



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

DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS

33 Elizabeth II

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MANITOBA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
Thirty-Second Legislature

Members, Constituencies and Political Affiliation

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

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Thursday, 24 May, 1984.

Time — 2:00 p.m.

OPENING PRAYER by Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER, Hon. J. Walding: Presenting Petitions . . . Reading and Receiving Petitions . . . Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees . . .

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS AND TABLING OF REPORTS

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Energy and Mines.

HON. W. PARASIUUK: Mr. Speaker, I have another statement to make.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to inform this House that the Government of Manitoba has signed a Letter of Intent with Canamax Resources Inc. to undertake joint and separate feasibility studies into a potash mining and milling operation in Manitoba.

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER: Order please, order please.

HON. W. PARASIUUK: Mr. Speaker, the Letter of Intent was signed by Mr. John Hansuld, President, on behalf of Canamax and by myself, on behalf of the Government of Manitoba.

Canamax has substantial reserves in the area just west of Binscarth and Russell. It is this area, Mr. Speaker, which is the area of interest for the feasibility studies.

The work undertaken to date by Canamax consists of eight test holes drilled to a depth of approximately 2,900 feet. The results from these test holes and from those drilled previously by other exploration groups indicate reserves of approximately 440 million metric tonnes, grading better than 25 percent K₂O. These reserves would yield approximately 64 million metric tonnes of shipping grade product.

Mr. Speaker, this ore grade is as good as, and in some cases better than, deposits in Saskatchewan. Furthermore, this ore is of a higher grade than any deposit yet found in Manitoba.

The highlights of the Letter of Intent, Mr. Speaker, are as follows:

First, the feasibility studies undertaken both jointly and separately will include establishing projected capital and operating costs, assessing available and potential markets, and selecting the preferred technologies.

Second, the parties will assess and evaluate suitable consortium and other potentially satisfactory arrangements for allowing additional participation in project development and product marketing.

Third, the parties agree to maintain confidentiality of commercial and proprietary information.

Fourth, study costs incurred by either party will form part of that party's contribution to any development in which it participates directly.

Fifth, upon completion of the studies, the government will decide whether it wants to participate directly in the project and, if it does, to what extent.

And, finally, the studies are to be completed by June 30, 1985.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that there is still a great deal of work to be done. I am hopeful and I am optimistic that these studies will culminate in a mutually satisfactory arrangement to bring a potash mine into production in Manitoba.

Mr. Speaker, with the permission of the House, I would now like to table the Letter of Intent signed by the Government of Manitoba and Canamax Resources.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. G. FILMON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

We, on this side, thank the Minister of Energy and Mines for the announcement that he has made today with respect to the Letter of Intent towards a possible development of a potash mine in western Manitoba. I think that we can't help but be struck by a sense of *deja vu* as the Minister comes forward with the second announcement following on similar announcements that were made in 1981.

Indeed, we're happy to see development taking place in this province with respect to the possible establishment and extension of our resources in Manitoba, development of our resources in Manitoba. We might remind, of course, members of the public that this Minister and this government allowed a previous Letter of Intent to lapse without continuing negotiations and discussions with the International Minerals and Chemical Corporation, and now of course are dealing with a new firm. Perhaps the new firm will be more to the liking of the government, and perhaps this will develop into something that will be worthwhile for the people of Manitoba. We were wondering when the Minister might come forward with this announcement as we were aware of the drilling that was being undertaken in western Manitoba. Obviously he has been saving it for this occasion and we're glad that matters are coming to fruition.

We recognize of course that this is a very preliminary announcement, that the Minister is just expressing a hopeful and optimistic expression about the future of potash in Manitoba. We hope that his hope and his optimism results in something current and something concrete for Manitobans in the future.

We just have one further comment and that is, where is the grid?

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER: Order please, order please. Order please. Are the members prepared to proceed?

The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

HON. B. URUSKI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I have for the information of honourable members the Ninth Annual Report of the Machinery Institute of Western Canada, and the Annual Report of the Manitoba Beef Commission.

MR. SPEAKER: Notices of Motion . . . Introduction of Bills . . .

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. SPEAKER: Before Oral Questions, may I direct the attention of honourable members to the gallery, where we have 50 students of Grade 11 standing from the Louis Riel Collegiate under the direction of Mr. Morassutti. The school is in the constituency of the Honourable Minister of Health.

There are 25 students of Grades 5 and 6 standing from the Shamrock School. They are under the direction of Mr. Driedger, and the school is in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Niakwa.

There are 85 students of Grade 5 standing from the Stonewall School under the direction of Mrs. Antosh. This school is in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Lakeside.

There are eight adults and 26 students of Grade 6 standing from Grygla, Minnesota under the direction of Mrs. Jelle.

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

ORAL QUESTIONS

Suppers - churches

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Turtle Mountain.

MR. B. RANSOM: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Environment. My question to the Minister is: how many new staff does his department plan to hire to help them carry out their mission to assist churches with planning their fowl suppers?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of the Environment.

HON. G. LECUYER: Mr. Speaker, thank you.

If I were to consider the question serious, I might provide an answer; seeing I don't, I will simply say nothing.

MR. B. RANSOM: I have your pamphlet entitled "Church Dinners - Do It Safely: Guidelines for Planning a Safe Church Dinner." It says, "The Environmental Management Division will gladly provide a qualified staff member to offer your church guidance in planning, preparation and serving of the meal. Please contact your local Public Health Inspector."

Mr. Speaker, this is put out by the Department of the Environment, that Minister is the Department of the Environment, and I want to know how many staff they're going to hire to tell churches how to run their fowl suppers.

HON. G. LECUYER: It just goes to prove, Mr. Speaker, that we are concerned about the environment and the safety and health of people. I think that it's well and good that people should carry on that concern for their safety and health, not only during the five working days, but they should carry it on even during their leisure time.

If we are concerned about food poisoning which has to do with the health of people even during church banquets, I think there is good reason for that, but, Mr. Speaker, that doesn't imply additional staff at all. It simply means that should people have any concern in that regard, there is an emergency number within the department which can be used and referred to and called 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week at all times.

MR. B. RANSOM: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the First Minister. The members opposite may think that this is frivolous, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the First Minister. In view of the fact that the institution of fowl suppers in the country is something that has been going on for decades, perhaps a century or more, without the help of government, does the First Minister consider that in this day when the government is laying off staff and are cutting back in student employment and other areas that it is a priority for the government to be putting out this kind of information and beginning to interfere with churches in telling them how to prepare and serve food at a fowl supper?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

HON. H. PAWLEY: I think we've got a clear demonstration of just how shallow, in fact, the opposition's priorities are today. We've had a very significant and important announcement by the Minister of Energy and we are now being graced by questions from the Member for Turtle Mountain dealing with brochures that were sent out by the department dealing with what is a serious matter pertaining to food poisoning that can take place. I must say that my experience is that, unlike the experience obviously of the Member of Turtle Mountain, most Manitobans appreciate receiving advice in respect to insuring that food poisoning does not take place at public events. I am surprised if honourable members are indicating that some way or other Manitobans would be offended, that honourable members would take this as a frivolous matter. My only surprise is, Mr. Speaker, that they would lead off the question period on this matter when we've had such an important announcement from the Minister of Energy and Mines.

MR. B. RANSOM: Mr. Speaker, perhaps the honourable members opposite are not aware of the concern that is being caused by Regulation 204/83, and I would ask the Minister of the Environment, who is responsible for this pamphlet that has been put out, and for this first step towards interference with the churches in the serving of their fowl suppers, whether or not Regulation 204/83 is going to be applied to churches in their practice of providing fowl suppers to their communities?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of the Environment.

HON. G. LECUYER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I will gladly review both the pamphlets and the regulation, Mr. Speaker. As far as I understand it implies no changes, no interference whatsoever. It's simply there to indicate that we are there to provide the assistance in case of need. But I will on the request of the Member for Turtle Mountain review both the regulation and the pamphlet.

Day Care Centres

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Kirkfield Park.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Community Services.

The Manitoba Regulation 95/84 states that every licensee who operates a full-time day care centre shall provide a minimum of one room for children's activities with natural light acceptable to the health authority. How many day care centres will this effect that do not comply to this regulation?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Community Services.

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I'll be happy to take that question as notice.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: How does the Minister expect day care agencies in church basements to ever comply with this particular regulation?

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I obviously can't give an answer for all the churches that are housing day cares but the ones that I've attended do have the type of window that permits some natural light to come in from the ground level. But, again, further detail on that, I'll take as notice.

All-terrain vehicles

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Emerson.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

My question is to the Minister of Highways. I wonder if the Minister could indicate to the House whether there's a policy in place regarding the total banning of all-terrain vehicles in all provincial parks.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Highways.

HON. J. PLOHMAN: I'll take that question as notice, Mr. Speaker.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: Mr. Speaker, to the same Minister. It appears that there is a policy being established in this direction. I wondered if the Minister could indicate whether this would include residents in all provincial parks, how it will affect them.

HON. J. PLOHMAN: I've indicated, Mr. Speaker, that I would take that subject as notice. I can indicate to the honourable members that the department is currently working on regulations, an act that would deal

with all-terrain vehicles, but that has not been developed to the point where I have seen the various appropriations or parts of it. Once I've seen that, I would be in a position to comment on the components of it. At this time it has not been developed to that stage and there will be consultation. We haven't arrived at the kinds of regulations or requirements that would be placed in any act that would be introduced in the future. So I'm not in a position to comment on the act at this time. I would say though in terms of any policy that the honourable member might be referring to, that I would check into that and provide him with an answer at another time.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: A final question to the Minister. Is the Minister then indicating that there is no restrictions of all-terrain vehicles in provincial parks at this time?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Speaker, I've indicated that I would take that as notice and get back to the honourable member.

Landfill sites

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Arthur.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of - I was going to ask the Minister of Municipal Affairs - I'll ask the Minister of Environment. In view of his announcement yesterday that there was an order being placed upon some of the municipal jurisdictions in Manitoba forcing them to clean up some of the garbage dumps and the landfills, is the Minister prepared to reconsider his decision that he is not going to provide any assistance for those communities who may find it an extreme hardship and an additional expense to carry out the activities that he and his government are instructing him to do?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister for the Environment.

HON. G. LECUYER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we are a caring government. We are always prepared to listen to such requests on the basis of dire need, but that is a primary responsibility of the municipalities involved. That does not preclude that should such a situation as the member describes arise that we would not listen to them at that time.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Well, I appreciate that, Mr. Speaker. Just so that I'm clear I would, from the answer, take it that there is in fact or will be consideration given by the province to assist some of those jurisdictions that can demonstrate that they do need assistance. Is that correct?

HON. G. LECUYER: I would like to put this on the record. First of all, the announcement that was made yesterday was in reference to a second phase of the study of the landfill sites in Manitoba. There is a third phase, and that was part of the announcement that was made yesterday as well. We indicated in the announcement yesterday that there were a certain number of municipalities that found themselves in that

situation. With regard to the landfill in their area which presented certain problems, these problems are what we are going to be addressing as part of the third phase. Before we look into alternatives such as relocating the landfill sites which might be options for one or two of the 14 municipalities where there were problems. Before we do so, we shall be working with them very closely and I have in no way indicated, Mr. Speaker, that we will entertain considerations in terms of assisting them. I said that should they be in such difficulties in the short run that we would be prepared to sit with them and listen to their particular dilemma.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Speaker, I note in the announcement, in some of the situations that there was - and I ask him the question - is there a danger to human health in an immediate way in any of the situations that he has inspected and reported on? If so, it could in fact cost a fair amount of money that hasn't been budgeted for by these jurisdictions and if there has to be an immediate clean-up in the case of danger to human health, then I would hope the Minister would give a little more serious consideration to supporting it. Is there any of those situations that human health is in danger because of contaminated water or other contaminants in their environment?

HON. G. LECUYER: As I indicated yesterday the three areas of greatest concern were Portage, Brandon and Virden, and in all three cases the staff of my department are working very closely with the municipal staff in order to do an ongoing daily monitoring. In fact, in most cases the problem is no greater today or will be no greater next week than it was yesterday or a week ago. In fact probably, if anything, because we've been studying these particular landfill sites, we have information on them now which has already enabled us to take certain corrective measures. If greater problems develop, it will be down the road and that's what they'll be working at, is trying to devise alternative solutions.

There is one particular area which presents perhaps greater urgency in terms of - there is need for an alternative landfill site at any rate and that's the Portage area because the current landfill site is probably used to its maximum degree. So that is one concern the municipality in that area would have had to address at any rate and they knew this for some time.

As far as the health problem that this might pose to the one family involved, they are aware of the problem, have been advised, and they are not currently using the well water which present health hazards.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Speaker, will the Minister be prepared to relax some of the regulations and have his staff work with those jurisdictions that have to find new sites to accommodate that kind of a situation, because I think we're all aware today that a lot of municipalities are having an extremely difficult time in finding appropriate disposal places? Will the Minister be prepared to accommodate the kind of changes that may take place?

HON. G. LECUYER: Mr. Speaker, we will provide all the assistance, technical and support wise that we can

possibly provide. As I indicated, that is part of the third phase of the study. In fact, yesterday the staff from my department have taken samples of all 35 wells; in fact, these are more wells that were involved in the actual study yesterday. We should have results of these samples within two weeks time.

But I would like to take this opportunity to add, Mr. Speaker, that if at one time, in Manitoba, we felt that landfill was the solution to all of our waste disposal substances, I think it's time and we are coming to realize that it's not the end-all solution. We used to think that to put the waste materials in the ground was the end of our problems. We are starting to find out perhaps that in many instances it is the beginning of our problems.

In that sense, Mr. Speaker, and I advise the members of the opposition likewise that in bringing legislation which will be coming up soon in the House in regard to the handling of dangerous waste or dangerous goods and the overall management of dangerous wastes in the long run is certainly a very important and serious issue and I hope we will be able to count on their co-operation when it comes to address those issues.

All-terrain vehicles

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Elmwood.

MR. R. DOERN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to address a question to the Minister of Highways, and ask him whether he favours the wearing of helmets on three-wheeled ATV vehicles.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Oral Questions is not for asking for an opinion; it is for asking for information. The Honourable Member for Elmwood.

MR. R. DOERN: Mr. Speaker, I then ask the Minister on the assumption that he does and that his department is preparing legislation for that purpose, I would like to know whether he would consider a public education campaign now, in advance of legislation, that would encourage people to wear helmets on these vehicles, and to also discourage children from driving them and operating them at high speeds.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Highways.

HON. J. PLOHMAN: The honourable member is making an assumption there. I have not had an opportunity to review the statistics that apply to the use of all-terrain or three-wheelers particularly as one component of an All-Terrain Vehicle Act that we might include the matter of three-wheelers that I think the honourable member is referring to. As to whether the people that operate those - and there are a lot of younger children that operate them many times, of course, without helmets; probably almost all times without helmets - as to what the statistics are in regard to head injuries and so on. I haven't had that information supplied to me as yet. I would want to review that. I would want to have that matter discussed with my colleagues before I would be in a position to bring anything forward with regard to the use of helmets.

It seems that the honourable member has formed an opinion that helmets should be compulsory on three-

wheelers. I have not yet reached that stage and, therefore, I would not be able to supply any opinion on that at this time, Mr. Speaker.

MR. R. DOERN: Is the Minister indicating that he does not have accurate statistics compiled in the past couple of years about the numbers of deaths and injuries suffered by young children and other operators of these vehicles? Is he telling us that he is only now putting that material together?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: I did not indicate that, Mr. Speaker, to the honourable member. I said that I have not had an opportunity to review those statistics. I'm sure they are available, and I will be wanting to look at them at the same time that I am reviewing the various proposals that are put forward by staff with regard to which would make up an act of this nature dealing with all-terrain vehicles. When I have had an opportunity to review those, I would be in a position to comment on them, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Urban Affairs. Would the Minister indicate if the province is prepared to provide the city with additional financial assistance to embark upon additional reconstruction of water main renewals, Mr. Speaker, and particularly in light of the record unemployment statistics that were spoken about a few weeks ago in the construction industry? Would she be prepared to assist the city financially, and assist those people unemployed in the construction industry?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

HON. M.B. DOLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I just happened to be reading the article that the member is obviously referring to. There has been no request from the city for additional funding in this area. As he probably knows, there is an amount included in the budget that the city has and which, of course, is cost-shared by the government through grants to the city for that purpose. Now if an additional amount is requested by the city, we would take it under consideration.

It was done last year. It was Jobs Fund money. It did create employment in the heavy construction industry. There is work that is intended to go on this year and, as I said, if the city wishes to have an expansion of that, then I assume that they will come to us, ask for funding which would be shared and we would take it under consideration.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, I thank the Minister for that response. In view of the obvious discussion that is taking place in the city at the present time, perhaps she could initiate on her own some discussion at the provincial level.

MR. SPEAKER: Question.

CNR - East Yard development

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, on another question for the Minister of Urban Affairs, last week she

announced, along with the Federal Government representative, the fact that a 10-acre parcel of land had been donated by the CNR with respect to the East Yard Development. Could the Minister advise whether or not the CNR has rejected transfers of any further property for the purposes of parks in the East Yard site, whether they have rejected any further transfers and whether the concept of a total park in that area is now lost forever?

HON. M.B. DOLIN: Mr. Speaker, without creating the assumption that the whole idea would be a park - I don't believe that has ever been a consideration - the CN has certainly not rejected further consultation about the remainder of the land behind the station which, I think, is what the member is referring to, behind the main line.

Certainly the agreement that was signed refers, in fact, to continuing consultation about the development and use of that area, so that was a part of the agreement. The main portion of the agreement was the ARC property which is about 10.8 acres, which will be developed as soon as the archeological digs have been completed now to ascertain what actually is under the ground in the area. Access will be created, and there will be a park along the riverfront.

What actually is determined for the use of the land between that park and the main line and how that main line is handled is the subject of further discussions, but we certainly are embarking upon those and will continue to do so as we believe the whole Forks area - and everyone, the CN, the Federal Government, ourselves believe that the whole Forks area is a place that deserves redevelopment and the becoming of a real asset to the people of Winnipeg and Manitoba.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, could the Minister indicate whether there is provision for public access to the 13-acre site, and when the Visitors Interpretive Centre will be constructed, and whether or not there has been an agreement with the Federal Government with respect to an extension of the agreement which, as I understand it, would expire next year unless there is some agreement between the Federal and Provincial Governments to extend the agreement and continue the funding past that date?

HON. M.B. DOLIN: Mr. Speaker, I have to perhaps jokingly congratulate the member for putting about four questions into that one. That was very good — (Interjection) — three? Okay, I'll only answer three.

First of all, the Interpretive Centre, which is to be on the park site that we're talking about, the 10-acres plus of the park site, will be built probably next summer. The actual construction will be next summer, because the land, of course, has to be prepared this summer. The access to the area will be near the Provencher Bridge. Hopefully, there will be a walking access from the Main Street area, so that we will actually have access from both sides but for cars, you know, from the one side a wider access when those buildings are demolished. We believe that demolition can get under way almost immediately. Those arrangements are nearly complete.

So we can get on with that so that the site will look better to start with. The archeological dig will begin almost immediately. Once the site has been clarified with regard to mapping and so on, then the actual location for the interpretive centre will be determined and construction can begin. We're looking for a fullfledged park site completed two years from now. I think that that's appropriate, given what has to be done with the site. As far as - I guess I'll have to ask the member for the third question again.

MR. G. MERCIER: The extension of the agreement.

HON. M.B. DOLIN: The extension of the ARC Agreement. Yes, the ARC Agreement is drawing to a close. That is in a sense a separate issue because there are a number of ARC projects, as the member knows, that are under way and not all of them have been completed certainly. We are looking at an extension of the agreement. We haven't finalized that in any way yet, but we wanted to certainly make sure that this particular location, this cornerstone really, of the ARC development was agreed to and the money allocated before this agreement does lapse if in fact it does.

Co-operative Implements - equity

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Co-operative Development.

HON. J. COWAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Last Thursday, the Member for Swan River and the Member for La Verendrye asked me a number of questions regarding Co-op Implements and an equity write down which I took as notice and would now like to provide the answer to those questions.

The first question: was there an equity write down that occurred this year? I can indicate that in fact there was an equity write down that occurred as a result of an annual meeting which was conducted in February of this year and that the members were correct in their assumptions there. They asked me as to what advice the department had provided in respect to that write down. I can only indicate to the members opposite that the department was involved in the discussions, however, it is a decision that was made by an independent co-operative at a duly authorized and constituted annual meeting where the majority of the vote, as a matter of fact, a major portion of the vote was in favour of the write down. We as a department have to support the independent decision-making process of such co-operatives and will do so. It's a decision for them to make and they have made it.

They finally asked me as to a membership drive and whether or not \$1 million which had been pledged by the Co-op Implements as a membership drive was proceeding? I can indicate that it is proceeding. I can't give you an exact figure as to how much has been raised, except to tell you that a significant portion of the \$1 million has been raised, and it's my understanding that Co-op Implements will in fact be accelerating their fund raising efforts over the next little while in order to accomplish the raising of \$1 million which was their goal as part of the refinancing arrangement which was made several years ago.

Lotteries

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Mr. Speaker, to make sure that my answer to a question from the Honourable Member from La Verendrye yesterday doesn't mislead anyone, I'd like to add and clarify an answer that I gave yesterday.

You recall, Mr. Speaker, the honourable member asked me if someone who had lost his licence because he had chosen to break the agreement and sell the federal Sports Pool, if they decided to go back if they wanted, requested to go back to selling for the provincial products, would they be reinstated? I stated at the time that we would probably look at that favourably, but I want to add to this that the 6/49, the computers dealing with 6/49, there's quite a shortage of them so far in Western Canada, and of course there's no guarantee that they would get the 6/49 back. They would be put on the list probably, but there's no guarantee that they would automatically get it back.

Potash - royalty structure

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Turtle Mountain.

MR. B. RANSOM: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy and Mines.

Following upon his announcement today, can the Minister advise the House whether or not he contemplates introducing any changes into the royalty structure as it would affect potash?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Energy and Mines.

HON. W. PARASIUK: Mr. Speaker, certainly not at this particular Session of the Legislature. If changes are deemed to be advisable, we certainly would be prepared to bring them in next Session. The feasibility study will not be undertaken until June of 1985, so we would have sufficient time if changes were required. I'm not saying that changes are required, but if through the course of the study and through work done by the department we determine that it would be advisable to bring about some changes, we certainly would be prepared to do that next Session.

MR. B. RANSOM: Mr. Speaker, does this mean that the government and Canamax will be together working out what would be a satisfactory royalty structure?

HON. W. PARASIUK: Mr. Speaker, that's for the government to determine what the satisfactory royalty structure would be, and we will in fact bring that forward because we are having discussions as you know with another potash company. We are talking about - and this is the difference between now and 1980, and I would hope that the opposition members would have been a bit happier about it - two mine sites, and I think that's phenomenal for Manitoba and we should be very happy with that. We do have the potential of two mine sites with two mining companies and we in fact were discussing royalties with both of them, Mr. Speaker.

We are waiting for Saskatchewan to make their announcement with respect to royalties. That is required by the end of June, Mr. Speaker. We'll look at what their royalties are, we'll determine whether in fact ours are competitive and we will in fact assess it at that time, and if the government makes the decision that some changes would be required we certainly would bring that in at next Session.

MR. B. RANSON: Mr. Speaker, we're pleased to note that there are two possible mine sites. It may have escaped the Minister that in his own announcement it points out that this lease that the Canamax took out was taken out in 1980 under the Lyon Government. Mr. Speaker, who is doing the studies for the Provincial Government, who is doing the studies on behalf of the province?

HON. W. PARASIUK: Mr. Speaker, in response to the preamble of the third or the second supplementary of the Member for Turtle Mountain, it should be pointed out for the historical record that the lease was granted in 1980. Three holes were dug at that time, and in 1983 five more were drilled. The results from those five drillings in 1983 proved out this mine. I wouldn't want to stretch it by saying that there must have been some good business climate in Manitoba in 1983 to have the company undertake five additional drills.

