

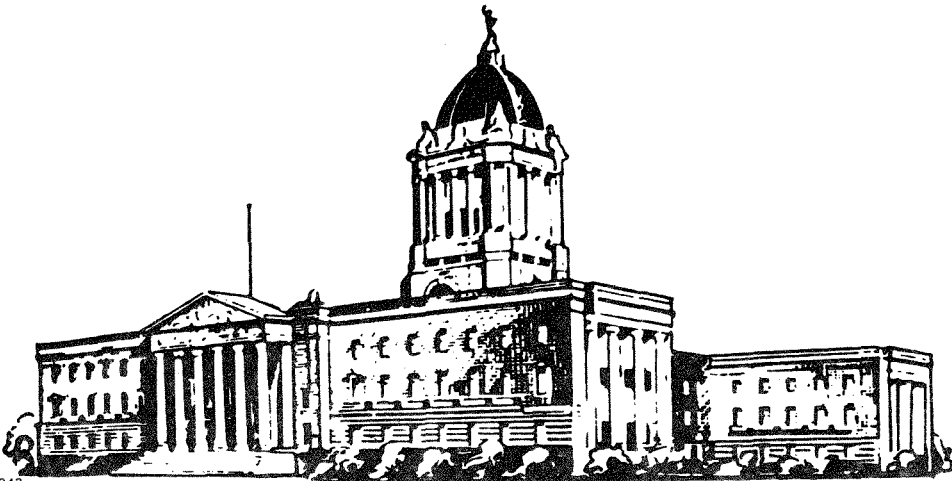


Second Session — Thirty-Second Legislature
of the
Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS

31-32 Elizabeth II

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The Honourable D. James Walding
Speaker*



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MANITOBA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
Thirty-Second Legislature

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Thursday, 2 June, 1983.

Time — 8:00 p.m.

CONCURRENT COMMITTEES OF SUPPLY

SUPPLY - CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND HISTORICAL RESOURCES

MR. CHAIRMAN, C. Santos: We are on Item No. 2, and I have read them all before.
The Honourable Minister.

HON. E. KOSTYRA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Prior to us rising for Private Members' Hour, there were some questions asked with respect to the Canada Council Grant to the Winnipeg Art Gallery. I have been able to get the following information that in the fiscal year 1982-83, the Canada Council Grant to the Winnipeg Art Gallery was \$148,000.00. This year, the grant from the Canada Council is \$120,000 which is a reduction of \$28,000.00.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The honourable member.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: I believe we were talking about the Tour Hosting Program, the Public Events Program, as it's called now. My question to the Minister, Mr. Chairman, is, who judges the need of the program? If the criteria is based on equal access and facilities and resources, all things being fairly equal, who judges the need?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: The present practice is that they're reviewed, depending on the area that they are involved in. As an example, if it's one dealing with a history-type project, it will be reviewed by staff of the Historic Resources Branch. If it's something related to archival activity, it would be reviewed by staff from the Archives Branch; the same for Public Libraries or Cultural, then the recommendation to grant based on the recommendation from the staff.

In the future, what we had anticipated having in place is some form of advisory committees which would include some representation from outside of the department to be on the advisory committees, similar to what's in place with respect to libraries. Right now, in Capital grants, there is an advisory committee that makes recommendation with respect to the Capital grants or what was in place with respect to the Local Histories Program.

There is also consultation with the regional staff in Recreation, Fitness as to their recommendations.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: What kind of money are we talking about when we're talking about these kinds of grants? Could the Minister give an example?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: I may have missed the last part of it, but the total amount of money that's available this fiscal year is \$130,000 which is out of the lotteries.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Is there a top range that a community-based organization could get a grant or is it open-ended? If they need a grant for something, what would be the top range?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: The range would be from the low end of \$75 to \$1,000 thought there is no maximum in place at the present time. As indicated before, under the previous program there were three different grant levels based on the location. In fact, they were grants that were specific amounts and we've attempted to provide for flexibility in the needs remoteness type of project so that it would be flexible amounts to be granted.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: I understand the flexible amount. I am just wondering then, if something comes in at \$5,000, \$10,000, will that be considered too high, or will that be considered something that can be looked at?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: Again, it would depend on the type of activity, the anticipated participation form of audience. I will use one example that I would think would reach the high side, if you will, and that would be having a concert of the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra outside of the City of Winnipeg which, as members are aware, will be quite expensive. Based on the cost of doing that and the anticipated audience, if it was part of regional tour, than that would be something that could conceivably be at a higher cost or a higher grant level than one performance of a single performing artist. The idea was to provide some flexibility into the granting program. The concerns that we received from the rural and Northern community that the grants program wasn't flexible to meet the very needs of the regions or the types of activities, so we've attempted to build in a more flexible approach to see if by doing that we can meet some of those needs.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Of the funds before the change to the tour hosting, the funds that were allocated to the program, were they all used, generally, before?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: Yes, the tour hosting funds were totally expended in the last fiscal year. In fact, there was some small amount of requests that were not met because of the increase in demand on that program.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Maybe I've missed something here, but as I look at this press release, it does indicate that the Public Events Program is replacing the Tour Hosting Program. I'm correct in that. If this program, and I know it has been so popular, using amounts from \$500 to \$700, depending on the location, and the money was expended, what's going to happen to the program then to all these communities and people within the community that are obviously using the program? What's going to happen when the money is expended

that much quicker because of the regions getting, say, something asking for money - like the symphony - coming into it. That changes the program considerably, I would think.

HON. E. KOSTYRA: Well there is, by combining resources, greater funds available, for one point. Secondly, by having a more flexible grant level, it allows us to respond to the actual needs of the community. Under the fixed grant, some communities were getting the grant even though, because of the kind of activity, because of the audience they could generate, they were, in essence, making money by getting the grant insofar as that particular activity could pay for itself because of audience participation. So the grant would be a bit of a bonus because it was a fixed amount and fixed to a particular activity that they were, in essence, developing reserves and that's certainly, I don't think, what was intended by the program. It was intended to help provide opportunities in rural and Northern Manitoba with respect to the performing groups and performing arts.

The Westman Region recently worked on a co-operative effort with touring within their communities and they showed that some base of doing that, that some communities only needed assistance as low as \$75 rather than getting the fixed grant of \$500, so by having a flexible approach, hopefully, we can expand the number of events that will be sponsored and assisted so that the money can be used better than it was in the past, because as the member can appreciate, there are some communities in rural and Northern Manitoba that, because of their size, need less assistance than other communities that their distance is farther, say, from Winnipeg, even within the southern part of the province and have smaller community bases, that they need a greater level of assistance than a larger community that's closer to Winnipeg.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: I'm somewhat surprised that the program, the Tour Hosting Program, was set up that you would get the money regardless of the need. I am just assuming that the department will be taking a close look at this to see that the communities and the organizations that formerly have made pretty good use out of this program would not be left out.

The Community Culture Councils Program - that's the new program with the cost-sharing with the province and the municipal governments to a maximum of \$20,000 - have any of the municipal governments indicated that they are willing to participate in this program?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: The applications under this program don't come in for another month, so we don't have an accurate picture. What we do know to date is that just about all of the Arts Councils in the northern region already have commitments of funding from their municipalities under this program. As far as the other Arts Councils, I don't have a report at this time and will know better once the applications close. A number of Arts Councils already, community Arts Councils, were receiving municipal support, though it varied from some direct grants or grants through the local recreation

commissions to the Arts Councils where in some communities it was subsidized rent or subsidized lease space which, under the terms of the cost-sharing, is a legitimate municipal contribution; so that in some cases it's just a matter of identifying what that rent is worth and that would be eligible for the cost-sharing under the program.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Were the municipalities consulted before the change in this program?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: The municipalities were consulted as part of the regional tour that took place in December. All the municipal councils were informed and invited to the meetings in their regions, and a number of councillors did attend. In fact, I gave a report of that in response to a question from the Member of Minnedosa some time ago. So they were attending and participating in the regional meetings. Since the announcement of the grants they have been formally notified by letter as to the details of the grants and were raised at meetings that I attended, formal meetings with the union and the Urban and Rural Associations. I haven't received any negative comment back from any of the councils.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Gladstone.

MRS. C. OLESON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To the Minister, were the Municipal Councils aware that that was one of the topics to be under discussion at those regional meetings?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: Not specifically, because the grant programs weren't revised until after the regional meetings. It wouldn't have made much sense to go out to regional meetings and say, this is what we're doing, because the idea was to try to get some feedback. The general issue of cost-sharing between the province and the municipalities was raised in the meetings; we didn't specifically say that we're going to revise this grant program or another grant program, but the issue was raised in a general way in discussing the funding of cultural activities. We talked about the cost-sharing that presently exists with libraries, between municipalities and the Provincial Government. The same principle is with respect to our Museums Grants Program, where the grant is only paid if there's an additional amount of money from other sources and they tend to, in a lot of cases, be funds from municipal governments, so it was discussed in that context, but we didn't specifically say there is going to be a grant program that will require provincial-municipal cost-sharing because, quite frankly, we did not decide until after the tours that we came forth with a change in the granting programs.

MRS. C. OLESON: The point that I was trying to make is that if the municipal people had known that this was one of the topics - I don't mean that you were tell them what you were going to do before you went to the meeting - I mean if this was mentioned as an agenda item there may have been more people come and expressed a view on it. That was just the point that I was trying to make, that if they didn't know it was on

the agenda, obviously they wouldn't go prepared to talk about it.

HON. E. KOSTYRA: I didn't know when I was at the regional meeting either that I was going to . . .

MRS. C. OLESON: That just came out of them, is that correct?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: The concept of cost-sharing between municipalities and Provincial Government was discussed in general terms and, in fact, the review that was done of Community Arts Councils, prior to us going to the public meetings, indicated that there was varying levels of support from municipalities. In some areas, municipalities were very supportive of the local community groups; in other areas they weren't and, quite frankly, I think that, in order to have development of those kind that I think we'd like to see in the communities, it has to have a commitment from the local area, just the same as the member is aware with respect to libraries. I don't think the Provincial Government can impose something on the community unless there's a commitment there from the local elected officials, so there's nothing that's being forced on the communities, rather one that if the local councils, or a collaboration of councils within an area, wish to have those kind of activities in their region and wish to access themselves to provincial dollars, then they have the vehicle, but there's certainly no force being put on them.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Is the Summer Festival of the Performing Arts, has it been cancelled?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: The program that's in place this summer is threefold.

We supported the first International Children's Festival that was held last weekend in Assiniboine Park to the tune of \$50,000, which was part of the total cost of staging that event that came to approximately \$190,000.00.

Further summer activity is going to be Ballet in the Park which we will subsidizing to the tune of \$20,000 and the Royal Winnipeg Ballet will be using other sources for a like amount to meet the total cost of the Ballet in the Park, of \$40,000.00. We will have funds available of up to \$80,000 for a children's tour in rural and Northern Manitoba. So that is the extent of the summer activities.

The previous Festival in the Park, which was an array of activities, for this year will be the Ballet in the Park.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: I have a few questions about the Winnipeg International Children's Festival. The province gave \$50,000, you said. Did that include the amount that the Department of Education put into that festival?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: If there was a contribution from the Department of Education, it would be over and above that \$50,000.00. I am under the impression that they bought 1,000 tickets at a cost of \$3,000 that were distributed to inner city schools, but I can't confirm that. But the \$50,000 was the grant from the Department of Cultural Affairs and Historic Resources.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: How much money did the Federal Government put into the festival?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: The figures that I will give you are tentative figures that are from a budget that was projected a month or two ago, so we don't have any final figures. I can't confirm what another level of government actually did. But what showed as the revenue source at that time was the Government of Canada, through Manpower, \$37,152; Summer Student Grant, which I presume is the Federal Summer Employment Program of \$10,000.00. But I cannot confirm those amounts because I am just using projected information that is part of the budget information that was submitted to us.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: The Minister indicated that the Festival's budget was \$190,000. Is that a correct figure?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: Again, the figure that we had was \$188,550, but I can't confirm that as being the final and actual budget. This was a budget projection of March, when it was submitted to us for the funding application.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: What kind of audit procedure or tabs is the department planning to keep on this festival? Indications from newspaper reports are that it has suffered a loss and with the amount of public funds involved in this festival, I am just wondering who's planning to pick up the loss?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: As far as I know the International Winnipeg Children's Festival is an incorporated non-profit organization under The Corporations Act of the Province of Manitoba, so they are an independent organization and therefore they would be responsible for any deficit that they may have incurred. I understand that there may be a shortfall of somewhere between \$10,000 and \$15,000.00.

As far as auditing, the grants are given in the same fashion as given to other non-profit incorporated arts organizations in the province and we ensure that the funds are used for the purposes that were stated with the grant. But we certainly don't do our own specific audit of the books of the organization because it is a separate incorporated body.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Would the Symphony and the Ballet - do they come under that same criteria as a non-profit organization?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: I don't quite know what the member means by same criteria as a non-profit organization.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Would they be a non-profit organization that the government gives grants to, under the same basis that a grant is given to the Winnipeg Children's Festival?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: Yes, the fashion that grants are given to other organizations, I believe are in the same way.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: I suppose what I'm getting at is that certainly the government in the past and still

is, are bailing out the Symphony and different organizations that have grants when they get into a deficit position. I am just wondering what's going to make this festival any different when it has a shortfall, a deficit.

HON. E. KOSTYRA: I don't believe it is or will be any different than any of the other organizations. They'll have to find ways and means of coping with that.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: I think we've all seen in the past, Mr. Chairman, how some of them have coped. They've been forced to turn to the government to help them out and that's why I am asking and possibly suggesting that a good look be taken and a careful watch be taken over a new festival which has such an infusion of public funds, that it doesn't get out of hand and that we're not in a position of forcing to bail it out.

HON. E. KOSTYRA: Well, I think we looked very closely at the projected budget of the festival when we were first approached for funding, to make sure that we felt it was a viable operation. Given that it was the first such Festival in the City of Winnipeg, and considering the size of the budget and the fact that one always has difficulty when one breaks new ground, that I think quite frankly it did well to have a small shortfall. It would be our intention that if there is any ongoing funding or any future funding, we would want to ensure that they're on a sound financial base before we would provide any possible funding in future years.

The experience with such festivals in other cities in Canada, Vancouver was one that they started off on a similar scale and similar style as Winnipeg and grew into a tremendously successful, both in terms of audience participation and financially, so I'm hopeful that the excellent start that was made this year with respect to the Children's Festival is one that will continue both in terms of quality, participation and of course financially. But the experience I had this past week and I think it was a great festival and one that seemed to be enjoyed by all that attended, unfortunately the weather just wasn't as good as it could have been in May and I think if it was it would probably have been an outstanding success.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Mr. Chairman, I am not just sure what happens to festivals like this. Do they continue to need the type of funding that has started it out, or do they gradually work their way down till they need no public funding and can operate on their own?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: I am informed that with respect to the other children's festivals, they have declined in actual percentage government involvement, but not down to zero.

I guess the other example that we could look at here is the Winnipeg Folk Festival. It started off as 100 percent subsidized by the public purse during Centennial year to the point now that it has a very small amount of money that goes through government sources.

So I would be hopeful that the same could be said of the Children's Festival. But I think as the member is well aware that there are few, if any, major activities

in the performing arts that don't require some form of government assistance, otherwise the costs to participants would be prohibitive.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: I wonder if the Minister would know, where did the festival, where did they advertise and did they get any children coming from out of province and, say, out of the country, from the States?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: I couldn't really answer that. I don't believe, if they did have children outside of the province or outside of the country, it would be minimal. The idea was to have an event for children in the province and, of course, particularly in the City of Winnipeg. The idea of it being an International Children's Festival is that it had entertainers, both some of the best local artists and performing groups and some from outside of the province, in Canada and outside of Canada, from England, Germany - those two countries, to use as an example.

This festival, as I understand it, was part of a circuit that started at Vancouver, Edmonton and Winnipeg, so some of the performers that came from outside of Canada, obviously it was cost effective for them to be part of a circuit rather than just coming in for the Winnipeg, and as I understand, that was the reason that the May date was chosen, to fit into that circuit, to get the high calibre of international entertainment here at a reasonable cost.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: I just have one last question about the festival. I wonder if the Minister could find out how much money, if any, the Department of Tourism donated to the festival.

HON. E. KOSTYRA: We don't know what, if any, funds were paid by Tourism but we will get that information and provide it subsequently for the member.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: I wanted to ask about the Folklorama. Does the funding for Folklorama go to the Winnipeg Folk Arts Council? Is that the way it is funded?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: If I can just go back to the previous question, from what I just recalled, looking at a brochure for the International Children's Festival. It had the Destination Manitoba logo on it, so I presume by that that they must have received something from Destination Manitoba and I will get the specific amount.

Folklorama is run by the Community Folk Arts Council. They have not, in the past, received any funds nor have they requested funds from the Department of Cultural Affairs since about three years ago when there were funds given to them as grants to be paid to pavilions for working on visual displays as part of the pavilions' activities. The only funding that they received in the past few years from the government was through the Department of Tourism and Recreation, through Destination Manitoba, which is basically money to help them advertise.

They have, however, requested a grant this year from the province and there was recently a grant of \$10,000 from the Department of Tourism paid to the Community Folk Arts Council for Folklorama. The Department of Cultural Affairs and Historical Resources, through its

multicultural grants, is considering a grant of up to \$15,000 to the Community Folk Arts Council for Folklorama.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: I was noticing in the newspaper that Folklorama is having problems renting space. I guess, as far as money, they were approaching the city or the Mayor was asking the school board to discuss rental fees so that pavilions could be in the schools during August. I wonder is this one of the problems that's coming up for, say, some of the smaller pavilions, that they would prefer to be in schools rather than in their own buildings, that the facilities are larger.

HON. E. KOSTYRA: Frankly, I can't really answer that question; I don't know what those specific difficulties are. I don't recall the article in the newspaper. It must have been one that slipped by me. Like everyone else around this place, I seem to read papers from front to cover every morning before I can start functioning but I don't recall that specific article, nor has there been any of those concerns raised to me by representatives of the Community Folk Arts Council or any of the member organizations that I see from time to time, so I quite frankly cannot reply to that.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: The reason I'm bringing it up is that the festival certainly has turned out to be an enormous success. I don't think there's anything that Manitoba has, really, that equals it. Even in one of the articles they were saying that it's on a par with events such as the Mardi Gras in New Orleans and the Tournament of Roses Parade and I think that Manitoba certainly is to be congratulated on all the volunteers that work in these programs. It tends to worry me from time to time, wondering if the volunteers are going to run out one day and decide that that's enough. There have been suggestions that possibly it should be run on a two-week basis; one week, some pavilions and another week, another. I don't know if they're planning to overhaul it, but it certainly is one of the things that, in Manitoba, people look forward to and I know today that they tend to plan to take their holidays and many people from the rural areas now come into the city. It certainly is a major event and one that I think deserves looking at to make sure that it doesn't slip in any way.

HON. E. KOSTYRA: I think all Manitobans are indeed proud of the work that's done by the ethnocultural organizations that exist in the province, in particular those that are involved with Folklorama. I'm not pessimistic that the volunteers will fade away, because if one looks at the history of this province, one of the great strengths we have is our people. The kind of volunteer efforts that have built many of our communities in rural Manitoba, built our pools and other organizations has always been prevalent in Manitoba and I think it's been one of our strengths. I think that's going to continue in the future and it's certainly our intention to work with the Community Folk Arts Council to ensure that Folklorama is to remain the fine institution it is in the City of Winnipeg.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: The International Cultural Agreements, are the agreements extended this year? Are there any further agreements with other countries?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: We're retaining the present agreements that exist. There will be no further expansion in this area and it's just a matter of priority at the present time, that it is a lower priority because of cost containment.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Has there been any change in the policy with regard to grants for bands? I'm thinking of school bands travelling out of province and ones that are in actual competition, or win a competition here and need to go on to national competitions?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: The policy hasn't changed in the last three years; that is, that there is no support. There was support three or four years ago and a previous administration, because of costs, I presume, that was cut out. We have not been in a position financially to get back into that kind of assistance. The immediate priority is to provide assistance for travel and skills development within the province. It would be nice to have funds available to assist bands, but that expansion isn't here at the present time.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Mr. Chairman, to the Minister, were there any functions that the Cultural Affairs put on for Manitoba Day this year?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: No, there was not any sponsored function by the department for Manitoba Day. We are looking for the future to have an idea developed of having a series of major cultural and heritage activities on Manitoba Day and, because of other demands, it wasn't possible to have any major function plan this year. In the longer term, I would like to see developed a whole series of activities throughout the province on a cultural and heritage theme within the schools, workplaces around the various communities on Manitoba Day; that's kind of my hope for the future.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: I just wanted to know how much support, what kind of a grant was given to the - the name I've got here is the Gas Station Theatre. I know the cultural centre, the name has slipped my mind for the moment.

HON. E. KOSTYRA: The province is looking at two projects this year with respect to development of community cultural centres. One is earmarked for the City of Winnipeg, and one is earmarked for areas outside of the City of Winnipeg. We have accepted the Osborne Village Cultural Centre - Gas Station Theatre, if you will - as the Winnipeg project, and have provided them with a grant of \$9,000, and will consider funding, up to a maximum of \$15,000, as a pilot project in the City of Winnipeg. We are also accepting proposals now from areas outside of Winnipeg for a similar type project outside of Winnipeg, and I believe, to date, have received two proposals from areas outside of Winnipeg.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Is the Osborne Village Cultural Centre - I believe that's part of the Core area - is this part of the Heritage Winnipeg Art Complex that has been talked about?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: No, it is not. Let me just go back a bit. The Osborne Village Cultural Centre is a separate

non-profit community organization that is renting the space; the theatre is part of the Riverboine Project that is under the Core, but the Osborne Village Cultural Centre is a separate organization. It is not part of the Heritage Winnipeg project of the Core Area Initiative, that is a separate program which covers the Heritage Winnipeg area, which is defined the area of the old Market Square Warehouse District of Winnipeg. Under the Core Area Initiative, which I can comment on since the member is aware I'm also Minister of Urban Affairs, there is a proposal under the Core Area Initiative called the Arts Accommodation Project which has attempted to meet some of the needs of the arts community in the Heritage Winnipeg area. There is a study under way that's going into its third phase now with respect to looking at heritage buildings and how they might be used to accommodate the varied needs of the visual and performing arts community.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Is there a proposal in the North of Portage Avenue for an arts complex there?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: There was some discussion with respect to a proposal that's being proposed by the University of Winnipeg. The University of Winnipeg, as its next stage of expansion, would like to develop a cultural centre facility. It was thought that if that was to develop that it could be part of the North Portage development.

