I like to be with many of the senior personnel and we have the two Deputy Ministers, because I have the two departments. We have also the Provincial Gerontologist, the Provincial Psychiatrist and some of our people that we need quite often also. So, it is more of a team approach then just a suite for the Minister and his Deputy Minister.

MR. A. BROWN: I believe, Mr. Chairman, that the Minister has added a communications officer in his staff over there. I was just wondering what this particular person's function was within the department. I wonder if the Minister could maybe give me a job description, the responsibilities of this person.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: This is not a new position. This is somebody that we had in the health education

professional development where he reorganized that. He is also at the same location where we are. He works on programs, to find programs and prepare the press releases that we have, but he works on a number of things. I am sorry that I haven't the job description at this time. I can probably get it for the member if he wishes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 1.(a)(2)—pass; 1.(a)(3) Other Expenditures—pass; 1.(b)(1) Planning and Research, Salaries - the Member for Rhineland.

MR. A. BROWN: I wonder in this particular section, whether there has been any change in the department organization from last year?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Very much so. This is an area where we had very little planning and there was some at the commission and some with the department. Now we've co-ordinated that together. We recruited Mr. Pascoe, as I said, who had experience at the commission and we've had some vacant positions that we've recruited the type of people that we need. I am very pleased to say that they have really been working quite well.

I would hope that next year at this time maybe we'll be able to tell you a little more about our five year program. At least, tell you about our dreams that we have for the department. There are many projects that are being studied now that we will be able to announce fairly soon. As I stated, we were quite weak in the care of mental illness and this is something that we are addressing at this time. We are looking at our home care. I think that I shouldn't repeat. I think that I mentioned most of them in my opening remarks.

It is a co-ordination of the people that we had all over the place, we've brought them together under Mr. Pascoe. I think that there is nine in that department.

MR. A. BROWN: There has been quite a few changes in this particular area of Planning and Research. Has there also been quite a change in staff?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: As I said, I think there were one or two vacant positions, but all the other people were all reallocated to this department. Some of them were at the Manitoba Health Services Commission and some were at the department with different groups. Now they are together. Of course, as probably you know, the people are working quite closely with the Provincial Gerontologist and also the Provincial Psychiatrist and other departments that have certain responsibilities.

MR. A. BROWN: I believe that this is the area in which the Health Research Council is very active. I wonder if the Minister could tell me whether this particular council is still active or has their responsibilities increased?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Yes, this was something that was started by the former Minister. When I had this portfolio before, I think we started on a very small scale, and then the Member for Fort Garry started that. There was an Act that we proclaimed though last year and we named the board. Dr. Israels, who has always

been very very active, and that's another one I think Manitobans are very fortunate to have. I think he is a very dedicated person.

The member would like some information on that. The council consists of 11 members and is chaired by Dr. Lyonel Israels, as I said. In the 1982 competition, there were 105 grants applications; 30 grants were awarded amounting to a total of \$570,000.00. The approved grants comprised 3 post-doctoral fellowships, 6 studentships, 4 equipment grants, and 20 operating grants. Research areas covered included cardiovascular and respiratory diseases, cancer, birth defects, inherited metabolic disorders and learning disabilities, gastrointestinal disease, community health and drug addiction.

We're asking for some increase this year. I think it was approximately 9 percent; that's what we're working with hospital and other areas.

MR. A. BROWN: Can the Minister tell me whether the Health Research Council is keeping in touch with other research areas in other jurisdictions; let's say the United States and other provinces, and so on? Could he explain some of their activities when, presumably, they do get together with other research teams? Could he give me an idea of how they are progressing as far as cancer is concerned and some of these other areas which he said that they were involved with?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, I don't know if they get together to discuss the progress so much. I think that is probably done by the researchers themselves and depending on what field they are. I think that the responsibility of these people is to make sure that in all the applications they only approve those that are worthy and they want to make sure there is no duplication. So there is, I believe, in different countries some kind of a central bureau where they can get this kind of information where they can get approval if they want any reference about certain researchers; they have to be approved. They go at it quite seriously to make sure there is no duplication, because if you just work in a vacuum, you can just imagine they'll be working here on the same thing they might be working on in Calgary or in California or Vienna. So they try to make sure that there is no duplication and that the people are qualified and are people who deserve a grant.

As far as the progress, I believe that probably researchers in cancer, for instance, will get together and exchange papers and then, as you know, in different medical conferences and so on, they are asked to present papers and this is how they find out where the progress that is being made.

MR. A. BROWN: That was one of my major concerns; that was one of my reasons for asking the question to find out whether there was duplication of activities that were going on in Manitoba; whether there was a duplication of research going on in other particular areas. I agree with the Minister that I do believe we have a very very capable person who is the head of that particular research team and he is doing an excellent job.

