



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

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS
(HANSARD)**

34 Elizabeth II

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



MG-8048

VOL. XXXIII No. 25B - 8:00 p.m., THURSDAY, 11 APRIL, 1985.

MANITOBA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
Thirty-Second Legislature

Members, Constituencies and Political Affiliation

Name	Constituency	Party
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ANSTETT, Hon. Andy	Springfield	NDP
ASHTON, Steve	Thompson	NDP
BANMAN, Robert (Bob)	La Verendrye	PC
BIRT, Charles T.	Fort Garry	PC
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DOLIN, Mary Beth	Kildonan	NDP
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WALDING, Hon. D. James	St. Vital	NDP

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Thursday, 11 April, 1985.

Time — 8:00 p.m.

CONCURRENT COMMITTEES OF SUPPLY SUPPLY - HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION

MR. CHAIRMAN, C. Santos: Committee, please come to order. We are still on Planning and Design and Land Surveys, Item 3.(a) Planning and Design: 3.(a)(1) Salaries and Wages; 3.(a)(2) Other Expenditures.

The Member for Turtle Mountain.

MR. B. RANSOM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I have at least four questions that I'd like to put to the Minister about future plans to deal with certain problem situations. One of those has to do with Highway 23 where it passes by the training center at Ninette. The Minister perhaps is aware that there is an extremely sharp curve, a turn that's not even a curve, at the bottom of the hill that has quite a substantial drop and then there are a couple of curves at the top and I would say that over the past six years or so there have been I believe about nine accidents at these two corners, ranging from the point of one driver losing his life to other situations that have been less serious, some that might have been much more serious.

Just as recently as last fall, there was a truck overturned as it tried to gain enough speed to make the hill and overturned on its way up the hill. I believe it was carrying anhydrous ammonia. So, Mr. Chairman, I would like to know from the Minister just what kind of plans that his department has to deal with this situation which, I believe, must be dealt with fairly soon or else I think we're going to have some more serious accidents take place there.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, thank you.

The situation has been under study for some time. The department originally had a proposal to straighten out that road considerably, but it ran into a lot of difficulty with local landowners and they're attempting now to just straighten out some of the curves on the existing alignment and perhaps reduce the curvature, especially after it comes over the bridge that exists there. That is being considered at the present time and, hopefully, we will have a final design, from the information I have, by early this summer, with the only problem to work out as to what should happen as a replacement for that bridge there because of the desire to reduce the curvature. The problems associated with that curve just past the bridge may mean relocation or realignment of the bridge at its existing location. So it is being worked on. It is recognized as a problem that has to be dealt with and we expect to have the final design location study finalized by early this summer.

MR. B. RANSOM: Can the Minister tell me if they're also looking at realigning the top curve as well, it's

actually the top curve where the fatal accident took place? Has he any idea at this point in time what kind of costs might be involved here?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: We're not in a position to give the cost yet but, yes, that other curve would also be involved and straightened out as well, but it is included in the existing design but they don't have the cost estimates for that requirement, that proposal.

MR. B. RANSOM: Mr. Chairman, I just urge the Minister to give a very high priority to this situation because it's not just a matter of convenience, this really is a situation where life and limb are threatened and I think we have been very fortunate, over the years that we haven't perhaps had more accidents than we have.

A second question I have is one that's been brought to my attention frequently by people involved with the St. Leon Co-op, and that has to do with any plans for the upgrading of Highway 23 from Deerwood to Provincial Road 244. The St. Leon Co-op wants to expand at that junction, and I believe if that section isn't upgraded then they don't have the 350 pound access.

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, I would just like a minute to get the details on that particular request. As I understand the member's question, he was asking what the plans were for the section from 123, from Deerwood, to PR 431. The right-of-way has been completed for that section of the road and it is a matter now of including it in the program for grade widening and shoulder gravel and then subsequently the base and bituminous pavement. The existing AST on there is deteriorating, it's about 20 years old and requires strengthening. It was last resealed in 1977. So it is, with the traffic volume being quite substantial in that area, one of the priorities for consideration in the subsequent programs. However, it was not included this year. It is a reasonably high priority for that area from the department's point of view.

MR. B. RANSOM: But it is not included in any specific set of plans at this point in time. I know it's not in for this year. Is it definitely slated for next year or the year after? Or is it simply something that's recognized that needs to be done?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: It hasn't been programmed for this year, but we recognize it as a high priority, and I will make a note of it as well that it should be given strong consideration for next year's either pre-advertising program or next year's program.

MR. B. RANSOM: And what about the situation on No. 3 Highway from the junction of 3 and 10 south of Boissevain to Killarney? I think the Minister may be aware that Killarney is rather restricted in the access that heavy trucks have to that town while road restrictions are on, and that section of highway has

deteriorated very badly over the past few years. I'm wondering what is the situation with that.

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, just for clarification, is the member discussing the section from the north junction of PTH 18 to the west junction of PR 346? Is that the section that he's referring to?

MR. B. RANSOM: I'm talking about from the junction of 3 and 18 yes - at the north junction - from there to No. 10 Highway south of Boissevain, a stretch of 29 kilometres.

HON. J. PLOHMAN: I believe we have that separated into two projects. From PTH 18 to PR 346 first, that is a distance of 10 miles or approximately 15 or 14 kilometres. The grade widening was completed in 1983 on that section, and the existing pavement was resealed in 1983 which would extend its life somewhat, but it is being proposed for bituminous pavement for subsequent years by the department.

The pavement rating currently is 73 which, relative to a lot of other pavement ratings in the province, is not in as bad a shape according to the information I have as many of our roads are. So from that point of view, it is not in a critical situation for being resurfaced. However, it is being proposed by the department within the next couple of years.

MR. B. RANSOM: Mr. Chairman, if that stretch of highway is considered to be not too bad compared to other highways in the province, then it's a commentary of the sad situation that the highway system has deteriorated to, because that stretch of highway, to anyone who drives it, is in bad shape. It's sadly in need of additional work being done.

One other question then, Mr. Chairman, and that has to do with Provincial Road 346 north of Margaret where it crosses the Souris River. This is a rather picturesque road through the valley, but it also happens to be a road that has a real old-fashioned hairpin curve in it and the school bus has to travel that road and farmers have to haul grain on that road as well. While it is as I say, picturesque, I'm afraid that it's not a very serviceable road in terms of bearing traffic at all times of the year as it must now do, especially with the school buses on it.

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, as the member may know the right-of-way was completed some time ago for that section. There are 2.5 miles that are required for upgrading, and the major expenditure is the Souris River bridge which is estimated now at \$1 million, that's a major crossing; and from a point of view of priorities and because of its weight restriction of 14 tonnes, it would seem to be a high priority.

The indications we have from our tests on average daily traffic are that there are only 46 vehicles per day. Now again as I said yesterday during Estimates discussion, that quite often we are told that if the road of course was in a different condition more traffic could travel on it. But the case is that there are only 46 vehicles per day at the present time and therefore it makes it somewhat of a lower priority than otherwise would be the case.

The other factor, as I mentioned, is the fact that the bridge itself is a major expenditure of \$1 million for that bridge. So it is ready to go and would be considered, but those are some of the other sides of the argument that I present.

MR. B. RANSOM: Well, has the department considered realigning the road and using the old bridge?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, the current bridge is restricted to 14 tonnes and one truck crossing at a time. It is considered by the bridge section to be structurally, hydraulically and geometrically inadequate as they describe it, and therefore in need of replacement as opposed to utilizing that existing bridge because it's totally inadequate at the present time for an upgraded route.

So since the new route has already been acquired in terms of acquisition of right-of-way, there is no consideration by the department to go back to the existing alignment and utilize a bridge that would need replacement in any event.

MR. B. RANSOM: So the site of the new bridge is not on the site of the old bridge then?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: No, Mr. Chairman, it is about 900 to 1,000 feet distance away.

MR. B. RANSOM: Is that to the east?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: I believe it is to the east.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Minnedosa.

MR. D. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have one or two questions here. First of all, I know we're advised of the Grant In Aid Program for various streets in different towns. The press release on the Dauphin Street Program seems to be inordinately high with 16 items added for Grant In Aid this year. I wonder if the Minister might tell us when the planning and design was done, or what it's going to entail in the Grant In Aid Program, what is going to be the cost of the 50-50 Grant In Aid project for these 16 items.

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, it's interesting that the member should point those out as additional streets, eligible streets, because the Town of Dauphin has written me, shortly after that, and asked why two others weren't included without any thanks for those. But I will mention that those are only declared as eligible after looking at a situation that had n't been reviewed for a number of years.