Quite frankly, I would be opposed to developing another cultural facility within the North Portage area because I think the cultural centre of the city, with respect to major facilities, is over in the area around the Concert Hall, the Manitoba Theatre Centre, Pantages or Playhouse Theatre. I would not be in favour of developing another major centre in the North Portage area when it could detract from what is around our cultural centre now. Secondly, what is being developed through the study that I just mentioned, the Arts Accommodation Study in the Heritage Winnipeg area.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Is the area around the cultural centre, the Theatre Centre, is that the area that they're planning to build a new facility for the Royal Winnipeg Ballet?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: The Royal Winnipeg Ballet has looked at a number of potential sites for building. They have, in fact, prior to any discussion, the North Portage site, I guess, going back to a couple or three years ago, were looking at the Isbister School site which is in the so-called North of Portage area as a potential site for their building. They've also looked at other areas, including the area immediately adjacent to the Manitoba Theatre Centre; they've also looked at the old Eaton's Warehouse which is down close to the river, so they've looked at a number of sites. That proposal is under discussion as part of the North Portage development at the present time.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: The Royal Winnipeg Ballet, the building I believe was on the province's wish list. I was assuming that it was for a new building, but possibly they would be thinking of going into one of the historic buildings downtown where there's going to be so many empty, is that a possibility?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: It is a possibility but I don't think it's really a realistic possibility. One of the difficulties that you have with respect to the kind of space needed for ballet is that you need fairly large space for that kind of facility. Most of the heritage or historic buildings tend to be much narrower and with a more compressed space so it isn't, as I understand it, ideal for the purposes of dance. So it's not ideal and I would think it would be of a lesser priority as far as space with the RWB.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: I noticed in the Minister's statement he was talking about museum grants, looking into a policy. I take it from that, that there hasn't been a change yet in the policy for funding medium-sized museums.

HON. E. KOSTYRA: There hasn't been any change in the policy with respect to the funding of museums basically since The Museum and Miscellaneous Grants Act was brought in 1970-71, that provides for the maximum of up to a \$2,000 grant per museum. That is an area that is of as great deal concern to the heritage community because those dollars, if projected to 1983 dollars, are certainly not worth \$2,000 today. But the next priority of the department is a review of the museum grants and hopefully it will have something in place for the next fiscal year.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Has the department been funding museums such as the Steinbach Mennonite Museum and the Marine Museum? Are they funding them still on an ad hoc basis and giving them extra money on just application?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: The funding for those museums is the basic \$2,000 museum grant. The Mennonite Museum in Steinbach received a special grant last year of \$10,000; the Marine Museum didn't receive anything outside of the \$2,000, although there was assistance provided through - the problem is not of direct responsibility of this department - but under the ARC Agreement, the federal-provincial agreement, they received capital funds under that program.

The other museums that received additional support were the Western Canada Aviation Museum. There was also a special grant to the Dugald Costume Review Museum, a special capital grant that was paid last year and was the second of a two-part grant that was agreed to by the previous administration.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: How many museums would there be in that category that would be considered larger than the small community museums, but are not in the giant size?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: There would be about 10 that would fall into that category, the Western Canada Aviation Museum, the Mennonite Museum in Steinbach, the Marine Museum, Dugald Costumary Review. Other museums that are somewhat larger than the small community museums and closer to that range are Portage la Prairie, Fort Dauphin, Swan River and the St. Boniface Museum.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: How are they managing as far as funds are concerned? Are they finding it difficult? Are they managing to keep up or what is happening?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: I am sure that many museums are facing difficulties. I am not aware of any museums that are in any form of severe financial condition. Any organization that is funded by our department that gets into that situation is usually into the Minister's office fairly quickly, so I haven't received any indication of any severe problems. I know that when I've been meeting with the Provincial Association of Museums, when we are out in the regional tours, that it was made very clear to us that the people in the heritage community, particularly those with museums, are not happy with the level of government funding. I think we all recognize that when you have a grant program that remains the same for over 10 years then there is need to revise that.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Is the Minister planning to try and get some of that money loose from the 649 Lottery that is in the trust account?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: I will attempt to get money wherever I can for activities of the department. The whole area of lotteries, as I think the member appreciates, is under review and there may well be changes made in the near future, but that is something that the Governor General will be looking at - lotteries and the whole area of gaming.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: I noticed that the department, the Cultural Affairs and Historic part of it have moved to 177 Lombard it said. What historic building is that?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: It was most recently used as the Chamber of Commerce building and in its dark and distant past it was also the headquarters of the Great-West Life at one time.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Is it a designated site by the City of Winnipeg?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: Not yet. It hasn't been designated by the city.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Is it one that is planned to be designated? Does the Minister have any idea?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: The City is examining it to see whether or not they want to designate it as a building.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: The reason I am asking the questions is, I would have thought that the Minister would have housed his department in a building that would be designated, so that at least they're doing their part for the historic sites of the city.

Have any further buildings been designated? I understand that other than The Pas, I understand that Neepawa was designated, am I right? Has the Virden Auditorium been designated?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: Just going back to the remark of the member, with respect to the fact that the Department of Cultural Affairs and Historic Resources ought to be in a building that was designated as an historic site, I think that there's many buildings that aren't formerly designated that are an important part

of the history and heritage of this city. Certainly the Chamber of Commerce and Great West Life have had an historic role to play in the City of Winnipeg, so I think the building is an appropriate one and is in the Heritage Winnipeg area.

With respect to designations, the The Pas Courthouse was designated, we discussed that in last year's Estimates; the Beautiful Plains Court Building in Neepawa was designated as an historic site; the Virden Municipal Offices and Courthouse has been under active determination and discussion for designation. I did receive a recommendation from the Historic Sites Advisory Board to designate the Virden auditorium and the municipal building as an historic site. The Municipal Council in the Town of Virden preferred that only the auditorium be designated, not the municipal building, and we're continuing discussions with them prior to making any final recommendation to Cabinet with respect to the designation.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: I wanted to ask the Minister about the church in Portage la Prairie, the Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church, and I guess the pastor had asked the Minister for an apology for his criticisms about them tearing down the church. What I'd like to know from the Minister is if it had been designated, was the government planning to give any money to help them restore the church?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: With respect to the alleged request for apology. That was a report that was contained in the newspaper. The letter that I received from Reverend Radkewycz did not ask for an apology, as was quoted in the newspaper. I did have an opportunity of meeting with the Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council, Mr. Pollock, to discuss what had transpired with respect to the church, but there was no apology requested by the Reverend in his letter to me. I invited him to meet with me and there hasn't been any requests from him, or any concurrence from him to that meeting.

The question of whether or not there would have been any financial assistance with respect to the church if it would have been designated was not at any time discussed. The department, prior to the demolition, was looking at providing some assistance to retrieve some of the artifacts within the church, particularly there were paintings that were contained on the walls and the upper portions of the church. In fact, I think it was within a few days prior to the demolition, we were phoning for tenders to get contractors who could have gone into that building to retrieve some of that material.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: I'm not sure if the Minister had indicated, has there been any money given by the government to any of the buildings that have been designated as historic sites by the province?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: No, there hasn't been any grants awarded, or any funds, to any building that has been designated. There's been some studies done on buildings that have been designated, but there's no funds directly gone to any buildings.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Are there any plans for the government to give any funds to these buildings after the studies have been completed?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: I would hope that in the future we would have the necessary financial resources to have assistance or grants available to buildings that are designated as historic buildings under the Act. We're a bit behind I think in this province; in our sister Province of Saskatchewan they've had for a number of years a grant program for buildings that have designated as historic sites, to help the owners of those buildings maintain them in their original or close to original form. Unfortunately, because of limited resources, that is not possible this year, but I would hope that some time in the near future that we could have such type of assistance available.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: The report of the Heritage Working Group, what has happened to that? Has it been shelved or is there anything happening with that report?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: The report has been used in varying degrees with respect to the development of programs. The department has certainly used some of the advice that came forward from the Heritage Working Group, but not all the recommendations have been specifically acted upon.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Last question. Has there been any assistance given, is there any in this year's Estimates, for the historical murals on the Sturgeon Creek Bridge?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: I don't believe we'll be able to proceed with assisting that project this year. It's one that is still on a list of projects we'd like to do, as are a number of others, so we haven't said, no, we will not consider funding it, which we do, of course, say to many projects. It's one that is still on a list of projects that, if and when, we have resources available we will hopefully be able to proceed with it.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: I think this is a good project to go after 649 Lottery. I think Sunny St. James has been totally left out.

A MEMBER: I agree. This Minister is neglecting Sunny St. James, there's no question about it.

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

MRS. HAMMOND: Hold it, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I've been waiting; it's been a long time.
The honourable member.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: I have some questions concerning the Museum of Man and Nature.

MR. D. ORCHARD: It should be Person and Nature.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: I noticed that Dr. Hemphill is not on the Historic Sites Advisory Board anymore. Was there any particular reason for that change?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: The board was reviewed and changed last year. The Museum of Man and Nature is,

by legislation, allowed one position on the board. I asked the Museum of Man and Nature for its recommendations and I believe they made a number of recommendations to us at that time and we picked one of their recommendations.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: The museum has had a major project concerning work, and my first question is, could you tell me what the cost of that program is and was there any extra funding needed for it?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: I have no idea what the cost of that project was. There was no extra funding giving to the museum for that project; that was a priority of the museum. The only additional assistance that I'm aware of that was given by government for that project was some assistance from the Department of Cultural Affairs and Historic Resources and the Department of Labour for the Labour Day Celebration that was, unfortunately, rained on last September on the grounds of the Legislature; I don't have those figures, but it was a very small amount of assistance to help in some entertainment for that, as I recall. The project, itself, was one that was generated by the Museum of Man and Nature out of their existing resources.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Who is in charge of the project?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: I'm informed a person in the museum staff by the name of Sharon Riley.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Did Ms. Riley come up with the specific programs, and what were the resources used to decide where they were going to draw on people and what organizations would be involved?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: I cannot answer those questions. As the member is aware, the Museum of Man and Nature is, by legislation, a separate organization with a separate Board of Directors that makes decisions. The department provides a funding grant to the organization which provides it funds to pay for part of its operation. Other parts of its operation are collected from the private sector, from fees and admission fees and from the national museums. I really don't have that information, nor was it at any time provided to me, nor did I ever ask for it from the museum. It would be a question that would have to be put to the Director of the museum or the Board of the museum. I presume that the Administration and the Board of Directors there had some say in how those projects were developed, but I do not have that information available and I have never been privy to that information.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Did the department have any input as far as outlining the program?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: No, the department had no involvement in the program, outlining the program itself.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: I have a paper here from the museum and evidently they're building an exhibition that will be travelling to other Canadian museums for a period of four years. Is that something that will be covered? Will the travelling cost be covered by the museum?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: I'm informed that those costs, or the assistance is provided for that by the National Museums.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Has the museum had a program like this before, of this magnitude, as far as a travelling project?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: Yes, they've had a number of such projects, I'm informed. One was the actual train car that was developed for touring which was assisted by the National Museums. As I understand it, the National Museums attempt to provide some assistance to allow significant provincial or regional museums to take some of their information, their programs to other parts of Canada from time to time.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Would the Minister know if this type of program concerning work with the heavy involvement, certainly, of other agencies and the number of exhibitions and courses, is this a change of direction for the museum?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: I can't really comment if it's a change of directions; it certainly is the most extensive kind of ongoing program that the museum has done on a specific area, a specific subject.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are we ready to pass the item? I still have to call item-by-item, every one of them.

2.(a)(1)—pass; 2.(a)(2)(a)—pass; 2.(a)(2)(b)—pass; 2.(a)(3)(a)—pass; 2.(a)(3)(b).

MRS. G. HAMMOND: I'm sorry, the Member for Gladstone has some questions on the Library Services.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Gladstone.

MRS. C. OLESON: Thank you. I just wanted to ask a few questions on the Public Library Services. First of all, I want to know how many people work in the department that's considered as public library services? Did I understand correctly in an earlier statement you made on staffing, that there has been one staff member deleted?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: At the present time the staff complement for the public libraries is 22 SYs, which is a reduction of one position from that which was in effect last year.

I might just add, the position that was decreased was a vacant position in the cataloguing area.

MRS. C. OLESON: Thank you. In the report of the Cultural Affairs and Historical Resources, on page 11 it refers to technical services provided to rural libraries and example the cataloguing services. I am wondering how many libraries in the province take advantage of this service?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: 26.

MRS. C. OLESON: Are they mainly libraries with no professional librarian? Is this service available to all public libraries in the province?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: Yes to both.

MRS. C. OLESON: Also, I am noticing that on the same page in the report it gives the total number of Manitobans with access to local public library services. I am wondering if this figure includes the City of Winnipeg.

HON. E. KOSTYRA: Yes, it does.

MRS. C. OLESON: If it does include the City of Winnipeg, then that leaves the impression that the Province of Manitoba is - I think it said 78.5 percent of the province's population - but that rather distorts the picture of public library services in the rural areas. I wonder, could you tell me how many municipal corporations in the province have local library services?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: 101.

MRS. C. OLESON: 101? And how many bookmobiles does this include?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: Outside of the city there are two bookmobiles and inside the City of Winnipeg there is five.

MRS. C. OLESON: Where are the ones outside the city?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: Dauphin and Stonewall.

MRS. C. OLESON: Thank you. Now, I've heard over the past year or so that public library usage has gone up considerably and partly due to the economy, particularly in communities such as Thompson who had a high unemployment problem or perhaps still have. So in the light of this, I am happy to see that there has been increased establishment of new public libraries, for instance at Snow Lake, also at Beausejour and also the Municipality of Cornwallis has joined the Western Manitoba Regional Library System. Can the Minister tell me if there are many other municipalities showing an interest in joining and forming library districts?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: I am pleased to report that we anticipate that there will be seven additional municipalities joining library systems in the province, which is the highest number in recent years. So I am quite pleased about that.

MRS. C. OLESON: I take from that they're all joining existing regions.

HON. E. KOSTYRA: Yes.

MRS. C. OLESON: So it won't be a formation of a new region per se. In last year's Estimates the Minister reported and I'll quote, "We plan to review the operating grant formula for public libraries in the Province of Manitoba over this next summer." I hear in his opening remarks that this must have taken place because they are considering new grant systems which will be announced soon, I take it?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: Yes, I did indicate that we're anticipating that the library grant formula will be increased this year and from the \$3, hopefully to \$3.50 per capita. This \$3.50 per capita is a matching grant of course. That's up to a maximum of \$3.50 and therefore in order to get the \$3.50, any library district that is under that at present will have to raise their levy in order to get the \$3.50.

HON. E. KOSTYRA: Yes, that's true, though as I think the member is well aware that it's been a few years since the formula has been adjusted. What has happened with the increase in costs in most cases is the municipalities have been bearing a larger share. In fact, that was one of the main resolutions that I have received from both association of municipalities in the province, was to adjust the libraries grants, so I am pleased that we are able to adjust it upwards.

I can't quantify it, but I would think that many libraries already are, through municipalities receiving a like amount, in fact, amounts higher than what the provincial contribution is. So hopefully it would be used to enhance and retain service.

MRS. C. OLESON: It has been my understanding that it's the very small districts that have been a way over the per capita grant in many cases and found it very difficult to operate. So this will particularly help the smaller areas, which is good.

Another thing I am wanting to know is, has the department ever done an analysis of the salaries paid to rural library staff? Have they done any statistics on that sort of a review of salary trends in the province in this for various categories of people working in public libraries in various districts, and also the benefit plans they might have or that sort of thing?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: That information is compiled every two years by the branch and the information is circulated to library boards throughout the province.

MRS. C. OLESON: I think that's about all I had to ask about the libraries per se at this time.

HON. E. KOSTYRA: Continuing, 2.(a)(3)(c)—pass; 2.(b)(1)—pass; 2.(b)(2) - the honourable member.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: I just have a question about the Archives. The Minister indicated that there was an increase of one in staff. I think he had indicated earlier to a question in the House that there was an increase of six in the Archives since '81. Is that correct?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: Yes, that's correct. I indicated that there was an increase of six since 1981. The latest increase brings the staff complement to 29 SYs in the Provincial Archives.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Were all the items that were stolen, have they all been found and returned to the Archives?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: No.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Could the Minister indicate what hasn't been found?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: I am just trying to find the information, but nothing further has been recovered than that which I reported in response to her questions in the House back in March. Do you want that detail?

MRS. G. HAMMOND: If I could get it.

HON. E. KOSTYRA: It's on Page 705 of Hansard.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: If it's in Hansard, then that's fine; I'll pick it up there.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 2.(b)(1)—pass; 2.(b)(2)—pass; 2.(c)(1)—pass; 2.(c)(2)—pass.

Resolution 46: Resolve that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$11,835,400 for Cultural Affairs and Historical Resources, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1984—pass.

3.(a)(1) and 3.(a)(2) Manitoba Gazette: Salaries; Other Expenditures—pass. 3.(b)(1), 3.(b)(2) Queen's Printer Management and Brokerage: Salaries and Other Expenditures - the honourable member.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Yes. Have there been any changes in this area?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: No, there's been no change.

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

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, is the Queen's Printer overloaded right now with legislation that we're going to have to pass before the end of this session?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: That would be a question that would be better put to the Attorney-General than this Minister, and the Queen's Printer.

MR. D. ORCHARD: I can appreciate that the Minister doesn't want to comment on legislation but surely he must know the workload that's over at the Queen's Printer right now.

HON. E. KOSTYRA: I'm informed that the Queen's Printer is working fine and has no difficulty with the workload at the present time.

MR. D. ORCHARD: That's indeed somewhat encouraging. Maybe we don't have the legislative load coming in that has been indicated in the statements in the House.

Would the Minister care to comment on the statement made by the Chairman of Caucus that the legislation is still to come? Does the Chairman of Caucus know something that members of the Cabinet don't know, particularly the member in charge of the Queen's Printer?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: I have nothing further to add to that.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Well, that's good to know that the Chairman of Caucus doesn't know what he's talking about.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Items should be strictly relevant to the item under discussion.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, once again, I am in total agreement with your ruling.

Mr. Chairman, I'm going to beg the indulgence of the Minister because probably the questions I'm going to pose would have been better posed under 1.(h) Telecommunications, and if the Minister would prefer to do it under his Salary, we can leave it until then or if he wants to do it now while he has staff that he may want to refer to for information, I'll leave that decision up to him.

HON. E. KOSTYRA: Mr. Chairman, I'm prepared to be flexible and accommodating with respect to the rules, provided that same kind of accommodation and flexibility is coming, for a change, from the Member for Pembina.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, the Minister was doing well until he said, "for a change." He knows I'm always accommodating to himself and to the members of the government and I appreciate his accommodation.

Mr. Chairman, under Telecommunications — (Interjection) —

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shall we pass Queen's Printer then, if you are going to Telecommunications now?

MR. D. ORCHARD: I have no more questions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 3.(c)(1)—pass; 3.(c)(2)—pass; 3.(c)(3)—pass. 4.(a) - oh, the resolution first.

MR. D. ORCHARD: My question's on the resolution, on Communications, while the Minister's staff is here, in case he needs them.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is the Minister's pleasure?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: We'll deal with his questions.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Thank you. Mr. Chairman, under Telecommunications, could the Minister indicate why the Telecommunications portion, which floated around under our term and floated around for a while under the first ministerial changes in the Pawley Government, why the separation was made from the Minister responsible for MTS, now to have it in his department rather than with the Telephone System, the Minister responsible for the Telephone System? Was there a particular thrust that's coming out that would justify or require that change in positioning of the Telecommunications line?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: I can't answer that in the first-person knowledge because, as the member is aware, the decision with respect to that change was made by the First Minister. I believe, or I am of the opinion that part of the reason for the change was to have it lodged in the department that had greater resources for a development of policy issues in this area.

Secondly, that as the member is aware, Telecommunications issues relate, not only to the kind

of - if I can use the term - hardware issues that the Manitoba Telephone System is interested in, but also reflect cultural interests and the broader communication needs of the province, so I believe that was, in part, the reason it went into the First Minister's decision when he changed the responsibilities within Executive Council, to have that responsibility come to the Department of Cultural Affairs and Historic Resources, and to me in particular.

MR. D. ORCHARD: I may be able to accept part of the Minister's reasons but I certainly can't accept the part of the answer which indicates that more resources could be dedicated to Telecommunications because the appropriation for the year ending March 31, 1983, went from \$136,700 down to year-ending appropriation, March 31, 1984, down to \$75,100, so Resources can't be the answer. There isn't a greater allocation of resources. Now maybe the Minister touched on it more in a policy direction that the government wishes to put into Communications involving the cultural thrust of Telecommunications.

HON. E. KOSTYRA: I might just elaborate on my earlier answer because it wasn't understood. The comment with respect to resources wasn't that there was a specific increase in the actual appropriation that exists for Telecommunications. As the member can appreciate, the Department of Cultural Affairs and Historical Resources has additional resources in the policy and planning area and the administrative area that are being used on telecommunications policy development. For example, at the present time, there's work being done by the planning and policy group within the department related to telecommunications policy. It's work done by and through the Deputy Minister. So when I referred to greater resources, I was referring to the resources that are available within the department.

So the fact that the appropriation has decreased is not an indication of less activity in this area, but that it's been using existing resources within the department. We've had people on secondment working specifically on telecommunications policy in specific areas and will be shortly filling a senior policy position that was advertised.

MR. D. ORCHARD: The Minister offers an explanation which I accept. That explanation, to my knowledge, didn't exist during our term of government. There was, to my knowledge, and I will stand to be corrected if I didn't know where the policy development area in telecommunications policy was emanating from. I don't believe there was a dedication of staff in Cultural Affairs to developing telecommunication policy during our term of office. The Minister has indicated that's correct and I trust he will enlarge on that.

The Minister made a second point that there was secondment of resources to his department to develop the telecommunications policy. Might I ask where this resource in terms of people or possibly funding - I suspect it's people - from where that secondment of resource people is coming? Who is providing the additional people?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: There's presently one person on staff from the Planning and Policy group that is working

on telecommunications policy and research. There is one person who has been seconded on a half-time basis from the Department of Labour who is working on areas - in fact, I understand that individual was formerly employed by the federal agency CRTC. That's one of the reasons we've used his knowledge from previous employment in helping do research work in this area. As I indicated, the permanent full-time position was bulletined and we expect to get through the hiring and placement process shortly.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Who is the individual from Planning and Policy that is seconded to the department to work on telecommunication policy development? If I understand the Minister's answer correctly, it's someone within the Department of Labour that is CRTC personnel? Would that mean the Federal Government is . . .