I wonder, can the Minister tell me specifically how much of that \$570,000 research grant is spent on cancer

research, or if he has a breakdown, could he give me the breakdown of how much money is spent in all of these areas that he mentioned before.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, one of the important things about this group, this council, is that they are at arms length from the Minister. There is no interference from the Minister at all. I haven't got this information; I've only been giving those what I gave him. We could probably get that, but I couldn't give him a breakdown of how much money is spent. If the member insists, I could try and find out from Dr. Israels and get that information.

MR. A. BROWN: If it wouldn't be too much trouble, it would be interesting. This would kind of give us an idea where the priorities lie as far as the research council is concerned. Other than that, if it's too much of a problem, but it shouldn't be difficult because I'm sure they have all the answers for that at their fingertips. So, if the Minister wouldn't mind, I would appreciate getting that information.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: I'll let Dr. Israels answer that, but I don't think that necessarily the amount of money will go by priority. It depends who, at what special time, applies for what, and it could be, I imagine, that cancer research for one thing is a high priority; but maybe if there is something being done in Calgary, as I said, they are not going to duplicate these things. It depends on the people that are available here. We might have people that are researchers in a certain field. It doesn't necessarily mean that is the most pressing, but it is the contribution that Manitoba can make to the world in general because people don't keep this information for themselves. You can rest assured if there is ever a cure for cancer that everybody will take advantage of it. So I think it would be wrong to think that you justify the priorities by the amount of monies spent. We will ask Dr. Israels to - I enumerated those that received grants - try and break it down if he can.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Swan River.

MR. D. GOURLAY: Thanks, Mr. Chairman. For some time now there has been an identified need for some level of health care to be extended to elderly persons' housing, and I was wondering, does this come under this section of planning and research or is there another section that it would come under.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Housing doesn't come under this department, but we're very concerned if the member is talking about programs. I would think that very shortly we'll get to the gerontologist, the next thing. We're still on the Manitoba Health Research Council. It's the next item. My department is not responsible for housing, but any suggestion that the member would like to make, I'd certainly like to listen. It might be something that the provincial gerontologist is interested in. As I said, the provincial gerontologist is not the gerontologist for the Department of Health. It is the Provincial, Manitoba Gerontologist. They work interdepartmental, in pensions, it could be anything and there's committees and there's people named from every department.

Officially named, so we don't have to - we can proceed with all kinds of - the responsibility for services to the elderly rests with my department, not housing.

MR. D. GOURLAY: Mr. Chairman, I appreciate that the Department of Health is not directly concerned with elderly persons housing projects as such. However, for a number of years now, the people that have been residents in the EPH's, there has been, I think, an identified need of some kind or some level of health care to be extended into these types of projects. I am just wondering what kind of research or planning has been undertaken by the Department of Health in anticipation that they would have to at some point in the near future, it would desirable inclusion to have an enriched elderly persons housing program. I am just wondering if this is the area of planning, where this would be identified?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: I wonder, Mr. Chairman, if you can call then 1.(c) and then we can get into that if there are no more questions on the Manitoba Health Research Council, - make sure there is no opposition.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Rhineland.

MR. A. BROWN: Before we do that, I have one more question on 1.(b). I notice that in the preamble there provides conjoint planning, evaluation and research activities for the Department and the Manitoba Health Services Commission. In 2.(c), we had the Management and Analytical services: Provides comprehensive operational reviews and systems analyses of departmental operations and financial systems to assist management in improving efficiency, economy and effectiveness and so on. I wonder is there a duplication between 1.(b) and 2.(c)?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: 2.(c) is strictly Administration. It is the systems dealing with staff and strictly Administration, whereas, Planning is planning health programs for the people of Manitoba. It is completely different.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 1.(b)(1)—pass; 1.(b)(2)—pass; 1.(b)(3)—pass; 1.(c)(1) Office of the Provincial Gerontologist, Salaries.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I think the member talked about what we used to call enriched senior citizens homes. I think that is what you meant. I was the one that always called it enriched senior citizens homes and I've been corrected many times by the staff. I think that we want to emphasize that it's not necessarily building that will be different. It is services that we will bring to these people. This is exactly - it is very difficult, it's not as easy as we thought that we can say, okay, this is what we are going to do. We have to deal with these people. It depends what the needs are. It might vary, it will vary, it definitely does vary from home to home. One of the things that might be repeated, it is the question of at times make sure that they get proper meals. That is one of the things. They are happy, the family is happy but they can't prepare their meals, so there is a concern. Now, in

some areas, I think that one of the programs we might have, we are trying to improve the situation at the senior citizens on Smith Street that had a restaurant, but at times it's been closed. They are closed on weekends and so on, so this is one of the things we're addressing.

Another area is the concern and the complaints that these people do not always take their medicine in time, so we're trying to look at that. There are other areas that we might have, people that are handicapped. There's all kinds of programs and that's probably the first priority we've had an interdepartmental committee that would work with the Minister responsible for housing, the Minister responsible for social programs, our department, and they are working on that. There is a committee name and they're coming out with programs on that. Of course once we've got something, I intend to go back to Cabinet to get approval for some of these programs.