Mr. Speaker, we're not into that. All we're into is looking at the future, we're not trying to knock anything. We're not trying to be knockers, we're trying to be doers, Mr. Speaker. We are quite pleased that there is the potential for two mines, and I think that's wonderful. The studies are being done by reputable people in the business who have done studies with respect to proving out the mine and I wouldn't want to divulge that publicly at this particular stage apart from saying that they are reputable consultants.

MR. B. RANSON: Mr. Speaker, is the Minister of Energy and Mines telling us that he can't even tell the people of Manitoba who is doing the studies on behalf of the province? I'm not asking for the results of the study, I realize that there might be confidential information. I'm simply asking who is doing it on behalf of the province?

HON. W. PARASIUK: Mr. Speaker, that information will be provided in due course, and it's never been held. Mr. Speaker, isn't it amazing . . .

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

HON. W. PARASIUK: . . . here we are, we're talking about a mine, and they're trying to find every particular angle to knit pick and be knockers and be negative.

Mr. Speaker, in view of this announcement, which I think has major significance, imagine the Member for Turtle Mountain spending almost three-quarters or nine-tenths of question period trying to drum up this question. Having blown his first question on fowl suppers, Mr. Speaker, drumming up this question on who's doing the study and then trying to make an issue

of who's doing the study. Mr. Speaker, the study is being done by very reputable companies, very reputable companies and I certainly would like to have the process of informing them that I will be making their name public in due course. That's why we do these things, Mr. Speaker, is to have a good set of business relationships with the private sector, and to extend some courtesies with respect to communication with the private sector, courtesies which a group that does their negotiations on the back of an envelope wouldn't understand.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Turtle Mountain.

MR. B. RANSON: Mr. Speaker, during the period that the Lyon Government was negotiating with International Mineral, the members opposite insisted that the whole negotiation take place in public. We're not asking for the details of the negotiation, we simply want to know who it is that's doing the study on behalf of the province.

If the Minister isn't going to tell us that, can he tell us whether or not the person or persons or firm is going to do this study on behalf of Manitobans has been hired?

HON. W. PARASIUK: Mr. Speaker, there will be a number of studies involved, and one of the firms has been engaged, I don't know if the contract has been finally signed. I do know that there were discussions with a particular company that is very reputable in the whole area of potash mine analysis, and when that is concluded and when they are informed of our intention to make their name public, that would be done in due course. That is the normal way in which business transactions are conducted. And I would hope that the opposition would be constructive in that approach, Mr. Speaker.

I think that what we're hoping, Mr. Speaker, is to have constructive negotiations, and when the member on the other side says that I made that particular request, he is completely wrong. If he checks through Hansard, going back to 1980, he will find that there is a very profound difference, a very minor difference of course being that we aren't running \$600,000 worth of ads with respect to announcements and then having the Premier represent the political party in power, having that type of, I think, Machiavellian manipulation of the media and public advertising. There's a big difference on this side between what we do now, Mr. Speaker, in the middle of a term, and what they did during their term in office with respect to the public paying for advertising at the wrong time.

Superior Coach Manufacturing - Morris

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. C. MANNESS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I'd like to address my question to one of the three Ministers responsible for economic matters. I'm wondering which ministry is responsible for answering questions regarding the general activities of Superior Coach Manufacturing Co. Ltd. in Morris.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Culture.

HON. E. KOSTYRA: I would be pleased to attempt to answer any questions with regard to activities of my department with respect to Superior Bus.

MR. C. MANNES: Mr. Speaker, I'm glad to hear that because management there wasn't quite sure which ministry to approach.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask the Minister whether or not it's a fact that under new ownership and management for the first time in many years that that particular operation has been able to manufacture three buses a day and that productivity has increased to a point where it now takes 106 hours to produce a bus, versus 228 as recently as a year ago? Is this a fact and is his department aware of that? — (Interjection) — It's not an opinion.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. I'm not sure that particular company is within the administrative competence of the government.

The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. C. MANNES: Mr. Speaker, I would ask the Minister then, has any department senior people within his branch visited the operation over the past number of months so as to listen to the very real concerns of the management of that company regarding specifically bonding and the shortage of operating capital?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: Mr. Speaker, I will have to take the details of that question as notice to determine if there has been, within the last short while, any visits from representatives of my department to the site in Morris. I know that there has been ongoing discussions for many months regarding Superior Bus and in response to part of the preamble to the previous statement of the member, the principals there have had no trouble knowing who to contact in the government because there have been numerous contacts, numerous discussions in respect to all the people that are involved with Superior over the past number of months ever since that operation closed and reopened.

I'll take as notice the question in regard to the specific context and provide an answer as soon as possible.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The time for Oral Questions has expired.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if there's an inclination to . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The Honourable Member for Niakwa.

Does the honourable member have leave? (Agreed)

MR. A. KOVNATS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to explain the flowering plant on everybody's desk today. Without getting into great detail, it is a tomato plant and it is of the strain Fantastic and it's called a Fantastic tomato plant. I am a lover of tomatoes and I want the members of the Legislature to share with me in enjoying the fruit of the tomato plants which were brought by myself and distributed by the staff here today, Sir. I would also suggest that when the fruit of the tomato plant becomes ripe later on in the season

that there will be a contest for the best-grown tomatoes and a grand prize will be awarded. I would suggest that this is a challenge to all members of the Chamber to see that they grow the tomato plant and I will let them know the rules and the prize at a later date.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

HON. H. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, I think I would be remiss on this side if I didn't thank the Honourable Member for Niakwa for that very kind gesture, particularly the last few comments of co-operative desire, that we all enjoy the tomatoes. I had thought probably the honourable member was looking forward to the occasion when the tomatoes would have ripened and we would have a tomato-throwing contest in this Chamber. So I'm somewhat relieved by the friendly comments from the Member for Niakwa.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask if there would be an inclination to grant leave to dispense with Private Members' Hour today.

If so, I would move that Mr. Speaker do now leave the . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

The Honourable Member for Elmwood.

MR. R. DOERN: Mr. Speaker . . .

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Excuse me, we'd go to committee immediately and stay till 5:30.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to move that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee to consider of the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty, and by leave dispense with Private Members' Hour. Seconded by the Minister of Labour. The Labour Estimates would be in the committee room and the Agriculture in the Chamber.

MOTION presented and carried and the House resolved itself into a Committee to consider of the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty with the Honourable Member for River East in the Chair for the Department of Agriculture, and the Honourable Member for Burrows in the Chair for the Department of Labour.

CONCURRENT COMMITTEES OF SUPPLY SUPPLY - LABOUR

MR. CHAIRMAN, C. Santos: Committee, please come to order.

This section of the Committee of Supply shall be dealing with the Estimates of the Department of Labour. We shall begin with the opening statement from the Honourable Minister responsible for the department.

HON. M.B. DOLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

I am pleased to welcome everyone to the review of Manitoba Labour's Spending Estimates for 1984-85. I am sure we will have a meaningful discussion of our proposed programs for the new fiscal year.

As you are aware, some significant changes have taken place in the department over the past year. A major change occurred with the government reorganization in November of 1983, which resulted in the transfer of the Employment Services Division from Labour to the newly-created Department of Employment Services and Economic Security.

Because of the significant size of the Employment Services Division, it was also necessary to split off some administrative and support staff from the Administration Division and from the Research and Planning Branch to the new department.

The past year also saw the Advisory Council on the Status of Women increase in size from six members to thirteen members including the Chairperson. This increase has allowed a broader representation on the council with new members bringing new skills and experience to assist the council in the objective of achieving equality of opportunity and treatment for women and men in the province.

The Women's Bureau also has been recently reorganized and renamed the "Women's Directorate." The directorate and the council will soon share mutually beneficial resources and be located adjacent to one another for ease of access and support to the Manitoba Government on Status of Women issues, also to the women of Manitoba.

There have been some structural changes to the reporting relationships within the department as well. The department now operates with the Labour and Administration Divisions and the Research and Planning Branch reporting to the Deputy Minister. A Director of Communications reports to the Deputy Minister as well.

The Labour Division has been reorganized to include the former Industrial Relations Division and is now comprised of seven branches. The Advisory Council on the Status of Women and the Women's Directorate continue to report directly to me. As well, the affirmative action co-ordinator for the government is attached to my office.

Major thrusts for the department are aimed at creating a climate within the province that will foster industrial harmony and promote fair and equitable labour relations, with a view to improving the economy and the quality of life for Manitobans.

We will therefore be presenting amendments to The Labour Relations Act which have arisen from Phase I of the Manitoba Labour Law Review and the related consultations with the business and labour communities.

We will also endeavour to ensure that the impact and the benefits of technological change are fairly shared by Manitobans.

The second stage of the labour law review will, in part, address the question of worker protection and participation related to technological change.

In order to promote progressive industrial relations in this province, particularly when the economy will be faced with rapid technological changes and structural adjustment, the department is committed to encouraging the participation of workers in the planning of change in the workplace.

As a step in furthering this objective, the department is working with labour and management in Crown corporations to establish worker involvement on the boards of directors and throughout the organization.

My department will also continue to work with our federal and provincial counterparts to build upon the

lead that we have taken during the last Session with our amendments to The Pension Benefits Act. Ongoing consultations are being held with a view to standardizing legislation dealing with employer-sponsored private pension plans across Canada. We will also continue discussions with the provinces and the Federal Government towards improving the funding and benefits under the Canada Pension Plan.

Another of our major objectives involves ongoing consultation with industry concerning the Payment of Wages Fund, and our desire to develop new approaches which will improve the protection of employee wages in the cases of bankruptcies and receiverships.

My department is also continuing a high priority for internal planning process. Longer-range planning has improved our ability to effectively manage our scarce resources towards providing the greatest benefits possible to Manitobans. Our planning process involves a broad-based participation with the involvement of all staff members throughout the department.

Recent Manitoba labour statistics have revealed some positive results. In 1983, there were eight work stoppages involving 512 workers and accounting for 12,310 lost work days. The work stoppages which occurred in Manitoba in 1983 accounted for the lowest number of work days lost, and involved the lowest number of employees of any year during the period 1970-83. At only 31 days lost per 1,000 non-agricultural workers, Manitoba had the third-lowest work stoppage record of any province during the first 11 months of 1983.

The year 1984 is expected to be a relatively heavy one in terms of collective bargaining activity however. An estimated 600 to 700 collective agreements will be negotiated this year.

In order that we may accomplish our goals, Manitoba Labour is requesting 229 staff years for 1984-85 which represents a reduction of two from last year. Our 1984-85 expenditure request is \$9,229,200.00. This is a 4.4-percent spending decrease from that budgeted for 1983-84. The decrease reveals internal repriorizations that have streamlined our operations, and made our programs more cost-efficient.

Mr. Chairperson, I have presented to this committee a brief overview of the major changes that have taken place over the past year, and I believe also highlighted the major program initiatives that we will be emphasizing in the coming year. I am confident that members present will have many questions relating to the budget detail of each branch, and I would request that these questions be raised by sub-appropriation as we proceed through our printed Estimates.

Mr. Chairperson, I refer Manitoba Labour's 1984-85 Spending Estimates to the committee for review and passage. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. In accordance with the past customary usage in this Committee of Supply, the Chairperson now calls upon the leading opposition critic to make his reply if he so decides.

The Honourable Member for La Verendrye.

MR. R. BANMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The members of the opposition look forward to dealing with these Estimates, realizing, Mr. Chairman,

that the Minister does really have precious little left in her department from where it started off.

I think, if my memory serves me right, a number of years ago the department was responsible for The Safety and Health Act; it was responsible for Immigration; it was responsible for Unemployment Services; it was responsible for a number of other things and now we've really got a situation where I guess she is left, more or less, with the leftovers that were not divided off among other departments. I guess I should elaborate on that statement. That isn't a reflection on staff. It's a reflection on the administrative responsibility that she is left with - I'll clarify that.

Mr. Chairman, as the Minister mentioned, her department's major thrust is to deal with labour harmony in the province and that is precisely, I guess, the thing that the opposition is concerned about in dealing with these Estimates and dealing with the direction that this government and this Minister have been taking and have embarked on over the last little while.

Mr. Chairman, the White Paper, which is now before the business and labour community, really wants to bring into effect some pretty radical changes to the labour legislation, some pretty substantive changes.

Mr. Chairman, we, in the opposition and I guess people in the business community and people in the labour community really can't understand why, in light of the statistics that she just brought forward here, we've had one of the best years, as far as only having three work stoppages she mentioned; we've got the lowest number of work days lost in the last 13 years, and she is now wanting to tamper with the legislation.

Of course, Mr. Chairman, that will become the biggest issue, because if the legislation is presented in the form that the White Paper has taken - because when one reads the White Paper, it almost sounds like the explanatory notes for the introduction of a bill - if those recommendations in the White Paper are adopted, I suggest to the Minister not only will she have a real fight on her hands and the government have a real fight on their hands in the Legislature, but the people out there in the work force and the small entrepreneurs who make up the bulk of the people of Manitoba, the bulk of employers of Manitoba, will really take this government to task for tampering, at a time when the labour relations in this province seem to be running fairly smoothly, as she pointed out using her figures here before.

So while we will deal with the Estimates on a line-by-line basis and we'll be asking questions, the main concern, of course, of everybody involved is what is going to happen to the White Paper and what the final outcome and what the final legislation will look like.

Mr. Chairman, I also have to comment, a number of years ago when we announced a few staff cutbacks, as she announced today - granted there's only two being cut back, but a cutback is a cutback - and when we made any announcements of either one or two or three staff cutbacks, there was a loud hue and cry. We now have an NDP Government who, when in opposition, protested long and loud that a cutback in staff really meant a reduction in services to the people of Manitoba. She has now said that it's just going to be more efficient, and really there won't be any change in the delivery to the people of Manitoba. Mr. Chairman, that is really

the rationale that we used when we were government. It wasn't the view shared by members opposite.

Funny after two years or two-and-a-half years, how one suddenly sees that 190-degree turn made, and suddenly you can rationalize something which you were totally against before. So I point that out, Mr. Chairman, because I think that to be parliamentary about it is sort of an anomaly in the approach that they took when they were in opposition.

Mr. Chairman, I would at this time ask, since the proposed labour legislation will be the big initiative from this department this year, under which appropriation that would be properly dealt with.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Before we begin questioning, the Chair wants to invite the members of the departmental staff to kindly take their respective places.

Madam Minister.

HON. M.B. DOLIN: I can answer the question. I believe the most appropriate place to discuss that would be in the first section where we discuss - the staff is trying to tell me something. I better check and see what he said - Executive Section, where we discuss Marva Smith's appropriation if you will, the appropriation for Labour Law Review.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We therefore have to begin by deferring the consideration of Item No. 1.(a) relating to the Minister's Salary.

We shall immediately proceed to consider Item 1.(b)(1) Executive Support: Salaries, and 1.(b)(2) Other Expenditures, an item wide enough to cover some general areas of concern - the Member for La Verendrye.

MR. R. BANMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The Minister announced in her opening remarks that there was a reduction of staff in this department, yet we see a fairly large increase in the Salaries in Executive Support. So while you have the troops out there being reduced, the Executive Support seems to be being beefed-up. I wonder if she could tell us what that increase represents.

HON. M.B. DOLIN: There is an increase in this area, a minor increase in staff years, simply to even it out to 11. There was 10.44 staff years last year, so there are eight weeks there. I just offer that first as a detail so that we understand what we're dealing with.

We have in this section, besides those persons that you are aware are in the Administrative Section or the Executive Support Section - the special assistant, the executive assistant, the administrative secretary. Also the affirmative action co-ordinator is included in that Executive Support Section so that is a person and a salary there.

Then in the Deputy Minister's portion of it, we have the inclusion of the director of communications and the consultant to the Labour Law Review. There are some people there, some expenditures there that would not have been in last year's Estimates, although they were approved. The affirmative action co-ordinator and the consultant on Labour Law Review are new this year, but there was a new person hired during the year,

approved last year, as the communications officer. So there's an expansion, in a sense, in that area but that's how it's divided.

MR. R. BANMAN: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister could tell us whether the director of communications was included last year, what his or her salary is, and what has been set aside for Ms. Smith?

HON. M.B. DOLIN: Yes, the communications officer's position was included last year. That person was on staff as of January this year, was hired at the end of last year to begin work in January. I'll have the exact salary in just a moment. The communications officer's salary is \$38,544 per annum. I believe your other question was Ms. Smith's salary, is that correct? That was the top of the range I must have just quoted, is that correct? Yes, sorry. Mr. Balagus' salary is \$33,200.00. I just gave him a raise that's why he's looking so happy back there. Ms. Smith's salary, what we are requesting for the coming year is \$51,700.00. It was in the \$40,000 range this past year.

MR. R. BANMAN: Is the Minister saying that that is a full-time position?

HON. M.B. DOLIN: Which one?

MR. R. BANMAN: Ms. Smith.

HON. M.B. DOLIN: It is a two-year term position.

MR. R. BANMAN: Does she work full-time at this job?

HON. M.B. DOLIN: If you are considering 40 hours a week full-time, she works probably double that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for St. Norbert.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, would this be the section which would contain grants or what section would contain grants?

HON. M.B. DOLIN: There are grants in another section and there are also grants included under the Apprenticeship Section, so there are two places where we have grants. We don't offer very many.

MR. G. MERCIER: Can the Minister indicate whether there are included in the Budget, any grants to any labour organizations or employer organizations?

HON. M.B. DOLIN: Excuse me, I wonder if the member could clarify whether he's talking about new grants.

MR. G. MERCIER: Any grants to labour organization or employer organizations.

HON. M.B. DOLIN: Yes, they come up later, and I think the member is familiar with them.

MR. G. MERCIER: Okay, we'll deal with it then.

HON. M.B. DOLIN: Appropriation 2.(j), I understand, is where they will be discussed - sub-appropriation 2.(j).

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for La Verendrye.

MR. R. BANMAN: Mr. Chairman, last week the Minister announced that she had hired a number of outside consultants, or that the province had hired a number of outside consultants, at \$600-a-day to help her write the new labour legislation. Where would we find the appropriation for that?

HON. M.B. DOLIN: It would be found in this appropriation. It was a consultant's fee. It was not a hiring of people, I remember, on a full-time basis, but it is a consultant's fee that was paid to certain persons - to clarify - to help with the drafting of the legislation which is slightly different than saying, the writing of the legislation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for St. Norbert.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, after I asked the Minister certain questions with respect to the hiring of the three lawyers that the Minister referred to in question period, and I had asked her whether or not she had consulted with Mr. Tallin, whose office is responsible for drafting legislation, he indicated in a news report that his office had not been contacted with respect to their possibly drafting this labour legislation. Can the Minister explain why Mr. Tallin, as Legislative Counsel, was not approached to see whether or not his office could handle the work of drafting this proposed legislation?

HON. M.B. DOLIN: In answer to that question as I answered before, I believe that my proper access to Mr. Tallin is through the Attorney-General. That would be where I would expect any questions would come. So I can't speak for what was said to Mr. Tallin or what Mr. Tallin heard or what conversations took place in that department.

I do know that the drafting of labour legislation requires a certain knowledge of the area. It is quite possible that there were persons who do legislative drafting, who would not be familiar with that, or who were busy on other draft acts. I don't know, I don't know what their assignments are and I'm not responsible for their assignments so I can't tell you how busy they were. I do know that it was agreed upon by Cabinet, by Treasury Board, that the assistance was needed over the short haul in an intense way and that the best possible thing to do was to get people who were familiar with labour legislation to help with the drafting, and that was done.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Tallin is regarded across Canada as the best legislative draftsman in Canada, so, Mr. Chairman, any suggestion that he doesn't have knowledge of this area or any other area is totally inaccurate and I think it's irresponsible of the Minister and her department not to approach Mr. Tallin first. I would ask the Minister, who hired these outside lawyers? Did her department hire . . .

HON. M.B. DOLIN: They were hired through my department. I just said, the money is in this area, that's why we're discussing it under this area.

Mr. Tallin was not assigned to this and I have to tell you that I don't know who makes his assignments. I assume it's the Attorney-General. I make assignments to my staff. I do not direct Mr. Tallin's activities.

Eugene Szach is the chief drafter from that particular group who has been assigned to the labour law draft. That assignment was made by that department.

Mr. Tallin certainly has worked on labour legislation and I don't believe in my remarks there was any suggestion that he was not familiar with it, but there are other people working in that department who may not have been available, who may not have had the expertise to work in this area, and that's why I said I did not know whether there was that availability. I assume there was not since the Attorney-General and the other people in that department, who were working with it, indicated that there was not the availability of other people to work on it. There is some support staff, as I understand it, that is helping with it, that have been reassigned, if you will, to the labour legislation to assist in the word processing and so on.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, who recommended the hiring of these particular individuals?

HON. M.B. DOLIN: The people who are involved in the drafting; who are Eugene Szach and Marva Smith. If you want the actual recommendation of the three people, there were a number of names put forward, many are unavailable. These people were available of the several people across the country who have knowledge in this area.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, what is the total amount of money set aside to pay these lawyers?

HON. M.B. DOLIN: David Shrom, \$3,000 plus expenses to a maximum of \$500; James Dorsey, \$6,000 plus expenses to a maximum of \$3,000; Bob Mitchell, \$6,000 plus expenses to a maximum of \$3,000.00. Unlike what the newspaper report said, it's not David Shaw, I don't know a David Shaw, it's David Shrom. Support services were absorbed within the department and within Legislative Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 1.(b)(1) - the Member for La Verendrye.

MR. R. BANMAN: Mr. Chairman, the Minister mentioned in the House the other day that, and I guess this flows from some statements she made a while ago with regards to the release of the White Paper, it was in response to an interim report, she said, that Ms. Smith had done. Is she now able to release that report?

HON. M.B. DOLIN: For the third time, Mr. Chairman, we will not release the report until it is complete.

MR. R. BANMAN: Mr. Chairman, there is a new precedent being established here and I just want to caution the Minister that when she is setting up a study or a commission and is asking for public representation and this individual is holding public hearings and receiving public submissions, the public has a right to know what that particular individual is recommending to the government.

I would say to the Minister that if she is going to bring forward legislation based on that report and based on some of the results that Ms. Smith received from the community at large, she has an obligation to that community to present that report. It's up to her, I guess, in the final analysis whether or not she wants to table it or not, but it's kind of ironic from a government who is putting forward and talking about freedom of information and public access to information, that here we have an individual who did receive submissions from the public, did hold public hearings and now the report is not being made available.

I say to the Minister that I would seriously ask her to rethink her position, and before any legislation is tabled in this House, that she bring that report forward so that the people that are involved in it, both labour and management, have a chance to see exactly what kind of information is being provided to her.

Let me ask a further question: when does Ms. Smith's term expire, and when does she expect to have the final copy of her report?

HON. M.B. DOLIN: Answering the questions in reverse order; Ms. Smith was hired for a two-year term. The first half, as we know and as I have explained, is to be phase one; the second half, phase two, legislation brought in in two parts, logically divided, I believe. I would expect that the report would be complete immediately prior to the government's consideration of Part II, phase two. I would expect that it would be made public some time after the government decided exactly what they were going to propose as legislation with regard to employment standards and its related acts. That decision will be taken by Cabinet at that time.

I can't give you any more information than that, but I would expect that certainly it would be completed so that we could address ourselves to the recommendations for phase two sometime just before the next session or the spring session, let's say, of next year when we would be expecting to bring in the legislation as was phase one this year.

I might add that with regard to the insistence upon the tabling of the report, I have explained repeatedly that we did not act upon all the recommendations and in fact, in the White Paper, indicated one very large area of recommendations that we decided to hold over for consideration during the next year. That is one of the main reasons that it is inappropriate to table that report now, because we have not determined what we are going to do with the recommendations; which ones we are going to act on, which ones we are going to incorporate into other areas and so on. They are still under consideration by Cabinet and Caucus. They will remain so until we prepare suggested legislation for the next round, for phase two. It would not be inappropriate, I've never known a government to table an incomplete report. It's not done, as far as I know. You can table a draft if you will, but this is not a draft. It is a report that is under consideration and it is in fact the first half of a two-part report. When it is complete then we will table it.