HON. E. KOSTYRA: I'll go through it slowly. I indicated that there was a person who was seconded half-time from the Department of Labour, who previously worked for and was employed by the CRTC. We're fortunate in having someone in the Department of Labour that had that previous experience which I'm sure the member would appreciate and understand is helpful when dealing with issues that relate to decisions that are made by that agency.

MR. D. ORCHARD: The Chairman is not looking, so I'll ask another question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Chairman is consulting because of his lack of knowledge.

MR. D. ORCHARD: There's nothing the matter with consulting, Mr. Chairman.

Could the Minister provide us the names of those two individuals that are from Planning and Policy and from Labour, who are former CRTC employee and Labour in that case.

Could the Minister indicate also whether the \$55,900 in salaries in Telecommunications reflects the salary you anticipate to be paid to a person yet to be employed, or whether there will be additional salaries required; i.e., does the \$55,900 represent present employees in there and will be supplemented when you hire this person and the figure will increase?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: The name of the individual from the Department of Labour that is on half-time secondment is Mr. Alec Jasen. He is on secondment and is no direct charge to the department. The individual from the Planning and Development section of the Department of Cultural Affairs and Historic Resources is Mr. David Steen, who is not being charged to this appropriation. He's out of the General Planning section of the department that's a resource to all sections of the department.

The \$55,900, we are of the opinion will be sufficient to cover the salaries of the person who would be hired and one support staff, one secretary.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Is it fair to assume that the person for the position that's been advertised will replace Mr. Smith, who used to be with the department?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: The position of Mr. Doug Smith was Assistant Deputy Minister in charge of telecommunications policy. There was an additional researcher position, and there's been a decrease from two positions to one and the combination will be a position of senior policy advisor, which is, if I can put it this way, a combination of the former two positions. We felt there wasn't a need to have an Assistant Deputy Minister at that level to do the kind of work, though it had to be something higher than a researcher.

MR. D. ORCHARD: So then you're going to end up with a senior research analyst position plus a secretarial support staff, and those are going to be only two positions that will be within that Telecommunication's salaries and SMYs?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: There'll be a senior policy advisor and one secretarial support staff. Yes, there will be two positions in the Telecommunications section of the department.

MR. D. ORCHARD: In developing telecommunications policy, has the department retained any outside consultants?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: There are no outside consultants hired by the Department of Cultural Affairs and Historical Resources. There are consultants that have been hired by Crown Investments. The name is Nordicity, which is a Toronto telecommunications firm that is doing some work on telecommunications on behalf of the Department of Crown Investments in consultation with our department.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Well, I may have a different line of thinking or approach to this, but why would Crown Investments Department be the retaineer for a consultant firm on telecommunications policy when the Premier has given to this Minister and this department the telecommunications function? That seems like a strange sort of an arrangement; unless the consultant was retained prior to the reorganization where this Minister attained the telecommunications responsibility. That doesn't seem to be a workable arrangement.

HON. E. KOSTYRA: Well, I believe it is a workable arrangement. As the member can understand, the Department of Crown Investments is concerned with the investment decisions of the various Crown corporations. Related to that is the possibility of fairly significant investment decisions that may have to be made in the near future by the Manitoba Telephone System in relation to issues that would reflect telecommunications policy.

So the study, the work and the payment is being done by Crown Investments but is something that we're very much involved in. There is a co-operative arrangement between the two departments to advise and work with the consulting group. But the Crown Investments is concerned with regard to the impact of Investments' decisions by the Manitoba Telephone System, as it is with other Crown corporations.

MR. D. ORCHARD: The Minister may not either wish to or be able to answer the next several questions

pertaining specifically to the consultant. I have to admit I was under the impression that it was retained by his department, hence the reason why I'm questioning now. So I'll pose the questions and if the Minister cannot or chooses not to answer them, so be it.

Could the Minister indicate the terms given to the consultant firm? What terms of investigation in the telecommunications policy have been given by the government to this consulting firm; the length of time in which they are expected to report; whether the report would become part of the public record, i.e., would members of the opposition have access to the report from this consultant firm; and if the Minister could indicate what the cost of the consulting firm contract was? And lastly, and I suppose as important as anything, why would the government choose a Toronto firm, an out-of-province firm, to undertake this kind of consulting work on behalf of the government?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: I will try to answer all the questions. I think there are half-a-dozen in there. I'll just reply to them as they come back to me.

The reason for choosing an out-of-province firm - let me go back first - there was a proposal call from the Department of Crown Investments to a variety of consulting firms. Requests for proposals were mailed to 22 consulting firms; 11 subsequently submitted proposals and the reason for the decision was, it was felt that this firm had the, let's say, overall expertise and knowledge of all areas of study, including the technical state-of-the-art, federal-provincial jurisdictional issues, the legal and regulatory issues, industrial sector strength. They were, in addition, I am informed the lowest cost and were committed to doing it in the shortest period of time.

MR. D. ORCHARD: They were the lowest cost?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: They were the lowest cost of all the proposals that covered all areas. Because of looking at a number of specific areas, some consulting firms only suggested they could do work in one or two areas, where some said that they were prepared to do it in all areas.

The project cost is expected to not exceed \$41,500.00. It was originally expected to receive the report within 10 weeks, but that is now passed and it's expected within the next month. As far as the information from the report being made public, that hasn't been discussed and I would have to reserve on that because I have to see the kind of information that's contained in there and it would have to be a decision of the Minister that's directly responsible for the project.

I don't know if I've covered all your questions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Substantially. The Member for Pembina.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, you're right - substantially. If I could just ask the Minister if, when the proposal was called, obviously the proposal set up parameters of investigation or a request; I don't want it line-by-line; I don't want the Minister to read into the record a ten-page proposal, but could the Minister give us a paraphrase of what the government was looking

for when they made this proposal to develop Telecommunications policy?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: I don't have a copy of the proposal call that went out so I will give a very brief explanation, as I understand the proposal call. It was basically for the consultants to look at developing recommendations with respect to overall telecommunications policy for the province, specifically, looking at the areas that I mentioned previously, that being the technological state of the art, the evolution of the technology in the telecommunications field; to look at the issues related to the federal-provincial jurisdiction and responsibility between the Federal Government and the Provincial government; to advise on the legal and regulatory systems and explore other options to give some industrial-sector analysis and also to look at the possible interrelation with film and telecommunications. That is, in a nutshell, the gist of the proposal call.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Were there any Manitoba firms that offered a complete tender?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: Yes, there were two; one was Communications Management Incorporated; the second one was Appin Communications of Winnipeg. The other nine would be all outside of Winnipeg.

MR. D. ORCHARD: I take it from the Minister's previous answer that the Manitoba firms offered a higher tender.

HON. E. KOSTYRA: Yes, both did.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, just, I suppose, a general statement. Telecommunications policy is an area that may breach considerable federal regulation and it's always an area in which you can, shall I say, get into considerable dispute with the Federal Government. If I could impress upon the Minister that there was considerable interest in policy development in the previous administration and that I think it would be valuable to this Minister and to the government to make available the report that the Minister expects in about a month's time from the consultant firm, breaking down the various aspects that the proposal called for information on, the Minister could provide that to the House, I think we could, in some forum - and maybe we have to make the forum - offer some reasonably constructive debate on telecommunications policy, which I think, not the Minister and the government may benefit from, but indeed all Manitobans may benefit from.

So if I could offer the suggestion to the Minister that when that report is available and he has perused it, if it could be a report that was distributed to the House, I think it could be beneficial in creating a telecommunications policy that would well serve all Manitobans. I would offer the advice to the Minister that he give every consideration to making his consulting report available to the opposition so that we can provide him some advice on it.

The next question I would have for the Minister is, were he or his Telecommunications Department involved in any of the amendments, for instance, to The Manitoba Telephone System Act that was just tabled today?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: Well, we're certainly aware of the amendments that were made in the Act, especially as related to telecommunications policy.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Would it be fair to assume from that answer that the Minister and the department had some input into the drafting of that legislation?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: Yes, we had discussions around some of the amendments that were in the Act.

MR. D. ORCHARD: About three, four months ago - no, not even that long ago - in the last couple of months - the Federal Minister of Communications made - for lack of better terminology - a reversal of formal policy on the ownership of TVRO earth receiving stations, whereby individuals can own them and they can be installed in hotels with, for instance, the sports channel broadcast to the bar portion of the hotel, etc. Is the Minister in basic agreement with that change in ownership policy of TVRO earth receiving stations?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Federal jurisdiction.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, the Provincial Governments in 1980, the Ministers of Communication, adopted a unanimous policy decision, with the exception of the New Democratic Party Minister in Saskatchewan, whereby they believed the freeing-up of the ownership policy of TVRO earth receiving stations would be beneficial to the residents of their provinces. That decision, by and large, has been made. My question to the Minister is, is he in agreement with that policy in terms of its benefit to Manitoba citizens?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: First of all, I don't think anyone is quite clear as to how far the Federal Government is intending to go with respect to its change in policy with respect to the earth receiving stations. There's an indication that there will be no objection, or they will be allowed for individuals and for some limited - if I can use the term - commercial use, but the Federal Government is indicating, on the other hand, that it will not allow the use of those receiving means to bring about a difficult situation for existing licensed cable companies, wherein that could cause a dramatic decrease in their revenue source. The area is still somewhat fluid.

We have concerns, too, where it would be contrary to the overall needs of a larger community, insofar as the economies that are affected by having a joint system. That's one that's enshrined with respect to the use of the equipment, as the member is aware, where the telephone system has the control and ownership of the electronic highway and has been able to expand it to provide services to all Manitobans. The cable companies that use that have been able to have economies because of being able to service a large area. I would suggest that the government would not be opposed to some lessening of the regulations, provided that it did not bring about a dramatic shift in that situation, which would impact on the overall residents of the province.

MR. D. ORCHARD: The Minister may correct me if I'm wrong, I interpret the answer to be that he basically

doesn't have an objection to the adherence to the federal policy. If I misunderstand the federal policy I know that he will correct me; but the federal policy indicates that individuals may own their own TVRO. Now, theoretically, they're not supposed to pick up American signals, but I don't think the Federal Government has enough inspectors to come around to make sure it's pointed at the right satellite. So that, basically, individuals have been given the open-sky policy option choice. The policy, as it applies, as I understand the Federal Minister's directive, indicates that a hotel owner may establish a TVRO to deliver signals to his bar facility - I think that's the proper term, I haven't been in there for a long time, but I think that's proper terminology. He can't distribute the signal to the rooms, but he can put it in the lounge or the bar area.

Now, do I basically read from the Minister's last answer that he has no disagreement with that change in policy direction by the Federal Government?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: I'm sorry, I didn't hear the last part of your question.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Just that, as I understand the change in the federal policy, an individual can own the TVRO, put the signals into his home; he can't distribute them to his neighbour. Likewise, an entrepreneur in a hotel establishment can own a TVRO and put the signals into either his lounge or his bar area, not into the rooms, as a customer service. I simply ask, was I correct in interpreting the Minister's last answer as being basically in favour of that?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: We have no objection to that, provided again, how far it's intended to open up that area. As you indicate, it seems to be limited to the common use area, but not to specific rooms. I just have the concern that we don't allow for deterioration of the overall system which provides service at equalized rates to all residents.

MR. D. ORCHARD: I may be asking the wrong Minister, but there are a number of communities, for instance, Miami, it's a small community, it only has, maybe, 175 homes, 450 people; they are never going to come under the licence of a licensed cable signal deliverer. No one is going to apply for it, basically, I don't think. I know the Minister probably hasn't developed policy on it, but would the Minister basically have any objection if that size of a community pooled their resources, put up a TVRO and attempted to distribute that home to home. Now, I admit that that would be in contravention of the relaxation of TVRO ownership policy, as enunciated by the Federal Minister some two months ago, but it would provide a service to those small communities in rural Manitoba that, in my estimation, for the immediate future, are not going to be given service by, for instance, Valley Cablevision or Westman Media Co-op or Interlake media. Would the Minister philosophically have any objection to that kind of a move from some innovators in the community, should they wish to do that, i.e. put up a TVRO and attempt to distribute the signal to any number of subscribers within one of those very small villages.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Concordia state his point of order.

MR. P. FOX: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I don't believe that members should be asking a Minister to give an opinion on whether someone should do something illegal or not. I believe it's highly irregular to ask a Minister to give an opinion when we know, and the member himself has expressed that it's illegal to do something.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Pembina, to the same point of order.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Well, Mr. Chairman, definitely on the same point of order. This Minister is developing communication policy within his department. This government has, and I believe still is, supporting the illegal operation of TVROs in Northern Manitoba communities, providing the exact same service that I am asking if he would support in smaller communities in rural Manitoba.

The question - I am not trying to trap the Minister into anything - I want to know whether his policy development believes that that is an area that we should, as a government of the province, whether it be Progressive Conservative or New Democrat, should be moving toward, because I point out, and the Minister I think if he's got any familiarity with the situation which I know he has, will realize that a lot of small communities just simply do not have access to a licenced capable distributor. Their only alternative is to put up about an \$8,000 dish per home under the existing policy. What I am asking the Minister is if he would think that it was a logical policy extension to attempt to get for the people of Manitoba. I don't think that's an unfair question because you're doing it in Northern Manitoba.

HON. E. KOSTYRA: On the issue, I believe that we should first be exploring the alternatives to see what kind of service we can help provide for those communities and look at the alternatives of providing integrated and expanded service using existing operations, or others in the rural areas of the province, because that's particularly where the problem is in rural and northern areas.

Also, I would want to explore further what possibilities there are of those kind of options to be developed within the federal policy, within amended federal policy, before I would want us to suggest that is the only alternative. I think that once we have the opportunity to explore those that we could be in a better position to see if there is ways of getting service provided to the small and, I could say, somewhat remote rural communities that exist.

It seems to me the way that the technology is evolving and changing that there may be alternate ways of doing that, either now or in the very near future, that wouldn't require the same kind of costs that the more traditional systems, as the member can appreciate, the whole telecommunications area, the technology is just swirling around and moving very constant. I would want to, as a basic policy, attempt to assure that there is service available in all regions and areas of the province, and use the resources available to government through its

agencies and, hopefully, in co-operation with the Federal Government to achieve that.

MR. D. ORCHARD: I appreciate the Minister's answer, Mr. Chairman, but when the Minister mentions conventional means of signal delivery, I believe, from what I understand of the cost of fibre optic or coax cable intercity bend, ICBN installation, it is beyond the cost of most, it's not economic to do it that way. The Minister has hit the nail on the head, in that he has said that the area is changing so rapidly that probably the technology is changing far faster than the government has ability to develop policy to accommodate the changing technology.

I can recall a meeting some four-and-a-half short years ago with senior officials of Manitoba Telephone System, where they told me that the TVRO was so many years in the future that they had to plough Intercity ICBN cable to link Brandon, to link Dauphin, to link Roblin in the Westman Media Co-op area. That's been proven wrong. The communities in that service area, who are going to be linked with ICBN, don't have the service, are relying on TVRO right now. To make the next step, because certain communities are licenced in that Westman Media Co-op, and certain communities are licenced with Valley Cablevision, Morden, Carman, Winkler, Altona, but there are Darlingford, Roland, Manitou, Miami - all the Minister has to do is look at a road map and you can see a number of communities that are too small to licence, but yet could avail themselves of current TVRO technology, and put the signal into those communities at a pretty reasonable cost. That takes a policy on behalf of the Provincial Government to do that and it also requires, and I fully admit, an accommodation of federal policy.

Maybe you have to go through the licencing, I believe, he'd probably have to do that, but all I am asking is that if the Minister, when he's developing communication policy, give that some thought, because I fully believe that satellite delivery of television signals is probably the only answer to a number of small communities in agricultural rural Manitoba, and a number of smaller communities in the Interlake, and certainly a number of communities that are currently relying out in Northern Manitoba. If the Minister isn't looking at that from a policy standpoint now, and I am sure that he must be; if he isn't he should be, because that is the next frontier, so to speak, in terms of providing that kind of television service to residents in Manitoba.

All I ask the Minister is to give it consideration to make sure that policy development would accommodate those kinds of future requests.

HON. E. KOSTYRA: Yes, I certainly will because, certainly, if I can enunciate an overall policy of the government, announce it again, is to do whatever is possible to provide equal services to all regions of the province. We are working toward that to anticipate that some of the work that's being done by the consultants will be of assistance in this area. We have met recently with Westman Media Co-op to work with them on their problems. In fact, I met with them in Roblin last Friday and will be meeting again with them within the next short while. We have had a meeting with the Federal Minister to talk about the whole area of issues related

to telecommunications and there has been staff meetings with the Deputy Minister of DOC and of our department, so we're working on those and trying to see that we can come up with solutions and come up with them in a co-operative fashion, if that's possible, with the Federal Government, but certainly the government's concern is to ensure that all residents of the province have service.

I appreciate the comments of the member and I know that he wants to reinforce it because of the part of the province that he represents which I know contains a number of communities of the size that he mentions, but I can assure the Minister that I too, see and understand the needs of those communities and, as he knows, have driven some of those roads in the past and through some of those communities, so I appreciate his comments and we'll certainly be working in the very near future on those very issues.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution No. 47: Resolve that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$734,100 for Cultural Affairs and Historical Resources for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1984—pass.

4.(a), (4)(b) - the honourable member.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Could the Minister indicate what the Construction and Capital Grants entails?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: The Acquisition/Construction of Physical Assets for St. Norbert Heritage Village, which is work in the Turenne and Bohemier House, is \$36,100.00. The continuing work on building surveys in rural Manitoba is \$101,700, which is just slightly less than what was expended last year on that program. Work on the Van Horne Rail Car, which is part of the museum in Portage la Prairie, is \$5,000; building stabilization is estimated to be \$10,000.00. In Capital Grants, there is \$197,000 earmarked for the Manitoba Centennial Centre Corporation which is for an emergency lighting plant. The Museum of Man and Nature Capital Grants is \$220,000; there was the same amount last year. There is \$48,000 set aside for emergency Capital repairs at any of the provincial-supported cultural institutions. Last year, in that area, there was a total of \$90,000 set aside for Capital Works, Capital Grants at the CCFM at the Winnipeg Art Gallery, so it is a smaller amount this year and it's basically going to be for any emergency repairs that may have to be done.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Were any of these funds transferred to the Jobs Fund?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: The amount that I indicated at the start this afternoon, wherein last year, there were multicultural Capital Grants of \$65,000.00.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 4.(a)—pass; 4.(b)—pass.

Resolution No. 48: Resolve that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$617,800 for Cultural Affairs and Historical Resources for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1984—pass.

Back to the Minister's Salary, 1.(a) - the Member for Pembina.

HON. E. KOSTYRA: Motion to increase?

A MEMBER: Don't push your luck.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, I'm just want to make a couple of comments on the Minister's Salary and I make them from the standpoint that I know the Minister has justified his establishment of a communications officer by saying that everyone requested it and it's needed - or a lot of people requested it - but I would just refer the Minister to the comments of a former notable member of the New Democratic Party, one Sidney Green, and his comments. The Member for Concordia indicated, "no longer," and he's right. Mr. Green no longer is a member of the New Democratic Party and I think that many of the members over there should reflect on why he isn't because I think, by and large, he's offered them some sound advice which, should it be followed, would not help our cause in the opposition, and I'm pleased to see that they're not following his advice.

But knowing the eminent reasonableness of this Minister, I know that he will follow good advice when it's given, and if he were to read some of Sid Green's comments on news services. The Minister says some of Sid Green's comments are ringing in his ears and they should be, but if he were to read his comments on the news service - you see, Mr. Chairman, whether we like to admit it or not, news service has become, throughout the various media that depend upon it, a voice of the policy of government, a voice that is non-political, that simply reflects what the government is doing. The criticism of any opposition of a government is that they politicize and they propagandize news services.

I believe that this government and now this Minister, as well as others, are going the step beyond where they're going to be able to say, no, we didn't politicize news services; we simply politicized our departments and we put our own communications people in place. What you're going to do is flood the various local newspapers, radio stations, television stations with a myriad of news releases to try to prop up the image of your department and your government. All I can tell you is that if you read Sid Green's comments, he will tell you it will not work, and when it doesn't work, I simply ask you why waste the taxpayers' money trying to make it work.

Your responsibility, first and foremost, is to the taxpayers of the Province of Manitoba. If you are abusing the tax funds given to you in trust by establishing a propaganda department or a propaganda arm within your department, you are doing a disservice to the taxpayer and a disservice to the people of Manitoba. I know that this Minister is eminently reasonable and will take comments from members of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition in the true spirit with which they are offered. Further expansion next year and the year after, of this communications arm that he is establishing in his department, will be subject to criticism, number one, and will not help him polish the image of his department or his government. That's all I want to offer to the Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 1.(a)—pass.

Resolution No. 45: Resolve that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$2,975,00 for Cultural Affairs and Historical Resources for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1984—pass.

What is the pleasure of the committee?

Committee rise.

SUPPLY - COMMUNITY SERVICES AND CORRECTIONS

MR. CHAIRMAN, P. Eyler: Committee come to order. We are considering the Estimates of the Department of Community Services and Corrections. Item 5.(d)(1). The Member for Fort Garry.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At the time that committee rose to permit Private Members' Hour to take place, at 4:30 p.m., the Minister was responding to some questions about the position that Mother's Allowance recipients hold and enjoy at the present time, and his immediate plans for the future, insofar as work experience programs are concerned under this branch of the department. I had suggested that I had a couple of questions I wanted to ask him, that we might be able to conclude our consideration of that section by 4:30. I think we just missed accomplishing that, but I don't think that is serious because we knew we were going to be back here tonight anyway. I just felt that that was a target we might aim for, but I'm not sure that the Minister completed his remarks, or satisfied my curiosity entirely on the point.

I'm still not clear as to whether what we're talking about here is an abstract hypothetical situation, or whether, in fact, he has developed a practical means of getting Mother's Allowance recipients off welfare and into the work force in a way that is positive and productive, and also economically reasonable for them and their children. Can the Minister just explain a little further what he has in mind here?