We are also looking at the question of home care. Does it fall under home care or does it fall under other programs. That committee that the Gerontologist has, the Advisory Committee, the council on aging, also assists this committee with their suggestions, will assist with these suggestions, and carry the message to these people.

Oftentimes it's not necessarily that the government or the people of Manitoba can do everything for nothing for all these people. Some of these people are ready to pay providing that they know somebody that can, it's not just the health, it's the complete care. They might be very happy in a place like this or even in their homes, providing they know that somebody can come in and do certain work. They're ready to pay and we're trying to provide that information for these people also.

Of course all the other programs of home care, day care for the elderly, respite care and all these programs come on, but we'll look at that a little more closely. The member is completely in order when we talk about housing, but to go into those other programs, when we go in the commission and talk about personal care homes and home care and so on, we'll discuss that fully if you wish.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Swan River.

MR. D. GOURLAY: Mr. Chairman, did I understand the Minister to say that this is a committee that is currently studying ways and means that they can assist with the Housing Program to provide some enriched care? I know in the area that I serve, the Swan River Valley, we have several communities with a very high senior citizens population and the Housing Program has been extended to those communities. People have been living in the EPH's now for several years. When they went in there, they were able to look after themselves quite well. They are still there and as the Minister has identified, they have trouble attending to taking regular medication, maybe a problem with preparing adequate meals. It's not a situation where it's a high level of attendance or servicing is required to some of these homes, but certainly if we can extend the stay in these homes of these people for an extra matter of a year or additional months, it certainly, I think is important to the overall cost of health care.

Certainly these people like to remain in their own communities even though it might be just a move of

some 25 miles to a personal care home where they could be attended to. But, then again, there's a lot of pressure to get people into personal care homes and certainly, I think that if we can look at some kind of enriched care extending to the housing program, it would be beneficial to our total health needs.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, the honourable member is absolutely right. The intention is to keep people in their residence, in their home, and that could be senior housing or private homes as long as possible, not to put them into an institution, and these programs are very necessary.

As I've stated, we've formed a committee composed of representation of these three departments, and this committee will act as a catalyst to develop policies and guidelines and implement strategies that will enable the elderly to maintain their independence, independent living in the community at large and also in social housing.

The committee will initiate projects which will encompass a variety of housing situations in community context, large urban, small rural situations where existing resources need to be better co-ordinated and more efficiently delivered. So it's exactly what has been described by the honourable member that we're trying to do; keep the people in their home as long as possible. If they need some service, it will help them to be able to live independently without the premature request for a personal care home or even Home Care and so on.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Rhineland.

MR. A. BROWN: Mr. Minister, I think that we've made great strides in this particular area in the last while, and I'm very pleased to see that the Minister has kept the Council on Aging involved. As a matter of fact, I believe he said that he had given them a larger role to play in the overall development of this particular program.

I wonder if the Minister could just elaborate a little on the activities of the Council on Aging, and what added role he has given them.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: I think that the important thing, the change that we made is that it's enlarged - it will be enlarged, it will be named any day now, it's going to Cabinet for approval fairly soon - to represent different people, some of them approximately 50 percent of them senior citizens themselves, and then people as representative as possible of the different people of Manitoba.

Now, the main differences that this committee now, I think there was a tendency or, what should I say, a possibility that it could be a little too political, and instead of reporting to me, it's reporting to the Provincial Gerontologist. Of course, we did not have a gerontologist before so it's working directly with them because that's the responsibility of the Provincial Gerontologist.

The council, for instance, reported to me the study that they contracted on elderly abuse last fall, and I've appointed an interdepartmental committee to review this study. I have just received their interim progress

note and will be receiving their final report by the summer. This is only an example of what this council will do. This is an area in which further suggestions will be brought forward as they are documented and become available. The council's report also on the young adult disabled, transportation for the mobility disabled, and physical fitness programs for seniors, have all been received during this past year and I have appointed committees to review each of these reports and just submit recommendations by the fall.

The first Manitoba Senior Citizens' Handbook, which was pilot tested last year and, in all honesty, the credit goes to the former Minister. That was started pretty well and nearly finished in his days, but they were received only last year and they were pilot tested. They have been revised and reprinted and we are now translating these little books. You've seen these little books; I think I passed them around last year. They will be translated in French, Ukrainian, and German, and I expect to be able to print and distribute copies in these languages before the end of the year. This is a book to try to keep up-to-date and to give the proper information, as I was saying before, to these people, where they can get certain services, what is available to them, who to contact, and how to go about it to apply or to get more information. So we're looking forward to working with these people and I know that our Provincial Gerontologist is very, very interested and feels that they certainly have a very important role to play and looking forward to the government naming these people as soon as possible so they could go ahead and do their work and keep on with these reports.