It is also interesting to note that while this is the same question that the Member from La Verendrye has asked repeatedly, I did not hear such a question even

once from any of the employee or employer representatives with whom I have consulted on an almost daily basis over the last several weeks. They knew that, and they had requested the discussion paper, that's what we talked about, that's what we used, and they certainly were satisfied with the discussion on that basis.

MR. R. BANMAN: Mr. Chairman, the Minister has just told us that Part I of the report is completed and that the legislation which is going to be introduced has been dealt with to a certain extent with that Part I of that report. She says the report now is coming down in two phases. Now she says that some of the suggestions in Part I the government isn't acting on. This is precisely what we are after. We want to know the type of information that was gathered publicly and disseminated, and then put into a report by Ms. Smith so that we know what this government's up to the next time. You're talking about a two-part series here. We want to know what you're about to inflict on the people of Manitoba, and what you're contemplating on inflicting on the people of Manitoba so that they have a chance to come back and tell you where you're going wrong. That's what public information is all about. When you're asking for public information there comes a time when some of it's got to come back.

As I mentioned before, and I'm going to repeat myself, for a party who has consistently wanted freedom of information and provide more information, Mr. Chairman, I appreciate that she wasn't here the last term when her colleagues, the Minister of Finance, and the now Minister of Resources, sat and demanded every document on negotiations that was going on. But for her now to sit back and having had a public hearing with regard to this report and now saying to the people of Manitoba, and the people involved - no you can't have a copy of that report - is in direct contradiction of what they did when they were in the opposition.

I say to the Minister that she should really rethink that and talk to a few of her colleagues because Part I is done, the people of Manitoba have the right to have that in their hands. And I for one, and I know my colleagues will keep on asking the questions because until the report is released we really don't know what the government has spent some \$50,000-plus on to come up with the recommendations for the new labour laws. So I put that forward.

I wonder if she could give me the dates when Ms. Smith started her term. She says it's on a two-year-term basis and she started, I believe, last year.

HON. M.B. DOLIN: She began on a part-time basis while completing responsibilities at the University of Manitoba, let's see, from May 30th. The term employment began May 30th of 1984, I'm sorry '83. April and May were worked on a part-time basis, and full-time employment began May 30th.

MR. R. BANMAN: Does that mean that the contract expires April 30th, '85?

HON. M.B. DOLIN: It's term employment and it would expire, yes, at that time.

MR. G. MECIER: Mr. Chairman, the Minister issued a press release dated April 27th, 1984 in which she stated

that the proposals, referring to the White Paper, come following the completion of the first phase of the Manitoba Labour Law Review. Mr. Chairman, I'm recollecting instances in the past where governments have hired individuals to hold enquiries and public hearings into specific matters. I recall within my own responsibilities undertaking studies under the operation of The Liquor Control Act, the Michener Report, into lotteries by Graeme Haig, into assessment by Walter Weir.

In every one of those situations, Mr. Chairman, public hearings having been completed, the individual retained prepared a report, it went to the Minister and it was made public. Just because someone you hire makes a report doesn't mean that the government, whichever government it is, will agree with every recommendation contained in the report. But it's incumbent, it's the absolute responsibility, Mr. Chairman, of a Minister and a government in those situations where public hearings are held. The public is asked to contribute, and they have, and a report has been made to the Minister, and it's incumbent upon the Minister to table that report and make it public.

Mr. Chairman, this situation goes even further because the government is going to introduce legislation, the Minister says, before making the report public. That is irresponsible, Mr. Chairman. It's arrogant, it's contemptuous of the people who've gone to the time and trouble and expense of appearing at those public hearings and making their contributions. And it's totally unfair, Mr. Chairman, to the members of the opposition who are going to be asked to deal with this piece of legislation without having the benefit of this report which is being done at public expense and ought to be tabled.

Mr. Chairman, I want to ask the Minister in view of the fact that she says in her own Press release that the first phase of the labour law review is being completed, in view of her indications that she's going to bring in legislation, will she reconsider her position and table this report as it should be done?

HON. M.B. DOLIN: I don't know how many times I can say what I have said but I will try again. The report has been submitted. It was the decision of the government to prepare legislation based on a part of that report and to hold over a portion of the report to be dealt with next year. At that time we will have the balance of the information that we feel needs to be gathered with regard to that particular portion, and perhaps some other portions, so that we can then make public the report with the additional information gathered in Phase II and we will also bring in the second part of the legislation.

The second part of the legislation deals, as I said, with the employment standards portion and its related acts, the first part, as you know, with the Labour Relations Act and its related acts. The compendium of what was presented at the public hearings was made public soon after those public hearings and every single person, and every single group that appeared in the public hearings received a copy of that.

Unfortunately some misunderstood and thought that the compendium was the recommendations even though there was clear conflict from some of the parties

presenting requests to the labour law review within the compendium. They were absolute opposite so it couldn't possibly be a recommendation but it was misunderstood to be that. But to clear the record let me say again that the compendium was exactly that. It was a compiling or a compilation of all of the suggestions and recommendations heard from individuals and groups during the public hearings. That was circulated widely.

The Member for La Verendrye says that they want the report because they want to know what the government is going to inflict on the people of Manitoba. Well, what the government is proposing to the people of Manitoba and what the government is consulting about with those particular constituent groups, management and labour, but what will affect their working relationship is in the discussion paper and is under discussion and has been consulted about, and I believe a great degree of consensus has been reached. So I'm not sure why the members are flogging this to this extent. They perhaps have not talked to some of the people whom they appear to be trying to defend - I don't know who they are.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, will the Minister defer presenting legislation to the Legislature until after the report is made public?

HON. M.B. DOLIN: No, Mr. Chairman.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, in view of the statistics presented by the Minister with respect to the low number of work stoppages in 1983 in Manitoba and the low number of workers affected by strikes and the comparative rating of Manitoba to other provinces, could she explain what the need is for any changes?

HON. M.B. DOLIN: Well, to first of all indicate just how numbers can change within a few moments, I said there were eight work stoppages and in the response to my remarks, it was reduced to three, would that it were so, but it's still eight. That is a low number.

I also indicated that there are between 500 and 600 contracts to be renegotiated in the coming year. A lot of these people were on two-year contracts or in the midst of contracts. The low number can be attributed partly to that. It can be attributed partly to economic conditions. It can be attributed to the fact that if you use a bit of an analogy, a work stoppage is like an all-out war, but that doesn't mean that the battles are over and that the battles have seized and those battles go on.

We believe that there are better ways of solving them and we have worked with recommendations from both management and labour to look at alternatives for avoiding the kind of confrontation that - even when it is over - creates a disunity in the workplace that certainly doesn't improve productivity, that certainly doesn't improve any harmonious relationship.

The member is referring to only a small part of what is presented in the legislation. I believe that if he would take a look at the White Paper again, the discussion paper, he would see that the majority of it deals with the Labour Board itself, deals with arbitration and deals with issues other than strikes and lockouts per se.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, when does the Minister intend to introduce the legislation into the House?

HON. M.B. DOLIN: Soon.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, when does the Minister intend to introduce the legislation in the House?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question has been answered.

HON. M.B. DOLIN: If I could remind the member who was the critic last year.

MR. G. MERCIER: If she wants to be a smart aleck, she'll be here a long time.

HON. M.B. DOLIN: I am not trying to be a smart aleck. The member might recall that last year we had a date in which we intended to introduce the pension bill, Bill 95. That pension bill broke down due to technological change. It got lost in a broken word processor at the Queen's Printer. That certainly threw off our dates for introduction of the bill and it came in much later than we would have wanted and much later than we expected. I can't tell the member the date on which the bill will be introduced. It will be introduced as soon as possible.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, I'm not going to be blaming the Minister for anything that is unforeseen in preparation of the legislation. I know it is difficult to sometimes accurately predict an exact date and I'm not asking for an exact date, but will it be ready in two weeks or in six or eight weeks?

HON. M.B. DOLIN: It is my understanding that we all hoped we wouldn't be here in six or eight weeks, so I would suspect that you're closer with your guess of two or three weeks.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, does the Minister intend to refer the legislation or White Paper proposals to the Labour-Management Review Committee for consideration?

HON. M.B. DOLIN: They have been referred to the Labour Management Review Committee and in fact that committee was involved in assisting in the preparation of recommendations for three specific areas, which were referred to last August, a long time ago, and they have been involved and were involved in the initial meetings when the discussion paper was distributed, the very first meetings. Certainly their members have been involved through their own organizations in responding to it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for La Verendrye.

MR. R. BANMAN: Thank you.

I wonder if the Minister could inform us whether the three people hired from the outside have completed their contractual commitments?

HON. M.B. DOLIN: Not quite, it's my understanding. It was a staggered sort of attachment, if you will, they

came when they could, they had outside commitments themselves, so it's not quite finished. There is one person who is still involved.

MR. R. BANMAN: Two of the people that were on contract have finished and the other one's got a day or two left, is that what the Minister is saying?

HON. M.B. DOLIN: I would have to get the specifics for you. That is my understanding that it's about that, it's just the receipt of some final information that needs to be clarified on the part of one person who is doing one part of the work, that's all. Two of them have completed their work is my understanding.

MR. R. BANMAN: Mr. Chairman, if the people were finished drafting, for all intents and purposes, the legislation is then drafted?

HON. M.B. DOLIN: It is drafted as far as the sections with which these people were giving some assistance. I have not seen a draft. That's an ongoing process. I have seen some portions of it. There are still some areas where changes are still being considered by caucus and those decisions will be made over the next week or so and the final draft should be finished in a couple of weeks.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 1.(b)(1)—pass.
1.(b)(2) - the Member for La Verendrye.

MR. R. BANMAN: Mr. Chairman, we've got about a 40 percent increase in here. I wonder if the Minister could tell us what the increase is about?

HON. M.B. DOLIN: Sorry, my pages are numbered a little differently and it took me a moment to find it.

The explanation for the changes is that the request reflects the provision of the \$25,000 to the Labour Law Review for 1984-85 and an allocation of approximately \$35,000 for a Departmental Communications Program. It also reflects the increased costs of travel and the use of government vehicles, which you will recall was divided between departments.

MR. R. BANMAN: What was the \$35,000 again?

HON. M.B. DOLIN: Communications.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for St. Norbert.

MR. G. MERCIER: I want to raise a question and I think this might be an appropriate area, Research and Planning.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We haven't called it yet.

MR. G. MERCIER: Oh, you're not there yet, okay.

HON. M.B. DOLIN: No, almost.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If we pass 1.(b)(1), 1.(b)(2), I'm going to call that one.

1.(b)(1)—pass; 1.(b)(2)—pass; Executive Support: Salaries, Other Expenditures—pass.

1.(c)(1) Research and Planning: Salaries; 1.(c)(2) Other Expenditures - the Member for St. Norbert.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, I want to raise something that has concerned me in recent weeks. It may even be naive, but this summer it would appear that there will be some 16,000 to 17,000 young people unemployed. I know a number of young people who have been fortunate enough to obtain jobs in areas where they are paid \$11, \$12, \$13, \$14-an-hour because of the unions' classification rates. Most of them in a moment of honesty would admit that they are probably being overpaid.

It seems to me, particularly in the area of municipalities - I would ask the Minister this - is it possible for her through her office to undertake some discussions with those unions affected and employers affected to make it possible, if they have to waive portions of the collective agreement, so that more students could be employed but at lower than the rigid union rates? You know, any of those 16,000, 17,000 unemployed young people would be glad to work for \$5 or \$6-an-hour.

I appreciate on the one hand you would want to make sure that the employer, say, a municipality like the City of Winnipeg would perhaps undertake more work with that additional manpower. But it seems to me to be basically a common-sense approach to a very difficult problem of unemployment among youth. I'm wondering if the Minister has ever considered that type of approach, perhaps even in this year holding discussions with the City of Winnipeg to see if it was possible to employ more students at lower wage rates so it wouldn't cost the employer any more, the city any more. They could get more work done, and they have work to do through the summer months of various kinds. I wonder if the Minister would agree with that concept and be prepared to have her department enter into some discussions with some unions and employers.

HON. M.B. DOLIN: I have to say that I understand the intent of the question. I'm not sure I understand the question itself, or its appropriateness at this point.

First of all, I am no longer responsible for Employment Services. That doesn't mean that I am going to skirt the issue of the intent of the question as I understand it, which is employing more people at minimum wage and fewer people at a liveable wage. I could probably expound at great length about the need to determine whether a student was supporting a family, or whether a student was supporting themselves, or whether a student had to pay all their expenses, or whether their parents were helping them with their expenses. I don't think that is appropriate at this point.

If a student is filling a job that has a certain wage rate attached to it, just because we define that person as one who is also taking classes during a certain portion of the year, I don't think it is appropriate to cut their salaries.

With regard to the discussions with the City of Winnipeg, that's not appropriate here either. I don't think we should enter into that discussion. As I say, I have given my response to what I believe to be the intent of the question. There is no way that anyone could convince me that minimum wage is a liveable

wage or one on which you can support a family. So I would not wish to become involved in promoting that more people work at minimum wage. I would like to see more people get jobs, of course, but it's the creation of the jobs at a liveable wage that we are looking at.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, I'm not talking about forcing young people to work at the minimum wage. I am talking about 16,000 or 17,000 unemployed young people living in Manitoba this summer, probably of whom 99 percent are not married, Mr. Chairman. Surely to God, it is better that they have some form of employment than none which would appear to be the Minister's response to the idea.

I am not suggesting that I have covered or solved all of the problems in this situation that I am referring to, but I am suggesting that there may be in this concept a common-sense approach to employing more young people and providing some more jobs for those 16,000 or 17,000 who will be unemployed this summer. I am not trying to suggest they work at minimum wage, or force someone with a family to do this type of thing, but surely a job is better than no job at all. To have that number of young people unemployed is a crisis for many of them, Mr. Chairman. Surely the Minister of Labour should be prepared to look at almost any type of proposal. I offer it in a constructive way in the hopes that perhaps there might be a method of employing more of those 16,000 or 17,000 young people who will be unemployed this summer.

HON. M.B. DOLIN: In final response, I believe, because I think the Chair is going to soon rule us both out of order . . .

MR. G. MERCIER: As the Minister of Labour, surely you can talk about unemployment.

HON. M.B. DOLIN: Yes, it is the Minister of Labour. It's not the Minister of Employment Services. Under Employment Services when I was Minister, we had two programs that employed thousands of young people that offered employment through the business and farm and non-profit agency groups and communities to young people specifically aimed at them. They were not for the most part highly-paid jobs.

They were designed to fill a student's summer and help them with the partial financial assistance that they needed. They were certainly not expected to be a full support for a student who had a family or had other responsibilities, and that family doesn't necessarily mean a wife or a child. It could be a dependent parent. It could be anything, any other expenses that we're not aware of. But those programs were put in place specifically for the purpose that the member is speaking about. They are still in place.

In fact, many of the people hired under them, under the MEAP Program in particular, are still employed. They became permanent employees. In fact, just last evening I was talking to an insurance agent who was late with his application under Careerstart, had interviewed a person that he was proposing that he hire under it, and he decided to hire her and pay the whole shot himself because he thought she would be such a good employee. So there is a spinoff benefit that I'm sure isn't isolated to just that one case.

So that is the kind of program that I think the member is talking about. I am in full support of that. I don't see where he is aiming his suggestion with regard to the Research and Planning Department of the Department of Labour. He started out by saying that we should maybe talk the unions down or talk the unions into waiving their contracts. I don't believe that is an appropriate place for the Research and Planning Department to be doing their work.

MR. R. BANMAN: Mr. Chairman, I guess what we have just witnessed here is the problem of the splitting up of the departments. Whatever the Minister of Labour does with labour legislation, with minimum wage, with whatever, it affects employment in this province. You can't have one without the other. So, Mr. Chairman, you cannot operate this department in a vacuum from the unemployment people or from the Employment Services people. So, Mr. Chairman, what this department does does have a bearing on employment.

I suggest, Mr. Chairman, that the suggestion by the Member for St. Norbert was a common-sense one. All he is trying to do is make a common-sense constructive suggestion to the Minister that she might look into it, for after all, the government determines on Careerstart that you are only allowed to pay your person \$4-an-hour. It determines that.

HON. M.B. DOLIN: No, that's not true. I'm sorry. On a point of order, that is not correct.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The correction's been made.

MR. R. BANMAN: Mr. Chairman, the government determined in the STEP student program that they were going to reduce the number of weeks that were provided to the people that were working. They determined that. They cut back on a bunch of students from 16 weeks to 14 weeks. That arbitrarily cut off some of their paychecks. So, Mr. Chairman, I'll . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: This has been discussed in another department.

MR. R. BANMAN: Mr. Chairman, all we're trying to say is that the government determines to a large extent what happens with the unemployment rate, with the job creation rate. An integral part of that is the Department of Labour, and all that happened here is that out of the goodness of his heart the Member for St. Norbert offered the Minister a suggestion. If she doesn't want to take it, so be it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay, 1.(c)(1) Research and Planning—pass.

1.(c)(2) Other Expenditures - the Member for La Verendrye.

MR. R. BANMAN: Again we have about a 25-percent increase. I wonder what the increase is due to.

HON. M.B. DOLIN: The increase of about \$15,000, \$16,000 is to request additional funds to assist in the developing and the implementing of a management information system for this department. It's essential

in the Department of Research and Planning that they have some computer capability. That is what we're requesting.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 1.(c)(2)—pass.

1.(d)(1) Financial and Administrative Services: Salaries, 1.(d)(2) Other Expenditures - the Honourable Minister.

HON. M.B. DOLIN: If I could make a remark first, this is the area that is responsible for providing the essential financial personnel and administrative support services to the department. In the adjusted vote, there were 20.16 staff years. For 1984-85, we're requesting 19.16, a reduction of one staff year. The staff year which has been eliminated was a vacant management and financial analyst position which, in the context of repriorization of resources, was felt unnecessary to retain particularly as it was vacant and had been.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Any questions on this item? 1.(d)(1)—pass; 1.(d)(2)—pass.

Item No. 2.(a)(1) Labour, Division Administration: Salaries, 2.(a)(2) Other Expenditures - the Honourable Minister.

HON. M.B. DOLIN: This is the Divisional Administration appropriation that provides for the operation of the office of the Assistant Deputy Minister of Labour who is responsible for the management of the Labour Division. In the adjusted vote, 1983-84, there were five staff years, and we are requesting the same for this year.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Any questions on this item - the Member for St. Norbert.

MR. G. MERCIER: You're requesting the same number of staff years?

HON. M.B. DOLIN: That's correct.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, what was the total budget for the department last year? Was it 17 million?

HON. M.B. DOLIN: If I may ask a question, for the entire Department of Labour, Manitoba Labour?

MR. G. MERCIER: Yes.

HON. M.B. DOLIN: \$17,635,400.00. Then with the removal of the Employment Services Division, we have an 1983-84 adjusted vote of \$9,658,400.00. Page 106 details that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 2.(a)(1) Division Administration: Salaries—pass; 2.(a)(2) Other Expenditures—pass.

2.(b)(1) Mechanical and Engineering: Salaries, 2.(b)(2) Other Expenditures - the Member for La Verendrye.

MR. R. BANMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess one of the areas that has affected a lot of the rural people and has caused a lot of controversy is the one dealing with the electrical requirements as well as insulation requirements for mobile homes. Has the

Minister in the last year or so had any review on the regulations governing those homes?

HON. M.B. DOLIN: We are using the code that we have been using. It isn't under review at this time. It's Canadian Standards.

MR. R. BANMAN: Are there some outstanding issues with some mobile home manufacturers or salespeople with regard to the Department of Labour?

HON. M.B. DOLIN: I understand there is one sales firm that was involved through the courts with the Attorney-General's office, but other than that the manufacturers and the other groups are all meeting the standard.

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

2.(c)(1) Fire Prevention: Salaries, 2.(c)(2) Other Expenditures, 2.(c)(3)(a) - the Member for La Verendrye.

MR. R. BANMAN: Mr. Chairman, I just want to spend a few minutes on here, maybe more from the standpoint of having been involved years ago before I got involved in this business as a voluntary fireman, and appreciating maybe to a large extent like many people who have been involved with the volunteer firefighters the amount of time and dedication that goes into the running of a volunteer fire department. Probably, Mr. Chairman, if we were to start in any small way providing some remuneration for the people that spend their time in these volunteer departments, whether it be in the smaller, urban communities in this province or even in the Northern and remote communities, what you would see is that many municipalities would almost be bankrupt to try and provide the type of payment and type of funds to keep their volunteer fire departments going.

I think I want to use this opportunity to ask the Minister a few questions, but also to put on the record, I think, the appreciation of all Manitobans to people who do give of themselves, their time and their efforts in being volunteer firemen. One of the things that is, I think, tremendously gratifying is to see in many instances both the labour and management coming to a good understanding. By that, I mean that we have a lot of employers who have businesses to run and suddenly when the beeper goes off, the employee takes off, and he might be without an employee for the rest of the day. I can assure the Minister, having gone through that, when you've got a customer waiting for a car repair and you've got the fuel pump off and the mechanic takes off on you and that customer wants to get going, that person does not exactly have the type of understanding that one might wish that person to have.

So I say to the Minister, not only is there a lot of give and take on the part of the employer, there is a lot of dedication by all the people that are involved, even though they might not be directly at the scene of the fire. So it's something that I guess you only appreciate once you've been involved in from the standpoint of someone that is either employing someone on the volunteer fire service or somebody actually involved in it. I guess what I'm saying is my hat's off to employers as well as the people involved in helping make our communities a safer place to live.

I would ask the Minister if she could just tell us briefly how the training programs are going with regard to volunteer firefighting? Have we still got schools going up in Gimli, I believe, and I know that we've opened a new one in Brandon. I wonder if she could just elaborate a little bit on that.

HON. M.B. DOLIN: First of all, with regard to the member's comments at first. I couldn't agree and we take our hats off too. Certainly if that person waiting for the fuel pump, or whatever, also owned the house that was burning, perhaps they'd have a little more understanding, but we certainly do appreciate, as do all people who live in Manitoba, the efforts of the volunteer firefighters and the employers who are sometimes themselves members of the brigade.

With regard to remuneration, most of them are being given some remuneration by the municipalities, so that is in place already.

With regard to the training, we train at our three locations: Winnipeg, Brandon and Thompson, and then there are sometimes some regional schools in a more appropriate area for the people concerned.

So those programs are ongoing and, in fact, in Manitoba we enjoy the respect of other provinces across this country and we have, as far as I can tell, from attending conferences on this issue, and so on, have been asked for advice because we have the finest fire protection services and organization of firefighters anywhere in the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 2.(c)(1) Fire Prevention, Salaries—pass; 2.(c)(2) Fire Prevention, Other Expenditures—pass; 2.(c)(3)(a) Engineering and Technical Services, Salaries; 2.(c)(3)(b) Other Expenditures - no question on this item? 2.(c)(3)(a) Engineering and Technical Services, Salaries—pass; 2.(c)(3)(b) Engineering and Technical Services, Other Expenditures—pass.

2.(d)(1) Employment Standards, Salaries; 2.(d)(2) Other Expenditures . . .

A MEMBER: Wait a minute.

HON. M.B. DOLIN: No, he's just reading out what they are.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I'm just reading it - Oh, I skipped one, sorry.

I'm just trying to read the whole set.

MR. R. BANMAN: You're doing a good job of trying to pass the Estimates, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Item No. 2.(d)(2) Other Expenditures; Item No. 2.(d)(3) Payment of Wages Fund - the Member for St. Norbert.

MR. G. MERCIER: Well, I'm on (1), Mr. Chairman. Could the Minister indicate where Manitoba ranks with respect to minimum wages?