There was considerable criticism, and we've gone over that, over what was inferred from the pilot project that he ran last year. What was inferred was that Mother's Allowance recipients were being proffered something that was not worth taking; they were better off staying on Mother's Allowance. The Minister has pointed out that was only a pilot project; there was no cost sharing for it, and that the rules of the game that he is considering now are quite different. The rules of the game that he is considering now would permit Mother's Allowance clients to enter into work experience projects in this programming area, and still receive their Mother's Allowance welfare payments, and be paid an additional allowance for engaging in work experience; and that those programs will be cost shared. I was asking the Minister, Mr. Chairman, when he expected to get into that kind of program and, at this point, I would ask him what kind of take-up he expects on that program?

HON. L. EVANS: Well, as I explained prior to the 4:30 break, we are just now ready to move on this new phase of the program. I might add that we have had enquiries from rural municipal councils, some of the towns in Manitoba where they are concerned about providing opportunities for people who are on municipal

welfare and, of course, these are the able-bodied type, and in many cases some of these people do wish to have an opportunity to get a little bit of training and have a work experience, etc. So, to that extent, we will be able to accommodate some of those rural centres.

The Mother's Allowance money, as I said, was a very small amount of money that we had available, it was on a bit of a pilot project, or experimental basis, but it was really a job creation thrust. The \$125,000, I think, we accommodated 41 persons whom we took off of Mother's Allowance for various periods of time, but that money soon ran out and, as I observed this afternoon, Mr. Chairman, we now have, through the Department of Labour and Employment Services, many many job creations programs, many many more dollars, millions of dollars for job creation. So there is an opportunity for some of those people to get placed in job programs. Our employment counsellors, many of whom are attached to the Income Security offices, at least physically located there, are able to help many of these same people on Mother's Allowance, find these various jobs and job opportunities that are now being offered through the funding of the Department of Labour and Employment Services.

We believe our role is that of training the socially disadvantaged so, to the extent that we can identify socially disadvantaged Mother's Allowance recipients, namely, that category of people on our Social Allowance program who we think could benefit by coming into the Human Resource Opportunity Program. We are now in a position, as of the beginning of this month, virtually, to bring on persons who are in the category of Mother's Allowance; but not only just those, others who are Social Allowance recipients, and provide them with the opportunity, as I said, of some Human Development Life Skills Training, an opportunity to work. They continue to draw their welfare monies, their Social Allowance monies, and they get the \$40.00. So, in some cases, it depends on the size of the family, it depends on the situation; in some cases, that allows them to net more money than the simple \$4.50 per hour that we were paying under that very tiny program. That was a very very small program and, as I said, \$125,000 doesn't go very far, when you are paying \$4.50 an hour it disappears pretty fast.

We think we can accommodate many many more times; I can't say, I wouldn't want to say specifically, categorically, how many people we are going to accommodate, but it will be many times 41. I would hope it's into the few hundreds, or a couple hundred, or several hundred; I'm not really sure, I can't tell you at this point, but it will be certainly many more times the 41 that we were able to accommodate under this smaller program.

As I said, also, we are not going to jump before looking. We would like to try it in one or two of the smaller municipalities in Manitoba, those municipalities who are interested in co-operating with us, and go from there and just see how it works. If it does work, and I think it will, then we will presumably spread it around the province through all of the Human Resource Centres that we have and, hopefully, help a lot of disadvantaged people. But ultimately and essentially it's a training program for socially disadvantaged, whether they are those types who are on Mother's Allowances, or whether they are young males, or men with families, or whatever their category.

MR. L. SHERMAN: And the Minister can look forward to cost sharing on that program, even with the changed terms of reference, is that correct?

HON. L. EVANS: Yes, that's always an important consideration, and we have had discussions with the appropriate officials in Ottawa and we have assurances - well, we have it in writing - that, not only is the procedure that I've outlined acceptable, but they will also cost share on the \$40 allowance, which is meant to cover cost of transportation, lunch money or any other expenses incurred in the process.

MR. L. SHERMAN: I thank the Minister for that information, Mr. Chairman, we'll certainly look forward with anticipation and interest to the success, or otherwise, of that thrust.

One final question on this part of the Estimates, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to ask the Minister where we stand with respect to that administrative and bureaucratic change that he was talking about last year for Work Activity Projects, wherein he proposed that the executive position at the head of work employment projects, in each individual project's case, should be divided into two jobs and there should be two functions carried out; one being the function of the Employment Services Co-ordinator I believe; and the other one being the function of the Manager of the Work Activities Project itself. At that time, there was certainly concern on my part, and on the parts of many others, that it was an unnecessary proliferation of bureaucracy and would lead to unnecessary additional expense. The Minister claimed to be looking at that as a direction in which he intended to go, or thought he might go, with respect to all of the Work Activity Projects, and that's how the whole hassle over the Westbran project in Brandon began, that and the individual who was appointed to one of those roles. Where does the Minister stand now on that philosophy of dividing that leadership job in the Work Activity Projects?

HON. L. EVANS: As I said, we did separate them. There may be one exception, but it's a very small project, otherwise these functions are separated. I remember the member's concern last year about the additional cost that this would incur. As I have already pointed out in the statistics, really we are getting much more efficiency than we had previously. The cost per participant day has gone down sharply, as I indicated this afternoon; we've held the staff constant on the projects and in the employment services area and, generally speaking, we are continuing to move in the area of increased productivity, increased efficiency, so I'm very satisfied. In fact, I'm very, very pleased with what the staff have accomplished under the new policy directives, and I think the taxpayers of Manitoba should be very pleased that we've reduced the cost for Participant A from \$55.65 to \$34.63. We have a staff participant ratio last year that was 1 to 4.6 participants; today, or as of April, it is 1 to 10.2 participants. So there has been a substantial increase in the efficiency, the productivity, the performance.

I believe the people, the taxpayers of Manitoba, are being much better served now with these new arrangements that we've put into place. The staff have

done an excellent job. They've responded to our new policy directives, and I believe that we can even make further strides. I was very delighted that in the Eastman area, in particular, we were able to put a project in place with no addition to staff. In fact, we used some of our employment counsellors there and, as I indicated, in the Eastman region, we have 33 participants being served and we haven't added to staff whatsoever. We are using some of the existing personnel in the department.

We've got a program that is far more cost-efficient. We're helping more people and, indeed, we're seeing some significant, I would suggest, savings in terms of the caseload that we are serving in terms of helping those disadvantaged people that we're trying to help. We've more than doubled the number of participants, April to April. The cost per participant day is down, the ratio of staff to participants is certainly improved, and we are doing it essentially with the same staff. There has been really no change to speak of in the staff.

MR. L. SHERMAN: But I repeat my question, Mr. Chairman; perhaps it wasn't very clear. Are the top jobs in the Work Activity Projects now split into two? Are there two senior officers instead of one?

HON. L. EVANS: As I indicated, we have attempted to split the role of the Regional Co-ordinator from that of the Manager of the project, and I understand that that has been accomplished in all with the exception of one, so we have not added. As a matter of fact, if you go down the list, you will see in most of the projects there have been, for example, in Winnipeg there is one additional staff, but in the Interlake there are two less staff; the Parklands is constant; Central is one less staff; Eastman, we introduced the program with no new staff. So we have split the function but we haven't added any staff.

What we've done is used the senior person who was under the Regional Co-ordinator to assume that responsibility. In every case they're very small groups of people. Winnipeg and Brandon are the larger ones, but you take the Interlake, you're only talking about 4 people; Parklands 5 people; Central 6 people; and Eastman we're simply using the existing field staff that we had there. We didn't set up in the Eastman project, we didn't come along and say now we have to hire new people on contract to do this; this was not the course we followed, we simply utilized some of the regional field staff in the employment counselling area, and we've got 33 participants being served. So really there's no staff participant ratio that exists because there are no staff that have been hired on a project per se.

We haven't added to the staff. In each case the senior person under the Regional Co-ordinator is more or less in command, if you will, of the project. Having said that there's a great deal of co-operation and liaison. There has to be, it's the nature of the beast, so to speak; the nature of the problem; the nature of the service to the socially disadvantaged people that we're attempting to help.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 5.(d)(1)—pass; 5.(d)(2)—pass; 5.(d)(3)—pass; 5.(d)(4)—pass.

Resolution No. 34: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$51,978,700 for Community Services and Corrections, Rehabilitative Services, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March 1984—pass.

Item 6.(a)(1), Social Security Services, Administration: Salaries.

The Member for Fort Garry.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if I could ask the indulgence of the Minister, and the Chair, Sir, to deal with 6.(c) prior to 6.(a) in order to accommodate the Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie who has got another commitment and would like to at least place on the record a couple of questions with the Minister relative to day care and nursery school services in Portage la Prairie.

HON. L. EVANS: 6.(c)?

MR. L. SHERMAN: Yes, and then refer to 6.(a). Would that be all right?

HON. L. EVANS: That's quite all right by us, Mr. Chairman, no problem.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Thanks very much, Mr. Chairman, and I would thank the Minister, through you. I know my colleague, the Member for Portage la Prairie, wanted to put some questions on the record in this area, so I'll defer to him.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Portage la Prairie.

MR. L. HYDE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and to you, Mr. Minister, for responding to my request. First, Mr. Minister, I would like to ask if your Legislative Assistant, the Member for Wolseley, brought to your attention the concerns that have been raised by the president and board of the Portage la Prairie Co-operative Nursery School regarding the funding for that operation, Mr. Minister?

HON. L. EVANS: I am advised that not only my legislative assistant but also our senior staff person in day care have met with the group I believe the honourable member is referring to. This, as I understand, is a nursery school and, as such, we do not fund nursery schools. That is not our mandate. Our mandate is in the child care, full-time day care. I'm advised this is a part-time nursery school and it is not our mandate or, at least, we haven't deemed it to be our mandate anywhere in Manitoba yet. Originally, seven years ago or so, there was some funding, about 90 part-time centres. So for the last several years, there's been no new funding occurring.

MR. L. HYDE: Well, Mr. Minister, I wonder if you could explain then why the Trinity Nursing School qualifies for government funding, for example. The Portage Co-operative Association has had correspondence with your department, and I would like an explanation for these people as to why today the Trinity Nursing School is getting funding when this here other nursery school can't. I wonder if you could explain that to me.

HON. L. EVANS: As I indicated, in the very beginning when the program started, there was some funding of these part-time nursery school services, but really the demand today is for full-time day care spaces to enable women essentially to go to work. That's where we have to put our money, and that's what we're doing. I suppose if we had many many millions of dollars extra, we could consider something else, but that is not considered to be our mandate.

What the member is asking about is a problem that he sees, but I want to advise the member that the policy we're following today with regard to funding is exactly the same policy that's been in place for at least the last four years. We're not doing anything different than was done, for instance, under the previous administration.

MR. L. HYDE: Well, Mr. Minister, what is the difference then between these two nursery schools? One is being funded in Portage la Prairie and the other one apparently can't be funded. I just don't understand why there is a difference in the two schools.

HON. L. EVANS: I am advised that the reason is one of them, the original one, was funded way back, so it's got, as they say, grandfather rights.

MR. L. HYDE: That's not a good enough point.

HON. L. EVANS: Well, grandmother rights. The other one is relatively new. My information is that in '77 or thereabouts, under the Lyon Administration, a decision was made to cut out funding of any new day nursery part-time projects that came along. We haven't changed that policy. So the policy change was made during the previous Conservative Administration at the beginning of it, and we've carried on with it. That policy was initiated during the beginning of the previous Conservative Administration. I'm not trying to be critical or anything; I'm just giving you the information. We haven't changed that policy. The problem we have today is simply not enough funds to get into what is considered by a lot of people a peripheral area. Our main thrust is full-time day care, as we said, to enable essentially mothers, in some cases maybe fathers, to get out and work.

MR. L. HYDE: Well, Mr. Chairman and Mr. Minister, this is hard to explain to the people back home. The information that I have got right now is that the Trinity Nursery School was funded during the Schreyer years. It is hard for me to explain to these people that why should there be a difference between the two schools. They're giving a service equal to the general public and the need is there. I would like a better explanation if I can get it from you, sir, as to why there is a difference in the two schools. As I said earlier, the Trinity Nursery School was started under the Schreyer administration and I see no reason why there should be a difference in the funding. The Portage Co-operative Nursery School, I believe, started two years ago now. I believe it's two years.

HON. L. EVANS: Well, as I understand, the nursery school program is very short-term, two hours maybe

in the morning or two hours offered in the afternoon. Although funds were found in the very initial years of day care programming and the Government of the Day did go into this peripheral area, as I said, the decision was made simply because of the demand for full-time day care services, to put all the money into the full-time day care program. So one has it because of, as I said, grandfather-grandmother rights. I am not that familiar with the specifics. The Trinity Nursery School is the one that is being funded, I gather?

MR. L. HYDE: Right.

HON. L. EVANS: The one that isn't being funded is the Portage Nursery School?

MR. L. HYDE: It is the Portage Co-operative Nursery School.

HON. L. EVANS: Yes, Portage Co-op. You see, the Trinity Nursery School - that's at the Trinity United Church - is only operative two hours a day, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. That kind of program is not the program that we have to put the priority on. That is not our priority; our priority has to be with providing services to look after children, because they need the services of someone to look after the children so the parents can go to work during the day 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., or 3 to 5, or 2 to 4 in the afternoon. Money spend in the that area does not help people get out into the work force. I'll give you an example of a regular child care centre down in Carman, just south of Portage, more or less, the Wee Care Child Centre. They look after children 2 to 12 years of age and their hours are from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the evening.

I'll give you an example of a day care centre in Portage la Prairie, the Wee World Day Care Centre, it has 50 spaces and it operates from 7 a.m. til 6:30 p.m. in the evening. See, those are the kinds of centres where we are wanting to put our money, that we've got to put our money. Those are the priority centres because they are the centres that are offering the service to enable the parents to go and work.

Putting money into nursery schools does not accomplish that. Now it may seem inequitable that one nursery school gets funded and the other one doesn't but, as I said, it's a matter of historical rights, if you will. As I said, also, that decision was made maybe when the Member for Fort Garry was Minister, I don't know, maybe it was some other Minister, but my understanding is that policy was in place throughout the four years of the previous Conservative administration.

I would love to say, if we could get some money to put into this, but we right now don't have enough money, in my mind, as much money as I would like, to expand the spaces, I would like to do more on standards and so on. Therefore, the Nursery School Program isn't a high priority with us; that's what it is.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, I would have to check the records with respect to any decision that the previous Progressive Conservative Government may have made on this subject. I do not recall having been party to any such dictum but, even if we were, even

if we did do that, I think that the Minister is dragging a red herring into the debate. The fact of the matter is that the Trinity Nursery School is still being funded. The Minister says that the previous Progressive Conservative Administration terminated that kind of funding. Well, obviously we didn't terminate it for the Trinity Nursery School because they're still being funded. Insofar as the Co-op School is concerned, it didn't even exist when we were in government; it came into existence, I think, two years ago. It perhaps came in at the very tag end of our administration. What the Member for Portage la Prairie is asking is how does the Minister justify, under his government, an anomaly which finds two identical schools being treated in diverse and divergent ways by the government. Regardless of what the previous administration may have done, this Minister and this government have to face up to the question of what they're going to do about nursery schools.

If the Minister is saying, the only nursery school in the Portage la Prairie area that's going to receive support from the New Democratic Government is the Trinity Nursery School, fine, let's get it on the record, but don't try to blame it on the previous administration, because that school is still being funded so we couldn't have cut that funding out for them. and, insofar as the Co-op School is concerned, it didn't exist at the time that the Minister says our administration made a decision to terminate such funding.

HON. L. EVANS: Just to get this clear. In '77, in '78 and '79 there were no day care spaces, no new day care spaces put into place by the Government of the Day. When the Honourable Member for Fort Garry was in office there was no expansion whatsoever. Trinity was put into place under the previous NDP Government at the very beginning. The decision in '77, '78, '79, no expansion; when the Honourable George Minaker became Minister in '80-81 expansion took place, but a decision was made at that time to put all of those monies into the regular day care program, and none whatsoever into nurseries, new nurseries. The old ones, it was decided to carry on, that we wouldn't terminate anybody, so no one is being terminated, but if it's of any comfort to you there are 75 part-time nurseries in Winnipeg, comparable to your Portage Co-op Nursery School, that received no funding either; 75 in the City of Winnipeg that receive no funding, and for the same reason, they're not the priority. We've got a limited amount of money and we have to put the money in the area of greatest need, and the area of greatest need is full-time regular day care.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Portage la Prairie.

MR. L. HYDE: Well, Mr. Minister, I wonder if you would give the courtesy to these people in Portage la Prairie, the Portage Co-operative Nursery School, the courtesy of a letter to them. They've had correspondence with your department asking for an explanation, a full explanation on this, and it's been in your hands for some months now and they have not received a single word in response to their request. I am wondering if you would be good enough to see that these people get a full explanation of that program, and the reason

why they are not funded when the other nursery school in Portage la Prairie is getting the funding.

HON. L. EVANS: Well, I would like to make sure I heard the member right. He says that they sent a letter to me or to the staff.

MR. L. HYDE: Yes.

HON. L. EVANS: We can check the files; that's very unusual. We like to pride ourselves in answering all correspondence. If the member has a copy we can maybe photostat it. We certainly would be very desirous of replying to people and giving them explanation, having the regional staff, if necessary, sit down with them and explain. If a letter was received and not answered, that was an error, an oversight, but certainly we would want to respond to anybody who writes to us and, God knows, our mail is stacked up this high every day. We go through it every day and we do our very best to answer everybody. We can't always give a positive answer; it's always nice to give positive answers. If we haven't responded to the Portage Co-op Nursery School that is unfortunate. If the member happens to have a copy of the letter that they sent us we'd be glad to get a photostat of it and then we could pursue it for the honourable member. Certainly we could have some of our staff talk to them and explain what has happened.

It does, obviously, look discriminatory. One gets it and one doesn't, but I've given you the answer. I've explained it three times now and, as I said, also, there are many others in the same category. Until such time as we have a lot of additional money, until we've met all the need for regular day care and improved the standards, I can't see us moving in this area. It seems to me that it is just not the area of high priority for us, desirable as the nursery school may be, it may be the finest nursery school on the earth and wonderful people and maybe they're in great need, but we are not in a position to come up with the money at this time for these kinds of programs because they are not our priority programs. Maybe you could send the letter over and we'll photostat it.

MR. L. HYDE: Mr. Chairman, to the Minister, I have a letter here addressed to the Honourable Member of the Legislature, Myrna Phillips. She was out in Portage la Prairie and discussed The Child Day Care Standards Act in the City of Portage la Prairie on January 20th, and from that meeting I guess there was a lengthy discussion and she explained it to the best of her ability, I expect, and from that meeting a letter was directed to your office to the honourable member, Myrna Phillips, your Legislative Assistant and that was dated March 30th.

HON. L. EVANS: Not to my office.

MR. L. HYDE: I'm sorry; it will be to your Legislative Assistant. I apologize for that, if I indicated that it did come directly to you, but it did go to her office. However, to this day, there has been no reply to that letter explaining it all, and I'm hoping that this act will take place.

HON. L. EVANS: That's regrettable; at least we've got it clear. It's not a letter sent to me or to my staff in my department and it's unfortunate, but let's get on with the job. What we'll do is have our Provincial Director of Day Care, tomorrow morning, phone the Portage Co-op Nursery School Manager and have a discussion over the phone and possibly follow up with a meeting, if that's necessary. Is that satisfactory?

MR. L. HYDE: Is it your wish that I table this particular letter with you at this time?

HON. L. EVANS: Yes, it might be helpful if we got a photostat of it and then the staff can read it before phoning the Portage Nursery School; that would be great.

MR. L. HYDE: That finishes my discussion. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Fort Garry.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister indicated in his opening statement that some \$800,000 was being earmarked for day care this year, which was to provide for new spaces and the implementation of standards. I would ask him if he can give a more detailed description to the committee of those two initiatives. How many spaces does he expect to provide and what is he talking about in the way of standards?

HON. L. EVANS: As I indicated, we have approximately \$800,000.00. This is over and above a 9 percent increase in the regular program, so you should understand that. There's a 9 percent increase in all of the funds, all of the grants that we provide to the day care centres, right across the board, but on top of that, we provided \$803,000 to implement the new licensing standards and to provide for some expansion. Most of the money, the two largest chunks of money, are with regard to fire code compliance and infant care, but I can give you a detailed breakdown.

For the fire code compliance, for installation of smoke alarms, emergency lighting and other items requested by the office of the Fire Commissioner, we've provided \$250,000; a quarter of a million dollars just for fire safety. Space upgrading - this is to improve the space, both indoor and the outdoor space requirements and to assist them, this amount is \$100,000; now this doesn't mean that's the only money that's going to spent on space upgrading. It's possible that the day care centre, in its wisdom, may decide to put some of its own money in as well, which they're of course free to raise through any-which way, remembering they're on a global budget basis. But we will insist on this space upgrading where it is required in those particular day care facilities.

A great need is for further funding for infant care, and as the honourable member can appreciate, those children under two years of age do require more attention and in order to provide additional grants of \$2 per diem in family day care homes or \$6 per diem in the day care centres to meet the extra costs of providing for infant care, we have a total of \$230,000 available.

Then we have, in terms of additional spaces, \$140,000 available and this will provide us with about 145 new

spaces. Then there's an additional amount of about \$83,000 required for some administrative support and clerical support to carry out the program.

There's another element of this, I should hasten to add; it's a very important element and that is the \$803,000 is available beginning, more or less, in the early fall - I'm going to suggest September 1st - so the regulations will come into effect, so this \$803,000, without any inflationary increase, becomes not double that amount but it comes a little more than double that; it becomes \$1.9 million next year - nearly \$2 million. In other words, the \$800,000 spent on a partial year basis, when you translate it to a 12-month basis, a full year basis, we're talking about nearly a \$2 million program. This money is being spent this year and this money is going to be spent next year. At some point next year, as I say, it will be on an annualized basis. Next year, \$2 million; you may add a bit more to it, perhaps, depending on how much inflation. If there's no inflation, fine, but depending.