MR. A. BROWN: The Minister had mentioned that a gerontologist had been added to this particular group of people working in this office. I wonder, can the Minister tell me how many SMYs there were last year and how many there are this year. Is this the only person that was added to the group or were there more?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Again, Mr. Chairman, these were people that were reassigned to these positions. As I said, we've reassigned, we've shuffled the department; we have less staff man years now than we had last year, even though we have this new position. Miss Betty Havens was working with the department, was in research previously, but her expertise certainly is in gerontology. She doesn't like us to call her Dr. Havens. It's Dr. Betty Havens and she is certainly well-known. I know when I was in Vienna, when they talk about the work, the preparation that had been made for the Canadian document, they spoke very highly of her. The person from the Federal Government told me that she probably was the person most responsible for the preparation of this document. So she's very interested; she's a hard worker, and I think she accepts the challenge of this new position. There's an awful lot of work to be done there but we had those two staff man years that were taken from somewhere else and reorganized. There's no new staff here.

MR. A. BROWN: The Minister had mentioned the Home Care Program and how effective it was in keeping people longer in their homes and I'm certain that it is; it's a very good program. Every once in awhile though,

as members, we do get calls when problems arise when some of these elderly people are in their own home and they do need quite an extensive amount of care. Of course, we have the ruling in there that Home Care will not pay relatives for looking after their parents. Every once in awhile this creates a bit of a problem and I happened to just have a call of that nature again this morning.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, we've talked; I know it's closely related because the gerontologist is interested in all care, all facets of the life of the elderly. There is a very important item on Continuous Care Services. You'll see the amount of money, and this is probably the place where I'm asking for more money. I wonder if we could wait until we get there on Page 85, (d), Continuing Care Service. This is just the office of the Gerontologist actually. I suggest that we were going to talk about housing, that would be the place to discuss it, because it doesn't come under our department.

MR. A. BROWN: So far, we have not received a copy of the Minister's Capital Expenditures and some of the programs I'm sure where he will be spending capital on involved in this particular item.

Can the Minister tell me when he is going to table the Capital Expenditures, the program of how many personal care homes or whatever is going to be built?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, now my honourable friend is really jumping. This I promise, I go on the record as saying that you'll have all that before we start the Estimates of the Manitoba Health Services Commission. This comes under - the Capital Program on hospitals and personal care homes. Continuing Care is there. There's no Capital in there. The member was talking about the capital for construction, wasn't it? Yes, that should be available before we go into the Estimates of the Commission.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 1.(c)(1)—pass; 1.(c)(2) - the Member for Swan River.

MR. D. GOURLAY: I wonder if the Minister could briefly outline what this includes in Other Expenditures; this section?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: This is the expense for the Council on Aging, plus also the expense for the printing of the handbook and so on.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 1.(c)(2)—pass; 2.(a)(1), Administrative Services, Administration and Financial Services, Salaries—pass - the Member for Rhineland.

MR. A. BROWN: I wonder if the Minister could give us a bit of an indication of Administrative Services and give us a rundown, sort of an opening statement on this particular department.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: If I understand correctly, the member would like to know some of the activities of this branch: Co-ordinating the department's annual Estimates; process including the preparation of the

Minister's House Book; reporting on departmental cash flow, appropriation commitments, revised spending projections, supplementary funding requirements, and other financial matters to assist senior management with financial planning; co-ordinating activities pertaining to the establishment of appropriate program support conditions and funding support levels for external health agencies, as well as administering departmental funding relationships with these agencies; providing computer programming expertise for the development, implementation or revision of departmental computer systems, such as the department's immunization monitoring system; statistical analysis function for the department includes case data, annual report and fiscal reports, management reports, etc.; performing departmental disbursement, revenue and payroll accounting functions, and establishing departmental accounting systems, policies and procedures to guide field and central accounting operations; administering departmental fleet vehicle assignment and usage; expediting departmental requisition for goods and services and co-ordinating the provision of operational services from the Department of Government Services to meet departmental space construction, communication and other requirements.

MR. A. BROWN: Can the Minister tell me how many SMYs there were last year and how many there are this year, and whether there has been substantial change in staff?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, if my honourable friend could look at the document I gave him. It's very clear that you have under Administrative Services on the first page 21-2(a) Administration and Financial Services; adjusted vote '82-83 was 25.5 and now we've gone to 24. There's a decrease of 1.5; the reduction was arrived at by the reduction of statistic function by one and half a clerical civil servant.

MR. A. BROWN: I hope that the Minister appreciates that I haven't had any time at all to take a look at the information.

I don't think I have any further questions on that particular item unless somebody else has? We're prepared to move.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 2.(a)(1)—pass; 2.(a)(2)—pass; 2.(b)(1), Personnel Management Services, Salaries—pass; 2.(b)(2)—pass; 2.(c)(1) Management and Analytical Services, Salaries.

The Member for Rhineland.