HON. M.B. DOLIN: We are third, but there are three ahead of us because there are two tied for second, as I understand. Saskatchewan and the Yukon Territories are at \$4.25 an hour; Northwest Territories - I'm not

sure what theirs is, they are going up, and then Quebec and Manitoba are at \$4 an hour and Ontario is on a phased program that will bring them to \$4 an hour by the end of this year - in October they will go to \$4 an hour as well. So that's one, two, three, four, five that are in this top group, if you will. The others have increased theirs to something just under that. Ontario, as I said, is phasing into \$4 an hour; Alberta is at \$3.80; New Brunswick at \$3.80 - they're in the same range. Several of them are at \$3.75. The Federal Government is the lowest at \$3.50.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, I notice that the Minister is looking at a list. I wonder if she would be kind enough to supply the Member for La Verendrye and myself with a copy?

HON. M.B. DOLIN: Certainly.

MR. G. MERCIER: Thank you.

Mr. Chairman, a news report today indicates that the Deputy Minister has stated that the Minister has received a report from the Minimum Wage Board. I wonder if she has a copy of that report available?

HON. M.B. DOLIN: I have that report. I am taking it to my colleagues.

MR. G. MERCIER: She doesn't want to supply us with a copy?

HON. M.B. DOLIN: Not yet, soon.

MR. G. MERCIER: Is the Minister recommending any changes in the minimum wage?

HON. M.B. DOLIN: Well, I think that I will be ready to make that kind of a comment as soon as Cabinet has a chance to discuss what has come forward from the Minimum Wage Board.

MR. G. MERCIER: Who is on the Minimum Wage Board?

HON. M.B. DOLIN: I'll get you the names in just a moment. It is a board of people appointed who are recommended and appointed by management and labour, employers and employees and we have the list right here. May I have the envelope please? John Atwell is the Chairperson. There are three employee representatives: Bernard Christophe, Bill Haiko and Mary Parkhill. There are three employer representatives: Ray Hoover, Ray Cousineau, and Cecil Yan. The Secretary to the Minimum Wage Board is Jim Wood from our department.

MR. G. MERCIER: In the report the Minister received, I wonder if she could indicate whether it was a unanimous recommendation?

HON. M.B. DOLIN: I don't remember when the Minimum Wage Board has come in with a unanimous recommendation. They usually don't, as I understand it. I don't have a long history of that, but I could probably research it for you.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, if I recollect correctly, I think they have come in with unanimous recommendations previously in some instances.

HON. M.B. DOLIN: I understand - a correction - that in 1976-77 there was a unanimous recommendation.

MR. G. MERCIER: Will the Minister release a copy of the report after Cabinet makes a decision?

HON. M.B. DOLIN: I will leave that final decision to Cabinet, but I believe that's normal.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 2.(d)(1) Employment Standards, Salaries—pass; 2.(d)(2) Other Expenditures—pass. 2.(d)(3) - the Member for La Verendrye.

MR. R. BANMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're dealing with the Payment of Wages Fund here and I wonder if the Minister could tell us what was the amount paid out last year.

HON. M.B. DOLIN: In payment of wages?

MR. R. BANMAN: Yes.

HON. M.B. DOLIN: Approximately \$550,000.

MR. R. BANMAN: Are there still some outstanding claims?

HON. M.B. DOLIN: I'm not sure if this'll answer the member's question exactly, and I would hope that he would ask a further question if it doesn't.

But we have paid out \$438,486.19 in the reporting year, and been able to recover \$85,214.37. There are still some, of course, that we are trying to recover funds from.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 2.(d)(3) Payment of Wages Fund. Another question from the Member for La Verendrye.

MR. R. BANMAN: Is the Minister contemplating some changes to the Payment of Wages Fund this year?

HON. M.B. DOLIN: Yes, a reduction. I'm not sure that I'm answering the question but that's what, you know, we're reducing the amount because we see that there is a decline in bankruptcies and receiverships, a very sharp decline, and we believe that we are hopefully past the big peak of those and our experience indicates that we can safely reduce the amount.

We are also in consultation through a committee, that is chaired by the Deputy Minister, with the people who indicated their support for such a group to try to determine a better way to handle the payment of wages to employees who are caught in this kind of situation without relying on the taxpayers doing it. That committee is proceeding with its deliberations.

MR. R. BANMAN: Yes, what I was after is whether the Minister was contemplating any legislative or policy changes with regard to this?

HON. M.B. DOLIN: We may upon receipt of the report of that committee. If you recall we did have a bill, Bill

54 I believe it was, and found the suggestion of the Chamber of Commerce, and various other groups, that we sit down and work out an alternative way of putting monies into a fund to cover this contingency that we withdraw that bill. That was done and we are now working on ways to evolve such a fund. You know, it's easier said than done. They are attempting to research several different ways in which this can be done and when they report there may be either a policy change, or if necessary a legislative change which they will recommend to us.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, who is serving on that Advisory Board?

HON. M.B. DOLIN: Jack MacDonald, from the Royal Bank; Jim Wright, Past President of the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce; Chris Monk, from the Federation of Labour; and Gerry Bentley, from the Building Trades.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, is the Minister or the Deputy Minister and the committee monitoring the progress of the new Bankruptcy Act? Of course there's been a new Bankruptcy Act before Parliament - I'm not finished, Mr. Chairman - for a number of years but there was an amendment that was introduced to the Committee of the House of Commons by the Consumer and Corporate Affairs Ministers which would give priority with respect to wages. Hopefully that would pass because that would solve a great deal of the problem.

HON. M.B. DOLIN: Certainly they are monitoring it very closely. Of course, the slowness of the passage of that is one of the reasons that they have been delayed in their deliberations. About 17 years it's been worked on.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, could the Minister indicate whether the employees of the Assiniboia Downs on whose behalf or in whose favour an order was made under The Payment of Wages Act early in February, 1983, and were yet unpaid as of . . .

HON. M.B. DOLIN: They have been paid.

MR. G. MERCIER: They have now been paid?

HON. M.B. DOLIN: They have been paid.

MR. G. MERCIER: When were they paid?

HON. M.B. DOLIN: Approximately two months to three months ago.

MR. G. MERCIER: It took a year for them to get paid.

HON. M.B. DOLIN: Well that was before the courts for some time too I believe. It was . . .

MR. G. MERCIER: It's almost as tough as collecting expense accounts.

HON. M.B. DOLIN: . . . a difficult situation I think for all involved.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 2.(d)(3) Payment of Wages Fund—pass.

2.(e)(1) Manitoba Labour Board: Salaries; 2.(e)(2) Other Expenditures - the Member for La Verendrye.

MR. R. BANMAN: Mr. Chairman, the Minister has appropriated almost an identical amount in this area. Should the government bring forward the legislation as per the White Paper it would really give the Labour Board expanded powers and I would imagine additional staff, additional expenditures. Has the Minister taken that into consideration?

HON. M.B. DOLIN: Yes. Part of the consideration of change in this area was a complete costing-out of the greatest possible expense so that we could determine where we wanted to be on the ladder, if you will. We also determined what it would cost should such legislation be passed this spring, and phasing in of such a program begin. Obviously it's not going to happen overnight. So we do have those costs available to us.

It depends on how fast the phasing is done. It depends on whether the legislation is presented and passed. It depends on a lot of things but we certainly would not present such legislation without determining how much it was going to cost. We made our decision on the basis of that. The independence of the Labour Board is something that is recommended by both management and labour, has been for some time, certainly since I've been the Minister they've been telling me about it.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, could the Minister indicate how many first contracts have been imposed by the Labour Board since the beginning of the legislation?

HON. M.B. DOLIN: Since the last time we met in Estimates?

MR. G. MERCIER: Since it went into effect.

HON. M.B. DOLIN: Oh, since the legislation was passed. All right.

Three have been imposed, three contracts.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, there was a news report on March 26th which indicated it contained some statements by union officials. It said - the first contract legislation has become a useful tool in organizing workers. Legislation has made it easier to organize workers. Would the Minister agree that was one of the objectives of the legislation?

HON. M.B. DOLIN: First, I don't have the news report in front of me but certainly that's a spinoff effect because as an employee choosing to have a bargaining agent, one would expect that the reason to have that bargaining agent is so that one would not have to get involved in negotiations themselves but would have a bargaining agent to do it for them so that they could have a contract. If, in fact, then the bargaining agent is absolutely stymied in obtaining such a contract, then certainly the employees involved, not ever having

experienced a contract, having chosen a bargaining agent who couldn't get a contract, could become quite disenchanted. When a person joins the union, I think it's understandable that they would expect that the result of the certification of that bargaining agent would be that they would within a reasonable amount of time have a contract that set out their working conditions and so on. That is exactly what first contract does, if the parties cannot settle. The fact that only three have been imposed in the years that this legislation has now been in place, indicates that the legislation is doing exactly what was intended; that is that it is a deterrent to delay - that's unnecessary kind of delays - and it's a deterrent to any kind of bad-faith bargaining that might take place and therefore the parties wishing to design the contract themselves in fact do so. Even when it's sometimes at the last minute.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, there was a case involving a ruling by the Manitoba Labour Board involving Tan Jay, and the Court of Appeal, as I understand it from the news report, overruled the Manitoba Labour Board. My question to the Minister is this, under the Minister's White Paper proposals, would that decision of the Manitoba Labour Board have been allowed to be appealed? Would the proposals in the White Paper rule out that type of appeal?

HON. M.B. DOLIN: This was a case of the judge ruling on a section of our act that wouldn't be changed and that is that the act says that a contract is a contract when it is duly executed. The judge ruled in the overturning of the case that that meant that it had to be signed. In fact, Tan Jay had not signed the contract so therefore the judge ruled there was no contract. That case, under that circumstance, could still be taken to court on that point.

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

2.(f)(1) Conciliation and Mediation Services: Salaries; 2.(f)(2) Other Expenditures - the Member for La Verendrye.

MR. R. BANMAN: Mr. Chairman, the Minister mentioned earlier that this was the year where a lot of two-year contracts were coming due and one of the reasons for some of the labour harmony last year was the fact that there were a number of two year contracts in place. The Conciliation and Mediation Services supplied by the department, it looks like the appropriation is about exactly the same. Does she expect that the workload is going to be about the same as it was last year?

HON. M.B. DOLIN: We expect from past experience over the years that the amount of work will be approximately the same. We do have a vacancy. I would suspect that we would be filling that vacancy and we do have a slight increase for fees offered for the requirement for French Language Conciliation when that is requested and we have had a few requests for it. This is an area where, if the legislation indicates that there is a need for more people to deal with conflict at this level before it becomes terribly serious - and there is an ability to get parties together at this level

- I don't believe that we would hesitate to improve the services in the sense of having more people available. But if they are not requested, if they are not needed, well then we wouldn't have to do that. We'll have to see what the requirements are, but we don't expect to have a great increase in requests.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, could the Minister inform us as to the list of names she uses to appoint as arbitrators?

HON. M.B. DOLIN: I have received a list of names from the Labour Management Review Committee, which is the list of names used and they're used in rotation, I believe, depending on their availability. They're used in rotation, but if one isn't available you drop down to the next one. It's fairly automatic and objective as far as the appointment is concerned, but the list is developed by the Labour Management Review Committee and submitted to me.

MR. G. MERCIER: When was that list developed?

HON. M.B. DOLIN: Approximately six months ago. I might add that arbitrators that we had been using were included on the list.

MR. G. MERCIER: All of the arbitrators that the Minister was using are included on the Labour Management Review Committee's list?

HON. M.B. DOLIN: There are some arbitrators that we used that are outside of Winnipeg, when we have an arbitration case, say in Brandon or Thompson, something like that. Now, the Labour Management Review Committee did not consider that need and I've asked them to add to the list so that we have people from outside the city as well, who can hear arbitration cases. So, that wasn't included and we do have some that are used from outside the city that weren't on that list. That occasion arises not very often, but when it does it is a real need and so the Labour Management Review Committee is addressing that, I hope, at this point.

MR. G. MERCIER: How many names are on that list?

HON. M.B. DOLIN: I'm not sure. The list was expanded by them to include some new people, and I'm not sure. I think it's around 10 or 11, I can't remember.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, if the Minister doesn't have that list with her with staff, could she undertake to provide me with a copy?

HON. M.B. DOLIN: Yes, I'd be happy to provide you with that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 2.(f)(1) Conciliation and Mediation Services: Salaries—pass; 2.(f)(2) Other Expenditures—pass;

2.(g)(1) Apprenticeship and Training: Salaries, 2.(g)(2) Other Expenditures - the Member for La Verendrye.

MR. R. BANMAN: Mr. Chairman, has the Department of Labour any statistics available which on a profession

basis shows how we stack up against other provinces with regard to, let's say the number of licenced mechanics in the province, and in the different trades? How do we compare with Alberta, Saskatchewan and Ontario?

HON. M.B. DOLIN: I wonder if what the member is looking for is areas of need where perhaps we don't have as many mechanics as we need, we have too many welders, I'm not sure. Is that what the question really is intended?

MR. R. BANMAN: No, Mr. Chairman. One of the difficulties - and it's interesting the Minister of Highways is here - in implementing a piece of legislation that was passed some 10 years ago I believe with regard to motor vehicle safety in this province was the problem that the legislation required licensed mechanics to sign the form. For years, the governments agonized over the problem of not having enough licensed mechanics around to sign these application forms.

My question is along those lines. Ontario has the same type of legislation, and yet people in Fort Frances or Red Lake or all over do get them signed. I guess, my question is: our apprenticeship programs, are we at par or do we have the same number of tradespeople on a per capita basis who have received their papers versus some of the other provinces, because in this instance it did present a problem?

HON. M.B. DOLIN: I can't give you an answer on the per capita number, a comparison on the per capita number of particular apprenticeship tradespersons across Canada and how we rate. I think that you would have to use a whole lot of variables and factors to get that kind of a comparison anyway.

There are no areas that we have found severely lacking. We have certainly changed the apprenticeship trades that we have, eliminating some, adding others as an obvious need arises. Perhaps one other area that might answer some of your questions is that we have voluntary certification in Manitoba, whereas most other provinces I believe have compulsory certification - most other.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 2.(g)(1) Apprenticeship and Training: Salaries - the Member for St. Norbert.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, I received a copy of a letter that I think was sent by a Mr. Len Fishman to the Attorney-General and to the Minister of Labour with respect to how the amendments to The Pension Benefits Act affected Family Law matters. Is that matter being reviewed?

MR. CHAIRMAN: We haven't passed the item yet.

MR. G. MERCIER: Okay.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Can we pass this item, (g), so we can go to what you want to ask a question under? 2.(g)(1) Apprenticeship and Training: Salaries—pass; 2.(g)(2) Other Expenditures - the Member for La Verendrye.

MR. R. BANMAN: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister could just explain the reduction there.

HON. M.B. DOLIN: The reduction reflects the reduction in the allocation for the Women in Trades Program, Women in Apprenticable Trades Training Program. It was \$271,000 in 1983-84. Our anticipated expenditure is \$100,000 for 1984-85. The reduced allocation reflects our experience with the program over the past couple of years and the reasonable expectations that we have for getting employers' co-operation in participating in the program.

MR. R. BANMAN: Is the Minister saying that while the funds were provided in last year's Estimates, they weren't expended?

HON. M.B. DOLIN: Yes, that is correct. Not all of the funds were expended.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 2.(g)(2) Apprenticeship and Training: Other Expenditures—pass.

2.(h)(1) Pension Commission: Salaries, 2.(h)(2) Other Expenditures - the Member for St. Norbert.

MR. G. MERCIER: Sorry, Mr. Chairman, I thought we were on that item previously, but I'll repeat my question. I received a copy of a letter sent to the Attorney-General and the Minister of Labour with respect to the effects, the changes, in The Pensions Benefit Act had on Family Law matters. It was sent by a Mr. Fishman, I believe, on behalf of the Bar Association and Committee or Sub-committee on Family Law. I'm not asking the Minister to respond to all of the concerns expressed in that letter, but simply to ask her if that matter is being reviewed by her or the Pension Commission.

HON. M.B. DOLIN: Yes, the matter is under review. In fact, there will be probably some slight additional legislative inclusions to the act. I believe that one of the main points was the determination by legal authorities as to when a marriage actually ended, so they could determine the duration of the marriage for the splitting of the pension benefit. The question was whether it ended at this decree or that decree and so on. That had to be set. It would be easier to have a common-law spouse that you can just declare and undeclare. I don't know.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 2.(h)(1) Pension Commission: Salaries—pass; 2.(h)(2) Other Expenditures—pass.

2.(j) Grants - the Member for St. Norbert.

MR. G. MERCIER: Could the Minister itemize the grants that are to be made by the department?

HON. M.B. DOLIN: The grants are to the Manitoba Labour Education Centre, the Community Unemployment Counselling Centre, the Continuing Education Division of the University of Manitoba . . .

MR. G. MERCIER: Could you give the amounts?

HON. M.B. DOLIN: Yes, I will - and to the Labour College of Canada. That's the four under the Grants section.

The Manitoba Labour Education Centre, the request is for \$200,000; the Community Unemployment Counselling Centre is \$62,000; Continuing Education

Division of U of M is \$2,500; and the Labour College is \$4,000.00. There is an increase in the first two, and the other two remain the same.

The increase in the Manitoba Labour Education Centre grant is to provide funding to enable the centre to develop, administer and maintain a program of labour studies in Manitoba and, in particular, to deal with the explanation and dispensing of information concerning workplace health and safety not only to organized employer workshops, not only to the affiliates but to all workers. So it was made on the basis of that being a priority, and they have in fact submitted their budget in accordance with that wish.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, last year the Minister had passed in Executive Council on July 13, 1983, a grant of up to \$30,000 to the Manitoba Federation of Labour to undertake a feasibility study relating to various activities connected with the North Portage Development, but didn't release that information until some time after the House adjourned on or about August 18th or 20th. I would ask the Minister firstly, the grant was to be paid in two instalments with an initial payment of \$15,000 immediately and a subsequent payment of \$15,000 to be paid at the discretion of the Minister with the second payment to be made only in the event that an application by the Manitoba Federation of Labour to the Federal Government for a feasibility study grant is unsuccessful. Could the Minister indicate whether the full \$30,000 was paid to the Manitoba Federation of Labour?

HON. M.B. DOLIN: I'll answer part of that question, because it is all I can answer. I was the Minister responsible at that point, and the lead Minister for the Jobs Fund. That was Jobs Fund money, and it was part of the feasibility study for a new Union Centre development or a development undertaken by the Union Centre.

If I recall correctly, the money was allocated at the request of the MGEA from the portion of monies that they, through the renegotiation of their contract, had allocated to the Jobs Fund. They had indicated this was one place they would like to have a small portion of that money spent, and the Jobs Fund and the government agreed, and that is why the money was allocated.

Now, I know certainly that the project is going ahead. I know that it was included in the recommendation of the North Portage Development Corporation to the three shareholders - that is, of course, another ministry but it's coming out of this side of my head so I'll answer it anyway - so whether the entire amount of that particular expenditure was given to them, I think you would have to ask the Minister responsible for the Jobs Fund, because I simply don't have the information. I do know though that a feasibility study was conducted. I know that they did approach the Federal Government in the sense of submitting a recommendation to the North Portage Development Corporation and certainly convinced that group that they should be included in the development of that area. So the process is under way.

As I say again, it was a request of the MGEA that the Jobs Fund positively consider that request as

coming from their portion of the Jobs Fund monies last year. I think that your question about the other \$15,000, or whatever the amount was, would be better directed to the Minister responsible for the Jobs Fund. At this point he may be able to help you out with that.

MR. G. MERCIER: I wonder if the Minister could indicate whether or not she received a copy of the study. Did you receive a copy of the study?

HON. M.B. DOLIN: I don't remember receiving a copy of the feasibility study. It would not necessarily have come to me and I would think it would go to the Jobs Fund. That's where the money came from, not from any budgetary allocation here.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 2.(j)—pass.

Resolution 109: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$7,255,200 for Labour for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1985—pass.

3.(a)(1) Status of Women, Advisory Council on the Status of Women: Salaries; 3.(a)(2) Other Expenditures.

HON. M.B. DOLIN: If I could make a couple of opening remarks, I think that it might be helpful.

I believe that with the higher profile that the Advisory Council has been given this year that we are all aware of the mandate of that council, but just to refresh our memories, it's to provide advice to the Provincial Government on matters relating to the Status of Women, including any legislation policies or programs of government which impact on the Status of Women. Their objective is to work towards the equality of opportunity and treatment for men and women in the province.

The membership of the council was expanded in July of 1983 to 12 members plus a chairperson, from the original nucleus of six. In 1983-84 there were two staff years for the council and in 1984-85 we are requesting two-and-a-half, 2.26 staff years, the additional half-staff year to provide additional support to the workload of the office. The original request, previous to my even becoming Minister, as I recall, was 2.26 and what we have done is phased this in and we would now be at the point of completing our original design for the implementation of the larger council.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, could the Minister indicate whether she has referred any matters to the Advisory Council for their advice and recommendation?

HON. M.B. DOLIN: Well, I refer a number of items to them on a fairly regular basis and they refer items to me for reflection as well. As far as referring items formally for advice on a particular issue, I would say that there have been instances where the staff and the chairperson have assisted in preparing background material, as the Minister responsible for the Status of Women, I needed for conferences, for speeches, and so on.

Certainly there was co-operation on the pornography seminar that members may have attended, I hope so. That has had quite an impact on Manitobans and is being used now with various other groups.

The council itself has provided, through its brief to the Macdonald Commission, analysis of the status and the problems of single parents, immigrant women, women in the workplace, young women, and so on. So activities are ongoing. They have provided advice in the area of, as I said, pornography, certainly prostitution, various job strategies for women. They've commented on child care provisions through The Day Care Standards Act and its implications.

The amendments to The Pension Benefits Act were monitored, the public hearings were monitored and the Advisory Council provided us with advice on that. Certainly wife abuse, both prevention and assessment strategies and assistance to the victims through shelters and secondary shelters which they are certainly encouraging, as are all councils across the country. So it's a wide-ranging area and I hope that maybe I've covered some of the areas that the member may have been asking about.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, could the Minister indicate what specific item she's referred to the Advisory Council for their recommendations?

HON. M.B. DOLIN: Certainly I asked them to give us their opinions on the impact of the pension changes. We have asked for assistance in the government structures and we have in fact met with all of the Ministers to explain the opportunities that the Advisory Council can offer to various government departments to provide a flow of information and feedback on issues before those various departments. There have also been - well, this was perhaps previous even to the full council as being appointed - but The Day Care Standards Act and its implications, as I have said, received the scrutiny of the first six members while they were in fact doing their other design work for the balance of the council.

Other Ministers, of course, may refer items to the council as well for their feedback and there are various groups that come before the council asking them to bring information to various Ministers. I would not necessarily see or know all of that information because the council, although it is responsible to me and is lodged in this place, provides feedback and advice to the government as a whole.

MR. G. MERCIER: Well, Mr. Chairman, the press release the Minister issued with regard to the expansion of the Advisory Council indicated that the council advised the government through the Minister on matters, so I would expect that the Minister would be aware of all matters in which the Advisory Council were making recommendations.

Mr. Chairman, on another matter. There were reports within the past few months with respect to the number of women hired in the Civil Service, and they were in fact not very complimentary to this government as I recollect. Has the Advisory Committee commented on that or made any recommendations to the Minister?

HON. M.B. DOLIN: There is one area that I perhaps left off my original list. I have asked the council to give us some advice on equal pay for work of equal value which would address in part the question that you have raised.

I think that I wouldn't first of all have to go to the council to know of the problems that we have identified. Women in the workplace have recognized these problems for a long time and I assume it had to be one of them. The fact that we hire a lot of women . . . representative of the population statistics and the government but the salary level is certainly quite different, is of concern to this government. The question of equal pay for work of equal value, if implemented in a responsible way, I believe will address that situation. That is part of the consideration certainly under the employment standards, or Phase II Section of the Labour Law Review. That's where that question would be researched and discussed and perhaps the process determined for rectifying the situation. The advice of the Advisory Council on the Status of Women will be part of the consideration at that time.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, is it not a fact that the number of women employed in the Civil Service has gone down since this government assumed office?