The other point is, at some point, we will have our fire code compliance thrust completed; at some point, we'll have our space upgrading completed, and then we'll be able to dedicate more funding for additional spaces and for staff salaries in order to provide for higher level of staffs that have more qualifications, a higher degree of training. So that \$800,000 is a substantial amount when you consider that it is for starters and, as I say, when you translate it into a full-year basis.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Well, Mr. Chairman, I think the Minister has just answered my question. My question to him was going to be: Was he then saying to the committee that the \$803,000 that's being earmarked this year is going to the implementation of standards that have to do with fire code compliance and space upgrading, but not to higher staff training qualifications? Of course, that question should be reshaped to acknowledge the fact that the whole \$803,000 isn't going to that. Part of it is going to some additional spaces, but that amount of it that is going to the implementation of standards in '83-84 is going to fire code compliance and space upgrading. That's what the Minister has said; at least, that's my sense of what he said.

HON. L. EVANS: That is correct, but I also said \$230,000 for infant care. That means you have to hire more staff to care for more infants.

MR. L. SHERMAN: But, at this point in time, those are the jobs that need to be done; the fire code compliance, the space upgrading, and the infant care, and some additional spaces. We're not looking at implementation of standards having to do with higher staff training and higher staff qualifications at this point in time. I'm not asking the Minister that we should be; I just want to know whether that's the case for '83-84.

In the light of the financial constraints of the day, and in the light of the volunteer element in the day care community, and in the light of the high rural component in the day care community, I would hope that is the case. As we indicated in the debate on The Day Care Standards Act last year, precipitous action

to impose standards that would require much higher staff training and much higher staff qualifications will work a great hardship, in our view and in the view of many others who have spoken to us and I think to the government on the subject, on the volunteer component of the day care centre and on rural day care centres generally.

HON. L. EVANS: Well, as we indicated in the green paper that was distributed around the province, certainly, we want to upgrade the staff. There is provision for staff training in colleges and so on, but we envisage a three to five year period to enable the centres to implement the higher levels of training. As I said though, in one or two or three years from now, I would hope we have met all the fire code compliance and the space upgrading so that the more the money, a greater percentage will be dedicated to improved staffing, period, and also for more infant care, and also for more spaces.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 6.(c)(1)—pass; 6.(c)(2)—pass.
6.(c)(3) - the Member for Fort Garry.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Just before passing this, Mr. Chairman, I would want to acknowledge for the record that what we're looking at here and what we're discussing here is in addition to the Minister's statement earlier in the Session, early in March, about the general funding approach for day care programming this year. As he pointed out in his remarks a few moments ago, at that time he announced an increase of 9 percent in direct provincial grants, and increases in the annual maintenance grants, the parent fee subsidy component, and the other aspects of the program. So I'm familiar with and aware of those budgetary features, and I have no further questions on the day care programming at this point in the examination of the Estimates, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 6.(c)(3)—pass; 6.(a)(1)—pass;
6.(a)(2)—pass.

6.(b)(1) Social Allowance Programs: Social Allowances - the Member for Fort Garry.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, there's a massive increase in the requested appropriation under this line of the Estimates, some \$18 million more than was requested in print anyway in '82-83; \$18 million on a base of \$78 million, which is something slightly in excess of 20 percent. That's a big increase. Obviously, an increase in this category of government programming and spending was going to be unavoidable because of the social trauma of our population at the present time under the high unemployment levels and the collapse of many businesses, and homes, and farms, and the inept economic performance of this government, which is spilling over into the social assistance field and now being borne by the Minister of Community Services through this particular appropriation.

Over and above that obvious explanation of the increase, can the Minister elaborate a little for the committee as to the details contained? For example, what do the welfare rolls in the province look like at

the present time, Mr. Chairman, compared to last year? What do our provincial welfare rolls show today in numbers, and how do those numbers compare with a year ago and two years ago?

In addition to that, I think the committee would appreciate some information as to the total numbers of recipients in the various categories, such as those specified in the line in the Estimates Book: Mother's Allowances, Aged Allowances, Long-Term Disability, etc. Can the Minister provide us with a rundown of those categorical totals for the record?

HON. L. EVANS: The average monthly caseload is broken down as follows: Disabled - well, the total is 19,600 cases. Of that 19,600, 9,300 are disabled people. Almost half of the caseload is for the disabled people. Mother's Allowances - 6,540. The Aged - 1,580 - this is the one category that is showing some slight decrease and, of course, that's because of the Old Age Security being indexed, Guaranteed Income Supplement being in place, and even in some cases, I guess, the Canada Pension Plan. Student Social Allowances - there is 520. General Assistance - 1,180 - this is for those areas of the province where there is no municipality functioning to provide so-called municipal welfare. So that adds up to 19,600. That compares with a load of 19,042 last year. By and large, in terms of the caseload, it's not that great of an increase; however, it is a bit of an increase.

The reason why we have something in the order of an \$18 million increase is that in '82-'83 we had an overexpenditure of - I'll just round these to the nearest decimal point, the nearest 100,000 - 3.7 million. Then we provided a rate increase that averaged around 10 percent for basic necessities and 14 percent for utilities and shelter. That comes to 10.9 million. Then we anticipate - and this is our best guess and it's always a guess, our best forecast - a 3.5 percent increase in the Social Allowance caseload, and that would require another 3.4 million. So this adds up to the \$18 million increase that you see in the Estimates under Item (b)(1).

MR. L. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, is there an identification here of what, for lack of a better term, could be described as long-term unemployed as distinct from long-term disability? Those, for example, who have been unable to find work after 90 days and would therefore move off the municipal unemployment roles and onto the provincial unemployment roles, is there an identification of that group in the categorical listings that the Minister has given me, or is that group represented through all the other categories?

HON. L. EVANS: I think there is some misunderstanding in this area by a lot of people. The municipal governments in Manitoba are responsible for providing welfare assistance to the able-bodied unemployed or the unemployed employables. That goes on indefinitely; there is no 90-day limit.

There is a 90-day cutoff for Mother's Allowances. A woman who has a child, let us say, or a family to look after, does go on the municipal welfare role for the first 90 days and then, if for whatever reason that person requires continued assistance, she is transferred to the Social Allowance - Mother's Allowance category, and there has been a bit of an increase there.

But as far as men are concerned, they will stay and do stay indefinitely on the municipal welfare role. There is no automatic transfer to our roles. If that person, who is an able-bodied unemployed or an employable unemployed person, for whatever reason becomes ill and then is disabled, let's say suffers a heart attack and is deemed to be unfit for work, or suffers a stroke or God knows what, has an accident, or for whatever reason becomes disabled, then of course he can and will come onto our category of Disabled Social Allowance recipient; but as long as the male is in a position of being able to work, he will stay and does stay indefinitely on the municipal welfare role.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Roblin-Russell.

MR. W. MCKENZIE: I just wonder, what rights have the municipalities got, and we've got the Minister here now for these employable people to go and work for the municipalities while they're unemployed.

HON. L. EVANS: Well, the municipality, the municipal government can hire anybody it likes but once it hires someone, they're no longer deemed to be unemployable and they're no longer recipient of welfare; but as I was indicating earlier today - perhaps the Member for Roblin wasn't here - there is a category of disadvantaged people that we are just now beginning this program. There is a category of people who do receive municipal welfare and are deemed to be able-bodied and available for work that, depending if they fit the criteria for our Human Resource Opportunity Centres, then it is possible that some of them can be brought into that program, continue to receive municipal welfare and, indeed, on top of that get a \$40 a week allowance to help defray additional costs; say, transportation costs, taking the car to go back and forth from the house to the place of work, etc. This will assist municipalities that are interested in this particular aspect if they have people drawing municipal welfare who would fit our criteria to come into the Human Resource Opportunity Centres.

It is a voluntary program and it's not meant to replace people who would fill ordinary regular jobs. If the municipality wants to hire anyone - forgetting what I've just said - at any time, well, of course they become employed and they no longer receive welfare, but they do receive a cheque; they receive income from the Municipal Government.

MR. W. MCKENZIE: I thank the Honourable Minister for those comments, Mr. Chairman. I am speaking of the case at Dauphin as an example. Does the Town of Dauphin have the right to put these people to work there on the welfare roles? They're healthy, they're in perfect condition, and the matter is still pending as I understand it. The town has been waiting for a ruling. I know of municipalities in my jurisdiction that have people on the welfare roles that are as healthy as I am and a lot younger than I am. They want to put them to work, but for some strange reason there's a problem. The municipality can't authorize these people to go and work for the assistance that they're getting from the municipality. I am wondering, what is the ruling on it. We have the Minister of Municipal Affairs here and the

Minister of Community Services, and I would like to get a ruling on it or an explanation.

HON. L. EVANS: Well, in Canada, anywhere in Canada, you cannot be forced to work for welfare. All of our welfare money is cost-shared with the Federal Government. Alberta tried that last year, I guess, or earlier this year, and they were cut off from federal funding. Those are the rules set down by Ottawa and of course we don't want to lose out on very important cost-sharing. We're talking about many millions of dollars here, tens upon tens of millions of dollars; it's a lot of money.

But with regard to the problem posed by Dauphin, and we did receive a letter from the Town of Dauphin and we do have a response and I hope they will be receiving my letter. They should receive it by tomorrow, hopefully, and this modification in the Human Resources Opportunity Program will enable them to allow on a voluntary basis certain people who fit our criteria to come onto what we used to call Work Activity Projects - we're calling them Human Resources Centres - draw municipal welfare and do some useful work for the town. They will get an \$8 per day allowance, and that's all it is, an allowance. It's not a payment of wage, and in this way I think we might be able to accommodate some of the municipalities who have categories of people who we could fit into our criteria - remembering our program is a training program for socially disadvantaged. But it turns out it does happen that many of the people who are unemployed in some of the municipalities are socially disadvantaged; they're people who have a lot of problems, whatever. I won't go into all the details but they do have a lot of personal, social problems.

When we bring them into the program though, as I was explaining also this afternoon, at least 30 percent of the time is utilized in human development programs, life skills programs and all the rest. That too is a requirement of the federal cost-sharing.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Roblin-Russell.

MR. W. McKENZIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So the Honourable Minister is telling the committee that it's the Federal Government that's at fault, that they are the ones where there are able-bodied people today, during these rates of high unemployment, out in the country. I lived through this in the Dirty Thirties where there was high unemployment, and people in those days could go to the municipality and get assistance, and you could go and work it off. You paid back, by your own labour or whatever talent and skills you had, what you owed to the municipality and there were no problems. The system worked well, of course. This is not the Thirties - today, of course, that we're talking about. But it is a problem because there are a lot of people my age at municipal governments in this province and they can't understand why there are able-bodied people in the area and they're getting assistance. Why can't the municipality give them \$8 an hour or five bucks an hour, whatever is a good, fair wage and say let's go to work and do some work for the province and for the municipality for the monies that are being paid out?

HON. L. EVANS: The member said, well, in the Dirty Thirties and so on these people came for assistance, they were given a job and they were given a wage for what they did. There's nothing preventing the Municipality of Roblin from doing that today. If they want to hire people who are unemployed in their town, in that town, they can hire them and pay them, but they have to pay them. If you want cost-sharing from Ottawa - and I'm talking about, incidentally, a lot of money - in '83-84, we're getting \$112 million from Ottawa. That's a lot of money and we're not going to put that in jeopardy and we, of course, in turn cost-share with the municipalities. There's nothing preventing the municipalities from hiring people and giving them a good job, giving them \$5, \$6, \$7, \$8 an hour. They can do that, but don't expect to get any cost-sharing from Ottawa or therefore from us because, as I said, we tap into CAP-3, as it's called, the Canada Assistance Plan - Part 3, for this considerable amount of money, so that is the dilemma. The Municipal Governments don't want to spend those dollars to hire people to do whatever they want, but there's nothing preventing them from doing that. They can hire anybody they want, if they have the money and they're so inclined, go ahead. But if they want them to be employed and just obtain welfare money, then they have to abide by the rules and the rules are - and it comes out of Ottawa - that you cannot force welfare recipients to work for welfare.

I'm just repeating myself, but for a certain category of people who voluntarily wish to come into our Human Resources Opportunity Program - and I have to emphasize, voluntarily - if they wish to do so, and those municipalities, and maybe Roblin will fit into this, Mr. Chairman, there are some categories of people we can bring them on for six months or whatever whereby they'll get their municipal welfare under this program. They will do some work for the municipality but they cannot replace people who would normally be employed by the municipality. In other words, we wouldn't want the municipality to lay off 10 people just because they brought in 10 under this program; they would be doing something in addition.

Maybe Dauphin did request us to look into this; we have. I think we've got a rather positive response for them which they'll get tomorrow and it will be explained to them tomorrow. If it works, okay, we'll see how it proceeds and then we may respond to other municipalities, assuming we've got the money and that everybody concerned fits the criteria.

MR. W. McKENZIE: Can I ask the Honourable Minister then, what happens if this able-bodied person is on welfare and says, "I don't want to work"?

HON. L. EVANS: Well, as I explained . . .

MR. W. McKENZIE: That's the problem.

HON. L. EVANS: Well, I told you, then you've got a problem.

MR. W. McKENZIE: You sure have.

HON. L. EVANS: I would just going to make a comment; we're being a little flippant here. This is why we have

our employment counsellors attached to our welfare offices, to our income security offices. We do try to assist people; in fact, this is how we got into this in the first place, into having a few employment counsellors to help the able-bodied welfare recipient to find some work. In some cases, they needed a little coaching. We even teach them how to find a job, or we try to instruct them on how to find a job. There are certain things that we try to do, and we do have a staff around the province, in all the regions of the province, that do this and they go around and I dare say some have been in Roblin, various parts of the Roblin constituency, and try to help people secure employment, try to give them some incentive and so on.

One good way is through this Human Resources Opportunity Program. That is a very good way of doing it and they're not there forever. They're there, say, for six months and then hopefully with the bit of training, coaching, a little bit of encouragement, and we actually try to help them find a job someplace, in a small grocery store or on a farm or wherever. We try, we actually do that and to get them off of welfare. We try that to our very best and to the best of our ability and we've had some success. I'm very pleased, as I was indicating earlier this afternoon, that we have expanded the numbers going through our Human Resources Opportunity Programs, formerly Work Activity Projects. We've more than doubled that and with this new approach that we're launching now, beginning this month, we may be able to increase it even more. We're going to try.

MR. W. MCKENZIE: One more question, Mr. Chairman. Can I ask the Honourable Minister if he's got any figures here, documentation or studies, how long are we going to have 52,000 unemployed in this country? How long are we going to have nine, ten million people unemployed in Canada? Is there — (Interjection) — I'm just asking him a fair question. Are there any ongoing meetings between your office and the Federal Government as to what's in store for these people. I suspect it's a lot more serious problem than this committee is dealing with tonight and it isn't going to go away overnight

HON. J. STORIE: NDP Government federally.

MR. J. MCKENZIE: That's right. I'm asking the Minister is there any forthcoming meetings with you and the federal department to deal with. I didn't hear what the honourable member said here. I didn't. I'm asking him is there any ongoing meetings to deal with this? I honestly think in my opinion that we're going to have to deal with this problem for a long time to come.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. Mr. Minister.

HON. L. EVANS: I think the honourable member is right. We're going to have to deal with that problem of high unemployment for a long time to come all over Canada, all over the Western world. You can look at the statistics and you'll see that unemployment is pretty bad in Western Europe, the United States; it's certainly very bad in the Maritimes; it's bad in Ontario and so on. I regret that; all members of the Legislative Assembly

regret that. I'm afraid our programs, our social security programs are just that. They're just minimal programs to keep the wolf from the door, to put a little food on the table, a roof over your head, and a shirt on your back. I would say categorically, Mr. Chairman, that if Canada - our program here fits in with the national social security scheme - if Canada did not have a social security scheme of this type plus unemployment insurance, I would dare say that those tens of thousands of people across Canada - it's over a million people unemployed across Canada - we would have food riots. We would have a great deal of unrest on the streets, I can guarantee that. If a person is starving or if they can't provide for their family, they're going to take desperate action. Thank God we do have unemployment insurance, and thank God we've got enough sense to have a civilized income security system in this province. I'm pleased that Manitoba is able to partake in that income security.

Sure there are abuses, but there are abuses in every system that you can set up. How many people have cheated going across the border without declaring what they've bought in the United States? How many people have not quite filled out their income tax form, they should. It doesn't matter what kind of a system you set up, you'll have people abusing it. That's perhaps human nature.

I think generally speaking we have a fairly good, a fairly sophisticated program. It can always be improved and we're always looking for ways of improving and we've had a little bit of improvement I think this year.

To answer the question it really goes beyond my ministerial responsibility but I have a great interest in it. The fact is that although we have more unemployment in Canada and in Manitoba - well talk about Manitoba - although we have more unemployment in Manitoba today than we had two or three years ago, relatively speaking our position has even improved. We used to be third after Alberta and Saskatchewan. At least we've improved to being second. I'm not proud and pleased with the fact that we have all those tens of thousands of people unemployed; nobody in this Chamber is; nobody in his right mind wants to see 52,000 or whatever the number is unemployed. No Provincial Government, and I said that when I was on the other side as well, Manitoba is not an economic island unto itself, and no Provincial Government in this country of ours has the ability to turn around the business cycle. What we are experiencing is part of a downturn in the business cycle in the Western industrialized world. The Province of Manitoba just does not have the ability to offset this.

The provinces collectively working in co-operation with the Federal Government can do quite a bit to offset it. We've got to have the guts to do some deficit financing as we did in World War II. We fought the Nazis in World War II; 100 percent deficit financing. The whole ruddy thing was financed by deficits, the whole war effort. I say that if we want to declare a war effort on poverty, and unemployment, and all the other economic woes, then we've got to have the guts to offset it through government programs and through some deficit spending, not forever and a day, but for a period of time. That is where I stand and I've never moved from that position in all the years that I've been in this Legislature.

But for some reason people seem to be prepared to allow governments to go into multi-million dollars worth of deficit to fight a war of a military nature, but not to fight a war against poverty; not to fight a war against the unemployed.

The worst thing about unemployment, Mr. Chairman, is that there is social and psychological deterioration that occurs. There's the deterioration of the self, the sense of worth, and this is regrettable. On top of that from a very selfish point of view, you, and you, and me, all of us lose, because if a person is sitting at home watching his or her T.V. set or twiddling their thumbs instead of being out working on the farms or in the factories or the forests, we're not getting the goods and services that we would be getting otherwise. So when you have people unemployed we're all losing.

If you have over a million unemployed in Canada, those are a million hands that are not producing the goods or the services that we all would wish to have. The greatest challenge is - I agree with the Member for Roblin - to put our unemployed back to work. It's not only putting people to work because corresponding to the unemployed people is unemployed or underemployed factories; unemployed or underemployed minds; unemployed or underemployed forestry operations; and, indeed, unemployed or underemployed farming operations. You can look at the entire economy and see less than full capacity in production of goods and services.

I say that's the greatest condemnation of our economic system today as we know it, that here we are in the latter part of the 20th Century suffering this horrendous amount of unemployment. I can't stand here and say what the solution is. It is one of the greatest challenges facing us today, but I'm very very much aware and I said it while I was in opposition that the province by itself has not the ability to offset it. That may not be any comfort. We have to do whatever we can.

I think we are doing quite a bit through some of our employment programs. We're taking other measures to offset unemployment. The fact that we've gone for the largest deficit in our history, the deficit in itself is stimulative of the Manitoba economy.

I would simply say that we've got to continue to do whatever we can in a co-operative fashion, but I cannot simply get up and answer the member's very general question, when is all this going to end? Some cynics would say it's only going to end when you have another World War, but God help us if we have another World War. We may not be around to see how many people are going to get jobs. I suggest that it's - there may be an ideological difference on this - going to require more intelligent planning; more initiatives by government in co-operation with business, farm sector and labour

MR. L. SHERMAN: What about less initiatives by government?

HON. L. EVANS: Well you see that's where the ideological difference is. The position on the right is to minimize government. I guess the most extreme position is that in the Conservative leadership debates going on, that of maybe Mr. Peter Pocklington. He says,

get rid of the Crown corporations, take government entirely out of business and let it entirely to the marketplace, total laissez faire. I submit, Mr. Chairman, it will be total chaos, and frankly, what disturbs me - well it doesn't disturb me - but what makes me thoroughly amazed is that the Conservative Party of Canada today, in the latter part of the 20th Century, has gone to the other side of the spectrum, in terms of using the state as a vehicle for economic development. The national economic policy of Sir John A. MacDonald of 1879, when you were building this nation, the Fathers of Confederation, the early governments of this country, they used the state in a very major way, to build a transcontinental railway, to have a massive immigration program to bring people from Europe to fill up the empty lands, and to have a national tariff policy to stimulate the growth of manufacturing. Those were all major moves made by government under Conservative leadership of the day.

The Conservative Party, the history of the Conservative Party, the traditional, the historic Conservative Party is the party that was very much involved in using the instrumentality of government to do some major things to develop the Canadian national economy. Today the dominant theme seems to be just the reverse, the national Conservative Party is taking a very ultra small "I" liberal view to the economy, the role of government in the economy, that the government should withdraw and leave it totally to the private sector.

Now there's a legitimate ideological difference, and I simply say that I know where I stand and I'm sorry to say members opposite may stand on the other side, but that's the way politics are. But I am convinced that if we do go toward the right and start cutting government programs, as we may do under a new national Conservative government, start cutting programs substantially, that we are going to see even more unemployment in Canada, and even more social unrest.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Well, Mr. Chairman, this could be an interesting debate, and perhaps the Minister would put a resolution on the Order Paper and we could debate it. He has unburdened himself of a number of rather superficial observations and conclusions about the history of the development of Canada, and the history of the philosophy of the Conservative Party in Canada, and I think that it could well . . .

HON. L. EVANS: He asked me the question.

MR. L. SHERMAN: . . . serve as the substance for a debate with me at a later time.

I am not inclined to debate that issue with him at the moment, other than to say that the reaction of the New Democratic Party always seems to be, when one talks about less government interference and less government intervention, that the Conservatives are talking about abandoning the safety nets. Nobody is talking about abandoning the safety nets. What I said, in an ad lib way, to a comment that the Minister was making, was, what about less government interference, rather than more government activity in the marketplace; and a legitimate case can be made for the government getting out of the marketplace in the

way that it has been in the marketplace for the last 40 years in this country, where it has upset the normal forces and pressures. It created an artificial situation which, to some degree, produced the economic difficulties that we have.

But, Mr. Chairman, the Minister has made several references to the fact that we have got - I forget what it was - twice as many participants involved in the Work Activity Programs, the Human Resources Programs, now as we had a year ago; and, Mr. Chairman, I don't mean to revert to consideration of that item in the Estimates, but it ties into this whole issue on Social Allowance Programs and recipients of social allowances.