MR. A. BROWN: I wonder if the Minister could just give me a bit of an explanation as to what analytical services they are providing?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: The administrative studies unit became part of this branch in October of 1982 in order to provide for more comprehensive operational studies. Projects undertaken included administrative reviews of community mental health in the Westman region; one-to-one supervision; suicide watch at Selkirk Mental Health Centre and Brandon Mental Health Centre; the

financial audit of the Home Orderly Service and a detailed review of Home Orderly Services Limited. Other projects undertaken include: automation of the medical supplies and home care equipment client and inventory records and continuation of work in the immunization and monitoring system.

MR. A. BROWN: Do the staff of this particular department go into various hospitals within the province, and also look at their efficiency and effectiveness?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: The only one that they might really, if there's something special would be the mental hospital because they come under the department but all the hospitals come under the Manitoba Health Services Commission and the standards, officers, and other resource people are at the commission.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 2.(c)(1)—pass; 2.(c)(2)—pass; 2.(d)(1) Health Education and Professional Development, Salaries. The Member for Rhineland.

MR. A. BROWN: I wonder if the Minister could do the same thing with this particular department. Give us the functions, any new material that has been out, any new films, maybe he could give us a rundown of what's happening in this particular area.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: This branch of this department provides professional health, education, consultation in programming as well as education materials in support of programs of the department, the public and external agencies, reference library and film service, audio-visual resource and design service are also provided. It includes responsibility for departmental management training and development.

During the 1982 calendar year 2,318 publications were ordered, 9,646 films were loaned, 282 graphic design projects completed, 15,600 persons reached with various types of health education programs. During 1983-84 the mass media emphasis will be on non-smoking - I'm pleased that nobody is smoking while we're looking at this, — (Interjection) — who? How can he smoke, you're fired.

The study will initiate feasibility of setting up school clinics on teenage pregnancies, that is the work.

MR. A. BROWN: Is this particular department working in close co-operation with the Department of Education? Would it be the Department of Education schools really that would be ordering these films, these pamphlets, the audio-visual screens and so on?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Very much so, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Tuxedo.

MR. G. FILMON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, does this area work in consultation or in co-operation with Planned Parenthood and others who go around to schools and provide an educational service?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Yes, if they have any material to develop or any material that we have or material that might come from anywhere, from the Federal

Government and so on, this is the department that would have that in the reference library and so on, and would certainly work with these people if at all possible, if they can help them in any way. Any group like that, it's mostly in the schools and with teachers and so on.

MR. G. FILMON: Does the department provide grants for some of these ancillary groups such as Planned Parenthood and others?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: The only grant - there is also the list of all the grants that we have and under this the only grant was \$15,000, a one-time-only grant to support the provincial and national world-wide effort to reduce smoking. This was the big push this year under this health education, in conjunction with other groups, not alone.

MR. G. FILMON: Has the Minister become one of the proponents of the stop smoking group?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: I'm getting there, I still have a pipe but it's empty, it used to be full all the time. So I'm gradually getting there, I might say that we are making an effort, for instance, in our boardrooms there is no smoking at all. I even asked the MMA to put out their cigarettes at one meeting and was I pleased to be able to do that.

I might say that the rule that we have in our office is that the person who has the office is the one to decide. For instance, I don't smoke in my Deputy Minister's office. Some people smoke but it's up to them and he doesn't smoke in mine either. We are, I think there is an effort, I see the changes where you used to be ashamed to say you don't smoke now you're practically afraid to say you're a smoker when you go in certain public places. It seems that the difficult period is also the teenage girls more than the boys. That's where the problems seem to be.

MR. G. FILMON: I'm sure that the effects of peer pressure are much greater than all of the effects of advertising and promotion and some of the programs that are being developed but I'm sure that with the Minister's support we'll work towards an improvement in this area.

Mr. Chairman, I wonder if some of the educational activities of the Maternal and Child Health Care task force come under here or work in with this group.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, I might ask the member to be patient, this will come under Community Health Programs on Page 84 we'll be able to deal with this. I might say that, going back to the smoking, the information we have, the surveys show now that there are 60 percent of Canadians that are non-smokers, 60 percent, nobody would have believed that a few years ago.

MR. G. FILMON: In that case I'd like to welcome the Minister to the majority. Mr. Chairman, I noted that one of the responsibilities of this particular group is Manpower Planning and it was only a matter of a few years ago that we were facing a fairly severe nursing shortage in the province and I know that a number of

things were undertaken by our administration including things such as providing a short course for retraining for nurses to get them back into the work force as quickly as possible and certainly encouraging the training and education of nurses. In terms of the manpower planning aspect of it can the Minister give us any indications of how Manitoba is faring now in meeting its needs for registered nurses today and what the projections are for the near future.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: We are going back now to something we've covered already but that would be in the planning. I might say that we're looking at, there is no decision yet, the nursing program - that is if I understood the question correctly - the baccalaureate nursing programs. This is something that is discussed also with the Department of Education. We've met with the Members of the Executive of MARN, the President of MARN, the Executive Director. We've listened to them and this is something that should be decided fairly soon.