HON. M.B. DOLIN: Perhaps the Minister responsible for the Civil Service Commission could give you the statistics on that. I haven't heard that.

What I do know is that the number of women employed at higher levels in the government, while it may not have increased or decreased, is not reflective of the population figures or anything else. That is something that our affirmative action co-ordinator has as a major part of his mandate. His job is to see that the agreement between the MGEA and the government is put into place so a systematic review of government hiring and promotion and training policies can be completed and acted upon. So we are addressing the problem through the activities of the affirmative action co-ordinator and he is, in fact, a co-ordinator who works with the Civil Service Commission, who works with various other aspects of the government to try to, as I say, rectify these situations which are not our problems alone. I mean they exist in most workplaces unfortunately.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, I would have expected that the Minister responsible for the Status of Women who states in her press releases that the aim of the Advisory Council is to achieve equality of opportunity and treatment of women and men in Manitoba, would be aware of the number of women employed in the Civil Service. I would ask the Minister if she would be kind enough to put together some information that would indicate the number of women employed in the Civil Service as of November 17, 1981, with perhaps a grouping as to the salary classifications because I agree another concern also is not just the number employed but the classification in which they're employed - as of November 17, 1981, and again as of May 24, 1984, and supply me with that information.

HON. M.B. DOLIN: I will do my best with the help of my colleague. I remember that last year I had that information as the Minister responsible for the Civil Service Commission. I had the information in my book on how many men and women were hired in the different areas. At that point in time, which wasn't so very long

ago, and statistics of course are always a little bit behind the time. A few months back, the proportional numbers were approximately 50-50. I mean it was 49 percent women, 51 percent men as I recall. But that was not at all a reflection of where these people were working and what kind of salaries they were earning and what kind of jobs they were doing. It was purely a numerical gender count if you will.

That kind of information I'm certain is available from the Civil Service Commission. I'm sure that it might be a little difficult to get it as of today but we could probably get it as of the end of April or something like that.

But again I want to emphasize that is not really the problem that we are attempting to address. That figure fluctuates a little bit. It has remained about the same for a long time. The problem is systemic, the problem is within, the problem is that women are for the most part earning salaries that are tremendously lower than men are earning and that is what we are attempting to address through the affirmative action co-ordinator's job.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, that's exactly why I have not asked just for a simple comparison of numbers but to include, to perhaps group them in the wage classification, so we can see where they are with respect to salary levels. I'm not disputing, I'm agreeing with the Minister's concern.

HON. M.B. DOLIN: As I said with the co-operation and help of my colleague, who is the Minister responsible now, I can get that information. But it's not you know, it isn't, I guess we've strayed a bit from what we were talking about. I think what the member is trying to point out is that the Advisory Council should have this information at their fingertips and be doing something about it. If that's what he's saying I guess we'd have to supply them with some more help. But we will get the information for the member as soon as we can. I can't promise since it's not my department just when it'll be done.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 2.(j)—pass.

3.(a)(1)—pass, Advisory Council on the Status of Women: 3.(a)(2) Other Expenditures—pass.

3.(b)(1), Women's Directorate: Salaries; 3(b)(2) Other Expenditures - the Member for St. Norbert.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, could the Minister advise us of which expenditures are being reduced in this particular area?

HON. M.B. DOLIN: Which expenditures are being reduced?

MR. G. MERCIER: Are there positions reduced?

HON. M.B. DOLIN: No, there are no positions reduced. We are requesting the same number of positions which is eight.

There was an amount of \$2,000 which was provided in '83-'84 for office furniture which is not requested again for this year since they got the furniture and so we don't need it. Is that what you're talking about?

MR. G. MERCIER: On salaries.

HON. M.B. DOLIN: Oh, I'm sorry. You're talking about salaries.

MR. G. MERCIER: Yes, there's a \$30,000 reduction.

HON. M.B. DOLIN: Oh, sorry I was looking at Other Expenditures.

There is a 27th pay period reductions, and we don't have a 27th pay period this time around. As well there's one vacant position which we will fill approximately September. We won't fill it for the first part of the year so we have not included it in the budget because we will not be expending the salary.

MR. G. MERCIER: How much was expended last year then?

HON. M.B. DOLIN: In salaries, in that appropriation? Let's see. The adjusted vote was \$248,300.00.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, could the Minister advise us of the activities that will take place in this department within the next year?

HON. M.B. DOLIN: Yes, I can. The Women's Directorate provides career counselling to women; acts as consultants and resource personnel at seminars, workshops, conferences and orientation programs; creates a public awareness of women's contributions in the labour force as well as their concerns about conditions in the workplace, specifically as they apply to women. They act as resource persons to special committees such as the Red River Advisory Committee and the Pre-Trades Advisory Committee; participate in the planning and delivery of government programs; and provide input to policy initiatives such as health and safety committees. They provide an up-to-date resource centre of print and audio-visual materials that are used by the public at large, and in 1984-85, as indicated earlier in the information with the Advisory Council, they will be sharing new quarters although they still will be separate from the Advisory Council but they will be able to combine their resource facilities with those that the Advisory Council has so that there will be a combined resource centre for the public to use. We are very much looking forward to that change in office space.

They will also be in a place that is accessible to the handicapped which they have not been previously and the Advisory Council will be moving into the same building so that there will be an accessibility to both programs should they be needed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 3.(b)(1) Women's Directorate: Salaries—pass; 3.(b)(2) Other Expenditures—pass.

Resolution 110: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$419,700 for Labour, Status of Women, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1985—pass.

4.(a) Expenditures Related to Capital Assets. Acquisition/Construction of Physical Assets—pass.

Resolution 111: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$41,000 for Labour, Expenditures Related to Capital Assets, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1985.

Going back to the Minister's Salary, 1(a) - the Member for La Verendrye.

MR. R. BANMAN: Mr. Chairman, just before I make a few remarks, during the line by line, I was going to ask the Minister, apparently a consulting firm by the name of WMC Associates was hired by the province at a cost of roughly \$67,000.00. One of the things that they were supposed to do is look into the Apprenticeship Program in Manitoba. Has the Minister received a report from this consultant group with regard to their report on the Apprenticeship Program?

HON. M.B. DOLIN: The report would actually be received by Employment Services, as I think the member understands . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: The staff can be excused at this point in time.

HON. M.B. DOLIN: . . . but the portion that we would be interested in, of course, would be the apprenticeship section as you mentioned, and that report has been received. I haven't seen it since I've been out of the city for the last couple of days, but it was received.

MR. R. BANMAN: Just in making a few closing remarks, we completed the Department of Labour Estimates, but I would suggest that the controversy and the fight with this Minister has really just begun. If the government is going to insist on bringing forward legislation of the nature outlined in the White Paper, as I mentioned earlier, I believe that in light of her current statement about the relatively good labour relations in the province that we will not only see a deterioration in that labour management area, but we'll also see some major confrontations which I think could be avoided if she would just forget about the White Paper and forget about any legislation that she wants to bring in.

Mr. Chairman, I want to, just in closing, say that it is interesting to note that when in opposition the New Democrats decried and berated and chastised the then government for a number of things. Mr. Chairman, they would go on at great lengths and chastise the then government for refusing to table reports. Mr. Chairman, we have asked this Minister repeatedly to table the report which in this particular instance was not an internal document, was not a report that was done by a staff person for the Minister, it's a report which has had a lot of public input and the public has the right to have.

Mr. Chairman, when they were in opposition they berated and decried and chastised the then government for cutbacks in spending. Mr. Chairman, we have today seen a cutback of 5 percent in this department. While we haven't taken exception to that cutback, I want the record to show very clearly that when they were in opposition they took exception to every cutback the government then had. Now, given the authority and the reins of government, they are pursuing that path in direct contradiction to what they were saying when they were in opposition.

Mr. Chairman, the government now, and then opposition, used to decry and berate and chastise the

then government for any cutbacks in the Civil Service. This Minister has told us today that there is a cutback in this department. They are reducing the staff in this department.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that they, in their tenure as the opposition, raised all these issues and many more and thereby created an expectation and sold the people of Manitoba a bill of goods which they are now not delivering. I believe that the people of Manitoba really will see and have seen - I guess it's not a matter of will, I think we all have an indication now from the polls and from the calls we've been getting and the different things that the government is doing that they have realized that while they say one thing they really do another thing when they are given the responsibility to govern.

So, I would say in closing, Mr. Chairman, that the Minister, if she does move ahead with her Labour bill and it does follow very closely along the lines of the proposals put forward in the White Paper that not only is she going to have a big fight from the opposition with regard to that, because we believe it would not be in the best interest of Manitoba labour and Manitoba business and would not be in the best interest of fostering the climate for labour and management relations in this province which will encourage not only new entrepreneurs to come to this province but they encourage the expansion of the existing businesses. At a time when we already have high unemployment in this province, to bring in legislation which could damage or could even tamper with the hopeful recovery that we see coming, that the government is constantly alluding to, I think it would be foolhardy for them to try it this time, to try in any manner, try and stymie that recovery. So I say to the Minister she should have a real good long look at what she is proposing and what she wants to bring forward, because I repeat myself again, if she does bring in that type of legislation, there will be a lot of opposition and I believe in the final analysis, the people of Manitoba will be the ones that will suffer for it because it will affect the job creation as well as the total well-being of labour and management relations in this province.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 1.(a)—pass.

Resolution 108: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$1,513,300 for Labour, Administration and Finance, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1985—pass.

HON. M.B. DOLIN: Mr. Chairman, may I ask a question?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Madam Minister.

HON. M.B. DOLIN: I would just like to ask if we are proceeding with Urban Affairs Estimates this evening? I understood that they were to follow Labour Estimates but I haven't received official notification.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It will depend on the agreement of the House Leader, I suppose.

HON. M.B. DOLIN: I don't know what that agreement

MR. R. BANMAN: Mr. Chairman, I think it was agreed to by the House Leaders that after Labour, Northern

Affairs is the next one, and then after Northern Affairs, Urban Affairs.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If that was the agreement, that is the agreement.

SUPPLY - AGRICULTURE

MR. CHAIRMAN, P. EYLER: Does the Minister have an opening statement to make?

HON. B. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, I'm pleased to present to the Assembly my department's proposed Estimates for the fiscal year 1984-85.

But before I do, Sir, I want to take this opportunity to say a few words about a gentleman who worked with me in the Department of Agriculture, who was there when I was appointed as Minister, and that was former Deputy Minister, Mr. Rod Bailey. We were just really getting into knowing each other, and knowing how each one operates, when Mr. Bailey was approached by the Federal Government and offered a position, basically a promotion in terms of salary, but as well greater benefits which he indicated to me with respect to retirement, pension, and the like, and did leave us.

I want to take this opportunity to say that while, at the beginning as with any new administration, and having a Deputy Minister appointed by a previous administration, that our relationship would have been fairly, I wouldn't say difficult, but at the beginning fairly strained. But within short order we were able to work matters out, and really his desire to make the department work, and to follow the policies of this administration I want to say that in my mind our relationship and co-operation with each other, and to make that department work, were one of the best in terms of the time that I have been Minister.

I want to wish Mr. Bailey well although I have done that personally and formally in a letter. But for the record, here in this House, to wish he and his wife Kay the very best in their life and work activities in Ottawa.

I know that he is a strong Manitoban. He is involved very closely with us now in the area of federal-provincial relations because he heads the branch in the Department of Agriculture in Ottawa where the federal-provincial agreements are signed. I pay this tribute to him as a good Manitoban, as one who served the department very well, and I certainly want to as a Minister give my gratitude to him for the years that he spent with me, and for the ability to be able to in all honesty train me to be, and assist me in being, a better Minister in a way to handle staff and difficult situations. I say that in all sincerity.

Mr. Chairman, the current expenditures for the coming year are estimated at \$57.7 million, up 7 percent from the 1983-84 level of \$53.9 million. This sum covers both operating expenses and acquisition and construction of physical assets.

I should point out that our projected expenditures for 1984-85 are approximately 50 percent higher than the department's expenditures in 1981-82, the last year of the previous Conservative administration.

Before I go into detail about the department's Estimates I would like to take advantage of this

opportunity to examine, Sir, the differences in philosophy between our government and that of the opposition. As members are aware the present government is strongly committed to the development and growth of Manitoba's agricultural industry. The province, through its programming, has demonstrated its commitment to the farmers of Manitoba. Our approach has been to assist farmers to develop long-term solutions to long-standing problems.

Specifically the department's objectives continue to be as follows:

1. To expand production of agricultural commodities, particularly those which lend themselves to further processing in Manitoba. For example beef, hogs, vegetables, further processing of special crops and the like.

2. To enhance the productivity and incomes of all farmers.

3. To stabilize farm incomes.

4. To enhance the economic viability of existing farm enterprises with particular emphasis on provision of assistance to farmers in financial distress.

5. To conserve the quality of Manitoba's soil resources.

6. Last but not least - to support a development and growth of strong viable rural communities.

In support of these goals the present government has launched a number of major initiatives which have benefited the farmers of this province. These include the Beef Stabilization Program; the Hog Stabilization Program; the Interest Rate Relief Program; the Guaranteed Operating Loan Program; the MACC Buy Down Program; the Farm Financial Mediation Program and so on.

Sir, the Tories, of course, have tried their best to convince the public and the farmers of this province, that the present government has not been responsive to the needs of farmers. The fact is though that this government has provided greater assistance to the farmers of this province than any Tory or Liberal Government in the history of this province. As I've indicated we've increased Agriculture's budget by almost 50 percent since taking office. In contrast to my friends opposite this government has shown that it will not compromise the interests of farmers for the sake of supporting an outdated and muddle-headed fiscal policy.

Let's take a closer look, Sir, at Tory agricultural policy. The opposition has spent over two years complaining about our actions and our supposed inaction. Yet when you look at the criticisms you begin to understand the essence of Conservative philosophy, a mixture of confusion, inconsistency, and archaic thinking.

Members opposite, for example, express concern about farmers who are in financial distress. But having failed to develop any programs of their own to assist these producers the Conservatives now criticize each and every effort of this government to support farmers.

Members opposite say that they're very concerned about the future of the beef industry. Yet, Sir, when they were in office they ruined one program, totally scuttled it, and consistently ignored the pleas of beef producers for assistance. In fact, Sir, the then Leader of the Opposition, the former Premier of this province, prior to being elected as Premier indicated that it would be their government who would assist beef producers with assistance while they were in office.

The opposition on one hand demands that the government reduce its expenditures and on the other demand that the province spend more and more money in agriculture and other areas as well. Well, Sir, I can't help but think that the Conservatives in government are eternal optimists, political Pollyannas. They believe that by playing ostrich, that by burying their heads in the sand that the problems will disappear. But it's only when they are in opposition that they advocate constant intervention and financial assistance on behalf of the public.

Sir, consider these examples of confused Tory thinking. As members recall, the province in response to high interest rates introduced the Interest Rate Relief Program and the MACC Buy-Down Program. Upon introducing this program, the Interest Rate Relief Program, the Tories of course were very critical. Their chief criticism was that the income criterion of \$70,000 was too low. Members opposite alleged that lower-income producers were not real farmers.

The Member for Fort Garry, speaking on behalf of his party, was quoted in the Free Press as saying: "If a farmer does not expect gross receipts of more than \$70,000 a year, then he is not seriously in the farming business," February 6, 1982. Despite the fact that over 70 percent of Manitoba farmers gross less than \$70,000 a year, the Conservatives want to ignore them, to pretend that they don't exist.

Well, Sir, I am pleased to advise that since the program was introduced we have provided assistance to over 1,200 of those non-existent farmers. Mr. Chairman, perhaps the 75 farmers in the Swan River ag rep district, the 71 in the Member for Gladstone's area, in the Gladstone ag rep district, the 56 in the Carmen ag rep district, or the 53 in the Virden ag rep district should call their Conservative MLA's and tell them that they do exist, that they are there.

Sir, the opposition has complained that we aren't doing anything about high interest rates, but I want to remind the members opposite that interest rates didn't begin rising in 1982 or '83. They started to rise in 1978. In 1978, the prime business rate was 8.25 percent. By the end of 1979, it had risen to 15 percent. Where were the Tories then? Hiding their heads in the sand as usual? By the end of 1980, interest rates were over 18 percent. What did the honourable members opposite do for their farm friends then? Nothing. By August of 1981, the prime business rate was at 22.75 percent. Sir, what general relief programs did the Conservatives institute in order to assist the farmers who elected them? Zippo, nothing. They did absolutely nothing.

In contrast, Sir, an NDP Government rolled down interest rates for farmers at no cost to the Manitoba Treasury. Almost 600 farmers took advantage of the Interest Rate Buy-Down Program with savings to them of over \$18 million.

What about the Guaranteed Operating Loan Program? When we brought in the program, the opposition claimed that the program wouldn't help a single farmer, not a single farmer. Well, for the benefit of my friends opposite, I am pleased to indicate that in its first year of operation, the province has guaranteed loans to farmers valued at \$22 million. That's right, Sir, \$22 million.

Where are the farmers located, and who received the assistance? Let's look at the figures. One-and-a-

half million dollars went to farmers in the Portage ag rep district - I'm glad that the member is here, Sir - \$2.4 million went to farmers in the Carman district; \$1.2 million went to farmers in the Russell district; \$1.5 million went to farmers in the Minnedosa district; \$1 million went to farmers in the Treherne district, for the Member for Gladstone. Sir, these are all good Conservative areas. Not bad for a program that wasn't going to help a single farmer, wouldn't you say, Sir, not bad?

Finally, what about the plan for Manitoba beef? My recollection, Sir, is that certain members of the opposition forecast that an insignificant portion of producers would apply for assistance under the program. Again, Sir, let's forget the rhetoric and look at the record. I remember the Member for Lakeside indicating in this House that it would be a great success if 10 percent of the farmers in Manitoba signed up on the program. Sir, to date the program has assisted approximately 5,000 beef producers in Manitoba.

Can you guess at what proportion of Manitoba's beef herd is covered by the plan? Less than 10 percent as was envisaged by the Member for Lakeside? No. Less than 20 percent? No. Fifty percent? No, wrong again. I'm pleased to say, Sir, that this supposedly insignificant program now covers over 75 percent of Manitoba's beef herd.

Sir, I don't blame the Conservatives for having a sour-grapes attitude toward a plan for Manitoba beef. They ignored the pleas of a troubled beef industry. That's right, Sir, they turned a deaf ear to requests for financial assistance. I guess you could say they simply said tough luck, guys, you've got to go it on your own. That's really the system that we are philosophically in tune with, everybody on his own, let's make it on our own — (Interjection) — free for all, the true free enterprise system. So tough luck boys, you can help yourselves.

They hoped that the problem would go away, but it didn't go away. About one-third of the beef producers ceased production in the province. A major packing house closed. I can just see the honourable members opposite now saying — (Interjection) — oh no, Mr. Chairman, a major packing house closed in the Province of Manitoba, and what did the members do when they were in office? Absolutely nothing. Mr. Chairman, compared to what is happening now in term of the Province of Manitoba in working with the people of Brandon and the industry, Sir, we were prepared . . .

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please.

HON. B. URUSKI: . . . and are prepared to put our money where our mouth is. Sir, that didn't come about when over 600 Manitoba employees lost their jobs when Swift's closed.

Sir, I would like to now turn my attention from the province's general record of achievement over the past few years to some details with respect to the proposed Estimates for 1984-85. During the current Estimates process, the Department of Agriculture like other government departments has undertaken to prioritize its activities to attempt to reduce its expenditures where possible, and to expand and strengthen other programming areas.

The department intends to strengthen its efforts and expand its expenditures in a number of specific areas including credit and management counselling, livestock stabilization, land and water, and rural sewer and water services.

Sir, we are in the process of developing an intensive program to upgrade the management skills and productivity of farm families. This effort will involve intensive on-farm review, analysis and consultation. To accomplish this will require stepped-up staff training and computerization of our farm analysis package. In addition to staff involvement, we will utilize the concept of farmers helping farmers. The department also plans to add three more staff to our Financial Management team, one in Winnipeg and two in the regions.

In the area of credit, we have increased the capital authority for lending programs from approximately \$53 million in 1983-84 to \$78 million in 1984-85. I would like to point out that, compared with the last year of the Conservative administration, capital authority for 1984-85 represents a \$42 million increase.

Sir, I previously mentioned the Guaranteed Operating Loan Program. The province has guaranteed loans valued at over \$20 million to about 450 farmers. We've increased the amount of default funding in the program from 1 million in '83-84 to 2 million in '84-85.

The Interest Rate Relief Program will provide some \$4.2 million to farmers in '84-85. This is broken down into \$2.1 million in grants and \$2.1 million in loans. As members may be aware, the program is in the process of winding down. By the time it is completed, assistance of approximately \$14 million will have been provided to over 1,200 farmers in Manitoba. We will also be continuing to commit our commitment to stabilizing the incomes of Manitoba livestock producers.

The Hog Stabilization Program with an enrolment of 950 hog farmers supports approximately 50 percent of Manitoba's total hog marketings. Sir, we have increased current funding from \$1 million to \$2 million a year. We will also be providing an additional \$5 million in capital in '84-85.

With regard to the Beef Stabilization Program, our current funding for this year is about \$5 million. Since commencement of the program we have committed approximately \$25 million. Capital funding for the beef plan in '84-85 will be \$6 million. The total for the two previous years was \$14 million.

Sir, another priority for the department is Land and Water Management. The department will be providing strong follow-up support to the Soils'84 course, which attracted 2,100 participants. In addition, we will be developing programs geared to preserve and enhance the productivity of Manitobas land base.

A comprehensive approach to resolving soil and water management issues will be a major thrust of the new Federal-Provincial Agri-Food agreement. To ensure a co-ordinated approach to our efforts in this area, the department will be consolidating the Land and Water Management functions under the Soils and Crops Branch.

In the area of crop insurance, Sir, we are in the process of enhancing programming to better meet the needs of Manitoba farmers. An example of this is the Ford Security Program now available in many rural areas. We are also making an effort to facilitate increased interaction between the corporation and

producers. My feeling is that this is an important step toward more effective programming.

Finally, Sir, with respect to the province's Rural Sewer and Water Program, members should note that the \$3 million in grants for '84-85 will be augmented by a further \$2 million allocation under the Jobs Fund. The expansion of this program demonstrates, once again, the commitment of the province to the development and growth of rural and northern communities.

I also want to touch upon an issue of vital importance to Manitoba producers. Sir, this is the production and marketing of supply managed products. Thanks to the members opposite, when they were in power, we lost our favourable position in marketing of these products. Yes, Sir, members opposite allowed comparative advantage to be downgraded as the dominant criteria for allocating additional quota among provinces. As a result, Manitoba producers and processors have not gotten their fair share of growing markets. Sir, our processing plants are operating with idle capacity while processors in other provinces have gained some increased production. We are fighting a rear guard action to restore a comparative advantage to its rightful place as the dominant criterion for allowing over-based quota. The battle will be long and hard, but progress is being made, Sir.

I could spend a great deal more time elaborating on the foibles of the Conservatives in the field of agriculture, Sir, but the time doesn't permit. I guess a way of summing up their role would be to say, "Yes, they are friends of farmers, fair-weather friends. When there are problems, their inaction speaks for itself." Of course, the Tories are great friends to farmers when they are on the other side of the House. When they are in opposition they don't have to put their money where their mouth is, they can scream all they want; they can talk about provincial intervention in the marketplace.

Mr. Chairman, in closing I want to say that I'm proud of the efforts of this government, and of the staff in my department, to improve the incomes and the quality of life enjoyed by farmers and other residents of rural Manitoba. I want to pay tribute to all the staff from the management team and to all the field staff who have done a yeoman's job over the last two years during some very difficult times that many farm families have faced. I want to say that they have, in many cases, gone over and above and beyond and have done an excellent job in trying to do the best and assist many farm families. Through its programming the Department of Agriculture, Sir, has been responsive and will continue to be responsive to the concerns and needs of rural Manitoba. I look forward to the discussion of my department's Estimates for the coming fiscal year.