The Town of Dauphin came forward and said, look, we would like to have consideration for these additional streets as being declared eligible under the criteria. Things change, different institutions, churches and schools, hospitals and so on as towns develop over a period of years. These were reconsidered this spring, as is the case with many towns and villages which make requests for a change in eligibility for their streets, and it was deemed by the department that a number of those should be considered eligible for grant in aid, but that is not to say that they are going to be approved

for expenditures this coming year. They will be eligible, and they could be requested by the town over any number of years over the next period of time.

So what the member is referring to is those that have been declared eligible, on the basis of the criteria that are available or that exist. I can relate those specific criteria, but these all, according to the department, meet those criteria.

MR. D. BLAKE: This may augur well then for the Town of Alexander, they want to swap a couple of grant in aid streets to have a couple of others included in the situation I mentioned earlier, Mr. Chairman.

The bridge on Highway 250 between No. 16 Highway and No. 45 Highway, Mr. Chairman, has there been a survey and design done on a bridge for that crossing there when the completion of that section of 250 is completed?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Could you just, Mr. Chairman, clarify what PR No. the member . . .

MR. D. BLAKE: Highway 250, the bridge over the Little Saskatchewan River between Highway 16 and 45. That's the one section of 250 that has to be completed to complete the road to Sandy Lake.

HON. J. PLOHMAN: The proposal is that that section still requires acquisition of right-of-way.

MR. D. BLAKE: So it's on the program for acquisition of right-of-way . . .

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Yes.

MR. D. BLAKE: . . . but I just wonder if the bridge planning design had been done on the bridge.

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Yes, okay, I'll just check that. Mr. Chairman, the proposal was that the bridge be considered along with the grading and gravelling for that section. It's not usually done when the acquisition is done, so it would be designed and built at the same time that the grade and gravel was approved. The proposal is that that be considered for approval, at the earliest, in next year's program by the department, so that's where that sits. The bridge itself has not been designed but would be ready to go concurrently with the grading.

MR. D. BLAKE: Yes, the road could be completed without the bridge being changed, I realize that. We don't want to hold the road up for . . .

HON. J. PLOHMAN: But the plan is to do the bridge at the same time.

MR. D. BLAKE: At the same time.

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Yes.

MR. D. BLAKE: The Minister was made aware when a delegation appeared here a while ago with the costs that Hydro was going to be involved with the various work they were planning in the area that really would

seem unnecessary if that road was going to be rebuilt in the very near future.

Has that liaison with the Hydro people been carried out?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, we'd ask the district to follow up on that through the district engineer, Mr. McGuirk. We have not received a further report on that, but we will check on the progress of that matter.

MR. D. BLAKE: A further question on bridges in R.M.s. There are a number of bridges that are over smaller creeks and that, that are not main thoroughfares as some of them are. It's necessary to replace them to lower the size of them so as the bigger machinery and whatnot can get over, are used maybe in the spring and in the fall, that would be about the heaviest traffic over them.

Is there any assistance to the municipalities for building bridges in situations like that other than the assistance available under the Community Assets Program? Is there any assistance available through the Highways Branch for municipalities?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: No, there is no special bridge program other than the Municipal Community Assets Program through the Department of Highways. But since the member mentioned that program it is, I think, an excellent one for municipalities and is targeted particularly for bridges as one of the priorities.

I am hopeful that more and more municipalities will come forward with proposals that they are willing to share on a 50-50 basis because it gives them the opportunity to get some work done that they couldn't do otherwise and we have seen a number of them come forward; it was designed for that purpose. But under the Highways Department we do not have a special assistance program for rural municipalities since the taking over of the roads in the '60s, of the municipalities.

MR. D. BLAKE: Mr. Chairman, I mentioned before the supper hour that I was interested in the cost of the studies that have been done on the Brandon No. 1 Highway going north of Brandon and on the eastern access proposal.

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Yes, the original study that was commissioned by the former government, which the member was a part of, regarding the highway needs for the Brandon area, it ended up at \$323,500 and that was the study to prioritize various highways needs in the area to service the Brandon area.

Subsequent to that, we decided that it was necessary to have more detail on proposed routes for an eastern access into Brandon so that the routes would be defined to the functional design stage so that we could go ahead with property acquisition once a route had been selected. So they're looking at the alternatives for that area in detail and we'll be making the recommendations within the next month or so. That study is a follow-up to provide that additional detail is valued at \$70,950.00. So the total would be \$393,000 for those two studies.

MR. D. BLAKE: That sounds like a tremendous amount of money to come up with the recommendation such

as the one they came up with on moving the No. 1 Highway north which was a ridiculous recommendation. I'm not speaking as a highway designer or a traffic engineer, Mr. Chairman, but some of the comments that have been passed on to me from that area just seemed like a tremendous waste of funds and then to follow up with an additional study on the eastern access route.

Now, unfortunately, I haven't got the design plans or the proposed designed routes with me, Mr. Chairman, but from memory there were about three different routes picked there, and it seems that the one route has met with complete approval - I'm speaking of the area - from the people using the area, the Chamber of Commerce, the City of Brandon, which apparently wasn't one of the routes chosen by the department or recommended by the study. I wonder if the Minister could confirm now that he has taken the concerns of those local residents and the people involved into consideration in making the final decision to recommend the route.

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Well, certainly we are prepared to take those in and that's why we went forward with this additional study in that area. The consultants originally had not recommended this as a priority as the member may be aware. They were, instead, recommending a northern by-pass around Brandon as a first priority. But we have looked at that situation and feel because of the hazardous goods issue and so on that the matter of an eastern access should be a higher priority, and that is consistent with what the community has said.

However, there is some concern in terms of the viability, if I could call it that, of such a project because it is a major investment being placed too far out of Brandon that it would not be used by local traffic and therefore wouldn't justify its construction to the same extent at this time as would a route closer in. So we wanted to look at those in more detail.

I think the route the member is referring to is the 49th Street route that most people have accepted or desired as being the top option. That one is some distance out from Brandon and one that, because it would not serve the same amount of traffic as a route closer in would, there was some reluctance to accept immediately.

So we wanted to look at those further and look at the comparative costs in detail of about three separate routes, and I believe there was 49th, 17th Street and some variations in between those to determine the, because of the railway tracks and the other highways in the area, overpasses, interchanges, river crossings and so on required, to find out exactly which route would be the most efficient in terms of costs, and at the same time serve the area the best. That's why the additional study was done, even though on a superficial basis the residents and the city may have decided that the one route was the one they want, we feel that it is incumbent about upon us to at least have those other details, and we expect them shortly and we'll be making a decision thereafter.

MR. D. BLAKE: The one proposed route I think went smack dab right through the thermal generating station

property there. There was one from the feedback I got from the local city people seemed to be unacceptable to them when they looked at the 49th Street route. So I'm sure the Minister will be taking all of the concerns of the local people into consideration when the final decision is made on what route is finally chosen there.

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Yes, Mr. Chairman, we certainly will be looking at that. These options were only put out there as options so that there would be some alternatives for people to look at in that initial study that the member is referring to.

This study that we're doing now will flush these options out to the stage that whichever one we choose will be ready for acquisition. We'll have it in that kind of detail. So we're looking at, as I said, a number of variations, and we'll consider all of those concerns raised locally as well as the requirement to maximize the use of such an access because of its substantial cost.

MR. D. BLAKE: Looking at the costs of doing those studies, that looks like a pretty lucrative business. There's about a third of the bridge gone there, Mr. Chairman, in studying the problem.

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Well, Mr. Chairman, the original study of course was undertaken by the previous government and it cost about five times as much as the study that we followed up, to flush out in more detail some of these options, but I recognize that they are high costs. But there was a need to do a functional study for the Brandon area in terms of the priorities there, and I think it has served that purpose. They didn't just deal with an eastern access and a northern by-pass.

They dealt with about 16 different recommendations and prioritized them. We have accepted most of those recommendations so it will give direction to the Department of Highways over the next number of years in terms of priorities for that area. So it served a valuable purpose from that point of view. But I do appreciate that the studies did cost a substantial amount of money.

MR. D. BLAKE: I won't comment on which former Highway Minister undertook the studies.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 3.(a)(1)—pass; 3.(a)(2)—pass.
3.(b) Land Surveys: 3.(b)(1) Salaries and Wages; 3.(b)(2) Other Expenditures - the Member for Minnedosa.