MR. G. FILMON: The Minister indicated that they've been meeting with the executive of MARN regarding the Baccalaureate Program and developing the means for having the Baccalaureate. Is it still intended to have that available at all the universities in Manitoba, or what is the present plan?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: This is still under discussion with the three universities; we are waiting to hear from them. I want to make it clear, there's no decision made as yet. The nursing profession would like to make this compulsory and there is still a concern, who will do the work if you only have people that are graduating with degrees? I want to make it clear, there is no decision arrived at yet. Even in the nursing profession, some of the people feel that they should still have their three-year diploma course, so it is quite a concern, it is very important. As you know, the nurses, the nursing profession, they want to deliver service also. This is coming to us from that group and from other groups also, they're talking about delivering their service. In fact, they're talking about delivering an insured service. In other words, instead of somebody going to see the doctor, go and see a nurse. So, it is not something that we can go at that too fast. There is a lot of work on that, there's a lot of concern but we are addressing, we are looking at the situation, discussing it with the university.

MR. G. FILMON: Mr. Chairman, I recognize that the move to the Baccalaureate requirement for nurses is one that certainly will require a great deal of thought and consideration in terms of its ramifications on the professional and their availability in the health care system. I will ask the Minister if he would mind indulging me, because I was in the other committee on the other one. I am interested in what the present availability of registered nurses is and the projections for the near term future is? We, as I say, did undergo a time in which we had a shortage only a few years ago. I know that many moves took place to overcome that shortage and I am wondering what the present projections are in terms of the availability of registered nurses now and in the short term future in the province?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: There is actually no shortage of nurses. There is a shortage of nurses in different specialties; the same as there is no shortage of doctors. There is a shortage of the specialists, and there is also a shortage of people that want to go in certain areas, for instance, in rural areas in the north, but there is no shortage of nurses.

One of the concerns that we had not long ago is to make sure, for instance, when we are closing these obstetrical beds, to make sure that the nurses will get employment. The same thing at Deer Lodge and all those areas. So, I think it is safe to say that there's not really a shortage of nurses here in Manitoba. There might be specialists. We might have to have different courses for them, especially in the rural area where it's always more difficult to get the people. Many of the nurses that are part time, they're living there with a family, they are married people, they're the ones that we're lucky to have in some of the rural areas. If it wasn't for them, the younger nurses, it's more difficult to have them go in these rural areas. But, in general, there is no shortage of nurses.

MR. G. FILMON: I wonder then, Mr. Chairman, if the Minister could indicate if the overall availability matches the demand reasonably well, but that there are specific areas, and they include the rural and remote areas, what incentives the department is planning to implement to try and attract more nurses to go into these less desirable areas; whether those incentives be fringe benefits or financial incentives, does the Minister or the government have any plans to try and enhance those benefits to encourage people to go into these areas?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: It is also a question, there is not only the hospitals, there is public health nurses. I would hope that we can beef up our own complement of public health nurses. For instance, in my previous stint as Minister of Health, I thought that I was improving the situation, I think that I had eight in one year - it was a year of restraint, as we've had so many lately - I think there were eight additional public health nurses that we had; we were very pleased. But I realize now, this time around, that as soon as we get nurses they end up delivering the Home Care Program. It is on the demand now. We are looking at that, we want the Home Care Program to stand on its own two feet and to make sure that we have nurses to do it. They're disappointed, the nurses, many of these public health nurses, feel that they didn't join the department; not that they're not rendering a good service in delivering home care, but maybe part of that could be delivered by social workers and other people. They like to deliver public health and child and maternal care and that kind of thing now. So, that is one area.

We're certainly looking also at the possibility of having nurse practitioners in some of these areas. As I say, there's not really a shortage of nurses even in this area. There might be a certain specialty, but I don't know, it hasn't been brought to my attention in the last year and a half, hey, we can't get nurses for this hospital. I don't say that they can get it from one day to the other, but it is certainly not one of the major problems that we have in this department.

MR. G. FILMON: When the Minister speaks in terms of having nurse practitioners go into the rural and remote areas where perhaps medical doctors aren't available, would this then become an insured service, or is that part of the planning?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: I think it's a little premature to answer that at this time. My recommendation would be that these people would be a service, that if you're talking about an insured service, it might be a service that the people will be provided with at no cost, but not necessarily people on fee-for-service or somebody opening an office. It could be the people hired on salary by the department in the public health field, for instance, to deliver that service, or through a hospital or another facility. But, that's a little premature. We've talked about a nurse practitioner and there has always been some concern with the medical profession. It's kind of a touchy ground between the nursing profession and the medical profession at this time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Gladstone.

MRS. C. OLESON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was wondering, from the Minister, in your opening remarks you mentioned alcohol and drug courses for schools. Does this follow under this section we're talking about now?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: No, the Alcohol Foundation is responsible for all these programs on fighting alcohol and drugs.