Thank you very much.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Arthur.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to, in my opening statement, make a few corrections for the Minister's benefit, because I don't believe that he would like to leave some of the comments on the record that are inaccurate and incorrect, but I will proceed to do that after I join the Minister; I think that's one area that I can join the Minister, and that is in complimenting the former deputy that he had, Rod

Bailey, and his contribution to Manitoba agriculture. The Minister indicated that Mr. Bailey had helped him, as the new Minister of Agriculture, and provided him with information and guidance. It's unfortunate that Mr. Bailey left before his job was complete, Mr. Chairman, because I think he still had a major distance to go as far as getting the Minister to where he really understands Manitoba agriculture and is able to compete against some of the Ministers that he sits around and tries to speak out on behalf of agriculture. I will be putting a few examples on the record as to that situation.

As a total of the provincial spending, it always has been a concern of mine, and I'm sure the present Minister, that as a percentage it is very small and the numbers of dollars that are allocated never are enough, however, to make a big thing about a 7 percent increase on a \$50 million amount of money is not going to catch the eye of very many people. The total dollars that are in that particular kind of comparison don't add up to be very great. If we were to go back and look at the percentage increases that were put forward during our terms of office, I'm sure it would make the amounts that he is looking at, in percentage basis, look pretty small, and I can refer to the years that I'll be referring to on some special programs and some developments that were taking place.

I've never, Mr. Chairman, heard a Minister in our term of office, or any of my years of experience, this government that's presently in office, get up and give such a blatant political statement and not relate to what he plans to do with the monies that are being allocated. To get up and play politics, and I guess that's fine if that's the parameters of which he is setting out and wants to go through his Estimates in that kind of an environment, then we're prepared to give him that kind of a situation and he's set the kind of ground rules that he wants to work from.

I'm somewhat disappointed because I would have expected more from a Minister of Agriculture who prides himself as being the greatest thing since sliced bread to the people of Manitoba. I always get a little nervous about those people that are more prepared to give themselves credit than they are the people of the province who are doing the actual work, who have worked within the policies and through a demonstrable way, coming back saying that, it's the Minister of Agriculture that's great. He doesn't have to; he shouldn't have to, Mr. Chairman, provide all those accolades for himself. They should flow in and he should sit quietly and expect that that's the way it is. The people, the public should be telling us that.

A MEMBER: He should be a little humble.

MR. J. DOWNEY: That's right, he should be a little humble. But no, Mr. Chairman, we hear the Minister of Agriculture stand and almost break his arms patting himself on the back. It's unfortunate that we have reached that kind of a stage in our democratic system and in our political arena debating on Estimates. I am extremely disappointed in the individual, as I am of course the government.

Let us take a look briefly at his statement and I'll go through it in a short and quick manner because I

have some positive statements that I want to put on the record and some positive ideas that I think might have been helpful. But I just want to, I have to for the record's sake, straighten out some of the comments that the Minister made.

You know in his opening statement on Page 2, their approach as NDP is to assist farmers to develop long-term solutions to longstanding problems. Specifically the department's objectives continue to be as follows: to expand the production of agricultural commodities. Well that's a great motherhood statement. I am sure we all want to continue to expand. We want to, as well, as a Progressive Conservative Party, expand and increase the prices for the agricultural commodities. That's one of the major objectives of the Progressive Conservative Party, to increase the prices for those commodities, as well as increase the production. We are not a party that believes in continuing on and continuing to increase commodities and forgetting all about prices. I am disappointed that the Minister hasn't alluded to the low prices that farmers are getting in our society.

Mr. Chairman, he makes reference to processing in Manitoba. The Minister of Agriculture doesn't know what processing is. He sits and tells us all about this great processing industry that he wants, when he sits back and allows the Minister of Finance to increase the tax on gasohol produced from agriculture produced commodities, an industry that was started during the Progressive Conservatives years and he moves to stifle that industry and sits back and doesn't protect the farm community.

What happens when the Burns Food Plant closes? Well, Mr. Chairman, he says we're going to do great things. Let him see, let him prove himself, what he can do, because in his election promise of 1981 there would be no one lose their job, there would be no one who would go out of business. That was a commitment by this Minister of Agriculture. Let him live up to that, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, we talk about stabilizing the farm income. We believe that the farm income should not be stabilized at a lower price or a price below cost of production. We believe that it should be stabilized at sufficient returns to pay for the kinds of expenses that are incurred in producing the foods that are produced.

Mr. Chairman, the other reference that I wanted to make, that our record will stand any day against this government, when it comes to the development of food processing industries. When you look at the Harrowby Oil Seed Crushing Plant in the western region of the province, it was under a Progressive Conservative Party that brought that industry to this province. It was our economic policies, our support that brought that industry to this province and tell the people of that community that we weren't doing our job. When he stood in his place, he said we weren't doing our job. Well, the record shows that we did our job in many areas in all those places.

Mr. Chairman, the Minister says to enhance the economic viability of existing farm enterprise, with particular emphasis on provision assistance to farmers in financial stress. Record bankruptcies in the Province of Manitoba, under the NDP Government, a 400 percent increase under the New Democratic Party and he stands and brags and pats himself on the back.

Look at the numbers of farm sales that have been throughout Manitoba this year. They weren't declared farm bankruptcies. They were forced sales, Mr. Chairman, the farmers decided that they wouldn't go through the bankruptcy route, but would close out their operations before they were forced into that situation. Selling off of farm land quarters and halves to those people that could buy them. That's the record of the New Democratic Party and let the public records of this Legislative Assembly show that it's under this Minister of Agriculture that those are the kinds of achievements this province has reached in agriculture. It's a shame and the record shows it and I'm extremely disappointed that this Minister has to stand in his place to try and defend himself and say that he's been the greatest thing that this province has seen. I think the people of Manitoba are fed up with him, as they are with their Premier and the other group of people in society.

Mr. Chairman, No. 5: To conserve the quality of Manitoba's soil resources. Well certainly. That's a motherhood statement. When hasn't the Department of Agriculture had a major thrust in the continued resourcefulness in the preservation of our soils and our water resources? I haven't heard any major announcement on assistance programs for seeding down of grasses, for seeding down of trees - where there's certainly last week demonstrated — (Interjection) — that's right, where they could have demonstrated support to the conservation of our soils when we saw the kinds of winds that hit us last week. I think we have to rethink, Mr. Chairman, with the monies that are put into our agriculture system, ways of encouraging the kind of planting of trees and grasses that will do that.

I guess the other one is the viability of our rural communities. Well you talk to any of the farm machinery dealers today, or any of those people that are selling to farmers, any of those people that are trying to sell and serve the farm community. Ask them how rosy their community is right today; ask them how their business is. They have never had such a difficult time in all their lives. We have never seen so many businesses close in some of the small communities than under this NDP Government. Yes, it's a record he should be proud of and I hope that he takes note of these comments because they will certainly - this statement will certainly haunt him in his many years to come and he won't be sitting in the Minister of Agriculture's chair, I can tell you that.

Let us talk about the Beef Stabilization Program. What did we do with the Beef Stabilization Program when we got into office? We scrapped it, Mr. Chairman, because what were they doing? They were asking - the program said, you farmers have to pay all that money back. What good was the program? When they needed the money, they weren't allowed to keep it. The government put a program in place that forced repayment of a beef program. It wasn't in the best interests of the farm community. Yes, Mr. Chairman, we scrapped it and I'm glad we did and I'll stand on that record any day. I got rid of it and I wouldn't hesitate again, given the same program was sitting before me. I wouldn't hesitate again, given the same opportunity, because it wasn't in the best interests.

Let's talk about money in the beef industry. In 1980 when the drought hit, Mr. Chairman, 1979-80, 1980

when we had the worst drought this province had seen, the Progressive Conservative Party moved forward with \$40 million to provide beef services and provide green feed programs for this province. No repayment, as this government says he's helping the beef industry - pay your premium and we'll give you a little money. When the beef industry needed the Progressive Conservative Party we were there and we weren't chintzy and we didn't ask them to sign up and pay a premium. We said here's \$40 million, use what you need of it. They didn't use it all, but it maintained the beef herd in a time of need. So take that and listen to some of the things that were put in place when we were in office. If you want to play the political game in here, I'll give you all you can take.

The Hog Stabilization, Mr. Chairman, we put a hog stabilization in place which they picked up and carried along with, the guidelines were there. It was a good program and they knew enough to keep it. Thank God they did. You heard another example today. If it hadn't have been for a Progressive Conservative Party in Manitoba before this group of incompetent people, we wouldn't have had anything going for us, all the guidelines were there. We found the potash. They're now saying that they came up and invented potash in the western region of the province. Aluminum - you know all at once they found aluminum. What are they trying to do to the people of Manitoba?

Let us carry on, Mr. Chairman, to the Interest Rate Relief Program. Who introduced the Manitoba Agricultural Credit Corporation since Day One, 1958, the Duff Roblin Government introduced a tool to help the farm community and in our term of office, he talks about interest rate relief. We introduced a 4 percent rebate to the borrowers at MACC, a 4 percent interest rebate. — (Interjection) — And thank God he didn't get away with it.

So these are all things. He's standing here as if he invented the wheel. I am extremely disappointed in him. Guaranteed operating loans, in place when he took office. We had a Guaranteed Lending Program. I hope he knows enough to negotiate well with it. I know that some of the lending institutions aren't accepting it. I know that it isn't broadly accepted by all institutions. He should be working on that one, as well as standing here bragging about it.

The MACC Buy-Down Program. Yes it saved some farmers some money. How much did they have to dig out of their pocket in real cash money to have that saving? Put an imposition on those people who didn't have it, Mr. Chairman, imposed an immediate cash outlay that they didn't have. The Farm Financial Mediation Program, well goodness sakes, I'm pleased to know that he put in a Mediation Program but we still have record numbers of bankruptcies. So you know his record isn't quite as shiny as he is portraying it on the public record and it has to be shown.

I carry on and I will try to conclude fairly quickly on this but I think it's an extremely important thing to have on the record. The Minister of Agriculture continues to make a big issue about the beef assistance and again I'll go back and make reference to the programs that were put in place. Actually when it comes right down to it, the biggest problem that we had with that old beef program that they talk about is that there were a lot of people who said, make them pay back all the

money. We said, we will make a consideration if it's impossible for you to do it that maybe there are ways that we can help if you're in a difficult situation.

There are still some people - and I'm going to ask him specifically - that haven't paid back the money. There is a commitment to the province. Is he going to take them to court? He says yes, he's going to take them to court. Now he says no. Well, I think those are questions that we will get into, Mr. Chairman, questions like that. Is he carrying out his responsibility when it comes to dealing with that particular situation?

He makes reference to the fact that our colleagues have commented on the \$70,000 gross income. I believe it's correct - and I stand corrected - that was increased, was it not? Was that limit not increased to \$70,000.00? There wasn't an increase made? He says, no there wasn't. Well, that's fine I stand corrected. I was under the impression that maybe he had listened to the opposition when they were making their case as far as the . . .

He makes further reference to a program of interest rate relief. Well, the Debt Consolidation Program which was introduced by our government, another program introduced which he was able to pick up, Mr. Chairman. A lot of these things that this government have done as far as the MACC was just a matter of nudging them to further expand and get into the areas in which we felt it was important. You know, they're playing this little game of cheap politics with the farm community. He points out in this Legislature that the community of Swan River gets - I can't find it - he's into Carman, \$2.4 million and separates out and segregates these communities saying that we have to pay so much money to different communities.

We're one farm community, Mr. Chairman, we're one family. We don't single those types of things out. It's the kind of cheap political game the Minister of Finance was playing, saying that each farmer had \$6,400 worth of road use. How cheap a political game do they want to play? I think we're all part of this community and you don't single those kinds of things out unless you're into a cheap political game. It just won't wash.

I want to, as well, straighten one other thing out for the record because he is not telling the total facts, Mr. Chairman. He is telling us, this committee, something that actually isn't accurate. He makes reference that the members of the opposition had said that not 10 percent, or not 20 percent, or no, 50 percent of the producers in Manitoba would not participate in the program. That's fairly accurate, less than 50 percent — (Interjection) — less than 20 percent. Mr. Chairman, he's using apples and oranges again. What he is saying . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please.

The Minister of Agriculture on a point of order.

HON. B. URUSKI: The honourable member is indicating that no member on their side said less than 10 percent. Mr. Chairman, the Member for Lakeside spoke in this House and said that we would be lucky if 10 percent, and in fact the third estate, or fourth estate whatever they call themselves, the news media heard that and quoted him - or fifth estate. The Fifth Estate is a television program. I don't give him that much credit.

The honourable member cannot, and should not, deny that because it was made by his colleague just two seats away from him.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Well, Mr. Chairman, I'm surprised that you allowed the Minister to interrupt my comments. I was in full flight, and now I'm going to have to regroup, and rethink, and it will take me a minute to do so. But I think I'll be able to recover and continue on, Mr. Chairman.

I am not going to mention specific members, but accusations were made as to the numbers of people who would participate in the program. He tries to offset that argument with a statement today by using the numbers of beef cattle in the province that are under the program, Mr. Chairman. He is the one whose not coming clean to this committee.

It is said in his annual report that there are 14,000 beef producers and dairy producers, in the province. It says in his annual report. He says from his seat there are more. Okay, there are more. That even makes it better, he says there are more. There are 4,000-and-some beef producers participating in the program so what we said is pretty accurate - 4,000-and-some participating in the program against 14,000 or more isn't 50 percent, Mr. Chairman, it's closer to the 25 percent and the 20 percent and the 15 that was said here initially. It's numbers of producers we were talking about, not numbers of cattle as this Minister is trying to mislead this committee.

Come clean, Mr. Chairman, I tell him to come clean because that's the big problem with this Minister. He has a little problem in that area; he plays very dangerously with the truth. He plays very dangerously and he's caught at it, Mr. Chairman. He's done it in this particular situation. He's done it here by using the numbers of cattle signed up, not the numbers of producers, the number of cattle signed up to make it look good. The numbers of producers he's forgot about talking about, Mr. Chairman, because it doesn't look so good because there are 4,000-and-some signed up as opposed to 14,000-and-some total producers. It is he who is not coming clean with this committee and I don't have to back up anything that I say. He says here, tough luck, guys, that's the kind of . . . I say tough luck to this Minister because he's not able to get away with it.

I think it's extremely important that we go through these Estimates now that we've found out what he's up to. We will take quite a bit of time, Mr. Chairman, and go through them with a fine tooth comb because he tries to make out that they're major thrusts. Well, I hope that he's prepared to give credit. He talks about the Soils Course, again, another program implemented by this particular government. The major thrust out of the Federal-Provincial Agreement, Agri-Food Agreement. Well, again, who set that up? That was initiated prior to him.

I, Mr. Chairman, am not going to get into that particular type of argument from here on. I'm going to make a few other statements that I want to make and I would hope the Minister in his comments, in going through the Estimates, would really get into the spending of money and how it benefits and if he wants to pay the political game, we can do that as well. In

fact, I think he's batting against a pretty good bunch of pitchers when it comes to taking on the Tory Caucus and dealing with strictly the philosophical approach, and then he's even in worse position when it comes to dealing with the expenditures.

Well, I pointed out the bankruptcies are up, Mr. Chairman. The service costs provided by his department are up. The services that are provided are down. The farmers are faced with decreasing grain prices. They are looking at squeezes on quotas on the supply management side. We are being extremely squeezed. We aren't able to continue to produce to our maximum as we were able to expand. Under the Broiler Agreement as we signed it in our term of office, if you were producing for a market outside of Canada you could, in fact, produce without having any regulations on you. That was put in place. In fact, today if a broiler producer wanted to produce broilers, have a broker in the United States and have them sold right here in Winnipeg he could do so without even affecting the particular situation. Those are the kinds of mechanisms that were put in place. This government in its Agricultural Department lacks leadership, it lacks initiative and ideas.

I would hope the Minister would give us a list of retirements from his department because I know of many of his staff, senior people, directors and such, who have thrown their hands up and left. They've retired and taken early retirement, not because they wanted to but because the philosophical approach of this Minister didn't fit in line with the farm community in Manitoba.

I would ask him to provide us with a list of those retiring people. There was the Director of our Farm Lands Protection Branch has retired. There were certain directors, I know, and regional directors, and changes made within the staff. There have certainly been good friends of the Minister promoted into the critical areas of policy decision which, I know, there are some concerns by some of the farm community. I would hope the Minister would provide for us the kind of lists of people that he looked at, and I'm sure that in selecting a lot of his staff he would look straight to Saskatchewan because there seemed to be an exodus of top people coming out of there. I'm not criticizing the individuals or their qualifications.

What we will do is watch what the outcome of the Estimates are and in debate, we will see if they are in tune with Manitoba agriculture, Mr. Chairman, or in tune with the philosophical approach of this Minister and these members. That's the key, Mr. Chairman. Are they in tune with Manitoba agriculture, or are they in tune philosophically with the Minister and with his government? I hope for their sake and for agriculture's sake, they are in tune with agriculture, because it's important that they have to work hand in glove with the farm community. It's been traditional, and we will hope that it carries on that way.

The only major thrust, of course, has been the removal of the rights of farmers to sell their land to people that they are desirous of doing. If they are a non-farm corporation, then they are unable to sell their land. I don't know where the proclamation of the farm lands legislation is. I don't know whether he is going to back off or withdraw it. I would hope in today's tough, economic times in Manitoba agriculture that he wouldn't

restrict farmers from selling their land and maximizing their returns. I would hope he wouldn't restrict it, because we are in a severe economic recession as far as the farm community is concerned.

Who would you sell a farm to today, Mr. Chairman? I ask the question of the Minister. Who would he sell a farm to if you wanted to sell out lock, stock and barrel? Who wants to get into the business? And he is further tightening up the opportunities of farmers to pay off debts and to sell land. You know, he's going the wrong way. He is swimming upstream; he's walking against the sandstorm, instead of trying to stop the sandstorm. Mr. Chairman, he has to come to his senses.

Another area that has been raised and commented about briefly is, of course, the operation of the Crown Lands Branch. Certainly there are some questionable things that have taken place in that area, and we will be delving right into that. I know that some of my colleagues have talked to their constituents, as I have had constituents approach me.

I believe I had a constituent of the Member for Ste. Rose who has certainly had a pretty major shaft by this government, and I know that the Member for Ste. Rose would want to deal with it. We probably will be able to deal with it publicly here in the Estimates, so that he is well aware of it and the people back home would know the kind of treatment that he gives his constituents. We will look forward to his participation in that particular debate.

Mr. Chairman, again I want to conclude my opening remarks by saying, this Minister stands to pat himself on the back when Manitoba agriculture is going bankrupt, when he hasn't had one new idea or one new thrust to bring in to give those people that are waiting for a turnaround. He's not doing the kind of thing that the farm community would expect. If he were, the accolades would come from the farm community to him. He wouldn't have to stand up and say, what a great guy I and my government are. We would actually see the kind of compliments come through from the public.

Mr. Chairman, I look forward as well, as I said, to going through line-by-line of the debate on the Estimates of the Department of Agriculture and will I'm sure, with my colleagues, give the Minister of Agriculture the roasting that he deserves.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister may bring in his staff.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Bring him in.

HON. B. URUSKI: I'll get my staff, Mr. Chairman.

MR. J. DOWNEY: They're scared to come in, Billy. Oh, he's not afraid to come in.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Ste. Rose.

HON. A. ADAM: Just before staff sit down, the Member for Arthur, the critic, mentioned about a farmer and I think he was referring to one specific case in the Ste. Rose area. I want the record to show that the problems that one individual has experienced in Ste. Rose, that the major problem began in 1979 and that is when the Member for Arthur was sitting, I think, in this seat that

I'm sitting in now, or very close to it, and was the member responsible for the farmers in the province. That's where the problem started with this individual was back in 1979, when he was in office, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Page 13, Item 1.(b) Administration and Finance, Executive Support - the Member for Emerson.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand that under the Executive Support is where we can sort of make broader statements as well. I would like to take this opportunity to maybe put a few remarks on the record as well.

First of all I want to compliment my colleague, the critic of Agriculture the Member for Arthur, for doing a tremendous job of illustrating some of the weaknesses of this Minister. I thought he did a remarkable job of roasting the Minister and I just want to add a few comments to that.

Just glancing over the report that the Minister of Agriculture read to the committee here a little while ago, I'm a little confused as to how a Minister would come forward with a statement like that with very little of his own projects in there, basically criticizing the Conservative administration of a few years ago, that's what it is all about in here. At a time in the agricultural community when there are many major problems that this Minister, after a few years of being in office already - it's over two years now - would still be pointing the finger back a few years ago when we were in government and say that's where the origin of the problem comes from. It's stupid — (Interjection) — no, I'm not referring to that.

I am just very disappointed that this Minister has not addressed himself more properly to the problems that there are out there and they're major problems. I don't think the agricultural community has ever been in more dire straits than it is right now, irregardless of all the flowery words that we use. I feel very upset really with the Minister's lack of direction. The Member for Arthur referred to it already. There is no positive direction in the area of concern in agriculture, for example, the credit end of it.

Right now the fact - and this is not the fault of the Minister - that FCC's loans are 15 percent and it looks like they might even be going higher, but it has come to the point where nobody can afford to borrow money for farming anymore. At 15 percent with FCC - I don't know what the rate is presently at MACC, I think it is 13.5, 13.75, whatever, okay.

These are high interest rates. You can go down to a credit union right now and borrow for less money than you can through MACC or FCC. It's tragic. This is the thing that I think - well I would like to maybe address it more under MACC financing, that section there - but the lack of movement of this Minister in that direction to provide long-term credit for farmers. There is a definite lack of it, and I'll get into that a little bit more under MACC. We'll give you some good suggestions, although we have found out with this government that suggestions fall on deaf ears because they just trundle along on their own way, but we have many suggestions to make in these areas.

I just wanted to make these comments, Mr. Chairman, that there's lack of positive direction from this Minister's

opening statements. You know, he's fighting a backwash to some degree of years ago what happened, instead of looking forward and trying to resolve some of the problems that are now major problems.

There are many things, for example, in the resolution that the Member for Arthur brought forward about cream shippers. I was surprised that the Minister said we could never support that kind of resolution. I'll deal with that under the Private Members' Hour when we deal with the quota system and the marketing of a product. But it's tragic when you consider that our cost of food production is the lowest per dollar earned in the world. If it's not the lowest, it must be very near the lowest. As long as we promote that kind of a cheap food policy, we have to start looking in terms of trying to keep the industry healthy.

So these are many of the things, as the critic indicated, as we're going through with these Estimates, that there is going to be criticism. I hope that the Minister will listen to some of these. So with those comments, Mr. Chairman, we will have more comments later, as I indicated. I hope the Minister wakes up and realizes that there are major problems out there. If he doesn't, he should get out among the farm community and find out what it's like for a change.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Arthur.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, we're on Executive Salaries. Could the Minister tell us how many Executive Assistants he has, and Special Assistants?

HON. B. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, I have one Executive Assistant and one Special Assistant.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Are they both stationed in the Winnipeg office, Mr. Chairman?

HON. B. URUSKI: No.

MR. J. DOWNEY: He's tight with his information, Mr. Chairman. One assistant is in Winnipeg, where is the other one and what is the policy? Is there an automobile provided for both or is there an automobile provided for either one? What is the set-up as far as they are concerned and where are they stationed?

HON. B. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, my Executive Assistant is in the constituency in Arborg and my Special Assistant is here in Winnipeg. There are no automobiles provided. If there are any business trips to be made, they use their own automobiles.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, does the Minister provide an office for the Executive Assistant in his constituency?

HON. B. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, there is and has been an office provided in Arborg that I had for my Executive Assistant during my period when I was Minister from 1973-77 and it continues to be provided at this point in time in the Government Building in Arborg.

MR. J. DOWNEY: In other words, we have the Minister of Agriculture's Executive Assistant provided with an

office and all the services, a secretary and that type of thing, at the expense of the government. So we have the Minister of Agriculture now indicating to us that he has an Executive Assistant, a government office supplied for him, as well as all the services that would be in a normal Civil Service. For political support, with taxpayers' money, we are now providing services to the Minister for a political hired person. That's what he's telling us.