MR. D. BLAKE: Mr. Chairman, I have a motion before passing that item, that appropriation . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Wait a minute.

MR. D. BLAKE: What is your motion? Are you going to pass Item 93, \$2,676,900, Mr. Chairman?

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, we're only on Item 3.(a)(1) and 3.(a)(2), the resolution is yet to come.

MR. D. BLAKE: 3.(a)(1) and 3.(a)(2)—pass.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You want to pass 3.(a)(2)?

MR. D. BLAKE: Pass.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 3.(b)(1)—pass; 3.(b)(2)—pass.
Resolution No. 93.

MR. D. BLAKE: Now, Mr. Chairman, it is moved by myself, seconded by the Member for Virden, that Appropriation No. 3, Planning and Design and Land Surveys amounting to \$2,676,900 be reduced by the amount of \$150,000, and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any saving in this resolution be transferred to the appropriate resolution to cover the completion of the bridge over the Carrot River to service the Saskeram area. Mr. Chairman has to consider that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Oh, there's no concern. The motion is on the floor. The Chair will accept the mover to put the motion in writing, please.

MR. D. BLAKE: Here it is.

MR. CHAIRMAN: . . . the motion. It consists of two parts; the first part is okay, but the second part violates new Rule 54(2) in the sense that it constitutes an increase of the appropriate item with respect to the completion of the bridge over the Carrot River. So if the member would move the first part by amending it, it might be accepted by the floor.

The motion will end up by saying that the Appropriation No. 3, Planning and Design and Land Surveys, amounting to \$2,676,900 be reduced by the amount of \$150,000.00.

MR. H. GRAHAM: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Point of order now being raised.

MR. H. GRAHAM: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, I think that there is no change in the amount of money. There is no requirement from the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council for any additional money. So, Mr. Chairman, I think that you should reconsider that particular point, because there is no call on the Lieutenant-Governor for any additional money whatsoever. This is just merely a transfer of money from one segment to another, and it does not require the authority of the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN: For the elucidation of the member, let me read the Rule under which we operate. Section 54(2) says: "No member, who is not a minister of the Crown shall move any amendment to a Bill or to estimates that increases any expenditure or varies a tax or a rate of tax or provides an exemption or increases an exemption from a tax or a proposed tax, but a member who is not a minister of the Crown may move an amendment to a Bill that decreases an expenditure or that removes or reduces an exemption from a tax or a proposed tax." So the only kind of motion that a member who is not a Minister of the Crown may move is one that moves an amendment to a bill that decreases an expenditure.

MR. H. ENNS: Mr. Chairman, that is your ruling?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I'm just reading the rule.

MR. H. ENNS: Make your ruling, Mr. Chairman. You are rejecting the motion put forward by my colleague from Minnedosa?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The motion as put, because of its form, is not acceptable, because the motion if it were to be acceptable must merely suggest or propose to the Minister who executes and who has the formal authority to make a motion.

MR. H. ENNS: Question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Thompson, he's not available.

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. H. ENNS: The ruling of the Chairman be sustained is the question that you now put, Mr. Chairman.

A MEMBER: That's right. There is no debate on that question.

MR. D. BLAKE: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, the Member for Thompson is . . .

MR. H. ENNS: There is no point of order. I had challenged the Chairman's ruling. I would ask the Clerk to instruct the Chairman . . .

HON. A. ANSTETT: There is no debate.

MR. H. ENNS: The Chair is challenged, and you have a vote.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: No no, not in this case, it isn't. Read your rulebook. Once the Chair is challenged, the vote is called. Mr. Chairman, called the vote.

MR. CHAIRMAN: A point of order is not an attempt to speak on the motion, it's a point of order.

MR. H. ENNS: No, Mr. Chairman, if the Chair is challenged and the question . . .

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

A MEMBER: Well, call the question.

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. CHAIRMAN: The ruling of the Chair has been challenged.

MR. H. ENNS: And your integrity's been challenged, Mr. Chairman.

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. H. ENNS: Well, call the question then.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. The ruling of the Chair has been challenged. Shall the ruling of the Chair be sustained by the members of the committee or not?

The question before this committee is whether the ruling of the Chair shall be sustained or not.

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. The ruling of the Chair has been challenged. The question is whether this committee will sustain the ruling of the Chair or not. Shall the ruling of the Chair be sustained? The Yeas have it. Those opposed to the motion?

MR. R. BANMAN: You don't ask for the Nays, the Yeas have it.

A MEMBER: The Member for La Verendrye's moved it's unanimous.

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is a good exercise.

MR. H. GRAHAM: Mr. Chairman, will you fulfill your role, please?

HON. A. ANSTETT: Take the Yeas and Nays, please.

MR. H. GRAHAM: You've got the Yeas, now ask for the Nays.

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Chair asks for the vote of Nays. The Yeas have it.

MR. H. GRAHAM: Mr. Chairman, Yeas and Nays, please. A formal vote, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: A formal vote is being asked. This is a committee; we have got to have a formal vote.

(Committee recessed to Chamber for vote.)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$2,676,900 for Highways and Transportation, Planning and Design and Land Surveys for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1986—pass.

We are now on Item No. 4.(a)(1) and 4.(a)(2) Engineering and Technical Services, Management Services: 4.(a)(1) Salaries, 4.(a)(2) Other Expenditures—pass.

4.(b) Mechanical Equipment Services: 4.(b)(1) Salaries and Wages, 4.(b)(2) Other Expenditures—pass; 4.(b)(3) Less: Recoverable from Other Appropriations—pass.

Item No. 4.(c) Warehouse Stores: 4.(c)(1) Salaries and Wages—pass; 4.(c)(2) Other Expenditures—pass; 4.(c)(3) Purchases—pass; 4.(c)(4) Less: Recoverable from Other Appropriations—pass.

Item No. 4.(d) Northern Airports: 4.(d)(1) Salaries and Wages—pass.

4.(d)(2) Other Expenditures - the Member for Minnedosa.

MR. D. BLAKE: Yes, on some of the Northern Airports, I just want one or two questions.

Leaf Rapids, Mr. Chairman, there were some problems there in the past with stabilizing that airstrip there. There were numerous complaints in the past. I wonder if he could tell us what the situation is now with the Leaf Rapids Airport.

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, that's not one of the airports that we are responsible for under the Northern Airports Program. We had assisted them in the past under the transportation section, a grant to that airport, but that's not a part of the program here under . . .

MR. D. BLAKE: Under Northern Airports?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: It's Appropriation 5 that it's under, that one. It's just a grant to assist in the operation of that airport, but it's not one of the ones that we are operating.

MR. D. BLAKE: Where do the rest of the funds come from? Is it a federally funded airport?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: I can't, Mr. Chairman, explain where the other funding comes for the airport, but I know that we only contribute a small amount to that airport through our grants under the transportation division, Section 5. As I have indicated earlier, it is not one of the ones we maintain in Northern Manitoba, so it doesn't fit under this appropriation.

MR. D. BLAKE: Just a general question. Are there any problems associated with the other airstrips and what is the accident rate, in general, on the airstrips covered under this section?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: I understand that it's very low. I don't have exact figures, but there is not an outstanding problem with regard on accidents on these airports that are maintained by the department in Northern Manitoba. We get complaints from time to time about runways and the need for gravel and improvements, but overall it's been a smooth operation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 4.(d)(2)—pass; 4.(e) Marine Services: 4.(e)(1) Salaries and Wages—pass.

4.(e)(2) Other Expenditures - the Member for Minnedosa.

MR. D. BLAKE: I wonder if the Minister could tell us how many ferry services are now in operation and how many are stored or dry-docked.

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, we had one that was stored this past year, the M.V. Charlie Sinclair, which has been moved to South Indian Lake at the present time and will be operating in July at that new location. It was moved from Cross Lake and will be serving between South Bay and South Indian Lake in this fiscal year. So that's the only one that was **not** operating this past year in Northern Manitoba. I **could** give the member the list of the various ferries if he **so** desires, but these have not changed from the **previous** year.

MR. D. BLAKE: I notice the M.V. Edgar Wood is leased to the Channel Area Community Services for an operational grant of \$60,000.00. That's a grant provided by the government to the band to operate it. Is it all used up or is that the total operating cost of that service?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: As the member may note, there is a number of them that have special grants and that covers actually the M.V. Edgar Wood, the C.F. Thomas A. McIvor and the C.F. Ingemar Carlson, which have received grants, and that does not cover the total cost of operation because the . . .