MRS. C. OLESON: So we could discuss it under that heading?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Yes.

MRS. C. OLESON: Thanks.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Rhineland.

MR. A. BROWN: I notice that this particular department is also responsible for Departmental Management Training and Professional Development. I wonder if the Minister could elaborate a little on the training program that they do have for their departmental management.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: This is mostly training of personnel in management positions, not training of people in the health field really. It's departmental people mostly for training in this area.

MR. A. BROWN: I realize that, Mr. Chairman, but let's say that I applied for a certain position and I was successful in being chosen for that particular position, what kind of extensive training period would I be going through? Would this be training on the job, or would there be a special training session some other place, or what kind of training do you have for your departmental people?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: First of all, if you're successful, that means you probably would be qualified, but to progress it would be training on the job and seminars,

and so on, to keep you posted and up-to-date as much as possible. It's mostly seminars with the staff that we have.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 2.(d)(1)—pass; 2.(d)(2)—pass.

2.(e)(1) Medical Supplies and Home Care Equipment: Salaries - the Member for Rhineland.

MR. A. BROWN: This particular department provides wheelchairs, crutches, and things like that. I wonder if the Minister has any idea how much inventory we have in that particular department. How many dollars worth of equipment do we have?

The other question that I would like to ask him is how much loss do we have every year. A wheelchair is probably easier to keep track of, but crutches, let's say. Are these crutches returned when the Department of Health issues them or are a number of them lost? I wonder if the Minister could give me some of those statistics.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Maybe it'll be helpful if I first of all explain where we've been spending the money.

In the General Home Care Equipment in '82-83, it was \$256,800; and this year, it will be \$250,000.00; standard wheelchairs was \$149,500; this year it will be \$146,000; motorized wheelchairs \$104,000, the same amount; ostomy supplies, the same amount last year and this year at \$358,800; respiratory support system, the same amount, \$104,000; contraceptive devices \$112,100, the same; medical supplies \$430,000 also

The wheelchair, for instance, we have the standards; as of December 31, we had on loan 3,621, and in stock 333; December '82, 3,700 on loan and 397 in stock. The total for standards we had at the end of '81, 3,854, and we now have 4,097. It always takes awhile. That was at the end of 1982.

Motorized; we had a total of 131 at the end of '81, and we now have 177.

MR. A. BROWN: You would think that this equipment - we've been purchasing this equipment for a number of years now - that eventually we would have enough wheelchairs so that we would not have to be purchasing too many wheelchairs, or crutches, or whatever.

I wonder, can the Minister tell me; would most of this be in motorized wheelchairs, the expenditure that we have in this particular area, because I believe that is something that is relatively new that they can get motorized wheelchairs.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: The average life expectancy of a wheelchair is seven years. Now, we need less tenures. I think a couple of years ago we changed quite a few of them. Last year we spent \$149,500 and this year there's a reduction \$146,000. That's for standard wheelchairs.

The motorized wheelchair, it's the same amount. That, I guess, we'd have to build more. It's a newer program and they are probably more in demand now. We're spending the same amount of money this year as last year, \$104,000.00. Now, we have a total motorized, we had \$131,000 and that's at the end of '81. In '82, we have \$177,000.00. That's just a couple of months ago we had \$177,000, and we're asking for the same amount of money.

MR. A. BROWN: Does the department also buy these - I don't know what you call them - a kind of a tricycle on bicycle wheels with three wheels, motorized units, that you'll see some senior citizens or some handicapped people driving around with in towns. Does the Department of Health get involved with these at all, or are these purchased privately?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: No, those are privately owned. We don't have any.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Portage.

MR. L. HYDE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To the Minister, I wonder if the Minister could give me a little information on the availability of the Home Care Equipment? I know that I have been approached at different times asking for certain equipment. I've referred them to the public nurse in the area. I really haven't heard anything on that, and I'm just wondering. Is there a government policy pertaining to the equipment when it is requested.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: First of all, it's in the community, not in personal care homes. Personal care homes, they have to provide their own, the services that are there, and I'm thinking about wheelchairs for instance.

In the community, those have to be people that have been panelled for home care, or it could be requested through the doctor or the public health nurse in areas like that would be the proper way.

MR. L. HYDE: But the equipment would be made available to them?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Yes, whatever is available; that would be the way, yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 2.(e)(1) - the Member for Tuxedo.

MR. G. FILMON: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister could outline what else is included in the "certain other medical supplies." It indicates or delineates wheelchairs, and a home oxygen delivery system, but what other medical supplies are included?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: That is mostly dressings, bandages and support that are needed for the Home Care people, people given the home care for dressings in the homes and so on.

MR. G. FILMON: These are consumable supplies?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Yes.

MR. G. FILMON: Do crutches come under this category?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: No. The Society of Crippled Children and Adults distribute the crutches, we have nothing to do with that, although we purchase them and they do the distribution for the government.