HON. B. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, the public purse has always paid for Executive Assistants. There is no secretarial service for my Executive Assistant in the Arborg office. He may use from time to time, if it's available, some of the typing services in there. The office was there from 1973-77 and continues to be there today.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, I'm not sure but I think, if I'm hearing the Minister correctly, we have the Minister of Agriculture with an Executive Assistant in Arborg who's having an office provided for him by the taxpayers of the province. Is that what he's telling us? He's telling us that he has an Executive Assistant who is having an office provided by the taxpayers for political purposes. I don't believe that's in the best interest of taxpayers' expenditure, to support a political party, and that's what we're doing, Mr. Chairman. If the Minister is doing that, come clean and tell us.

HON. B. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, I've told the honourable member that it is nothing new, it's been done since 1973. When I was Minister in 1973, the government did have an executive office in Arborg, in the Government Building and it continues to be there today.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, I guess this is news to me because certainly in my term as Minister and my colleague's, I'm not aware that it was government policy that the taxpayers provided funds to rent an office for political purposes. Here's what we're having right now. We're seeing a reduction in lots of areas of expenditure and the provision of services, an increase in the cost provisions in certain areas and yet here we see an increase in this particular Not only is it providing him an office, but we're also seeing an increase in the Salaries and Other Expenditures as well. I would like the Minister to justify what these other expenses are and what the increases are.

HON. B. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, in terms of changes in salary increases, 1984-85 salary adjustments, I think there is an increase of \$12,000.00. Other Expenditures to provide funds towards the expense in that area is hosting the Ministers' and Deputy Ministers' Conference to be held in Winnipeg in 1984-85. Part of that increased expenditure is to cover the ministerial conference.

On Salaries, there is a salary adjustment increase of \$12,000, but there is a decrease of the 27th pay period of \$10,000.00. So in terms of Salaries, there is a net increase of \$1,700.00. But the increase in Other Expenditures of \$30,000 is to provide funding towards the expense of hosting the Ministers' Conference during 1984-85.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, on that point, I'm glad that the Minister is hosting the Ministers' Conference and I hope they give the kind of reception that has been given to Manitoba, as I have been a part of those activities and I think it's extremely important.

However, before we leave this, I would like the Minister to give us an estimate or a calculated figure as to the value of the office space that he is providing for his Executive Assistant for political purposes in the Arborg office? What is the value of the office that the taxpayer provides for his Executive Assistant in that area?

HON. B. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, I will provide that. We don't have the information now, but we'll provide that for the honourable member.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, the policy studies - does the Minister have any specific areas of policy study that he's working on? Would this be the appropriate place to ask the question as to the cost of doing a study of the Manitoba Crop Insurance, who did that study and how much money was paid for doing that study?

HON. B. URUSKI: Most of the work that has been done on the specifics of crop insurance was done internally but there were some expenditures made towards the crop insurance as one of the many studies. I could give him some of the expenditures there. There has been butterfat study, family farm study, ecological agriculture study, Farm Lands Protection Act, the Beef Stabilization Committee came out of those expenditures. Those were 1982-83. In 1983-84, part of the work on lands protection, farm financial review panels come out of there, milk study and further milk studies totalling for last year, \$154,600.00.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, the Minister says it was an internal study on the crop insurance. I would want a little bit more information on that. The Manitoba Crop Insurance is a corporation that is separate from government and I'll ask him specifically, did he have Harry Weiss hired, and did he receive \$60,000 from the Manitoba Government to do a contractual investigation of the Manitoba Crop Insurance.

HON. B. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, I said there was a small amount on crop insurance. Yes, we did have part of the work done by Mr. Weiss for an amount of \$5,200.00.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Was that the total amount of money that Mr. Weiss received from the government or from Crop Insurance to do that investigation?

HON. B. URUSKI: For 1983-84, yes.

MR. J. DOWNEY: What was the total amount paid to Harry Weiss for the work that he did with the Manitoba Crop Insurance, whether it was 1983-84 or whatever year, Mr. Chairman?

HON. B. URUSKI: There was an amount of \$10,000 in 1982-83.

MR. J. DOWNEY: . . . opportunity to see the work that was done. Does he have a report for that \$10,000 and \$5,000, \$15,000? Did Mr. Weiss provide a document with recommendations or what was it? I think for the \$15,000 there should be some accountability for what he did. I would like the work that he has done tabled.

HON. B. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, the honourable member, had he attended one of our meetings on crop insurance in his own area, as some other members did, part of the work that Mr. Weiss did along with staff of the corporation and along with other staff within our department, in a team approach, in the review and the options for change to improve coverage levels, to improve the rating structure, to basically try and improve the program, he was involved in that whole review.

Part of that review has been made public to the farmers of Manitoba, of which that was the second stage. The first stage was the review done internally along with the corporation and staff from our own department and he participated in. The second stage were the options that we were looking at were put forward to farmers of this province, of which we held, I believe, 11 or 12 public meetings, at which time some of his own colleagues attended, and former colleagues, attended those meetings and participated in the discussions.

The corporation has now taken back those suggestions made at those meetings and the next stage for the corporation to be involved in is the detailed discussions and negotiations with the Federal Government for possible changes in the program. We can discuss those changes when we get to crop insurance, Sir, but the work was internal and it's part and parcel of the review and the information that was put out publicly by the corporation and myself at the public meetings. There was no study per se, but the options and the ideas were incorporated in the public presentation that was made at the 12 public meetings around the Province of Manitoba.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, was the money paid to Mr. Weiss a contract, was there a contract signed? What period of time did he work for the province for that kind of money? Was it one month, two months or three months? If he hasn't got a document to provide, maybe he could give us the term in which he was hired and, if it was a contract, what were the terms of the employment? Was it \$1,000 a day?

HON. B. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, I don't have the contract here, we will get that information, but it was a contract and it was over a period of time, overlapping two fiscal years.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Well, Mr. Chairman, I will proceed on if the Minister will, before the end of the Estimates of the Department of Agriculture, live up to his commitment. I think we have some of the commitments from last year that maybe would have to be checked out to see whether we've got them or not, but I want that commitment because we will be checking up on him.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Morris.

MR. C. MANNES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I'd like to ask some specific questions regarding the studies that were completed. Just having come through Education Estimates I asked that particular Minister to table the reports that went along with those studies. I'm wondering if the Minister would be prepared to table all the reports that resulted in the studies that he listed?

HON. B. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, some of those, for example, some of the studies in policy studies would be held internally and only for the reason that, in one case, and that is the case where there is a court case pending, and that is the largest amount of the monies spent last year of \$40,000 dealing with milk and the review. The lands protection work, if there are any studies, well in fact the studies that there are available in the department that have been done of a public nature have been released, such as, the Ecological Review. That study is in the library and executive summaries of that study were made available to a whole host of people who had written to us about it; that was distributed publicly. Meetings and work on farm lands protection, the Crown Land Rental Review, that report will be made public. The Crown Lands Committee is still operating, they have made interim recommendations to the government and there will be final recommendations coming likely before October of this year, before the new rental formula is established because there is a Crown Lands Rental Committee working.

In terms of the milk study, that would be work along with the other milk work study by Paul Phillips from the University of Manitoba, and the panels, the Farm Financial Review Panels, are the workings of the panels and the payments that have been made to the panel members on review panels come from this line in the expenditures, as well.

MR. C. MANNES: I have a question, Mr. Chairman. As it appears the Minister has tabled or made public at least some of the reports, and I can understand his desire to, of course, keep it confidential, those that lend themselves to possible court cases. I would ask if he could tell us what new areas will be studied in the next fiscal year? Obviously there must be some decisions that have been made regarding what possible areas will be studied. I'm wondering whether or not quota values and their apparent existence in some of the supply managed areas, whether or not that is one subject that this policy group will be studying?

HON. B. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, there will be a number of areas that will be studied, some of which may be paid out of here, some of which may be done internally. Whether or not the issue that the member raises dealing with quota values, that is an issue being discussed presently with all the marketing boards and most marketing boards have addressed that problem in their own internal policies with the exception of the Milk Board of which they are finalizing their work on the whole policy of quota transfer and quota values.

As I indicated, the study on Crown lands and forage rentals is continuing and will continue. There is a study

conducted by the University of Manitoba on farmers' rights as debtors. The financing of the Farm Financial Review Panels will continue out of this area and further work on milk, in the milk area, further studies. That is what is on their way now and that is being paid out of this year's work.

At the present time I would only be speculating and not giving the member any concrete information as to what might be happening in terms of further studies. This whole area dealing with policy studies does attempt to deal with, at times, problem areas that may come up that are not envisaged and cannot be accommodated within the department's own policy area and, if additional help is needed, that's where funds would be taken out of. So there is no sort of time line and budget issues in this area that are committed, other than those that I've already indicated.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Turtle Mountain.

MR. B. RANSOM: Mr. Chairman, I have one question respecting the ecological farming report. Last year the Minister indicated that he was undertaking this because it was necessary to sensitize some of the staff to this way of thinking. I wonder if he has achieved that sensitization of the staff with this report?

HON. B. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, that is but one facet and one area that the member selectively likes to bring out about the study. There were a number of public meetings held as a result of the report; there were consultations with a number of groups in the province and I take that comment in the vein that it was put forward, I believe in jest.

MR. B. RANSOM: Yes, but have they been sensitized?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Item 1.(b)(3)—pass.

Item 1.(c)(1) Communications Branch - the Member for Arthur.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. J. DOWNEY: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I know it certainly is not a normal situation to do this, but I know the Speaker isn't in the Chair. I see a school from my constituency of Reston up there. I'd like to acknowledge that they're here if you would allow me to deviate from the Estimates for a minute. I'll be begging out for a few minutes to go and say hello to them in the hall.

I have a question dealing with the Communications Branch, Mr. Chairman. I've had quite a number of calls dealing with the cutting out of a market report letter that I think was pretty valuable and I know that many constituents of a lot of my colleagues - and again the Member for Ste. Rose had some constituents calling me as well - indicating that they were disappointed that it was cut out. What is the Minister going to do? Is he going to reconsider the decision? Is he going to reimplement the newsletter or is it gone forever?

HON. B. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please.

HON. B. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, we are following up and maybe the member wasn't aware. We did have

representations made when the report was curtailed. I basically have indicated that anyone who is interested in receiving the report and is prepared to let us know that they are prepared to pay the cost of the report, that information is available from other sources which we provide to other sources in the media. The radio stations, the newsprint media, that information is provided by the department.

While it is true it was in a convenient form, we felt that that information is on Teledon, I believe, and in other print media. But if people still want that report - in fact, the department is doing a media survey to find out exactly how people are getting their information and where they are getting it, what information they are using, so that we might be able to, in our own internal policies and presentations through our Communications Branch, be able to respond more effectively than possibly we have in the past. Once this review is complete, we will be looking as to whether or not we should use the tablet form as we have in the past on the market surveys and market reports, or whether we should be using some other form of media for the presentation. That information is now being provided by our department in other forms although it may not be in as a convenient form as some people would like.

I did indicate publicly that if people were interested in receiving this document and paying the costs of making it and transmitting it, I believe that my office received less than a half-a-dozen inquiries about that report. So other than that we have not at this point in time made a final decision as to whether we will reinstitute that reporting or not.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, I would like to have known what the cost of it was, because I'm sure it would be pretty miniscule, the amount of money that it would have cost to turn it out, and if he's looking for cost savings I could recommend that he get rid of one executive assistant or the office that he's in and take away some of the political support staff that people are paying for and provide that kind of information to the farm community.

What are the staffing numbers? I know last year there was a major concern by the department and by the farm community that there was a major shift taking place from the Communications Branch into the political arena within the Premier's office, that the Communications Branch would lose a lot of its direct program input and I would hope that the Minister could now come back and say that the other system didn't work, that he's reverting back.

Probably the other question is, will he be able to provide us with a list of all last year's staffing and this year's staffing, numbers for the different departments? It would be helpful and then we don't have to ask it in each one. But I do want to know specifically on this one, what is the staff complement within the Communications Branch this year compared to last year? Is there any further proposed changes as far as moving of people out of the Agricultural Communications Branch?

HON. B. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, what I'll try and do as we move to every area on the Estimates, I will give

the honourable member the staff complement. Just to go back on the Executive Support staff, there were seven last year and seven this year, there's no change in staff; and in the Communications Branch, last year there was 11.2 staff, this year there is the 9.2, the 2 staff persons who were . . .

MR. J. DOWNEY: Could you give me those again, please.

HON. B. URUSKI: . . . 11.2 in 1983-84; 9.2,'84-85 in the Communications Branch.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: Mr. Chairman, I just want to come back to the pricing information that was being sent out, the pamphlet that was made reference to. The Minister says the farmers have all kinds of avenues of getting information on this and that there hadn't been that much reaction, maybe half a dozen calls, when they terminated that. I would like to indicate to him that many people who were making use of this information brochure that came out, the pricing information, that many of them don't have any other proper access, unless they maybe go to the Ag. Rep. office. There are many people who use this as a base for making decisions in terms that are maybe more isolated, that don't go to town every day or every once in awhile, that maybe don't make use of telephones and these are the people that are not necessarily going to be phoning in and telling the Minister, "Listen, we'd like to have it." So I would strongly encourage the Minister that at least in my area many people found it beneficial and that he would find, for the cost involved, that he should be able to continue that kind of a program.

HON. B. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, I should tell the honourable member that publicly that information is available through the radio media for those people who aren't there. I did make that comment publicly on several broadcasts about the printing of that brochure and said that I received, I believe less than that many calls and letters to say, look, we are prepared to cover some of those costs. The pamphlet was mailed to over 2,000 farmers at a cost of somewhere in the neighbourhood of \$20,000 to 25,000.00.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Item 1.(c)(1)—pass; 1.(c)(2)—pass.
1.(d)(1) Financial and Administrative Services - the Member for Arthur.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, again there's a substantial reduction here in salaries. Has there been a decrease in staff? He said he would give us the staff numbers. I would appreciate that, please.

HON. B. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, the staff numbers are the same, 24 for both years. The reduction of \$36,000 is the deletion of the 27th pay period and that's the reduction of \$36,000 in those expenditures and the increase of \$2,000 in Other Expenditures.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 1.(d)(1)—pass; 1.(d)(2)—pass.
1.(e)(1) Computer Services - the Member for Arthur.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, some of the Crown corporations were using, or going to use some of the

Computer Services provided by government. For example, MACC, are they hooked into the Computer Services? Is this the kind of expenditure that's taking place here, both Crop Insurance, Credit Corporation, Beef Commission, are all those Crown corporations reporting to his department now hooked into the communication's Computer Services system?

HON. B. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, the Computer Services is responsible for the maintaining, enhancing and developing of computer management systems that assist in the efficient and effective operation of departmental programs. In 1983-84 activity continued in the developing and testing of decision-making models for the use in regions to use dial-up terminals and microcomputers. We are moving into the microcomputer area to be able to do cost analysis on whether its financial problems or actual costs of beef operations and the like and are using the area of microcomputers.

We are doing further work with the Manitoba Beef Commission system. They are part of the computer requirements.

The word processing study for the Animal Industry Branch and Veterinary Services Branch, we are moving that whole area onto the computer in terms of inventory control, but that services lab will be going into inventory control moving that whole area to speed up the ability to service our veterinarians and clients because it's been manual and it has taken a lot of overtime and a lot of staff time, and we're moving the whole veterinary services into computer. As well, development of computer capabilities within each of our regions using microcomputers, we are moving into the use of microcomputers on a regional basis.

The Crop Insurance, as well, is on the computer program and the Agricultural Credit Corporation is on the computer program. There is soil testing. There is a whole range of areas where the department is involving itself in the computer area and we are continually moving and increasing. We did purchase a number of microcomputers this year and some are on order, to make sure that all our regions are involved in the latest technology and will be able to speed up the turnaround time in assisting individual farm families in doing cash flows, accounting and the like on their operations.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, H. Harapiak: 1.(e)(1)—pass; 1.(e)(2)—pass.

1.(f)(1) - the Minister of Agriculture.

HON. B. URUSKI: The staff component is six in this branch and no change from last year to this year. The adjustment increases 1.6 thousand is because actually a salary adjustment increase of 7.9 with a reduction of the 27th pay period of 6.3 leaving a net increase of 1.6 thousand. Other Expenditures, in terms of the job advertising, there are less costs involved in the advertising of our positions across the province, and nationally, so that our costs of advertising are being reduced somewhat.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, I just wondered if you could repeat the staff again.

HON. B. URUSKI: Six in this branch, Personnel Services, 6 for both years. There is no change.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to know the hiring system that the Minister has and I want to as well ask him in this particular area as far as the numbers of people that were interested in the Deputy's job. I wonder if there was a fairly large number of people or group to select from, as well as, how is the hiring procedure now as far as going before the people? Who does he have involved in the hiring of staff? Are there people from his office directly involved or is it left to the Deputy and to the directors of the different departments?

HON. B. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, it really depends on the level of the position. In terms of all the jobs that have been hired within our department have been with the exception of the appointment of my Executive Assistant. My Special Assistant is on secondment from another position, but with the exception of those two positions, the rest have been hired through the Civil Service Commission, including the Deputy Minister. In the Deputy Minister's position I believe there were eight applicants for the Deputy Minister's job.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: 1.(f)(2)—pass.

1.(g) Program Analysis - the Minister of Agriculture.

HON. B. URUSKI: Yes, Mr. Chairman, in terms of the staffing for this branch, there is a reduction of two positions, six in 1983-84 and presently four positions. The reduction is a program analyst and the position of a farm management program assistant position. Two positions were deleted for a decrease of \$34,000.00.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, the Program Analysis in my estimation, is a fairly important part. If I heard him correctly he's talking about a reduction of two staff years in that particular department and I'm interested in his reasoning for cutting back. When you're spending fairly large sums of money, I think it's important to do an analysis and an evaluation of it and possibly the Minister would have a statement as to why he would be cutting back in this particular area, if he wants to do an effective job.

HON. B. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, the honourable member should be aware that while positions in effect were vacant positions, they had not been filled and they had not been filled for some time.

The Program Analysis that is going on continues to go on and they are done moreso. There is still a group within the whole Administration Branch that does Program Analysis. However, it is in co-ordination with the line departments; that's how the program evaluation is done. So those two positions being vacant, we have been able to still continue and will continue. The people who are doing the program evaluations continue, but these positions were actually vacant positions.

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

That will take us to the second item in the Estimates, Item No. 2, Manitoba Crop Insurance Corporation. Does the Minister have a statement on the Manitoba Crop Insurance?

HON. B. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, yes. I should tell the honourable members, we did not expect to move that

quickly on our Estimates and both the General Manager of Crop Insurance and the General Manager of MACC are not here. If members would like to get into it, if I can answer, we'll try and answer as many of the questions, but any specific questions that we may not, they may have to wait until this evening to answer them. That's when the staff have been asked to be available. We didn't realize that we were going to move as quickly as we have and the two people who are most acquainted with the program are not here, but certainly you can raise the questions and I'll try and deal with them.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Member for Minnedosa.

MR. D. BLAKE: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I wonder if the Minister could maybe give us some indication of what it's going to cost to get the General Manager of Manitoba Crop Insurance here. Maybe we could avoid that expense and pass over this item reasonably quickly while the critic is down visiting his school.

I know the Member for Swan River has a few questions, as I do, Mr. Chairman. We're back to my favourite topic of a year or so ago when they relocated the Crop Insurance Office from Minnedosa to Neepawa and I'd be interested in hearing the Minister's comments on how that relocation has worked out.

HON. B. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, before I go into my dissertation on the changes of the office from Minnedosa to Neepawa, Sir, I should tell the honourable members as I promised, there are 83 staff positions in Crop Insurance. There is no change in those positions from last year to this year.

As I indicated to the honourable member and I put it now on the record, the Corporation did want to transfer that office on a regional basis for many years and they were prevented from doing so. The Corporation made the decision to transfer. I have not had any complaints one way or the other, but I should tell the honourable member we felt that the Minnedosa location was a sensitive location in terms of trying to provide services to the farmers in that area and really to balance the availability of governmental services, whether it was crop insurance or department. The farm management specialist for the area is now located in Minnedosa, and basically it became a trade-off in terms of the way we saw it. I and our department were sensitive to the needs of the people in Minnedosa. However, the decision to make that transfer was not interfered with by myself.

While I can understand the sensitivity of the Member for Minnedosa in trying to put his case forward on behalf of the people there, I have tried to leave the administration of the corporations to the board of directors there. I had no evidence presented to me that would make me say to the corporation, you must change your original intention. The move was made. The government was sensitive to that position, to the situation in Minnedosa, and the staff agreed at the time. In fact, the farm management specialist himself, as I understand it - I may be wrong - wanted to serve and did a lot of his clients out of the Minnedosa area, and was willing to work out of the Minnedosa area. There was basically a switch made.

MR. D. BLAKE: I can agree with some of the Minister's comments. The agriculture specialist bought a home in Minnedosa and was living there and working out of Neepawa, so it was very advantageous to him to work out of a Minnedosa office.

I would say to the Minister that the office facilities - now I haven't checked lately - in Neepawa were not as adequate as they were in Minnedosa. They were working out of very cramped quarters, and I don't know whether there has been some improvement on that or not. There was some disruption there in the move. The comparisons of rental and whatnot that were used in the board justifying their decision leave something to be desired, but it's a fait accompli now, and we're living with it.

I think the Minister might find within a couple or three years that there will be some other complaints, because we talked about boundary changes on some of the other locations, and the criteria or the reasons used to justify the board's decision to move it also relate or correspond with problems of other areas where the office is located maybe not in the most convenient spot in the crop insurance district. So the reasons really used for the move were maybe reasonably - there were some reasonable grounds for it, but they weren't reasonably strong grounds.

I'm still very tempted in my view, Mr. Chairman, that it was a political move to locate the office in the constituency of the Member for Ste. Rose. I know we are all looking for benefits. I'm just saying it's my view. It's still my view. It is still the view of the people in Minnedosa. The Minister's not going to change that. So it happens that our boundary is eight miles either way. But that's been accomplished, Mr. Chairman.

Well, I'll let the Member for Swan River have his question before we move down into Waterfowl Damage, before we get some questions on that.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Member for Swan River.

MR. D. GOURLAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the Minister of Agriculture if he could give us a brief update. Perhaps if he did this in his opening remarks, I apologize. I didn't catch that, but I understand that he has a review of the Manitoba Crop Insurance operations under way at this time. I wonder if he could just bring us up-to-date on where that is, and what has really been looked at.

HON. B. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, briefly, to try without going into the specific details of the proposals that have been - well, I can, and I will go from memory. What we have done is a year ago, and following on some of the work that was done by the study that was commissioned by the former Minister - (Interjection) - yes, Mr. McFarlane from Rivers who did some work on the crop insurance - we have been monitoring crop insurance, and we do get a lot of letters and complaints and problem areas with crop insurance. We decided, and I decided as a follow-up to that report to begin a review of the entire program, not in terms of staffing and the like but how the insurance program works. There has been no review done since the inception basically of the program 25 years ago.

We used staff from the department. We used Mr. Weiss and staff of the corporation over a period of

months with the board of directors, trying to look at options to improve the program, better the coverage, make the program more sensitive. There are some areas in the province where soil conditions do not reflect the kind of productivity or are greater in productivity than the insurance coverage allows. Of course, when you try and cover those areas, you then come up with a problem of having a very small area. If you have a very small area, if you have two or three years of bad weather, the volatility of the premiums starts coming into play and premiums get all out of whack.

So we looked at ways of stabilizing premiums more on a provincial basis. Some options were put out to farmers as to if we increase coverage for all the farmers, because that's been one of the basic complaints - coverage or the lack of it has been one of the basic complaints of farmers, not enough coverage.