I would just say that the Minister takes a very bizarre approach to productivity in his department. The Minister seems to be under the impression that it is his job to build up a caseload of persons on Work Activity Projects; and a caseload of persons on Social Allowances; and the more people that he can show us he's got on Human Resources Programs is a testimony to the wonderful achievements of this government. It is absolutely absurd and totally bizarre, Mr. Chairman, that the Member for Wolseley should be applauding the kind of impression that the Minister is giving. It's so totally hostile to, and opposite to, the challenges that the government, and the people of Manitoba, are facing; so totally hostile to the job that this government should be doing, that it just leads us into the realm of the absurd, Mr. Chairman. What is there to brag about in finding that you've got twice as many people, wrecks of society, damaged by the terrible economic job being done by this government, on those Work Activity Projects and Human Resource Projects today, as was the case a year ago.

Don't let the Minister of Municipal Affairs, from his seat, get into a debate about which he knows nothing, Mr. Chairman, he's been party to a government that has introduced measures which have damaged and crippled the economy in this province; such as, the Payroll Tax, to name just one; such as the fumbling of the Western Power Grid, to name just two; such as the inept performance of the Department of Economic Development, to name just three; such as the disaster of the Minister of Mines and Energy, to name just four. So let us not get sidetracked on that point; the fact of the matter is, Mr. Chairman, that we have more people damaged economically and socially today in the province than was the case a year ago, and many more than was the case two years ago, and three years ago.

The Minister of Community Services seems to take it as representing some kind of triumph and victory that he's building up a caseload here on Human Resource Programs, Work Activity Projects, and Social Allowances. I say to him that he's got his whole philosophy, his whole approach, his whole view of the world upside down. He will only be achieving victory and success, and demonstrating productivity in the real sense of the word, and that is in the sense of success for people, and progress for people, when he can demonstrate that those caseloads are down, not when they're up, but when they're down.

So, Mr. Chairman, let us straighten out that argument and that twisted philosophy at this point and not try to present that kind of absurdity any further.

Mr. Chairman, I'd like to ask the Minister whether, of the 600 additional, firstly in the category of Social

Allowance recipients, that he cited for the committee a few moments ago, some 19,600 cases this year, as against 19,042 last year, where those 600 came from, what categories they fit into, where is the increase occurring, in the category of Mother's Allowances, in the category of disabled, in the category of Student Social Allowance, or where?

HON. L. EVANS: Well, on the first point that the member raises. I just refute and totally reject the suggestion that we're gloating over having more people on social allowances. Obviously we want fewer people on social allowances, but his other statement that we're sort of proud of a bigger caseload in the Human Resources Opportunity Program and that is some sort of a measure of success, it is, because unfortunately there are those people out there that were helping. And that the amount that were helping is pretty darn small in terms of the total unemployed.

I would submit to you that that number could have been that big a few years ago when there was even less unemployment because, unfortunately, there are those people out there with some real social difficulties. If you really think accomplishment is to do less well then wipe out the program. Then you don't have to have anybody and you don't have any figures and you don't have to spend any money. By that reasoning of the Member for Fort Garry, then we'd be accomplishing something. The fact is that there are really regrettably many many people out there who do need some kind of counselling and some kind of assistance and we've — (Interjection) — well, I gave figures this afternoon as to where we were in April of this year compared with April of last year. We're up to 542 people we are helping. — (Interjection) —

When Roblin was in government there was no program. — (Interjection) — There have been people in this category for decades as the Minister of Municipal Affairs is inferring. There have been always among us, people who have had severe problems of alcoholism; some people who just came out of jail system and can't land a job for whatever reason; people who have other emotional problems. So I reject the argument that the increase in the caseload is a sign of failure. That is a sign of helping our fellow man and I am very proud of the fact that the staff has worked very hard to improve the number of people helped and to do it at almost half the cost per participant. That is accomplishment. The taxpayers have got a far better deal going for them now than they had a couple of years ago and that's categorical.

With regard to the increase in the caseload, the Disabled caseload went up from 9,174 to 9,300, so that's an increase of about 125. Mother's Allowance went up approximately 300, from roughly 6,200 to roughly 6,500. The category of Aged had actually dropped by 175 or 170. Students on Social Allowances went up by 70 from 453 to 520 and General Assistance went up by 200; namely, from 984 to 1,180 and that General Assistance is really municipal welfare, in a sense that we're putting out, because there's no municipality. So in those unorganized areas of the province, we are taking on that responsibility.

Generally speaking the caseload is up by a relatively small margin, about 3 percent, and as I said, we're forecasting another 3 percent next year.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, could the Minister advise how many of those persons are going through the Work Activity Projects? The employment resource centres are winding up on these provincial welfare rolls or social allowance recipients. I don't expect that he would necessarily have the specific figures, but would he have a percentage of success, in terms of placement of clients graduating from the Work Activity Projects into permanent employment, and is there a significant number of persons who have gone through the Work Activity Projects who are now to be found in these social allowance categories?

HON. L. EVANS: It's very difficult to know what happens to them in the long run, unless you had everybody on a computer and followed their lives day by day, year by year. But last year there was a fair number that were placed in some kind of employment out of the 500 and there were a fair number who went onto some other kinds of programs to help them.

MR. L. SHERMAN: What would a fair number be? 30 percent?

HON. L. EVANS: Well I have an estimate of about 35 percent.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Well, that's not bad.

HON. L. EVANS: But that's like when they leave. Now what happens to them two, three, four, five months down - I mean it's a free country - we don't know. If they come back onto our load, onto our rolls, they may go onto municipal rolls and they may be in another municipality, so we just don't know what happens to them in the long run. But I am sure that there are many, in fact, over the years, I think there are hundreds of people who are working today, who wouldn't be working otherwise. Nothing to do, necessarily or directly with the employment opportunities. It's always a factor, but the fact that we've given them a bit of assistance, a bit of a boosting, a little bit of counselling on how to find jobs and that sort of thing.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 6.(b)(1)—pass; 6.(b)(2)—pass; 6.(b)(3) - the Member for Fort Garry.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, that's a huge increase in the requested Appropriation on Municipal Assistance, exactly 100 percent, \$20 million as against \$10 million. Could the Minister explain that? Is it a reflection of increased unemployment personnel, who are on municipal welfare rolls, or does it reflect a different financing and cost-sharing arrangement between the province and the municipalities?

HON. L. EVANS: There are three reasons for the increase of about \$10 million. One, there was a shortfall last year, 1982-83 estimated overexpenditure of roughly \$3.6 million. In other words, the caseload last year increased more rapidly than we had forecast at the beginning of the year and we had to build that into our base, so that's \$3.6 million. We're anticipating some inflationary increase and some increase in administrative costs. That accounts for another almost

\$2 million and then a projected caseload increase of 30 percent for 1983-84, that's another \$4.5 million.

Now remember, that \$4.5 million is only a portion of what is being paid out because we cost-share this with the municipalities and, of course, it means the municipalities in Manitoba are going to be paying out more on municipal welfare as well. The cost-sharing with the municipalities varies depending on the kind of municipality, the size and so on. It gets to be a rather complicated formula, but nevertheless it is cost-shared. So I guess you'd say that almost half of that \$10 million is a result of a projected caseload increase of 30 percent. Hopefully, that won't materialize but we're trying to be realistic. That's the amount that we've estimated for this year.

MR. L. SHERMAN: I'm sorry, I missed the percentage on that, Mr. Chairman. The Minister said a projected caseload increase of what percent?

HON. L. EVANS: 30 percent.

MR. L. SHERMAN: 30 percent, and what would that be in figures?

HON. L. EVANS: \$4.5 million.

MR. L. SHERMAN: \$4.5 million. What would that be, Mr. Chairman, in terms of persons, human beings? Does the Minister have a figure there on the municipal unemployment rolls or municipal welfare rolls for the province at the present time?

HON. L. EVANS: We anticipate going up to about 7,200 cases. What I'm talking about is the municipal total caseload of the municipalities in the Province of Manitoba: '82-83, we're estimating about 5,500; and we're talking 7,200 for '83-84.

I might point out that the bulk of this in the City of Winnipeg. In '82-83, 80 percent of the cases were in the City of Winnipeg.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Would these be mainly unemployed employables, Mr. Chairman?

HON. L. EVANS: Yes. In Manitoba, according to our present laws, it is the responsibility of the municipality to care for the unemployed employables. That's exactly the categories. It's in the municipal assistance, therefore, where you reflect the unemployment scene out there, not the provincial social allowance caseload, as I've explained before.

MR. L. SHERMAN: So where we have had in the past year approximately 5,500 Manitobans in that category, the Minister is projecting and budgeting for an increase of approximately 1,700 or 1,800 up to 7,200 or 7,300 for this year. Those will all be unemployed employables who will not be eligible for unemployment insurance is that correct?

HON. L. EVANS: Yes, that's correct. If they are eligible for unemployment insurance, they certainly don't receive any municipal assistance. There may be some odd case where a person had a huge family and the

unemployment insurance was minimal, let's say, then he would get some supplementary municipal assistance.

The figures that I'm quoting are what are referred to as average monthly caseloads, so that's the average monthly caseload for the year. You know, you tally it up every month, divide by 12, and that's your average monthly caseload. There will be a seasonal pattern, of course, there always is. It usually is lower in the warmer months of the year and higher in the winter.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 6.(b)(3)—pass.

6.(d)(1), Manitoba Supplement for Pensioners, Salaries—pass; 6.(d)(2)—pass; 6.(d)(3)—pass.

6.(e) Child Related Income Support Program, (1) Salaries - the Member for Fort Garry.

MR. L. SHERMAN: What is the take-up on this program now, Mr. Chairman? Is it in full gear and meeting the projected target population that it was intended for?

HON. L. EVANS: The average monthly caseload is increasing although, as you can see from the Estimates, we've provided less money this year than last year, and that's because there wasn't a full take-up last year. So we believe we're more on target this year. In the last fiscal year our average monthly caseload is estimated at 7,900, which is quite a jump over the previous year. I'll just round this off, '81-82, it was 6,600; '82-83, it was 7,900, as I said.

In the past year, of course, some of the increase is due not only to the increased caseload but also we've increased the income levels by 9 percent, the eligibility levels by 9 percent. Of course, if you didn't do that there would be families falling off of the program. When I was talking about caseload I was talking about families. In terms of children, we're providing funds for approximately 20,000 children in Manitoba. I guess it's Manitoba's Family Allowance Program, if you will, for those on modest incomes.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, does the Minister feel that the awareness of the program and the availability is sufficiently established in the community? Really, I suppose one of the primary concerns about it in the past was that there were apparently a number of households in the province who were not aware of the support and assistance available. I think that my primary concern at the moment is just that communications challenge as to whether the awareness of the support and the assistance is established, and whether the Minister's office is finding a responsiveness in the community to the fact that the program does exist.

HON. L. EVANS: The member is concerned about how we get the information out about the existence of the program, I would remind him that families must apply and reapply each year. All of those people of course are being sent the application forms and informational material. Even those who were not eligible last year, who were turned down last year, have been sent out the information because there is a possibility for whatever reason, their income has dropped, maybe one of the members of the family is not working or whatever, and they are now eligible.

In addition, we're hoping to, this fall, send out a notice with the Family Allowance cheques with the co-operation of the Federal Government, so that everyone in Manitoba who gets a Family Allowance cheque will get a note reminding them of the existence of this program and giving them the information on the program.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Okay, thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 6.(e)(1)—pass; 6.(e)(2)—pass; 6.(e)(3)—pass.

6.(f) Social Security Field Operations, (1) Salaries—pass; 6.(f)(2)—pass;

Resolution No. 35: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$157,325,300 for Community Services and Corrections, Social Security Services for the fiscal year ending 31st day of March, 1984—pass.

Item 7., Corrections and Probation Services, (a), Office of the Commissioner, (1) Salaries—pass; 7.(a)(2), Other Expenditures—pass; 7.(b)(1), Care and Rehabilitation of Adult Offenders, Salaries.

The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, can the Minister update the committee as to where we stand, where he stands, on the Garson Task Force into the correctional facilities in the province and, in particular, the task force inquiry into conditions at Headingley Jail?

HON. L. EVANS: Well, Mr. Chairman, the committee is hard at work. I know they're interviewing many people, front line staff, I believe even representatives of inmates, other personnel that are somehow or other involved with our corrections system; people who relate to it and, indeed, anyone that they believe would like to discuss the whole subject of adult corrections. But I have not received any interim reports or progress reports. My information is that they're in the middle of their work and we expect to get a final report, if they're on schedule, in September next, end of August, early September, in a matter of months, but we have had no interim report so there's nothing I can relay to the honourable member.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, I have asked the Minister frequently about this situation with respect to the inquiry into Headingley Jail, in particular, and he has frequently replied that this really is an inquiry, an investigation into the adult correctional system, generally, and that it is not pinpointed or earmarked in any specific or particular way toward Headingley.

I would like to emphasize to him that some of my primary concerns in this area, and concerns that persons associated with Headingley Correctional Institution have, are concerns that deal specifically with Headingley. I would hope that the inquiry is not fragmented and diffused in such a way as to be doing a kind of an overall review of the system that is so broad and so superficial as to fail to zero in on Headingley Correctional Institution itself.

Some of the problems that I think are very real there, and would become obvious and apparent to an objective inquiry, that provided personnel at the

institution with the protection, and the guaranteed job safety that would permit them to speak up and avail themselves of the opportunity to describe some of the problems that they find to be in existence in their work environment there.

A general review is fine, but a general review can be superficial and it can be so widespread as to gloss over and miss some of the specific difficulties that I think require examination.

I don't know about the Minister, but certainly I have had communications by letter, and by telephone, and by personal visit, from people who, in one way or another associated are with the Headingley Jail Community, either as staff members there, as former inmates, or as relatives of one or the other, and I can assure the Minister that I have not received visits, or representations, from such citizens in anywhere near the same number where other adult correctional facilities in the province are concerned. So I'm not all that worried about whether the Minister's task force is investigating Brandon Correction Institution, or investigating the situation at The Pas, or Dauphin; what I'm basically concerned about is that we achieve an intensive, and objective, and an honest, examination of morale, and working environment, and working conditions, and attitudes, and discipline and all the other components contained in the operations of the Headingley Correctional Institute.

I have not really had that assurance from the Minister at any time that I've asked the question. He has assured me that Headingley is in the overall review, but I wish to press the point upon him, again, Mr. Chairman, that I believe Headingley should be the review. If it's possible to review other institutions in the adult correctional spectrum at this time, fine, all well and good, but it wouldn't bother me one bit if the reviews of the other ones were left for a year or two until Headingley was thoroughly examined.

So I would ask him, again, whether Headingley is receiving the kind of priority attention that I have requested, or whether it's just going to be glossed over and covered in a general review that does not acknowledge the fact that there are probably some special and specific problems at Headingley that may not occur or exist to anywhere near the same degree in some of the other adult institutions.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, H. Harapiak: Mr. Minister.

HON. L. EVANS: Well, Mr. Chairman, when we establish the Garson Committee to look at adult corrections there's no question that a major part of their study would involve Headingley and the Winnipeg Remand Centre, simply because there is the concentration of population, and we know that, for various reasons, the situation at the Winnipeg Remand Centre is not as desirable as some people would like. But, nevertheless, we felt that if you were setting up committee you might as well say - well take a look-see at all the adult correctional facilities and some other related matters.

But I would agree, I think The Pas, Dauphin, Brandon, which are the other male adult correctional facilities, pose very little in the way of problems; I think things are going fairly well by and large. I think that the reason you'll hear more from Headingley, of course, it's the

largest institution we have and it happens to be here in Winnipeg, or in the Winnipeg area, so it's only natural. I think if you lived in Brandon you might here from some Brandon people I don't know, but I haven't heard many complaints either from outside of Headingley and the Remand Centre. Over 50 percent of our total inmate population is in Headingley and 44 percent of our total adult correctional staff are at Headingley, so that's obviously the concentration. There's no question in my mind that there needs to be some arrangements. I would like to have the money to provide a new dormitory facility at Headingley and get the inmates out of the present facilities.

When I was there, as far as I was concerned, there are, in my view at least, inadequate sleeping arrangements. It's just not a good scene to have men together as close as they are, lacking privacy, and this I get from the guards. I mean, I talked to as many people as I could when I went around the province. I spent most of last summer in jail - as a matter of fact, in all of the jails - including the Women's Jail, the Agassiz Centre for Youth, the Tuxedo Centre and one work camp.

So I've talked to a lot of people and there's no question that Headingley is a pressure point and the Remand Centre is a pressure point. Certainly, I would just think, in the normal course of events, with the people that we have on this committee that they would be concentrating on the areas where the greatest number of problems are. I'm sure that Mr. Graeme Garson, who is a very knowledgeable person and a former provincial judge, really knows and understands the Manitoba scene. Also, in his present capacity as Chief Executive Officer of the Manitoba Law Society and the members that we have on that committee I have no fear whatsoever that they will take a lot of time and pay a lot of attention to programs at Headingley, to the situation at Headingley, and the Winnipeg Remand Centre. So I don't think the member need worry whatsoever on that account.

In fact, we have a bit of information that some of the staff of the committee are spending a lot of time visiting at the Headingley institution.

But I can tell you, if I could have a manna from heaven, all the money I needed to dedicate in Corrections, I would certainly move very rapidly to put a new dormitory facility and use the existing facility out there for general purposes. We do have to do some upgrading for fire safety, and it seems a shame to put all that money in for fire safety when we can use that amount and put a little bit more towards it, another couple of million - that may not be a little bit - but a chunk of money in addition and have a better situation for the dormitory, and then use the older structure for more general purposes, the dining room, meeting places, recreational facilities, administrative offices, etc. I think that's the sensible thing to do.

There is no question in my mind that we need a new Remand Centre. The problem that the government has - and indeed we're doing some studies on that and we've indicated that publicly. We've dedicated some money for some preliminary architectural work of functional planning and we even know where we'd like to see it go. I think it should go adjacent to the Law Courts here where the old Provincial Garage is on York Street. That's where it should go and it should be

connected to the new Law Courts Building that's going up. That's the obvious place for it to be located.

A consultant has been selected and is now working on some preliminary design work for the Remand Centre. But to build a new Remand Centre is going to cost a lot of money, depending on how big it is and what you put into it, but it is a very very expensive construction job. We could be looking at \$15 million, \$20 million - I mean, it's a lot of money. As the honourable member knows full well, there are demands being made on the government to build more and better nursing homes, improved hospital facilities around the province and other public works that the taxpayers and citizens are requesting of us.

So it's a matter of priorities, it's a matter of finding the scarce dollars, but there is no dispute that we would like to move in that direction, none whatsoever. If I could do it tomorrow morning, if we could find that money, we would certainly move tomorrow, quickly. We are not sitting idly by, as I said, we have a consultant working on the project and hopefully, you know, given time, that we will be able to construct a new centre but that will remain to be seen.

But just as important as facilities, maybe more important in some cases, is the staff and the programs you offer. As the member knows, generally the inmates in our institutions are there for a relatively short period of time, the average is what? - three months on average, and there isn't time to do too much in the way of "corrections," unlike the federal penitentiary system where there is a much longer stay. But I think it's important to have well-trained staff, and I think it's important to have as many programs as possible: educational services, we want to have adequate medical services. We want all these things, so we're looking at these things, looking at the role of the rehabilitation camps.

Having said that, I must correct the statement I made a minute ago where I said I have received no report whatsoever from the committee. I did receive a brief short report on the Spruce Woods Camp at my request, but that's a very limited and a very narrow request. But apart from that, there has been no interim report, you know, of a general nature such as we've got from Judge Kimelman on the Child and Family Services area.

The other point I'd like to make, I think that we need more emphasis on community release facilities, whereby we make it easier for a person to go from an institution into the community through a transition phase and I know we're doing some of that. I'm not suggesting we're not cognizant, the staff's very cognizant of it, and there is some of that going on. There are many many programs going on. We want to ensure that public safety is provided for, but at the same time we want to do our very best to ensure that we do help people so that they don't come back again and be our customers the second or third time around. It's very very important, particularly with first-time offenders, that we pay a lot of attention and do whatever we can to help them succeed and not come back.

I'm very pleased to note that our Fine Option Program has been successful and that, as the member may remember, in our News Release we pointed out that 7 percent of the population of all the adult correctional facilities in the province were there because they couldn't pay fines. Now, with the Fine Option Program

those people are no longer there because we made it retroactive. Even though you had been previously sentenced, we made it retroactive so that you could be out on the Fine Option, and I might say that it is working very well. I may be getting ahead of myself because that is really in Probation and Parole Services.

Maybe I should terminate my comments at this point, except to say, because I think it is important to be said, even though it may be more fitting under Probation and Parole Services; that we have to put even more emphasis than we do now on restitution committees, getting the communities out there, the churches, the service clubs, the social groups, the Salvation Army and others, to help us, not only with fine options, but with those first-time offenders and, particularly, younger offenders to, if we can, divert them and to pay a price, to give something of themselves, of their time and their energy to pay back to whomever they hurt, or to society in general through community work, as opposed to sitting behind bars.

I'm talking about non-violent people, I'm talking essentially about first-time offenders, and the staff, including our Commissioner of Corrections, is very cognizant of that and it is cheaper for the taxpayer, it's better for the individual, and I am convinced that while we can talk all we like about building better Headingley's, or better Remand Centres, and I appreciate they're necessary, but we have to be cognizant of the fact that we have to do a better job of helping persons, helping the first-time offenders, and somehow or other - is the term diversion - to divert them from getting into the correctional system, because sometimes, I'm sorry to say, they're not corrected, they come out worse, in some cases, depending, than when they went in; that is because of the new company that they are keeping there.

So, first-time offenders, particularly non-violent people, people that have done something the first time, they are not violent, if somehow you could get them into community work to pay the price, to pay back to society for the crime that they have committed, I think, we are better off. The taxpayers are better off and maybe that individual will be better off.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, I was glad to hear the Minister make the statement that, just as important as facilities are staff and programs, because in the early area of his remarks a moment ago he was emphasizing the desire that he held for physical improvements to Headingley, and a better institution, a better facility than the relatively elderly one that exists at the present time. And, although, that is a desirable objective, either a new correctional institute, or a vastly improved one, in terms of physical renovations, that is not necessarily the nub of the problem, and it is not necessarily the root which would provide the answer to some of the difficulties that we face there, and he acknowledged that when he said that staff and programs are just as important as facilities, and I certainly was pleased to hear that acknowledgement, because if he had not made the point himself I would have raised it with him.