MR. D. BLAKE: The rental operation and leasing cost of it.

HON. J. PLOHMAN: They operate additional trips. That is a subsidy for the operation to them.

MR. D. BLAKE: Their revenue is generated from tariff on passengers and vehicles being transported, is that right? — (Interjection) — No charge?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: No, this is a provincial subsidy for their operation, but I understand that they don't charge for the operation and for a toll or anything like that for their operation, so they supplement those operations from other revenue sources.

MR. D. BLAKE: The wages of the operators are paid out of another appropriation, is that right, employed by marine services and other sections?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: In these cases, they are operating these services, not the department. We make a contribution or, in other words, a subsidy for their operation, but they pay their own operators from their own sources. This is a subsidy to help them operate.

MR. D. BLAKE: There are some that are operated by the government totally?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Yes. Mr. Chairman, that's right, the M.V. Charlie Sinclair will be operated by the government; the M.V. Joe Keeper, Split Lake to York Landing; the C.F. James Apetagon, Nelson River Crossing at Seafalls enroute to Norway House community; and C.F. Alfred Settee Sr., Nelson River Crossing at Pipestone Lake enroute to Cross Lake community. Those are all operated by the department, the other three that I mentioned earlier receive a subsidy and the communities operate them themselves.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 4.(e)(2)—pass; 4.(f) Materials and Research; 4.(f)(1) Salaries and Wages—pass.
4.(f)(2) Other Expenditures - the Member for Minnedosa.

MR. D. BLAKE: Yes, the questions we had on testing and standards, Mr. Chairman, were answered previously when we got started on this, so we can pass that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 4.(f)(2)—pass.

4.(g) Traffic Operations: 4.(g)(1) Salaries and Wages—pass.

4.(g)(2) Other Expenditures - the Member for Minnedosa.

MR. D. BLAKE: Yes, what's entailed in this expenditure, Mr. Chairman, quickly.

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Yes, traffic signals are included, illumination, pavement markings, signing, sign shops, speed limits. Well they make recommendations to the Highway Traffic Board respecting speed limits; they keep accident records; monitor the travel speeds, and I can give pavement markings as being one of the major areas. I can give details for the various costs for each appropriation, illumination for example, \$740,000; sign manufacturing \$800,000; pavement markings 1,490,000; and a number of other smaller appropriations, railway crossing signals \$770,000; another major one, electrical traffic controlled devices \$360,000.00. There's been a number of new signage programs that I mentioned in my opening statement to the member so I won't go into that right now, but those are all covered under this section.

MR. D. BLAKE: These signs in the press release, Mr. Chairman, will be replaced, as the press release indicates, as they become worn out or irreparable. What expense per year do you feel that this will represent, the replacement of these signs? Some comments on what have they done to our buffalo when they see the new sign going up, Mr. Chairman.

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Well, Mr. Chairman, we don't have a planned specific amount for that area because a lot of them are replaced when reconstruction takes place, new construction on a particular road. The signs are taken down during construction and they will be replaced, in those cases, with the new signs. It depends on the amount of construction that takes place in any particular year. So it would vary, and it would also vary according to the need for replacement for those that are deteriorated to the point that they have to be replaced. So we don't have a specific appropriation or amount of dollars for that, a lot of them are charged to the particular construction program, grading program that might be taking place in an area.

I think they're rather attractive though, the new signs. I'm sure that the honourable member would agree.

MR. D. BLAKE: As I say there are many comments, what have they done to our buffalo? It's been described as a pork chop with legs and various other descriptions. I suppose we all recognize it for what it is.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 4.(g)(2)—pass.
4.(g)(3) - the Member for Gladstone.

MRS. C. OLESON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I wanted to discuss the Redcoat Trail under this heading, may I do that; or is there another place where it would be better discussed?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: This is the place to talk about it because it involves signage.

MRS. C. OLESON: Well for a considerable length of time there have been committees from both Manitoba and Saskatchewan and Alberta working on this commemorative trail to be called the Redcoat Trail, and the most recent development that I have knowledge of is a letter from the Manitoba Business Development and Tourism office saying that this signing of the Redcoat Trail will not take place, and the Minister outlined in a couple of pages his reasons for this, and I'm wondering of the Minister of Highways who is responsible for decisions to do with highways, the Minister of Tourism or the Minister of Highways?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Well, Mr. Chairman, it's obviously, in this particular case, not a clear-cut responsibility for either department. It involves also Historical Resources in this particular case because the request to designate a particular route is being done to commemorate an historic trek of the Redcoat, Northwest Mounted Police, across Manitoba and into Saskatchewan and Alberta. The concern, of course, is that it should be historically accurate, and that was one of the major problems that was associated, as the member is probably no doubt aware, with the original request to designate Highway 2 as the Redcoat Trail.

Of course, there is a group on Highway 3 that would like to see the designation and there's also groups more southerly which probably more accurately represent, as far as historically accuracy, the actual route that is to be commemorated. So there was concerns expressed from Historic Resources and, as well, Tourism has become the lead department in this area because the major reason for the request for signing was to improve tourism and to attract tourists to those routes and take them off Highway No. 1, perhaps, and have them travel through other routes 2 or 3, depending which group you're involved with, through more southerly route through Manitoba. So it is to improve tourism and to attract people to those areas and improve business and so on. So that's why Tourism is involved in this particular instance.

We are, as a Department of Highways, in a position that we will consider signing a route that does not have the objections of those other departments after they have carefully considered all of the concerns that are raised, and we're still prepared to do that if there can be an agreement on a particular route. But, in the absence of that agreement, the concerns expressed, particularly by the Historic Resources, we cannot accede to signing that route.

MRS. C. OLESEN: Mr. Chairman, I think that the key word in this is "commemorative," and the committee that was suggesting this, and requesting this designation, at no time ever suggested that this was the authentic route, and there is no way, unless you build a complete new highway across southern Manitoba, that you would ever get onto the exact route, if you could find it. So there was no suggestion that this was an authentic historic route and I think that the intention by the committee was to place markers directing people that wish to travel to an exact site, they could do so. This was mainly a connecting route with Saskatchewan.

Now we have a situation where we get to the border of Saskatchewan, if we're going west, and we're

suddenly on the Red Coat Trail. All this is very fine, but when you're coming from the other way, the Red Coat Trail ends and the whole thrust of the thing is lost.

I tell you that the people in Saskatchewan on a committee, you have probably heard from them, that they are not very happy, and of course the people who have done so much work along No. 2 Highway are far from enchanted with the situation as it stands now.

There was some plan that I heard of last fall to designate several highways and that I could agree was going to be quite an interesting travelogue of southern Manitoba if you follow that way.

But I hope the Minister will endeavour to find some workable solution in that a road can be designated as a commemorative trail. There was never any insistence that it be an authentic historic route. The first meeting I had with the group and went to see a former Minister of Highways, he was quite enthusiastic about the program and in fact signs apparently were made. What has become of those signs? Are they in storage till whenever?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, I appreciate much of what the member is saying. I also have a great deal of enthusiasm for the project and sympathy for what is going on. I have met with Mr. Ewart Hudson and probably one of the persons from Glenboro that the member has probably talked to on this particular matter. I appreciate the effort they have put into this and regret that we weren't able to accommodate that request. It was a very frustrating experience to say the least.

I'm not so sure that Saskatchewan and Alberta considered the historic significance of that route when they allowed the signing, or promoted the signing of that route, the route through the other two provinces. They did not take into consideration the matter of historical significance in the same way that we have here in Manitoba, and probably as a result of a concern raised by a person from the RCMP originally, and when that was brought to our attention we had no option but to consider what they were saying in terms of its historic significance. Although it may be commemorative in intention, it doesn't mean that people travelling can understand that it's only commemorative. So there can be a misunderstanding about that and therefore it becomes a misrepresentation of history which we are concerned about and which we had to consider when this was brought to our attention.

I'm hopeful that through working with the Department of Tourism that they will find a suitable alternative for the naming of some of the highways in southern Manitoba. We have to remember that Highway 3 is probably much closer to the actual trek than Highway 2. So it wouldn't be suitable from that point of view to name Highway 2.

So I think they have to continue to work with the Department of Tourism, see if they can't come to some other arrangement, some other suitable name that will attract tourists in the same way because that was the purpose I believe, mainly. It wasn't to commemorate necessarily that route and certainly it wasn't historically accurate if they would have been doing it. But it was to attract tourism people to that area, and there must be other ways to do it if we use some imagination and that really is the key to it, I think.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister of Natural Resources.