We have tried and we've used the University of Manitoba and, I believe, it was Daryl Kraft who did some of the work in looking at technology and raising the amount of coverage. That went into the program along with trying to stabilize premiums, because as you know right now the Interlake is the highest premium-rated area of the province. I believe their premiums there are three to three-and-a-half times the rates that they are in the lowest portion of the province. About 10 years ago, the area of the former Minister of Agriculture, the Member for Arthur, was the highest area. It is still fairly high up.

What we have tried to do is look at options to increase the coverage, be more sensitive in the program to specific soil conditions in various parts of the province. The area here along the Red River, and the areas of the Member for Emerson and the Member for Morris is a particular area that has some peculiar problems and conditions that could be looked at. The area - I think it's District 12, and I'm going from memory - the area north of Riding Mountain from Lake Manitoba to the Saskatchewan border, there are some particular problems or anomalies in those areas. Those are some of the areas that we are trying to address.

These options that were dealt with by the board and the internal review were put together into a package, and we went with, I think it was 12 public meetings, where I and members of the board and members of the corporation went around and spoke to farmers, both insureds and non-insureds, about possible changes. We, I believe, met with directly at the public meetings with probably somewhere in the neighbourhood of 1,000 farmers or thereabouts. Some meetings, there were disappointments.

The meeting in Melita and the meeting in Neepawa were very disappointing. There were, I believe, less than 20 farmers at each of those meetings. But at other meetings such as the Swan River, there were close to 200 farmers. There was a meeting in Steinbach. There were about 40 or 50 farmers. In Altona, there were somewhere around 70 to 80 farmers there. So it varied, but there were some disappointments in terms of numbers of farmers attending the meeting.

But close to 1,000 farmers attended the meetings, and these options were raised. Questionnaires were handed out by the corporation. I don't know how the response has been to some of the questionnaires following the presentations that were made basically by the corporation as to the options. We are now looking

at those suggestions and some of the feedback that we got at those meetings.

The next stage will be to sit down with the Federal Government and try to negotiate because we do have to negotiate, since the Federal Government is the major participant in this program, to see whether we can go ahead. We intend to go ahead because I believe that the reaction was generally favourable from the farmers attending the meetings. We believe that we will be moving ahead with changes and trying to negotiate them and have them implemented for next insurance year, basically trying to raise the coverage.

One of the areas I should mention for the honourable member has been the concern or the request by many farmers to take more into account the area of individual productivity on the basis of one's management ability. It is true, there is within the program now one area that partially deals with management ability, but there have been options put out to refine that and to deal with the whole question of surcharges and discounts and the like. Too much of the program has been based on the ability to gain discounts and the low insurability by the options the farmers have available to them, the 50 percent, 60 and 70 percent coverages. Most farmers choose the 60 percent coverages. As a result, the rates on the 70 percent coverage, the higher rates, are so high that it makes it almost a very great drawback for farmers to go that route.

What we're trying to do is that there be one coverage level for everyone, but options to be put out on the per bushel amount as to a reduction in premiums. In other words, everyone will have the highest coverage that can be given, but the option, in terms of premium costs, could be placed on the basis of a per bushel amount. That's the kind of ideas that were thrown out at the meetings and, generally, favourably received by most farmers because everybody wanted more coverage. The question of costs, of course, came in there and there were some options that were thrown out.

Once this review is on we're into discussions and negotiations with the Federal Government in the hope that for the next crop year some of these changes and ideas can be implemented for the farmers.

MR. CHAIRMAN, P. EYLER: The Member for Swan River.

MR. D. GOURLAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister looking at this review of the Crop Insurance Program, has any other jurisdiction been looked at or expertise from other areas outside of the province having any input into the review process?

HON. B. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, these ideas are not new, in fact, these ideas were talked about in the mid-'70s. The Province of Alberta is very interested and the chairman of the board, in fact, attended one of our public meetings dealing with a presentation meeting at Altona. The chairman of the Alberta board attended one of our meetings.

As well, I should mention to the honourable member we are doing some work on it, we have a lot more to do, and that is the area that we tried to put forward in the early '70s, my colleague, the Member for Lac du Bonnet when he was Minister, to tie the Grain

Stabilization Program closer to the Crop Insurance Program so that, rather than looking at a regional or Western Canada-wide basis of insurance, we look at the basis of insuring dollar amount on the individual farm.

We are doing some preliminary work now in the hopes that some of the work or discussions that are going on now in Ottawa on the amendments to The Grain Stabilization Act, we intend to make presentations to them. We intend to raise it again at the ministerial conference because I did raise these ideas last year at the ministerial conference; I intend to pursue them in greater detail this time around so that those kinds of possibilities could be examined. I want to say to the honourable member, that aspect dealing with grain stabilization, the principles that we were talking about were certainly well received by the farming community when that question was raised. The Province of Alberta is certainly supportive of that and they attended a meeting.

I have suggested to my colleagues that the three corporations get together on this and possibly come up with a united front on that one aspect of the changes, but we are going ahead and doing the work ourselves at the present time. We think and we believe that there can be a greater sensitivity on the Western Grain Stabilization Plan if it is tied much more closely to the Crop Insurance Program.

MR. D. GOURLAY: One concern I have, and perhaps this has been brought out at some of the meetings that you talk on, is the question of unseeded crop acreage. This isn't perhaps a major problem, but when it does happen it's a serious one for those farmers that are affected.

Farmers that continue to use crop insurance, and they expect to get their crop seeded, but we ran into an incident last year and I presume it's happened before as well. In the Bellsite area, it's a small farming community in the northern part of my constituency but, because of the excess moisture conditions in the seeding time of the year, they were unable to get their crops in, or if they did they were flooded out and weren't harvested. Some of these people carried insurance from year-to-year, but unless they had specific unseeded crop acreage insurance on they weren't covered under the program. Perhaps it's not an easy thing to overcome but, in order for these people to have had coverage on unseeded acreage, they needed to take the insurance out the year before. As I say, not many people expect that they're not going to get their crops seeded, so they don't think about putting on crop insurance because they're not going to get their crop in.

I think that, especially if people carry crop insurance, that it should provide for those years that they are not able to get their crops in, period. As I understand it, they have to have special insurance in a case like this. I'm just throwing it out the Minister if that aspect could be looked at where some coverage would be included on an annual basis where farmers are not able to get their crops in because of abnormal weather conditions in the spring of the year.

HON. B. URUSKI: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I recognize the honourable member's concern. Under the all-risk

contract there are options; the hail spot loss and the unseeded acreage insurance option. The Bellsite area was an area of concern for us. I'm advised that the corporation was making special efforts to notify farmers, especially in that area, that option should be put on the contract for unseeded acreage coverage. As the member indicates, there are some farmers who, although they've taken crop insurance for many years, are not well informed on the options in the program and what is basic and what isn't.

One of the areas of the review that I've asked the corporation to undertake is the whole area of simplification. There's all these contracts and all these forms that we put out and, frankly, when it comes to insurance contracts you have to be a Philadelphia lawyer to look at all that fine print and to understand them. We are looking at ways and means to try and simplify that for farmers to see if there can be a simpler way of notification and ability to advise farmers of what is in the basics, what they should be looking at and the like in a much more simpler form. I recognize the honourable member's concern and that is one of the areas that the corporation is looking at, as well, to see whether the whole system can be made simpler.

MR. D. GOURLAY: Did I understand the Minister correctly in that the crop insurance personnel are making a special effort to contact all the farmers in those high-risk areas such as Bellsite or just those that have been carrying insurance? The reason I ask, as I understand it - I haven't been home in the last 24 hours - but I believe there's something like eight inches of snow in that area this morning and here it is the 24th of May or whatever it is today, and there's no indication that weather reports are good for the next few days. I'm feeling a little bit nervous that the situation that occurred a year ago could be repeated again in 1984.

If those farmers have been contacted by Crop Insurance in time where they could have completed the necessary coverage for '84, well, that's fine and I appreciate the efforts. But in any case, I throw out this concern for whatever value the Minister can place on it and hopefully some provision can be included in the crop insurance to provide this kind of coverage from time to time.

HON. B. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, I know that the Crop Insurance Corporation did undertake both prints, local newspapers and radio spot ads this year to try and notify in the public media. I'd have to check whether or not the agent in the Swan River area did in fact attempt to contact everyone. I'm not sure that was possible, in terms of personal notification about crop insurance. But there may have been an actual personal mailing to all farmers in the area, depending on the agent and the overall budget of the corporation to do that kind of contact, whether it be by a simple card or by a telephone call, but I will check for the honourable member if he wishes to find out whether or not the corporation, in fact, did try and contact every farmer in that area.

I'm not sure that's a possibility. But I do know that they use radio spot ads and print media and some, I think, to the contract holders of course, there's a card that comes out usually every spring to say, look, this

is the deadline for updating and contact your agent; so for the contract holders, there is a direct contact made, but for those who are not, I believe that the two media that I've mentioned were those that were used.

MR. D. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know whether the Minister would have the information. If he has some general comment it might be sufficient rather than . . . Could he give me any indication of the number of disputed claims that they've had in the corporation? Have there been numerous ones or a few? If he could give us some indication it would suffice, Mr. Chairman.

HON. B. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, I don't believe there are any appeals as of last year's crop. There have been no appeals to the tribunal for last year's crop year.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, I wasn't here at the beginning of the Crop Insurance Estimates, but I understand they are bringing the manager in from Saskatchewan, or is it from Portage la Prairie? I'm surprised at the look of the Minister. I understand that the manager is from Saskatchewan but he's now coming via Portage la Prairie.

HON. B. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, the honourable member should be aware that in the hiring of the general manager of the corporation there were two or three qualified candidates that came up on the short list, one of whom at the top was a Manitoban and declined to take the position. The next in line happened to be the present general manager who is originally from Saskatchewan and is now the general manager and resides in Portage.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, I have no problem with that. I think the Minister is maybe a little oversensitive to it for some reason. I really wasn't going to make any further comment, other than that.

HON. B. URUSKI: The tone of the voice.

MR. J. DOWNEY: It just seems that the Minister is extremely touchy about it. I'll have to delve a little further into it maybe, seeing that there's a nervousness on his part.

I want to deal specifically with the Crop Insurance Program and I know that he has been answering some questions and my colleagues were asking. I'm specifically interested in the Riverton area right at this particular time. There has been quite a move made by the Mennonite Committee to move in and assist a lot of farmers with the putting in of crops and providing of cash and seed. Is there a possibility that these people have not been carrying crop insurance? I would like the Minister to comment.

I know that in lots of situations we've made comments to him about difficult times in the cropping situation and he's always referred to the fact that Manitoba Crop Insurance is available. I'm asking him specifically if they did not have crop insurance or what is the situation in that particular area, because it is the Riverton community that's in an extremely hard-pressed situation and I would have thought maybe there might be some way in which the . . . Maybe that's a specific area that

there could be a special program introduced by the government or by Crop Insurance to move in and not treat them with the general blanket situation.

I make specific reference, particularly to the year of the drought when there was a major program put in place. That was for all the farmers. I'm wondering if all avenues have been searched out and if these people have had the - I'm sure they've had the availability of crop insurance. Why have they not used it or been encouraged to use it? Maybe the Minister would like to make a comment.

HON. B. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, the honourable member should be aware, and his area had part of the problems at one time, was the highest risk area within the province and it's still close to that area.

It is close to the area. The Interlake area now, not because of the productivity of the soils in the area, but primarily because of the need for drainage improvements, is the highest risk, less highest risk area in terms of premiums. Premiums in the Interlake, as I mentioned earlier, are some three to three-and-a-half times higher than the lowest risk area in the Province of Manitoba. So the premium rates play a significant part in the farmers' decisions whether they have participated or not, and that is one area of the province where farmers have, over the years, continually opted out, primarily because of the high premium rates and it's kind of a Catch 22 situation.

The moment that you opt out and you have a disaster, then even your cash costs or a portion of the cash costs, depending upon how much you insure yourself for, are not even covered. We have assisted the majority of those farmers who are there through our Interest Rate Relief Program to the tune of approximately \$12,000 per farm. However, the problems and financial difficulties faced by some of those farmers span many years and, as a result, those who are out of the program, it made the decision very difficult to say, yes, we will provide additional assistance to this area and yet to the rest of the province we say, you've lost your crop. Why didn't you have crop insurance. It really flies in the face of universal programming, and admittedly the decision was not an easy one.

While we have made financial assistance available to those farm families through Interest Rate Relief and those who have crop insurance would have had benefits under that program. The financial difficulty goes far beyond just the last two years, there have been difficulties spanning a number of years, but the long-term solution to the problem is not the short-term assistance. The long term has to be government involved in terms of providing adequate drainage so that when, and during periods of heavy rainfall, the drainage system is able to take it because certainly the productivity of the land is there and the capability of those farmers to produce is there. However, it is a question of improving the drainage system to deal with the long-term problems of production.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Well, Mr. Chairman, I asked if the farmers had crop insurance or if not.

HON. B. URUSKI: Some did, some didn't. I don't know; I can't tell you.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Some did and some didn't. Well, okay.

HON. B. URUSKI: That's right.

MR. J. DOWNEY: I guess, Mr. Chairman, that for more specific information we could get that from the crop insurance director. I would hope that possibly there has to be some changes made in that specific situation. I wonder if that isn't possible.

HON. B. URUSKI: Part of our whole crop insurance review is not just to deal with the Interlake, but to deal with many areas of the province, including the member's area. We have looked at it in terms of rates and coverages in the areas of the province to provide some long-term stability in rates; there are many areas of the province. If the proposals - and I believe the proposals have been widely accepted by those in the farm community who came out to the meetings - that part and parcel of the review on the crop insurance side will be able to assist, not only the Interlake farmers, but other farmers in the province who are in higher-risk areas, not because of their inability to produce and the soils are unable to produce, but because of the weather patterns which they would normally insure against being against them, and the drainage in their areas not being adequate to handle the wetness.

As a result, we are trying to bring about greater stability of premiums right across the province. Areas that would benefit are not only the Interlake area but the Member for Emerson, the Member for Morris, the Member for Gladstone, parts of her area because she represents an area - I believe the Neepawa area is one of the areas in the province where there basically are no benefits because if there is going to be any stability in the premiums, it has to be on both sides. It has to be on the hail side and on the all-risk side.

What has happened, when we look at making the risk areas smaller, being more sensitive to the soil types in certain areas, the possibility of greater volatility in the premium rates, because of a few years of bad weather, increases. As a result, some of the proposals that we have talked about is to do some blending of premiums across the province in certain percentage ratios.

What we've looked at and what the corporation is looking at, and has put out, is the blending, not only on the all-risk side, but also on the hail side. In almost all the risk areas where there is a benefit to an area of blending on the all-risk side, there is a disbenefit on the hail side by blending, and the reverse is true. Where the area does not gain a great benefit on blending on all-risk where premiums may rise as a result of increased coverage, blending helps on the hail side, so that there are some benefits to producers on both sides.

In terms of the specifics of Riverton, while the changes, when they are accepted and put into place, will assist the Riverton area, they will also assist many areas of the province, including and especially the Member for Arthur.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, the Minister makes reference to the fact that all areas are going to benefit.

I understand what his policy is. I believe that he is looking for a universal premium all across the province, that everyone will pay equal premium, or . . .

HON. B. URUSKI: No, no.

MR. J. DOWNEY: He is saying "no" to that. Then I am not clear on what he is saying. If everyone is going to benefit, is he saying that the premiums will remain the same and that the coverage will go up? That's really what he is targeting for. Then he's not very clear on really what his objectives are, and I am wondering if he would just give a little more explanation.

As well, I would like to know what the participation is in crop insurance this year, the number of contract holders this year versus last year, what the trend is, and see if there is some kind of reduction in numbers or not?

HON. B. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, just to comment on the program. What we are trying to do, and I mentioned it to the Honourable Member for Swan River, is to try and increase the coverage for everyone. Rather than have the three choices on coverage where we believe farmers want an option to select, in terms of their costs, we believe that farmers should all have the highest coverage possible; but to allow for some lowering or changes in cost on their premium side, they may want to take an option of lower per bushel cost. So if the coverage is increased for everyone they would be in a pay-out position much quicker than they have ever been. However, they can regulate the amount of premiums they pay on a differential amount on the basis of dollars per bushel. So that's the intent.

But there are certain areas of the province, there are some areas in southern Manitoba, the areas with sandy soils and a high water table, where productivity gains, in terms of alfalfa and corn, are far greater than the rates which were originally established on the wheat crop. So, because of the gaining productivity over the years in those areas, there has to be a greater change in the risk areas and the like. But, once you start tinkering with risk areas, the possibility of a greater volatility in premiums occurs and, as a result, there has to be some balancing off.

What the corporation looked at is basing a percentage of the premium on the risk area and making the risk area smaller to be more sensitive to the productivity of those soils; but to balance off the possible volatility when you make volatility of premiums, when you make risk areas smaller to blend premiums across the province on a ratio, they threw out several options. Those options were talked about with the farmers and, I want to say, generally accepted.

There are one or two areas in the province where on neither side of the question, whether it be on hail or on all-risk, that there is no reduction in premiums; with the increased coverage there will be an increased cost in the premiums. There is no doubt that when you increase coverage, along with it there will be an increased premium.

I think, generally, farmers understand that. The only point that they were making is we want more coverage, but the question is how high should the premiums go before participation starts to drop off. In the discussions

that we had with the farmers, the options that were put forward - I can determine and I gauge as good as any from the questions because I attended all the meetings - were generally favourable, but the hope is to get more people in the program.

This year, I can tell the honourable member, as we know now, we don't know the exact number, but there is approximately 700 more participants in the crop insurance program than there were last year. There is the new program, for example, that was announced and, that is, the Livestock Feed Security Program which is just beginning in seven municipalities. Those are Brokenhead, Coldwell, Eriksdale, Rossburn, St. Laurent, South Norfolk and Wallace. Those are the seven municipalities in which the feed security program is in place. There has been a 50 percent sign-up in those areas where the feed security program is in place. Basically, it is livestock-based and the farmer's eligibility is related to the number of cows over winter. You've probably seen the announcement but possibly I can provide the details for the honourable member. A farmer may select coverage . . .

MR. J. DOWNEY: You could table it if you've got a copy.

HON. B. URUSKI: —(Interjection) — yes, I guess I could. There are two pages. As long as it's put into the record. As long as I get back - if you'd like to make a copy and provide it for the honourable member. But I may as well put it on the record - that the farmer may select coverage per cow between \$60 and \$220 depending on his own requirements.

A MEMBER: What was that again?

HON. B. URUSKI: Between \$60 and \$220 per cow for its yields. Tame and native hay within each municipality will be measured each year, compared to average yields for the municipality. When yields drop below 70 percent of the normal yields, a pay out will be made to all insured livestock producers in a municipality. For each 1 percent below the 70 percent level, 2 percent of the coverage selected would be paid.

Policy holders will not have to file a claim. There will not have to be a claim filed under this program if a pay out is triggered. If a pay out is triggered it will be made automatically in the fall of the year to all insured farmers in a municipality regardless of their own actual production. The premiums, for example, at \$80 per selected cow of 274 and going up to the \$220 per cow coverage, a total premium, the producer's premium of 755; the total premium being 1,509 because it is shared 50-50.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, in principle, I think the program looks like it may have potential. How were the areas selected as to which municipalities they would be providing the test in? I know it was initially the way in which crop insurance was established that they went into the southwest area and they did a test on a particular region. We're included in that. How were they selected? Could he give us any indication as to that?

HON. B. URUSKI: I believe that the corporation did some pilot sampling and on that basis, they selected

the seven. It was done in consultation, I gather, with staff of the department, to try and give a random sampling of the regions of the province and put into place. It's our hope, I believe, that there will be an additional - I think 20 more municipalities will be included in the program for next year. So it will be increased by approximately - within five years the province will be totally covered. Approximately 20 municipalities a year will be included in the program.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, I didn't get a staff complement in the crop insurance.

HON. B. URUSKI: I gave that.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Did you give that?

HON. B. URUSKI: Yes.

MR. J. DOWNEY: As well, he says the participation is up by 700, what does that total come to - just because I haven't got the last year's numbers here?

HON. B. URUSKI: Yes, last year 13,843, so an additional 700, about 14,500.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Item 2.(a)—pass.
2.(b) - the Member for Arthur.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, the Canada-Manitoba Waterfowl Damage Compensation Agreement is at the same level. Were all last year's funds used up? If I understand or remember correctly, I believe there was indication in the Natural Resources Department that there was an increase in the per-acre coverage to \$65, is that correct? And if so, for what period of time?

HON. B. URUSKI: I believe it is the new program that will be at \$65, the new agreement that is now signed. Last year was still at \$50, I believe. The amount 1983-84 statistics, I will give the honourable member what I have. There were 37 spring claims, totalling \$75,600, 61 fall claims, totalling \$76,000 for a total of 98 claims for \$151,600; an administrative cost of \$10,000; a total of \$161,700 of which 50 percent is recoverable from the Federal Government.

MR. J. DOWNEY: It appears from last year's experience, there's adequate funds being asked for in this particular area and I am pleased to see there's been an increase in the per-acre coverage. I would ask the Minister, for what length of time is this agreement signed? Is it a five-year agreement that has been signed?

HON. B. URUSKI: Yes, Mr. Chairman. The agreement is for a five-year period, but there are provisions in the agreement for periodic changes in funding and cost of production and the like, so I still haven't had my way in terms of the program, we have not been able to agree. What I have suggested at times, is that the amount of coverage be made on the basis of actual dollar amount loss, rather than a percentage of the crop lost to the maximum dollar per acre, which would make it much more meaningful in terms of an insurable

loss to Waterfowl Damage. However, that has not been agreed to and although the amount has been increased from \$50 to \$65, nevertheless, my hope is those ideas might be able to be negotiated at sometime in the future and although there's no guarantee, it's still my hope.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Well, we'll pass this, Mr. Chairman. It's unfortunate that the new manager of the Crop Insurance didn't have a chance to be introduced to the committee. We could have given him a little bit more time but, however, we look forward to the next opportunity to get the information that the committee may require. We'll proceed to pass this, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 2.(b)—pass.

Resolution No. 9: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$4,344,400 for Agriculture, Manitoba Crop Insurance Corporation for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1985—pass.

Do you want to call it 5:30?

MR. J. DOWNEY: Why don't we start on the next one.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Item 3.(a) Manitoba Agricultural Credit Corporation - the Member for Arthur.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if they want to bring in the Manager of the Credit Corporation so we could question the Crop Insurance Credit Manager.

HON. B. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, I indicated to the honourable members that both were not here. We're expecting them for 8 o'clock this evening. We did not realize that we would be moving as rapidly as we have and I believe the MACC manager is and may be here already, but if we'd like to call it 5:30, we will.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Well, we've got one more question in another area.

HON. B. URUSKI: Surely.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Turtle Mountain.

MR. B. RANSOM: I have a question that maybe the Minister would deal with. It's not related to the Agricultural Credit Corporation directly. It has to do with the Federal Grain Stabilization pay out that's proposed and of course it has to do with the well-being of our farmers and will bear on credit, etc. I'm just wondering if the Minister knows whether this payout that is proposed for the fall will be based upon individuals who are obviously paying into the stabilization and holding permits in the present crop year because, as he knows, there are quite a number of people who have been forced out or who are voluntarily getting out of business and will not have a permit book in the next crop year. Is the Minister aware whether or not that's going to apply?

HON. B. URUSKI: No, Mr. Chairman, I'm not aware. We have not seen the details of the legislation as yet. As the honourable member knows, we did make representations to the Federal Government for an interim payment prior to the end of the crop year so that payment would be made at this point in time, but we have not seen the details of the legislation and I can't answer your question, sorry.

MR. B. RANSOM: Well, it would only make sense, of course, that it be based on the ones who hold permit books now. Perhaps the Minister would undertake to have his staff check that and, unless there is assurance that that's the way it's going to be, that he would make representation to see that's the way it is.

HON. B. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the member's comments. It is our intention to make representations to the committee on the proposed changes when we see them, as soon as they're available, and we'll certainly take his comments under advisement.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time being 5:30, I'm leaving the Chair and will return at 8:00 p.m. tonight.