I don't think that the physical plant is by any means the be-all and the end-all of the problems at Headingley, and I don't even think a new physical plant would end

all the problems there, unless we get at some of the other difficulties that are affecting that institution. I believe that there are problems in terms of personnel; I believe there are problems in terms of relationship in staffing; I believe that there are disciplinary problems; there are morale problems; there are suspicions among the line staff of favouritism in the senior staffing positions; there are particular rivalries and animosities that exist; there are security problems for the staff themselves, where some of the more dangerous inmates are concerned; there is outdated equipment which makes it very difficult for many of the line staff, the custodial officers to do their jobs properly; there are a combination of things that add up to intense pressures, in terms of stress and tension on line staff and their relatives and families. I think, until some of those problems are addressed, it won't matter whether there is a brand new spanking physical plant on the Headingley site or not, there will still be the possibility of a serious episode. I think conditions are such that the government would be well to be on warning and put on guard for possible difficulties there.

I've had, as recently as a few days ago, people who are familiar with Headingley staff personnel, say to me that those personnel have said to them that the situation is terrible at Headingley, and that something is going to give, something is going to happen if something isn't done.

Now the problem is that line staff personnel are like all the rest of us, they have to have some concerns for their jobs and their job security, and they have to have some concerns for their relationships with people, and they naturally tend to be pretty protective of their positions, and that's legitimate and understandable. Because they fear, if not for their positions, at least for their relationships with people, they find it difficult to speak up in an objectively critical way of conditions there. Some who have been in touch with me have asked me not to use their names, and I won't use their names; other members of our caucus have come to me and advised me that personnel at Headingley have been in touch with them with the same message; and again, the same plea for anonymity.

So I think we have to start from the recognition that, to really get at the problems in Headingley, some special steps have to be taken, and the task force, the Garson Committee looking into the problem there, has to be provided by the Minister with some safety net, some assurance, that they can give to the personnel on staff at Headingley, that assures them that they can speak up and tell their stories with a guarantee of the security of their positions, and without fear of recrimination by senior personnel, either in the facility, or in the Adult Corrections Division of the Department.

I think that guarantee is essential if the task force is to get at the truth of what is wrong in terms of morale at Headingley. You can build a new concrete plant out there, but that is not going to resolve the morale problem until we look at what is wrong with discipline; until we look at what is wrong with management appointments; until we look at what is wrong with management practices; until we look at what is wrong with the relationship between line staff and supervisory personnel, and the security that line staff are afforded against possible threat to their person from dangerous offenders in the institution itself.

So I think all those things have to be looked at, Mr. Chairman, and I don't think it can be done without guaranteeing persons involved some security against recrimination, and against retaliation of one sort or another.

I think the same is true of the inmate personnel. I believe that in order to get the true story of the legitimate grievances that some inmates at Headingley no doubt have, have had in the past and continue to have, that kind of guarantee of protection against retaliation has got to be provided.

I think one way of doing it would be to open up the inquiry to the media. There may be other ways of doing it, but certainly if the media were allowed to talk to personnel at Headingley, both those on the custodial staff and those who are there as inmates, it would be possible to provide a reasonable guarantee of protection against retaliation. The public, through the media, would have the full story and access to stories of retaliation would immediately be available and, therefore, there would be, I think, a built-in defence against any form of retaliatory action by any persons who felt that they had perhaps been aggrieved by the complaints that were lodged and discussed and reviewed in the course of the investigation. That may not be the best way of providing that protection; I don't know, I just cite it as one possibility. But somewhere along the line, in order to ensure that Headingley is being run in a way that provides security to the public, the people of Manitoba, as well as security to the staff who work there and, as well as a reasonable opportunity for rehabilitation to the inmates, somehow, some way, in order to provide that kind of possible conclusion to the task force investigation, there have got to be steps taken to ensure that the task force gets the true story. I think the Minister and his officials have got to look at that and determine how they are going to assure themselves that they are going to get the true story of the grievances and the morale problems, and devise some way of achieving them so that we're not just going through a whitewash exercise here where Headingley is concerned.

HON. L. EVANS: Well, Mr. Chairman, let me say this, first of all. The honourable member goes on and on about various problems, staff problems, recrimination, rumours, and problems that he talks about in a generalized sense. I would only wish he would be more specific, because I get a terrible impression of a vagueness of the criticism. I feel they're really very very vague. The honourable member was the Minister responsible for Corrections, among other things, for at least two years, and I would suggest to him that a lot of the problems that he refers to at Headingley are probably a function of the size of the institution, as much as anything, because we certainly don't have problems in the smaller institutions of Manitoba. I say those problems have been there, the kind of problems I think he's referring to, for a long long time. I asked the member, what did he do, for two years at least he had that responsibility; what did he do for two years? I'm asking him that. What did he do?

This is the first time a government has set up a comprehensive review of the adult correction system and we've got excellent people; we've got dedicated

people; we've got some very professional people, people with a lot of expertise, such as, Dr. Steven Brickey of the Department of Sociology of the University of Manitoba, to name only one. There are others there that are very knowledgeable and have had a lot of experience in their related field. I say that committee is a first in Manitoba. Why didn't the Member for Fort Garry set up a review committee? Why didn't he do something about morale problems because there were morale problems then. I was in this Legislature; I remember some of the comments made and I remember some discussions. There have been problems there for decades.

I submit, Mr. Chairman, a lot of those problems have to do, I think, with the size and the number of people that we have there because we simply don't seem to have the problems in the smaller institutions, such as, Dauphin. Dauphin is the worst facility in terms of physical structure. You can leave the Dauphin facility anytime you want, you walk out the fire escape, but nobody does because there's a good atmosphere at Dauphin. It's a small facility; there are few people; there's a good relationship between the guards and the inmates; they abide by the rules; we don't have any trouble. The people put in their time, they do what they're supposed to do and the morale is good and we have no problems, although it's the worst physical structure you could lay your eyes on.

So I submit that these problems that the member refers to in a very very vague way are problems that were there when he was the Minister. I say what did he do about it? At least this government and this Minister has set up a very comprehensive study of the adult correction system with some very competent, dedicated, experienced, high profile Manitobans; Manitobans with excellent reputations and excellent credentials. I can advise the member that any of those people, any of those guards who fear for their jobs because they have some complaints, had no fears. The committee is prepared and has talked to numerous people out there, anybody and every guard, and staff member and, indeed, even the inmates are free to talk to that committee and its representatives, and have been doing so. So there is no inhibition whatsoever; there's no restrictions on that committee whatsoever, absolutely, totally, *carte blanche* is how I would describe it. They have *carte blanche* in going and talking to anybody - senior, junior, front line, middle ranking staff; they have *carte blanche* in talking to representatives of the inmates. They have total freedom to do that and they're getting total co-operation from all of our senior staff.

If there is anybody still phoning the Member for Fort Garry, or any of his colleagues, with any problems and fears, etc.- they don't want to have their names revealed, etc.- I would invite to call the Garson Committee, tell them to phone. Their phone number is available, they have an office. Please get in touch with them and their complaints will be heard in total, complete confidence. I want to assure the member of that.

I don't know what else we can do. We've heard some allegations and we believe that there are other matters that should be looked into. We've set up the committee, the committee is hard at work. I think that we will get a report that will give us some indication of some of the problems. I'm not saying for one minute that all of

the complaints that the member refers to have any legitimacy, because I don't know exactly what the complaints are.

He might, himself, if he wishes, in fact I would invite him, to get in touch with Graeme Garson and sit down and reveal to the committee his detailed concerns, because he would be doing the people of Manitoba a favour. He'd be doing his friends in the correctional system a favour; he would be doing all of us a favour.

I would welcome; I would encourage; I would urge him. In fact, he has an obligation to go to that committee, if the Member for Fort Garry has specific concerns, specific complaints, he has an obligation to go to the Garson Committee and to reveal and to discuss and to elaborate on what those problems are. He will do a service to the people of Manitoba if he takes the time and energy to do that, and I suspect, I believe, that it's incumbent upon him, because he seems to have a lot of information. He makes vague, general criticisms. Maybe he doesn't want to be more specific in this Legislature. All right. I say, give those specifics to the committee, so that they can investigate and analyze, because I can assure you that committee is a very independent committee and it will analyze; it will study; it will review; it will bring forth the report as it sees fit, and telling the story that they see.

I don't know what they're going to report, frankly. I have no idea of how long the report will be and to what extent they will cover which item, but I know they have, as I said, *carte blanche*, and we're doing everything possible to make it easy for that committee to carry out its job. Nobody is standing in its way and any correctional officer, whoever it is, can talk to that committee and I'm really serious when I say to the Member for Fort Garry, that he has a responsibility - seeing that he has all this knowledge of great problems out there - he has the responsibility to get in touch with the committee and I would suggest that he sit down with the whole committee.

Because, this is not an ideological thing. It's not a matter of left wing, right wing. It's nothing to do with it. It's let's get whatever information there is to be analyzed. Let's get that information, that's what I say. I came into this portfolio, not even knowing where all the provincial jails were. I knew there was Headingley and I knew there was one in Brandon. I wasn't sure that there was a jail in Dauphin, or whatever. I'm not familiar with correction programs, at least I wasn't familiar at that time, so I came in pretty open-minded and I'm still open-minded about it.

What I want is to have the best provincial correctional system that we possibly can have and it can be done through various ways. We're taking steps on buildings; we're taking steps in terms of looking at the programs and the organization through the Garson Committee. We've moved on the Fine Option. We're moving on more honorary probation officers. We're encouraging more restitution committees. We'd like to move towards easier halfway houses, or community release facilities. Those are all kinds of things that I'd like to see happen and I'm working to the extent that I have the ability and the financial wherewithal to do some of those things. Time is short. One never has enough time to devote to all of the problems one has in this particular portfolio, because God knows, there's enough problems dealing with the disadvantaged people in the province.

Just let me say one other item and then I'll sit down, and that is, although I have made mention of the inadequacy of the physical facilities at Dauphin, I should mention that the jail is undergoing some renovations at the present time.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, I am the first to acknowledge that the Minister has limited time to deal with problems of this kind. I'm fully aware of the kind of workload that he faces and the pressure that he faces. It's ironic that the Minister thinks that the questions that I've raised in this area are aimed at undermining him when, in fact, as I've suggested to him in conversations outside the Chamber, they're aimed at helping him.

He asks me what did I do when I was Minister. Well, I'm going to tell him in one minute, Mr. Chairman, what I did, but some of the things I didn't do, because nobody came to me and said these are the kinds of things that are going on, and one can't do anything until one hears that there is something to be done.

The Minister asks what did I do when I was Minister of Corrections. Our government at that time, Sir, among other things, dismantled the separate Ministry of Corrections, which was desperately necessary. We abolished the bureaucracy in that Ministry, which was desperately necessary. There was a top-heavy bureaucracy and a separate Ministry of Corrections, which was entirely unnecessary. That was phased out and folded into the Department of Health and Community Services. We realigned the configuration at the Brandon Correctional Institution to make it functionally efficient, where it had been designed and intended to be, in our view, functionally inefficient to accommodate only half as many persons as it was capable of accommodating. We built the new facility at The Pas. We started work at Dauphin. We introduced the AFM Program at Headingley. We did a number, and as a matter of fact, we passed the legislation that made the Fine Option Program possible. I commend the Minister on the fact that that program is being successful, but it was our government that introduced that legislation.

These are a few of the things that we did, Mr. Chairman. When the Minister asks me what I did, those are a few of the things I did. I, and we, did not move on this situation at Headingley, because the Minister, the Honourable Member for Brandon East did not come to me and say, look, there are problems at Headingley. I am coming to him in a kindly way, in order to help head off any difficulties there and I don't think that he should be resentful of that. — (Interjection) — He accuses me of being extremely vague in my accusations, Mr. Chairman. I've pointed out that it's extremely difficult to be anything other than vague, unless people are willing to put their necks on the line, and if they want to put their necks on the line, they'll go before that committee and put their necks on the line, but I am not going to compromise them.

I'm glad to hear the Minister's comments to the effect that the Garson Committee is making things as easy as possible for people to come forward. And in its mandate and its terms of reference, the Garson Committee is having things made as easy as possible for them to do the job that needs to be done. That is

a reassurance I appreciate getting from the Minister, because all I want to ensure is that the review is realistic and objective, and the Minister is assuring me that the situation is being made as easy as possible for the Garson Committee, so that it can achieve a real and a realistic review. So that is good and I accept that.

Mr. Chairman, the Minister has referred to the situation at Headingley from the perspective of the physical plant and I'm not denegrating whatever improvement, whatever physical improvement may be under way at the plant. I would hope that resources in the future will enable major physical improvements to be made. All I'm saying is that in keeping with his own acknowledgement that just as important as facilities are staff and programs.

The personnel situation there requires examination and the morale, and climate for morale, requires examination. If the Garson Committee is satisfied with what it finds, provided it has had the opportunity to achieve honest and objective answers from people, then I will be satisfied with the Garson Committee's conclusions, but I want that assurance from the Minister that they are being given the opportunity to explore the situation objectively and thoroughly. I gather, from his comments this evening, that is the case, and I accept that assurance at face value, but I assure him that I will pursue further reassurance for myself that that is the case and they are, in fact, hearing from people who want to speak up, who want to say things, and want to be able to do so freely and without worry or anxiety. So, I will be pursuing reassurance at that point and I will hold the Minister to that reassurance.

HON. L. EVANS: Phone up Graeme in the morning.

MR. L. SHERMAN: I beg your pardon?

HON. L. EVANS: Phone up Mr. Garson in the morning.

MR. L. SHERMAN: The Minister says phone up Mr. Garson in the morning. There is no difficulty in my doing that, but it's hardly necessary, Mr. Speaker. I've been raising this issue in the House for almost a year. The Minister says, and takes some pride in the fact that his government or his Ministry has set up a review of the system. Yes, he has; he has, after being dragged, kicking and screaming, to the point where he finally agreed to set up a review, after being constantly beseeched by us on this side and by the evidence that accumulated from various media reports relative to incidents that occurred at Headingley, to undertake a review of this kind, to do something, to get into action.

Finally, he did act and there was some acknowledgement in the media that, yes, he was finally acting on the urgings that had been directed at him from this side of the House, and from incidents occurring there, and from the public, and from the media for some time. So, he's finally acted and I give him credit for that, but it was not the result of bounding into the office any morning with some great initiative and some great imaginative thrust in mind; he did not approach it from that perspective at all. He was brow beaten into it, and he's finally undertaken a review - good. But, certainly Mr. Garson and other members of the committee and the Minister, himself, are fully aware

of the kinds of concerns that I have discussed tonight, vague as they may be, because I've raised them before and they were behind my original request of the Minister to undertake a review.

HON. L. EVANS: When did you request a review?

MR. L. SHERMAN: They are vague and they are necessarily vague. I called in this Legislature a year ago for a review of Headingley Jail.

HON. L. EVANS: Show me in Hansard. You talked about incidences, but you never asked for a review, show me in the Hansard.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, there was an incident in the summer of 1982 - no it would have been later than that - that posed a very serious threat to staff at Headingley, and to the public of Manitoba, and particularly the public in western Winnipeg, that involved a near breakout by two very dangerous offenders, very dangerous criminals, one of whom has gone on to other dangerous criminal activities and, I believe, is being held in maximum security in another institution in Canada now.

That particular incident revealed enormous shortcomings at Headingley in terms of safety measures for staff; in terms of security generally; in terms of equipment; in terms of discipline; in terms of management procedures; and I asked the Minister about it, it took some considerable time to get any answers from him. Subsequently, I discussed with him, outside the House, in correspondence and inside this House, the fact that a number of people associated with Headingley had raised problems of concern with me related to that escape attempt incident, and others, and that an investigation of the situation at Headingley was required. And I repudiate unconditionally the Minister's suggestion that I never called upon him for a review of the situation at Headingley Jail, because that's where it all started, and ultimately, in fact, the media said, when the Minister finally set up his Garson Task Force, the media said, the Minister has finally moved on that request by the opposition, that legitimate and highly justified request.

I don't know that we should spend too much time debating that point, Mr. Chairman, because there's nothing to debate; it's clear and on the record. What I'm saying to the Minister is that I'm glad he's undertaken this review, but he knows, and I'm sure that the members of the committee know, of my primary concerns. They were related, in large part, to escape attempts of the kind I've just cited which pointed out the shortcomings out there, including shortcomings, in terms of security and discipline and procedure and equipment and morale. I'm talking about security of inmates, as well as security of staff, and I'm talking about security of the public of Manitoba, too. Now the Minister's looking into it . . .

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Hansard is having difficulty taping this interesting conversation. So, if we would wait to be recognized, we'd all have our conversation taped.

The Member for Fort Garry.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. While the Minister is looking into it through the Garson Task Force, and I'm glad that he is, and I'm glad that I have his reassurance that everything possible is being done to ensure that they can carry out an intensive and an objective examination, and I take his word for that. I shall be following it with great interest and continuing interest.

Mr. Chairman, could I just ask the Minister, with respect to Headingley, what the inmate population stands at now? How the inmate population at the present time compares with that population figure in previous years? Is there a continuing and an increasingly serious overcrowding problem at Headingley?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Member for Wolseley.

MS. M. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chairperson, before the Minister answers that last question, I'd just like to make a few comments.

I find it absolutely ludicrous that the Member for Fort Garry should, at this point in time, try to take credit for the excellent job the Minister has been doing in terms of trying to get the problems at Headingley under control. I think for him to suggest that all those problems, in terms of security, equipment, personnel training, etc., that he mentioned all happened from November, 1981 until the summer of 1982, and that before that time everything was under control and working fine. I think for the Member for Fort Garry to try to take credit for something that the Minister did, not because of the prodding or urging of the Member for Fort Garry, but something that I know, from working with the Minister, he had been working on from January of that year in setting up the outline or parameters for that review, getting a grasp on what was happening in Headingley and what the needs were and what the problems were.

For the Member for Fort Garry to say in the summer of 1982, when there was attempted escape that came to his attention, that that one incident prompted the Minister then to come up with the review is absolutely ludicrous. I don't mind the Member for Fort Garry trying to take credit for some things but, after all, he was the Minister responsible for several years before November of 1981. I don't think those kind of problems just happened in the first six months of our term of office; I think they were definitely cumulative and things that were left over from the neglect under the former Minister.

I think he's walking on very thin ice to try to take credit, at this point in time, for the concern that the Minister has expressed over the last year with the problems in the whole correction field. I think that, rather than trying to give himself credit, I think he should be spending a bit more time giving credit to the Minister in charge of corrections, and put the credit where the credit really belongs.

HON. L. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the remarks of my colleague, the Member for Wolseley. But I can't let the remarks of the Honourable Member for Fort Garry, the opposition critic, go unanswered because I want to tell him, categorically, although he was very concerned about one particular escape, one

incident, the Hoffman-Baptiste incident, which incidentally lasted a matter of minutes. They were subdued successfully by the guards and it was over in a matter of minutes. The Honourable Member for Fort Garry wrote to me about that incident, and that's the only one that I can recall offhand of him having written to me about an incident and we corresponded about that.

The origin, and I don't recall any demands, or being browbeaten. The Member for Fort Garry says I was being browbeaten by him into doing this. Well that's ridiculous, you know, that is absolutely totally ridiculous. You know, the reason we did the study is simply, not simply, but the reason and the cause of the study originated from information given to me by staff.

I explained earlier that I spent virtually all of last summer visiting the jails of Manitoba, Dauphin, The Pas, the camp north of The Pas, Egg Lake; I was at the Brandon Correctional Institute, and I talked to the guards and I talked to some inmates, and I talked to the superintendent, I talked to everybody that was around to talk to, some of the councillors, some of the educators; I was at Headingley; was in the Tuxedo Centre for Youth; I was at the Winnipeg Remand Centre; I was even at the Vaughan Street facility because we were holding a few people there on a temporary basis. I think I was at every facility; I was at the Women's Jail in Portage, I talked, again, in every instance; I was at the Agassiz Centre for Youth.

You know, I invite the Member for Fort Garry to tell me how many jails he's visited over his period. I haven't been Minister quite two years and, you know, I spent a great deal of time talking to many, many people. That is the origination of a review. There were a lot of unanswered questions and it seemed to me the way to get a thorough analysis done was to appoint a study group or commission a view, and that is exactly what we did.

With all due respect, I did not feel browbeaten for one single iota of time, for one single second, to dash out and do a study, not whatsoever. The member may have asked about one or two incidences and, you know, the Hoffman-Baptiste thing, I think the way the member talks about it is though the great problem was at Headingley where Hoffman held hostages, and a very serious situation was at Stony Mountain. How long did that last? That lasted 24 hours and that was a very serious situation. Headingley, it was over in two minutes, three minutes and he was back in his cell. Nobody was hurt, there was a minor scuffle.

So really I just totally, absolutely reject the members suggestion that we did this study because of pressure from himself; that is not the case, it is simply not the case. If it was I would say so, but I'm telling you that is simply not the case. Having said that I think, generally speaking, that we have a group of people that work for us in Corrections that are probably as fine as you'll find anywhere; I think there may be some problems in organization. I think a lot of the problems that the staff perceive are maybe in the minds of the staff, for whatever reason, because maybe they don't have the total information of the entire scene and that always happens. If you don't have the total picture you can get a particular slanted view of things. So, in many cases, you know, it may be that many of the complaints that the honourable member has received, they may not have much substance whatsoever.

The Member for Fort Garry essentially seems to be concerned about the security at Headingley because he referred to that in his correspondence, he's referred to it previously, and while there have been the odd escape, there have been a few this year, I don't think there's been any violence and they're usually found and brought back. 1982 there wasn't even one single escape, not one single escape in 1982. No breakout, there was some walkaways when they were in custody, between buildings, but there was no physical breaking out of Headingley.

Is a matter of fact, the other point I would make is that I felt, as a new Minister, that it would be good to review many of our major programs and, frankly, the Garson Review simply fits into a pattern that I've established. We're reviewing the Social Allowance, the Welfare System in Manitoba under Dr. Joseph Ryant; we've been reviewing the Indian adoption, and Child and Family Services sector under Judge Kimelman; we established a Review Task Force on Residential Care in co-operation with Mental Health Association, CAMR, the Society for Seniors and some other organizations; we set up, in co-operation with all the Children's Aid Society, a Panelling and Review Agency, and we've been working co-operatively with them to deal with the system problems there; and then we set up the Garson Committee. It fits into a pattern that we have established of reviewing some of the major areas of the province.