HON. S. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a few comments with respect to that issue because it was I who originally received the delegation with respect to the signage for Highway No. 2.

At that time we were not aware that was not the authentic route, and it was only subsequent to a verbal commitment to them at that time that we thought it was a good idea, that we found out that it wasn't indeed representative of the route that in fact is known as the historical route.

Upon checking with the historical people we found out that the more accurate route was going to be along No. 3 Highway, but no route is accurate and that has to be understood because what we were talking about, historically speaking, is trails, horseback trails if you like, and not highways for cars or locomotives or whatever.

So at that time I took the position that what we should do, if we recognize the importance of that historical fact, that we do that in a way that as closely as possible resembles the route within the parameters of paved surfaces, and therein lay the reason why we decided to put the suggestion forward that No. 3 should be the route that should be established as such if one was to be established at all, because it would more closely resemble the accurate route.

Subsequent to that, of course, there were delegations that expressed concern because it wasn't the actual route, that the actual route was somewhere along the U.S. border on what is now known as a gravel road - I think it's a PR at one point - but again it deviated from the policy position which I had adopted and that was that we wanted to follow pavement routes. We were not wanting to encourage tourism traffic on routes that did not lend themselves to that purpose, and the fear that once we did that we would find ourselves in a position of having to be persuaded later down the road to spend many millions of dollars to upgrade the routes that are authentic where there is no other reason for doing so. So we stuck with the position that we would try to get as close to the route as possible but we would remain on the pavement, and No. 3 Highway was where I had come down to recommend. Where that sits now, I really don't know. I gather there has been some change of opinion since that time.

I happen to think that pieces of history like that are probably important to remember in many ways. I happen to agree with the notion that promoting it via tourism and identification along roadways is probably a good way to do that. It is a rich part of our early history that I think should be remembered in some way on a sort of regular daily basis, if you like, because it's really part of our heritage. So the principle is sound in my opinion. I don't think we could ever resolve the arguments with respect to where it should happen, and unfortunately we can't satisfy all those needs.

One has to recognize that the promoters of Route No. 2 seized upon the idea very much on a commercial basis. It was really a business decision to enhance business along No. 2 Highway for restaurants, garages, motels or whatever and that's fair game, but we should recognize that for what it is.

It's very difficult from the point of view of principle, though, to accommodate that request, because once

you start to tamper with historical fact, then certainly the state has a responsibility to be as accurate to history as possible and we wouldn't want to abuse the historical facts that are there in that regard. I don't think we should be used in that way. I think history is important. So we'll leave it there, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Minnedosa.

MR. D. BLAKE: Yes, there's a trail running through the constituency of myself and the Honourable Member for Virden that has some historical significance. It's known by all and sundry in the area and a great many Manitobans as the "turkey trail," but it has lost over the years a lot of that historical significance and the name now is referred to, and the local residents now are wondering if its referring to the residents along there rather than for the purpose that the name was originally attached to that trail.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Virden.

MR. H. GRAHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to follow on the remarks of the Honourable Minister of Natural Resources. I think when you start dealing with historical naming of particular roads, I think one of the things we may be missing is the interprovincial dialogue that may be necessary. I find it rather disturbing that here in Manitoba we may want to designate a certain road but because of a provincial boundary it may not tie in with what has already been designated in other areas.

I say this, Mr. Chairman, because I know I have been part and parcel of a group that have been very successful over the years in designating a particular highway, not only in Manitoba but in Saskatchewan and in Alberta and in British Columbia, which is now known all across Canada and the United States as the Yellowhead Highway.

Now there has never been any suggestion that Ted John, which the highway is named after, ever travelled in Manitoba at all. His activities were confined to B.C., but we as a province have decided to go along with the other provinces, and we now have a common highway called the Yellowhead Highway which goes right to the west coast and is known for tourist purposes and also for commercial purposes as basically a second Trans-Canada Highway in Western Canada.

It is used very extensively by industry and it is now very seldom people refer to Highway 16. They all refer to the Yellowhead Highway. So it has through usage adopted a particular historical name that really has no bearing whatsoever in Manitoba, but it does have a very significant value for tourist purposes and for commercial purposes.

So I would ask the Minister when he's considering this particular project, that he consult extensively with other provinces where they have apparently adopted a particular position. I think that Manitoba should do everything they can to co-operate as they have in the past.

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, since the time that I've been Minister of Highways, I have communicated on this issue of the Red Coat Trail a number of times

to the Minister from Saskatchewan, and have not received any constructive background or any detail on the criteria used in that particular province and in Alberta for the naming.

I think that there is quite a difference between the designation of the Yellowhead route and the Red Coat Trail. The Yellowhead route does not pretend in any way, I don't think, to represent an historic route through Manitoba, whereas the Yellowhead would seem, because of the nature of its name, to be representing an historic trek. And that's the difference.

I mean, we have another route called the Northern Woods and Water route. It's a tourism route. It doesn't represent anything historic, and it's much easier to name. But when you get into the historic area and you're representing history, then I think there are some different considerations that you have to take into account. So I think the member is raising a rather separate issue with a separate set of criteria.

MR. H. GRAHAM: Mr. Chairman, I'm sure the Minister would not want it left on the record that he does not consider the Yellowhead to be an historic route, because the whole concept of the Yellowhead does have a very deep historic base. Unfortunately that base is in B.C., but it does have a very significant historic base. I say that as a member of that association.

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, I have a great deal of admiration for the work that the Yellowhead Association has done. I've been at their annual meetings in each of the last three years and have spoken there, and we've put a great deal of priority on that route. So there is no doubt about our commitment to that particular route, as the member probably has as well to that route, but what I'm saying is that it does not pretend to represent an historic route in this province, and that is quite different then.

MR. D. BLAKE: Mr. Chairman, I just have one question on this section. The signage outlining various tourist facilities at the entrance to towns along the various routes, at what stage is this particular project now? How many have taken advantage of it? Just where is that signage program at?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, it has only been announced in the last month or two, so that a lot of communities have not had an opportunity to take advantage of the program as yet, there's only a few. But there are 65 designated communities along various tourist routes that were designated by the Department of Tourism under funding from the Destination Manitoba Program, a federal-provincial program.

Those are eligible, and I have criteria that I could give within five kilometres of those particular routes - five kilometres - and they could then take advantage of the cost-sharing program for erection of those signs and the construction and manufacture of those signs, but it's just beginning. We hope that, following this first phase - that's Phase One of the program - that we would be able to expand it to cover in Phase Two and Phase Three all of the communities in the province through a special program under the Highways Department funding. But at this time it is being funded through the Destination Manitoba Program.

There are 65 communities eligible on major tourist routes, and they include Highway 10 right up to Flin Flon; Highway 391 through Snow Lake or up to Thompson and Lynn Lake; they include as well Highway 16 or the Yellowhead route; Highway No. 1; Highway 10, I indicated right from Flin Flon all the way down to the American border; Highway 8; Highway 6 up to the Narrows and across the Northern Woods and Water Route; across the Narrows and up to Camperville area; Highway 9 to Gimli; Highway 11; Highway 44; Highway 12; Highway 75. Those are the communities that are included under that program.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 4.(g)(2)—pass; 4.(g)(3)—pass.

4.(h) Government Air and Radio Services: 4.(h)(1) Salaries - the Member for Minnedosa.

MR. D. BLAKE: Under this item, (1) or (2), Mr. Chairman, it doesn't matter. I wonder if the Minister could bring us up-to-date on how many aircraft they own, if it's changed from the 1983-84 report. There were some aircraft advertised for sale, I wonder if he could tell us what aircraft have been sold and give us some idea of the prices they brought.

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, we have 15 aircraft as of now. Three are up for sale, including two Beavers - a standard turbo Beaver, and a Skymaster - those are being tendered for sale, and we do not have the results of those tenders through Government Services. We haven't received the bids yet; they close on the 22nd of April. When we receive those, we'll know what the value of those are, but we will have then down to 12 and then when the Citation S-2, which is new air ambulance jet that comes on, we'll have one additional so we'll be up to 13.

MR. D. BLAKE: There are no plans to buy any additional aircraft?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Not at this time, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Thompson.

MR. S. ASHTON: The Minister mentioned an aircraft which is dear to my ears, I'm sure, and it's also dear to other Northern MLA's, the Citation 2. I know a lot of people in the North are anxious to know when the Citation 2 will be in action as an air ambulance. I'm wondering if the Minister can give us an update on that. I understand it's scheduled for some time in the summer.