MR. G. FILMON: Including those that are available at the hospitals, at any particular source?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: The hospitals rent them on their own, rent them to patients for short term.

MR. G. FILMON: Did the Minister earlier say that contraception devices were included in these supplies? Under what circumstances would they be provided to people on a home care basis?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Yes, this was introduced just a few years ago and distribution is through the doctors and is a program that we started jointly with the Manitoba Health Services Commission. They are distributed to the Manitoba physician and it's the intrauterine contraceptive device program. The cost last year was \$112,100, and the same thing this year, but this is distribution to doctors' offices and so on, but they are paid for, they are furnished by us.

MR. G. FILMON: These are IUD's that are provided through physicians throughout the province free of charge to any patients who the physician feels requires them.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Yes.

MR. G. FILMON: What other items stand out in this appropriation?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: We covered the General Home Care Equipment, the Wheelchair Program - standard and motorized, the Ostomy Program, stoma supplies and appliances are provided to all Manitoba ostomates registered with the program, professional appliance fittings, skin care and educational support programs is provided by two enterostomal therapists contracted to the Victorian Order of Nurses - that's a fairly new program. There's also the respiratory support system, the same, there's was \$104,000 spent on that. These are electrically operated oxygen-concentrators which take room air and through a filtering process convert the air to approximately 90 percent pure oxygen that flows at up to 4 litres per minute. This system is used for patients who have met certain medical criteria and who, through blood and gas analysis, require large amounts of oxygen on a continuing basis in their own homes; 30 concentrators - \$93,000, and parts and repairs, another \$10,000. Then there is the contraceptive device, the medical supplies and then there is warehousing, delivery and general office. The cost, there's an increase in that, it was a cost of 165.2, an increase this year, 171.1, an increase of 5.9 thousand dollars. That's a general increase of 9 percent, or 5.9 percent in professional fees for enterostomal therapists services contracted to the Victorian Order of Nurses. That's about it.

Also, in addition to the medical supplies and equipment provided through funds in the appropriation the branch is responsible for the acquisition and distribution of medical supplies for the Public Health, Family Planning and Venereal Disease Programs. Funds for these supplies are included in the appropriate program areas.

MR. G. FILMON: Mr. Chairman, with respect to the ostomy supplies, I have been made aware of this

through a constituent I know who requires these supplies and she has called me on occasion in the past, not recently, where there was a difficulty in obtaining these supplies. I gather it was a short-term problem with availability, that supplies had run out in the province, they had difficulties in deliveries and so on. I know that there is a rather large group of people who utilize these supplies; there's a group that meets once a month, I think, at St. Boniface Hospital or somewhere of that nature, and they are very much dependent on this particular service. Is there any problem with obtaining these supplies? I gather that they are brought in from outside the country, in fact.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: I am informed that there are enough funds there for all supplies. The only thing, it is a delay in delivery of supplies at times that might cause that, that's probably the case that my friend referred to, but there are enough funds, there is not a limit of so much money and there's no more.

MR. G. FILMON: How many people throughout the province are requiring these supplies, does the Minister have any idea of the numbers on that?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: The services provided were December 31, 1982, 12,469; December 1982, 11,351. Now the reduction in services provided is due to a change in delivery pattern. The caseload represents approximately 60 percent in the Winnipeg area and 40 percent rural area. Now, the type of illness, there's colostomy at 850; ileostomy 218; urostomy 239; and others, like fistula, etc. 38, for a total in 1982 of 1,345.

MR. G. FILMON: Where are the supplies generally brought in from?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: They're pretty well all American made but we order them through Toronto.

MR. G. FILMON: Generally speaking, the availability is good and these problems that I recall were just short-term then?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Yes, it would appear that that's the case.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 2.(e)(1)—pass; 2.(e)(2) - the Member for Swan River.

MR. D. GOURLAY: Yes, the money expended under Other Expenditures, that covers the cost of the wheelchairs and supplies that we were just discussing, under Other Expenditures?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Yes, this is what we've been talking about now, that we . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: 2.(e)(2)—pass.

Resolution No. 89 - Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$4,192,800 for Health, Administrative Services, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1984—pass.

3. Community Health Operations, (a) Administration (1) Salaries - the Member for Rhineland.

MR. A. BROWN: I wonder if the Minister would agree that committee rise at this particular time. I know that Mr. Chairman would like to be present. This is rather a large department that we are going in to discussion and the hour is almost 10 o'clock. I wonder if the Minister would agree to a Committee rise.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, I have no problem at all. I was going to try to finish this page and this would give him ample time to talk about Regional Services. My understanding is that he can

cover Regional Services pretty well anything but if it is the information . . .

MR. G. FILMON: Does the Honourable Minister any opening remarks on this section?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: No, I had quite lengthy opening remarks at first and that would be covered. Could I ask my friend, do we finish this page or is it the wish to adjourn at this time?

MR. A. BROWN: I would say, committee rise.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Committee rise.