Indeed, I would be very remiss if I didn't mention the review of the Day Care System. My Legislative Assistant has put in days, weeks, months on this very important topic and has done an excellent job and has brought forth a set of regulations that we are hoping to put into place to raise the standards of day care in Manitoba; so there is another thrust.

So I say, Mr. Chairman, that what we're doing in corrections is part and parcel of a general review of the department, and the programs, the success of the programs and how we can improve the programs, and how we can do it, maybe, with less money, or getting greater cost efficiency, as we are with the Human Resources Opportunity Program where we substantially increase the productivity and reduce the cost per participant.

I don't want to take anything away from the member's concerns; I appreciate that he has concerns. He can have all the concerns he likes and, as I said, if he has a lot of specifics, I would really truly hope that he gets in touch with Mr. Garson and the committee and reveals the information, because I can assure him it'll be handled and treated in fullest confidence by a group of dedicated people, volunteers.

The other point I would make is that I, like him, will look forward to the Garson Committee Report. I don't know what it's going to say, but I trust it will give us some guidance to make some changes that we may pursue. The member related incidentally to the great progress under his government. I might remind him that they tried to stop the construction of the Brandon Jail and then they found to the Government Services Minister's horror at the time that they had too much concrete in the ground, otherwise the Brandon Jail may still not be there because it was ordered to be frozen.

— (Interjection) — I can show you the newspaper report. The Member for Lakeside ordered the freezing of all construction in the province.

MR. F. JOHNSTON: All other construction as well.

HON. L. EVANS: Of course. The Assiniboine Community College, which began a few years later at extra millions of dollars to the taxpayers, you froze all kinds of things. You did a good job of freezing; you should go into the freezing business. — (Interjection) — The Brandon Correctional Institute was slated for that. It was in the paper. The Member for Lakeside issued the order, he was on the radio. But then it was found that there was too much concrete poured and it wouldn't be economical to stop. There were, nevertheless, changes made. I submit, with all respect, there were cuts in the — (Interjection) — Yes, you went to Brandon, you stopped all the senior citizens construction, too. He cut a ribbon and said no more senior citizens homes for Brandon. That's when he told the council. — (Interjection) —

At any rate, Mr. Chairman, the same thing with The Pas. We had planned the construction of The Pas facility and it was delayed again for a long period of time by the previous administration. — (Interjection) —

Don't talk to me about big changes in the Alcoholism Foundation of Manitoba. I know my former colleague, the Honourable Bud Boyce, at that time was very very active in making improvements in the Alcoholism Foundation of Manitoba Program. From my observation, acute protracted restraint did indeed seriously damage some of the very worthwhile social programs we had and held back on a lot of other progress that we had planned.

However, Mr. Chairman, I was asked a question about the population of Headingley today versus yesterday, or last year I believe? It's averaging roughly 390, Mr. Chairman. It hasn't changed.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Averaging what, I'm sorry?

HON. L. EVANS: It's averaging 390 people at the present time. That's the latest information.

MR. L. SHERMAN: But what does that mean, 390 compared to what?

HON. L. EVANS: I can read off a couple of figures. In '81-82, it was 359. That was the average daily population in '81-82, 359; '82-83, 374; and at the present time - this is not an average - as of the week ending 21st of May, it was 393.

MR. L. SHERMAN: And it's rated for what?

HON. L. EVANS: 322.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: 7.(b)(2)—pass?

HON. L. EVANS: I should point out, Mr. Chairman, that although the population, as I refer to 393, some of the people are not there during the day. They're out on day passes and they're out on work projects.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, I'm not going to belabour this debate with the Minister on the subject of who has moved on Headingley and who hasn't moved on Headingley. I'd only say in response to the

Honourable Member for Wolseley - I don't dispute the main thrust of her remarks - that the Minister asked me what we had done when we were in office and what I had done when I was Minister of Corrections. I cited some of the major things that we had done and I had done. I'm not going to repeat them. The Member for Wolseley, if she cares to, can read them in the record, in Hansard.

Insofar as Headingley was concerned, I never suggested for a moment that there haven't been problems at Headingley for a long time. I do suggest that they have been more vividly brought to this Minister's attention than they were brought to mine, because nobody acquainted me with the things that were troubling Headingley in the same way that I have attempted to acquaint this Minister. I'm glad that he's undertaken a review of Headingley.

A MEMBER: Go out and check them.

MR. L. SHERMAN: I know that there were problems that have been existing at Headingley for some considerable time. They suddenly became vividly highlighted by a couple of very dangerous escape attempts. The Minister has referred to the situation at Stony Mountain and the hostage-taking incident there. I can assure him that if Stony Mountain were under his jurisdiction or under the jurisdiction of this Provincial Government it would have been raised in this House. In view of the fact that it's a federal penitentiary it was hardly a situation which we could hold this government responsible for or on which we could challenge this government's action. — (Interjection) — Well, Mr. Chairman, in any event the population at Headingley is higher, no doubt, than it should be. I would agree with the Minister that the relative overcrowding and the lack of privacy that results from that is one of the causes of the difficulties there. But I would hope, too, that there's intensive examination being undertaken with respect to equipment and particularly security equipment there.

What was baffling to many of us is that there were supposed to be inspections carried out of these institutions and yet the escape attempt referred to - the Hoffman-Baptiste escape attempt - it was pointed out that there were doors that were left open because they made so much noise at night that the guards decided they wouldn't close them because they didn't want to disturb the inmates. That apparently was an order from the administration. There were television cameras which were supposed to monitor activity in the jail at nights, but they didn't contain infra-red equipment so they couldn't see in the dark. I mean what kind of monitoring process is going on? What kind of inspection is going on? That is where all the trouble started.

The Member for Wolseley can say to me that may have been going on in Headingley for years. Maybe it was, but the fact of the matter is she's in politics, and the Minister is in politics, and I'm in politics, and everyone in this House is in politics, and it's just too bad this Minister got caught in that situation. I have come to him and said to him, you've got a staff apparently that is not monitoring the situation, not carrying out the inspections that it should, don't get

yourself hung out to dry. Don't get yourself hung out to twist in the wind. He has reacted to that as though I'm trying in some way to discredit him, the department and undermine him. What I'm saying to him is take some action on it, get going on it before you get hurt. He has taken that action with this review and not a moment too soon but, nonetheless, the review was put into place and, like him, I await its findings with keen anticipation. But the situation developed and the present status in which we all find ourselves developed because there were apparent weaknesses at Headingley that suddenly became revealed, suddenly became obvious to us all, and I raised them with the Minister as many others did.

Mr. Chairman, insofar as the Headingley question is concerned, I would like to ask the Minister one other question, and that is whether he has received any criticisms of the Temporary Absence Program, or the way in which the TA Program is administered, or whether there have been any changes in the TA Program that have been introduced since he became Minister?

HON. L. EVANS: Well, I haven't had any brought to my attention by way of correspondence from residents of Manitoba or anybody. I've just checked with staff and I'm advised there haven't been any for three years. At one time some of the judiciary were a little upset with the temporary absences, but there's really been nothing brought to the attention of the staff for the past three years and I haven't received any correspondence. I'm just advised by staff that we've had a 96 percent rate fairly consistently with the temporary success rate with the Temporary Absence Program.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: 7.(b)(2)—pass; 7.(b)(3)—pass; 7.(c)(1) Salaries?

MR. L. SHERMAN: Just a minute, Mr. Chairman. The passes have got to come from this side of the House. 7.(b)(2)—pass; 7.(b)(3)—pass.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: 7.(c)(1) - the Member for Fort Garry.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, can the Minister advise where the situation is at the present time with respect to The Young Offenders Act?

HON. L. EVANS: It is proposed for October 1st, but it may be delayed. We're getting mixed signals on that particular federal legislation, so it's difficult for us to say authoritatively at this time, but it could be next October.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Does the Minister see any budgetary pressures in the current fiscal year resulting from that and are there provisions made for that in his appropriations?

HON. L. EVANS: I'm advised that there are not in our department. There may be some impact in the Attorney-General's Department with legal processes, but not in the Corrections area.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: 7.(c)(1)—pass; 7.(c)(2)—pass.

7.(d) Probation and Parole Services, 7.(d)(1) - the Member for Fort Garry.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, the Minister has commented that the Fine Option Program appears to be proceeding successfully and I'm not going to labour that subject with him. I welcome that report from the Minister that the program is working out to apparently the province's satisfaction. But I would like to ask him in this area whether any changes are contemplated in terms of the Native community. Is the Native community seeking or pursuing any changes, modifications, or adjustments to the probation system as it currently operates?

HON. L. EVANS: Going back to some previous agreement, whereby DOTC, Dakota-Ojibway Tribal Council, was given the authority to enter the Child and Family Services area, there was also reference to possible probation service being offered by them on their reserves, so there are some discussions at the present time with the DOTC.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Has much spade work been done on that concept? For example, if there were a Native probation system set up on the reserves, what would that mean for the courts, the court system and the probation program that is attached to the courts at the present time, Mr. Chairman?

HON. L. EVANS: I'm advised there's no attempt to involve them in court activities and it's mainly local. It's very preliminary and there are discussions and I think the emphasis, in the first place, would be in local supervision of people on probation and so on. So we want to walk before we run.

MR. L. SHERMAN: It won't have any effect on the existing probation capability that we have in place attached to the court system? It's not in the foreseeable future anyway.

HON. L. EVANS: That is correct. The answer is negative.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Member for River East.

MR. P. EYLER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of my constituents, who is a volunteer probationary officer, has raised a concern with me. Apparently it's been suggested that there should be some sort of insurance for volunteer probationary officers that currently they aren't covered as employees of the government are covered. There is some concern that perhaps they should be brought under the insurance of the province in case of whatever accidents might happen to them in the course of their volunteer work. I wonder if the Minister could tell me what stage this investigation is at in determining the feasibility of insurance for volunteers working for the province.

HON. L. EVANS: Well, I'd like to thank the Honourable Member for River East for having given me some notice

of his concern in this area. I've made some inquiries and can advise him that under Order-in-Council 772/80, honorary probation officers are declared to be employees of the government, and therefore are entitled to Workers Compensation while engaged in their volunteer activities. By Order-in-Council 52, passed on January 19, 1983, this year, similar coverage is extended to other community corrections volunteers and to persons under the Fine Option Program. This is in all these resource centres that we have.

Also, I can advise that under the general liability insurance policy of the government, all volunteers working in government programs are covered against claims that may be made against them arising out of their activity as volunteers; so that's comprehensive.

Thirdly, I would mention that Section 60 of The Corrections Act provides immunity from actions for damages against the correctional workers. It is assumed that the wording is broad enough to also cover volunteers in the corrections area, but this hasn't been tested in the court to date.

The fourth point I would make, Mr. Chairman, in answer to the Member for River East, that gaps in coverage that may still exist is for injury to persons doing volunteer work throughout the government who are not in the existing O/C. The action is now being taken to provide Workers Compensation coverage to all volunteers working on government programs; not, however, including incorporated volunteer agencies which are responsible for their own coverage. But the short answer is, honorary probation officers are declared to be employees of the government, therefore, they can get Workers Compensation; and secondly, they are covered under the general liability insurance policy of the government.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: 7.(d)(1)—pass; 7.(d)(2)—pass; 7.(d)(3)—pass. 7.(e) Marriage Conciliation: 7.(e)(1) Salaries—pass; 7.(e)(2) Other Expenditures—pass.

Resolution No. 36: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$29,463, 100 for Community Services and Corrections for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1984—pass.

The only resolution remaining in these Estimates is the Minister's Salary.

The Member for Fort Garry.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, I will be brief in concluding the examination of the Minister's Salary. I just want to raise, again, for a moment with him the question of the future of the Children's Aid Society and ask him whether he would acknowledge that many of the proposals that have come forward recently, in an interim form, from Judge Kimelman, in particular, but also from some other areas, raises a series of questions and perhaps, in some cases, raise as many questions as they provide answers, and I would hope that the government will be examining the whole situation with respect to the Winnipeg Children's Aid Society very carefully.

I just would cite that, for example, Mr. Chairman, if you're looking at breaking down the CAS of Winnipeg into five or six smaller community child welfare agencies, there's nothing suggested in a concrete way, up to this point in time, as to how that would be done and what

it would be based on. Would it be based on units of population; for example, where would you take those units of population? Would you say that the agencies were to be related to specific regions of the Greater Winnipeg area, specific regions or districts of the city, such as, for example, St. James, and West Kildonan and East Kildonan and St. Boniface and Fort Garry and the Core area? If you were to do that, you'd find that you had the agency in the Core area saddled with the vast majority of the problems, I'm sure, and the others with very little to do because, whether we like it not, the vast majority of the problems, relative to children-at-risk, whether it's children who have been abused or children who have been neglected, take place, occur in the Core area of the city.

Also, you're looking at a very transient type of population, both in that area of the city and in that sector of the community, that sector that finds children-at-risk. I'm talking here now of preponderant percentages. No one is suggesting that there are no cases of this kind in other parts of the city, but in terms of preponderant percentages, I think it has to be admitted that the vast majority of those social problems exist in the Core area, and the geographic delineation would seem to raise more problems than it would settle.

A delineation based on cultural or linguistic groups would be one that I, for one, would not find very acceptable, because I think it would fly in the face of the whole concept of the Manitoba mosaic, the Manitoba cultural and population and ethnic mosaic in which we take great pride. I think if we did that we'd be turning the clock back to the days when we had smaller agencies and organizations that were geared just to specific cultural and ethnic interests, and we would also be creating a situation that tended to ghettoize our population and our child welfare system.

In addition, I had raised earlier the question of proliferation of bureaucracy, an additional administration cost. But, perhaps more important than any of them, is the problem of keeping track of children-at-risk, of communication and tracking. We have enough difficulty now with the Children's Aid Society of Winnipeg working in the metropolitan area with a number of other agencies and institutions in the field because those are very very difficult challenges in the discipline that we're talking about. Communications and tracking have always been two of the great problems in the children-at-risk field.

If we were to go to an additional number of smaller agencies, a proliferation or fragmentation of the CAS of Winnipeg, it seems to me that we would just be making it even more difficult, compounding the problem of good communications and proper machinery for keeping track of the children who are our responsibility and are certainly the responsibility of agencies of this kind.

So, I just cite for the Minister what I see as a number of questions that are raised by some of the proposals that have come forward and, while respecting the work that's being done, and while acknowledging that, thus far, some of the recommendations are only what are described as interim recommendations, I don't think it's untimely to caution the Minister of the concerns and the questions that arise in my mind as I view those interim recommendations, and to urge upon him the need for very careful and conscientious approach to

the future of CAS Winnipeg. I don't think that simply because one section of the community, in this case, the Native community is unhappy with the Children's Aid Society of Winnipeg that's necessarily justification for dismantling the CAS and turning the clock back and reverting to the system that we had a few years ago when there were a great many more and smaller agencies in the field. CAS of Winnipeg really is an outgrowth, a merger of a number of smaller agencies. It's the product of some concern over that fragmentation situation. I leave the Minister with those cautionary concerns and ask him to take care.

I would also like it noted for the record that I am not now and never have been a member of the board of the CAS of Winnipeg. I plead no special case from the perspective of any special interest, but I have had, I'm happy to say, some opportunity to be exposed to the professional activities and responsibilities of the CAS of Winnipeg, and although it's an agency that needs some help and some corrective action I think, and some modification, I think in the main it has met its mandate and served its responsibilities well and is deserving of support from the government and from the community. In any event it deserves a better fate than instant destruction or instant dismantling. I would hope that we proceed very carefully and conscientiously with respect to its future. I'll leave the Minister with that plea.

MR. CHAIRMAN, P. Eyler: Mr. Minister.

HON. L. EVANS: Well very briefly too, I want to make a couple of comments, some by way of reassurance to the Member for Fort Garry regarding our plans and thoughts and concerns about children's aid societies in general. Unfortunately when we talk we're always dwelling on CAS Winnipeg. We're looking at the role of children's aid societies generally and we're looking, surely when we talked about CAS Winnipeg, we can't ignore the fact that both my department and CAS Eastern are active in the City of Winnipeg. What I'd like to do is to take a hard look over the next while at the structure because it has been suggested that there may be structural problems. I'm not reflecting on any individual and as I've said before I'm certainly not reflecting on a group of volunteers on any board. Indeed I have met with the executive of the Board of CAS on a number of occasions, of Winnipeg; perhaps more than any other board I've met with CAS Winnipeg. I'm looking forward to meetings hopefully next week. I've been waiting for Mr. Sinclair who's been tied up unfortunately in his professional capacity and been out of the province, but I'm looking forward to early meetings with him and others of his board.

Certainly whatever we do we would like to do co-operatively. Now it may end up - I hope not - that we have to do something because ultimately we have the responsibility under the Act, as the Member for Fort Garry had when he was Minister. Ultimately the buck stops here and you have to make some pretty hard-nosed decisions at times and they're not always popular; not with everybody. I'll tell you what my personal views and my personal inclination is and that is to go in a very co-operative, methodical fashion working very closely with the existing system including the Board of

CAS Winnipeg. We truly would like them to co-operate with us in looking over the situation and structures organization over a period of time. You cannot do this overnight. I'm not suggesting that. If we should, and again I say it isn't fixed. We don't have any grand plans fixed in stone or written on paper that I can say, this is the plan. There isn't. We have some thoughts; some ideas. We've been advised by Judge Kimelman about certain matters. We're getting advice from many quarters. I can tell you as I said before we want to maintain the private delivery system. I think that's an important principle. I'm stating that again.

Secondly I believe personally in a general, publicly oriented-type of private system. That sounds like a contradiction. What I am saying is that I personally don't believe in a racially-oriented structure and so I share the same views as the Honourable Member for Fort Garry. People of course immediately throw up in your face, well what about the Jewish child with Family Service. My view on that is - not everybody agrees with me - that it has historic roots in the community. It's relatively small and it does raise a lot of its own money. So I believe that it's a contradiction to my position, but at the same time I think that is not difficult to live with. I think that we'd be better served to have a system of child-caring agencies - whatever you wish to call them - that is of a generalized nature. They may because they're in one part of the province or another, or one part of the city or the other, have a predominance or a good number of people from a particular racial group, whatever, so be it. I believe we should put forward a uniform system if you will.

The reason many people are talking about smaller sizes than we see in CAS Winnipeg is because we've seen over the years that very large agency having overruns consistently on its budget, being into a lot of legal costs, getting into we believe, the staff have advised, an inordinate number of group homes which are very very expensive, and where there seems to be an undue amount of confrontation. I don't want to stand here and criticize any single person who works for CAS Winnipeg, nor do I want to criticize anyone on the board. I'm simply saying it may be that the structure we have out there, the system we have out there needs some modification. But whatever we do, we would like to do it, it's certainly my sincere desire to do that in co-operation with the people that are there.

Whatever happens I know there will be room for these volunteers that have given of their time and energy and of their interests to continue in the future to serve in some capacity or other in whatever organizational structure should ever evolve. I know the problem is a big one and you certainly cannot just sort of turn off one tap and turn on another. We prefer not to do it that way.

The member said the other day and he's quoted publicly as saying well we should be giving moral support; we should backing CAS Winnipeg. I must say that, Mr. Chairman, we have in the sense that we were approached and under heavy pressure by certain groups to move on CAS Winnipeg when they had their very serious staff-management problems. We said no, the Board of Directors of CAS has a responsibility and that should be left in their hands. We will not interfere but we do expect the board to fulfill their responsibility that they have under the Act.

Secondly, I would mention that we are concerned about the dearth of senior strong management at the present time. There is a vacuum there in a sense as the member knows, and we have made some very specific suggestions on how to strengthen that management. We've had discussions on that and I hope to have further discussions. So we're not ignoring CAS Winnipeg but we're doing what we should be doing and that is working with the board, and particularly the executives of the board and I have been doing that, and I will hope to continue to do that. I'm hoping we can co-operate. I'm hoping we can make some improvements in a co-operative, non-confrontationalist manner.

MR. L. SHERMAN: I appreciate the Minister's response and I welcome his remarks, Mr. Chairman.

I'd just ask the Minister relative to another suggestion of Judge Kimelman's which proposed that Native children, Indian children, would be the responsibility in the evolving system, as he saw it, of the various bands throughout the province; that the Child Welfare System in the Native community would be set up in such a way that the bands themselves would have the primary responsibility.

I'd ask the Minister how he would envision that working in Winnipeg? That could certainly work in rural Manitoba where there are Indian bands, but how would that work in Winnipeg. That's another question that arises out of the Interim Report, and another reason why I think that we have to look at the future of Winnipeg CAS very carefully because it may well be that Native children in Winnipeg can be accommodated by the Native community, but it may well be that, at this point in time, it is impossible to meet those responsibilities.

Judge Kimelman cites statistics of aboriginal children, Native children who are in the Child Welfare System. Those figures have alarmed, and disturbed, and dismayed some people, including some members of this Legislature. He makes reference to the number who were involved in out-of-province adoption procedures in the past year, before the moratorium

was imposed; and he cites the very high percentage of Native children, aboriginal children in that category.

But I think, Sir, while attempting to be fair, and honest, and objective about this thing and not attempting to be in any way hypercritical, one can fairly ask the question as to why were those children there? Obviously they were either put up for adoption or they had been abandoned. So these are the things that the Minister, and the government, and this Legislature have to look at before rushing to make Draconian and perhaps ill-advised changes to the Child Welfare System, as it is served by the CAS of Winnipeg at the present time.

HON. L. EVANS: Well, to be very brief, to respond to that item regarding the system of adoptions and procedures that Judge Kimelman has recommended. I think the proper procedure for us now is to look very closely, in detail, as to the steps he suggests, and to see whether, in the opinion of our expertise, and the opinion of the Child Welfare Directorate, that these steps are feasible and possible. Certainly it does require optimum communication; there's absolutely no question on that. Time, too, becomes of the essence because it's important that children who could be adopted are not kept waiting unduly.

So what we are going to do, and what we will do, is examine the Kimelman Report on adoption procedures very closely and very quickly, and decide whether we can implement it, in total or in part, and whether there are any difficulties. In making up our minds on this, of course, staff will be discussing this, obviously, with senior personnel, professionals in the system.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 1(a)(1)—pass.

Resolution No. 30: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty, a sum not exceeding \$2,194,700, for Community Services and Corrections, General Administration, for the fiscal year ending 31st day of March 1984—pass.

Committee rise.