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, unfortunately the member's question is very timely. We had expected that the new Citation S-2 which is being bought from Cessna Corporation in Wichita, Kansas, and is being manufactured from the ground up as an air ambulance with all of the requirements for an air ambulance being met and included in its construction is delayed by approximately a month-and-a-half or so, so we're looking at a September 1st delivery date, as opposed to July that we expected and that we were budgeting for. We have just received that word today, so that it will begin operation in September.

MR. S. ASHTON: I recently was at a public meeting in regard to the air ambulance, and there was a fair amount of interest in seeing the actual aircraft itself, particularly the medical people at the meeting were quite anxious. I'm just wondering if the Minister can indicate that there will be some opportunity for medical personnel to view the aircraft on a non-operational basis, perhaps before it's put into full service, if there could be a tour of various major Northern communities.

HON. J. PLOHMAN: The air ambulance will tour, once it is delivered, will make a stop in most of the major communities that it will serve so that people in the area will have an opportunity to view it and become familiar with the plane and its capability, capacity and so on. That will take place soon after its delivery.

I believe, as well, the honourable member has raised a valuable point, that it is important for people to be aware of what service it actually will serve and what it can do and what its capacity is. It has the capacity to hold two stretchers at one time or a stretcher and an incubator at the same time, and will be fully equipped and fully staffed. These are the kinds of things that I think people will want to be aware of, especially the medical community in those areas. So we will definitely undertake to have it fly to the communities so that they can become aware of the service that will be offered.

MR. S. ASHTON: Just as a final comment, I note from the appropriation the fact that the air ambulance service has taken a fair amount of commitment in terms of funds, but I just wanted to indicate that, if the feedback that I have received in Thompson is any indication, people feel it's money well worth spent. I am sure you'll find much the same situation, not just in the present communities which do have an air transportation, but also in some of the new communities which are going to be serviced, such as, Swan River and rural areas which are, for the first time, going to be able to take advantage of that service.

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, we expect that the air ambulance will serve all 45 communities in Manitoba; there will be no special restrictions put on its use for emergencies. It will serve all of Manitoba where 3,200 foot runways are available, and that is 45 communities throughout Northern and southern Manitoba, to serve those communities and the people in those communities when emergencies arise that require an air ambulance.

There have been a number of public meetings that have been held to gain feedback on the service, and generally they have been positive. There have been some concerns about the effect on ground ambulance, especially on private ground ambulance operators in some areas. Those are being considered by the committee at the present time.

I should mention that this will be fully recoverable. It will be operated by the Department of Highways and Transportation, but will be fully recoverable from the Manitoba Health Services Commission.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Virden.

MR. H. GRAHAM: Mr. Chairman, my questions are dealing with the radio services and, if anyone wants

to continue any questions on the air services, I am prepared to wait if you want to complete.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Gladstone.

MRS. C. OLESON: Thank you. My question's just a short one. How much is this new air ambulance costing us?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: The capital cost is \$2.7 million, and it will cost about \$1 million per year to operate, including about \$441,000 for the staffing and \$501,000 for other operating expenses. So it's about \$1 million a year to operate, and the capital expenditure is \$2.7 million.

MRS. C. OLESON: Where will it be based, in Winnipeg?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Yes, Mr. Chairman, it will be based in Winnipeg. There was a lot of consideration as to whether it should be based in a Northern point, or perhaps in a community like say Dauphin, for example.

MR. H. GRAHAM: How did that come out?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Actually I was very considerate. After considering the staffing needs and the expertise that was required for such a facility service, it was felt that it was best to have it stationed here in Winnipeg and most efficient and cost efficient. That's why the decision was made to station it in Winnipeg.

MR. H. GRAHAM: I would like to turn the attention of the committee to the Radio Services. Mr. Chairman, some time ago I had a constituent who raised a problem with me verbally, I have nothing in writing. He told me that he had attempted to buy an air radio for his airplane. He had written to the company, and they told him that the Manitoba Air Services were the sole distributor in the Province of Manitoba.

Now I can't remember the name of the radio - this happened quite some time ago - so I would ask the Minister if the air services are, indeed, an agency for a particular radio manufacturer and, if so, I would like to know what their sales have been and the volume of business they have done in that particular field?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, it's interesting. I recall that the member raised this matter with me as Minister of Government Services a few years ago, or two years, I believe. We had quite a lengthy and detailed discussion about this particular situation with the letters, and the name and so on of the individual involved, so it was more detail provided by the honourable member. We don't distribute formally as an agency. The Air Radio Division does not act as agency for sale and distribution of these radios to other groups or agencies or to anybody else. They are only for the use of the government.

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

Resolution 94: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$12,323,200 for Highways and Transportation, Engineering and

Technical Services for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1986—pass.

We are now starting with Item No. 5.(a) Salaries; 5.(b) Other Expenditures; 5.(c) Rural Transportation Grants for the Mobility Disadvantaged under the topic Transportation Policy and Research - the Member for Minnedosa.

MR. D. BLAKE: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I wonder if the Minister could tell us what requests for grants for the Southern Airport Assistance Program have been received and what grants have been turned down, if any, in the past year, and the funding for the Transportation Grants to the Mobility Disadvantaged. Those are the grants to the towns or municipalities for the Handivans, is that correct?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Yes, Mr. Chairman. There are now 22 communities being served or to be served under that program. We're expanding significantly every year, and just recently we had an agreement with the Federal Government to purchase 12 additional Handivans for some existing services, as well as some new services to communities that presently do not have the service. We had an agreement that the Federal Government would match the \$10,000 capital grant that we provide under the Mobility Disadvantaged Transportation Program. So, with that, we were able to offer \$20,000 per community for assistance, which was a tremendous advantage to them because the costs of those Handivans has increased dramatically over the last couple of years ranging up as high as \$40,000 for an individual Handivan. So, they were very pleased about that and it was a good example of co-operation between the province and the Federal Government.

MR. D. BLAKE: Is there any operating grant money being provided or any being considered?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Yes, there has been built into the program up to 37.5 percent of operating costs per year to a maximum of \$20,000.00. So, that has assisted the communities in operating and not having to go to full user recovery for the operation and, of course, they many times find special groups in the community to assist community organizations to help, but that's what we're providing and, of course, we offer that to each community as they come on stream. So, the program, naturally, is expanding each year in terms of the costs to the Provincial Government.

MR. D. BLAKE: How about the airport grants?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: I somehow lost the question regarding airport . . .

MR. D. BLAKE: Yes, I wonder what grants were assisted to rural or southern . . .

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Oh yes, the southern . . .

MR. D. BLAKE: Yes, how many have been received and how many have been turned down, if any?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: We have distributed the operating grants each year - \$600 per airport, and all of those

that had qualified are being serviced. There is a total of \$1,500.00. It's a rather small program with \$600 per airport for operating, but it does assist and seems to be appreciated out there. In addition to that, we have a \$15,000 capital appropriation to assist those airport organizations to improve their airstrips and their facilities there. So, some of them are taking advantage of that. We are not refusing any that have been designated under that program that I'm aware of.

I understand, Mr. Chairman, that I'll be getting a report very shortly on the latest update on this, but I have not received it in my office as yet.

MR. D. BLAKE: Maybe let us have a copy when you get it.

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Yes, if the member would like to have some specific information, there is nothing private or confidential about that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Virden.

MR. H. GRAHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Dealing with the airport grants, I would like to ask the Minister, is there not a policy where there are additional grants to certain airports, and I realize there are only four or five that are designated as regional airports, is there not a policy that is additional to the \$600 for all airports?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, there is not a formal designated program for regional airports. There was some consideration of that policy by the former government, it was never implemented formally. So all of the southern airports receiving assistance get \$600, with the exception of Swan River which was one which was started under a regional concept but was never part of a formal regional concept policy. So, that particular airport is receiving \$1,800; all the rest are receiving \$600.00.

MR. H. GRAHAM: Could the Minister give me an update on the program for the Strathclair Airport?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Excuse me. I just wanted to add that we are undertaking a study under the subagreements for a regional airport concept but that's just under way, it's not completed.

In terms of the Strathclair Airport, we don't have any information on that, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Minnedosa.

MR. D. BLAKE: I wonder if the Minister could give me this information, I don't have it right now. There was a request a while back for an airstrip at Clear Lake with the usual advantages to the tourist industry, people coming back and forth, and I just wondered if you could find whatever information, or where that particular situation was now and just give it to me at your . . .

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Yes, Mr. Chairman, we'll make a note of that. I have never received any formal request. For the Member for Minnedosa, I have not received any requests on that, but it may be in the history of the department and we will look into finding that information for the honourable member.

MR. D. BLAKE: Mr. Chairman, that's about all the questions I have on that. In reply to the note, I've had several of my colleagues indicate they wanted to speak under the Driver and Vehicle Licensing section, so we may get hung up there for some time. I don't really know. I don't think there is going to be any motions to change the appropriation coming forward but there could be some detailed questioning on it and it could go on for a bit of time.

Outside of that, under the Highway Traffic and Licence Suspension Appeal Board, that could all be done under the general section but that may take a little time and it may carry us on a bit too late tonight. I think the House Leaders have agreed that the Minister cannot be here on Monday and I believe they're going to discuss rules and whatnot on tomorrow's business, so we would finish Highways on Tuesday. It may take us another hour or two. — (Interjection) — or three or four. So if that's agreeable, the committee could rise, it's agreeable with us, Mr. Chairman, on this side.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is that agreeable to everybody?

MR. D. BLAKE: Transportation Policy and Research, we haven't passed it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We haven't? Okay.

A MEMBER: Hold it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We will hold it.
Committee rise.

SUPPLY - HEALTH

MR. CHAIRMAN, P. EYLER: Committee come to order.
We are considering Item 2.(e) Hearing Conservation.
The Member for Rhineland.

MR. A. BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

On page 32 of the Annual Report, I notice that at the bottom of the page, it says that the long-range plans call for Manitoba Health to provide audiology services to all suburban and Winnipeg school divisions and for the Child Guidance Clinic to provide a similar service specifically to Winnipeg School Division No. 1. I am wondering, are these services of audiologists available to all school divisions, and are all school divisions now serviced by an audiologist.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister of Health.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Over the years, these centres were set out in all the different regions in the rural outside of Winnipeg. That's all set up now and it includes high risk register for detecting hearing impaired in babies, pre-school and school kids in the rural area. In the city, we started with the Winnipeg School Division No. 1. This is delivered at our request, we're paying for this service through the Child Guidance Clinic. Besides that, we are working with the hospitals starting setting up some centers. There's one at Seven Oaks; there's one at Victoria and there's one at Deer Lodge and this year we'll set one up at Concordia. I think there'll be only one or two left and that service is given also.

MR. A. BROWN: So if I understand that correctly, then these services are available right across Manitoba. Thank you.

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

The Member for Pembina.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, before we really get started on this section, I want to just read back and quote what the Minister gave me back Tuesday, March 12th. The Minister indicated I want - he's referring to myself as health critic - I want to say that I expect him to keep me honest and I also want to say to him that I don't intend to give any edge either. When he makes statements, I expect him to be able to back them up.

Mr. Chairman, Monday night and again on Tuesday night, I asked the Minister for details about his report "Manitoba and Medicare" which he said wasn't ready, wasn't finished, hadn't seen it, etc., etc. I just want to indicate to the Minister that I've got a copy of his report and that if I'm to keep him honest when I ask him questions, I hope that I don't have to do things like this and bring in a report that he said isn't completed and isn't ready yet.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Fair enough, Mr. Chairman.

I had no intention of making a big thing out of this but our office of the Research and Planning has been broken into on a number of occasions. One time it was reported to police about six years ago. There was a report, I don't know if it's the one, my friend is showing a report that I haven't seen that was referred to yesterday of 245 pages. I think a few pages were added just lately, just these last few days. That was going through the correction for any mistakes before it was presented to me. I said in this House two days ago that I had the resume - I have it of that - that it wasn't complete. I said that Dr. Evans will be making a presentation to the Cabinet in a couple of weeks or so, or next week, and that's exactly what is happening. That report, I have never seen it before, the report that is being shown, I don't know where my honourable friend got it. I know that our place was broken in and that one report was taken out. They are all numbered. It wouldn't be a bad idea to give me the number on that report; I might be able to check. So I welcome my honourable friend keeping me honest.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Pembina.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, the report isn't numbered. It wasn't obtained by being broken into if that is the accusation he is making of me.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: I am saying there is one report missing and I have never seen that report. That's what I'm saying.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, I think the Minister is once again caught and he didn't talk anything about a resume or anything the other night. He said the report wasn't ready.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: The draft. I mentioned a draft of the report.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, I am not going to pursue it any further because the Minister has been caught a little bit short and that's the kind of thing we want to try to avoid in these Estimates. When I bring a matter up with him, I intend to be well enough founded in it and have enough information on the record that what I am asking about is not frivolous, but I am serious about the questions I pose to him and I expect him, as he says, to be honest, to keep him honest.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: I did give you the answer.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Yes, that's right, you did. But I had to table the report before you would give me the answer.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: That's why I told you the same answer.

MR. D. ORCHARD: You did. Tough. Well, Mr. Chairman, the Minister can sort of . . .

HON. L. DESJARDINS: That report was stolen . . .

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

The Minister of Culture on a point of order.

HON. E. KOSTYRA: Yes, the member made mention of a report he tabled. I would ask to see a copy of that report that was tabled.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Would the Member for Pembina like to table his report?

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, I didn't table any report.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: You just said you tabled the report.

MR. D. ORCHARD: I did not table any report, Mr. Chairman.

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

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

MR. D. ORCHARD: No, I am not going to table it. I intend to read it to find out what you are going to do to the health system. That's what I am going to do; I am going to read the report. I suggest the Minister might read it when he gets it.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: I will.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Good. Then we will talk about it at that point in time.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: But you won't table it?

MR. D. ORCHARD: No, I intend to read the report I have.

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

The committee cannot proceed in such a disorganized manner. I would ask the members to wait until recognized by the Chair and I would ask them not to interrupt each other. There will be plenty of time to settle this issue in an orderly fashion.

The Minister of Health.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, my honourable friend asked me a question; I gave him exactly the correct answer. He made the statement that he tabled a report; he is reading from that report. It's a report that I don't have, that is not finished, that hasn't been given to me yet, and I ask him to table the report.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Pembina.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, I did not read from any report and the Minister knows that. He's been caught in his own glue here. I have no intention of tabling a report I have not quoted from. I intend to read the report to keep this Minister honest as he said he expected on the 12th of April, and that's what I intend to do.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, it's obvious what kind of Estimate debate we're going to have. I have tried, to the best of my knowledge and ability, to give all the information, to be as flexible as possible to my honourable friend. It's been petty stuff that he's been trying, even in the way, not so much today, other days we were questioned one bit at a time, not so much to get information, but to trap people.

Mr. Chairman, the point is that I made the statement that I didn't have that report, it wasn't finalized; that I knew some of the things that were in it - I think the word that I used was draft, the first draft. That report will be presented by Dr. Evans to the Cabinet. It will be released then. I even said that I would give him a copy of the report if the member likes, although it's an internal document. I don't know what else I can do to co-operate. It seems obvious that is not the intention.

That document, Mr. Chairman, is a working document that has been prepared for facts. I'm not making any accusations, I'm saying it was released to the press. I'm saying today, I had no intention of making a big thing out of this, that our place was broken in a few weeks ago. There was a copy of the report that has been stolen from the office of the director. None of our people has that report yet; I haven't got that report. It was all at the Planning who were doing the last finishing mark on this. The number of pages were quoted, the newspaper and some of these pages were added just lately. Some charts and all that to make I think it was 245 pages. I don't mind co-operating at all, I intend to co-operate; but co-operation is something that has to be done by both parties. It's obvious that my honourable friend is just trying to trip people, not trying to get information or discuss in an intelligent manner. There's not much I can do about it. The accusation has backfired on him; every single one has backfired so far, but if he doesn't want to accept the facts or the answers, there's not much we can do about it.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, I really feel sorry for the Minister, that he considers some of these issues

that we are bringing up are petty, and that we're trying to trip him up, poor dear soul. There is no information being sought here tonight that is invaluable information in the last two or three days; and if the Minister knew more about his department then, you know, he wouldn't have to worry about being tripped up, as he calls it, and little traps laid for the poor dear soul.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: That's petty.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Now the Minister says it's petty. Well, isn't that terrible that the Minister is so disappointed now. If you don't like the rules of the game, I didn't make them. We're simply debating Estimates and enquiring of you questions, and I expect you to live up to what you said in the Throne Speech that you were going to be honest; that's all. That's all I ask is that you be honest. And when you're not honest, I'm going to point it out to you.

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

Are the members ready to proceed? Are you ready? Is the committee ready to proceed?

Item 2.(f) Gerontology: 2.(f)(1) Salaries - the Member for Pembina.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the Minister indicate in Gerontology, his staff sheeting shows an increase of one in terms of staff, are all the staff positions filled? And if they're all filled, are any filled on an acting basis?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: It's a new term position for the Winnipeg region, Mr. Chairman.

MR. D. ORCHARD: And are all the positions filled, and are any of them filled with acting positions?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: That one is in the budget for this year, this last position that I referred to. That has not been filled. The others are all permanent positions.

MR. D. ORCHARD: In terms of - who's the Director of this Gerontology section, if I'm using the right terminology?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: It's Dr. Betty Havens.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, there is a sizable increase in the Other Expenditures. Could the Minister give an indication as to what the Gerontology section intends to do that would require almost a doubling of the Other Expenditures?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: It's in the support services to seniors, and expenditures increase, as other expenditures increase, as the result of new initiatives approved by Cabinet for supporting frail and at-risk seniors in their efforts at maintaining their independence. It was what we called at one time - what is it? Now I don't remember the original. We called it Enriched Senior Citizens' Housing and that was changed, as I explained last year, to Enriched Services. That is, we're slowly starting into this to try to help the

people maintain their independence and stay at home, stay out of institutions.

MR. D. ORCHARD: So then what does the funding do in Enriched Senior Citizens' Housing? Does it provide startup grants? What does it do to establish programming in Enriched Seniors' Housing?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Funds totalling 359,500 will be directed toward the development of expanded community-based support services for senior citizens. The purpose of the support services to seniors' programs is to assist the elderly to continue to maintain independent living in their own home. All of the majority of seniors are able to take care of themselves independently. There are a number of seniors who require some help to maintain their independence.

The expansion of the program within this department involves the addition of one new staff position, funds to provide direct service subsidies for volunteer services, and the establishment of community resource councils to co-ordinate community-based services.

The range of services provided within this program is substantial. They include escort, handyman, meal services, social and recreational activities, transportation services, telephone reassurances, and friendly visiting services to name only a few.

Community-based support services not only enhance independent living for seniors, but also reduce the need for more costly service such as home care and personal care placement.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Wolseley.

MS. M. PHILLIPS: Yes, I would like to ask the Minister if the new day care program at Lion's Place falls into this category.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: That's at the Health Services Commission.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Pembina.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, could the Minister indicate what the travel budget for Gerontology is for this coming year?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: I never heard that we have a travel budget as such for any department. It's in Other Expenditures, and that's part of different expenses needed. I don't have a set budget just for travelling. It's approximately 3,000 or so.

MR. D. ORCHARD: If I recall correctly from our discussion back in the Research and Planning group, was not one of the 16 planning groups to do with aging? When we went back to the Research and Planning group, was not one of the 16 planning subcommittees to do with aging? — (Interjection) — yes. Do they liaise with this group and use this group as a resource, as well as presumably other outside resources?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Yes, and I'm pleased the member asked me the question. It gives me the occasion to inform the committees that the

gerontologist is not just the gerontologist of the department - it's the provincial gerontologist. We happen to be the lead department on that, and liaison officers have been set up in all departments for any discussion or anything to do with the seniors.

It's a very small staff, as you see, three - and there'll be a fourth one. There's a provincial gerontologist, a secretary and a support service co-ordinator. The gerontologist and the staff are working with the Attorney-General re the abuse for the seniors and with Community Services and other departments. So there is liaison constantly with different departments, and there is an interdepartmental committee of staff chaired by the provincial gerontologist working on these programs also.

MR. D. ORCHARD: The Minister said, regional gerontologist. He meant, the provincial gerontologist, chaired by the provincial gerontologist.

Now, Mr. Chairman, in co-ordinating the provincial departmental efforts on presumably provision of services through the various departments and, as he mentioned with the A-G's department, potentially preventing abuse problems, etc., etc., is there coming out of that an ability for, say, a senior citizens' single number that they can call in government for services? Does that exist? Did I see a press release on that awhile back for an 800 number in the government to provide tie-in with the other departments?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: I should say also that the gerontologist, besides that, is working on the Council on Aging that was started by the previous Minister. It was expanded to 15 and has been changed to an advisory committee to the provincial gerontologist, who does a lot of the work also.

One of the things that they started about that time that was finished three years ago or so is a book of information that is mailed to every person 60 and over in the province giving all the phone numbers and so on, you know, anything that might be helpful to a senior. I don't think there is one phone number that can get all the information, but the book will. I suppose if they phone the department, the department would refer to the book, or if they phone the office of the gerontologist, if somebody is available that would be done, but the book is sent to every person over 60 and the Council on Aging group liaise between the group back and forth to bring the information and also to inform the seniors of what is available. There is also a society of seniors that is working very closely with the gerontologist.

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

MR. A. BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I was wondering whether the Minister could tell us what new programs have been implemented towards the senior citizens in this item. For instance, I noticed that community organizations are mentioned and I would like to know how are the community organizations involved. Are any new programs being put forward and are many communities within the province taking advance of new programs that are there?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: This is what the advisory committee has said, what I just finished saying, but I

can tell you I think my honourable friend is referring to the Support Services to Seniors as the one that he would like to know about. It is a program aimed at supporting frail and at-risk seniors in their efforts at maintaining their independence in community living status. Support Services is defined as a range of types and intensity of services in the basic living category, not the care services. Support Services may include meals and/or assistance in all or part of the task involved in meal preparation, transportation, escort, Handi-van, meaningful social and recreational activities, telephone reassurance, friendly visiting. In other words, all the programs that could permit the seniors, the well elderly, let's say, to remain at home, especially those who are not a senior citizen home, but are living in their home without having to have recourse to living in a personal care home, who might otherwise have to do that, or that certainly would need home care or more home care than they are receiving.

There are also people, some of our regional staff years, that have been working with us on that, and there have been five additional: one in Westman, one in Eastman, Interlake, Central and in Parkland. They are working with the seniors also, beefing up the regional staff.

MR. A. BROWN: Well, this was going to be my next question. When you need a co-ordinator, I suppose, or who is handling this particular type of program in each community, and it seems to me in order for this to be an effective community you would possibly need a co-ordinator or somebody who would be spearheaded in this particular type of program in each major community that you have within the province.

I wonder if the Minister could give me some information as to just exactly how this program is handled in the various communities. I know that in Winkler there is somebody that looks after this, but I am just wondering in how many communities do we have people that are co-ordinating activities and this type of thing.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Well, of course, there are different programs, but most of the programs are taken care of by volunteers and our staff does the co-ordinating and is responsible for approving the programs that we might fund. It is most often worked through volunteers; we just do the co-ordinating. We couldn't begin to have staff for all these programs in all of Manitoba. It's just co-ordinating and assisting people with professional counselling and things like that to the people that are delivering those services.

There are all kinds of services. It might be Meals on Wheels, it might be some form of recreation for the elderly and it could be telephone messages, it could be the buddy system, it could be pretty well anything.

MR. A. BROWN: Is the public health nurse the person that is ultimately responsible for carrying out this particular program to see that there are volunteers available to see that Meals on Wheels are operating and that you have recreational activities and things of that nature? Is it the public health nurse that is ultimately responsible or who organizes these things so that you do have your volunteer groups?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: I just finished answering that. It's not the public health nurse, no; it is the specialist who co-ordinates the program. Usually these programs in most instances will be organized or initiated at the regional level, the community level, and the regional staff will help co-ordinate it.

MR. A. BROWN: Have any new programs become available within the last year or has any new policy been implemented in the last year towards this particular item in the Estimates?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Not other than I just finished saying.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 2.(f)(1)—pass; 2.(f)(2)—pass.
2.(g)(1) Continuing Care: Salaries - the Member for Pembina.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, I notice there is no staff changes for this section. Are all the positions filled and are any filled on an acting basis?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: These eight positions are filled and they are filled on a permanent basis. While I am on my feet, I would like to announce that, of course, an additional 1.7 million will be provided to support the expansion of this Continuing Care Program throughout the province for this year. The expansion will greatly enhance the effectiveness of the office of continuing care and the co-ordination of home care services throughout the province and the assessment for placement in personal care homes. The Home Care Program plays an essential part in helping individuals maintain themselves in their own home and avoiding the need for institutional care. In 1984-85, 21,176 persons in Manitoba received home care services.

MR. D. ORCHARD: How many was that?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: 21,176. During 1984, 10,221 persons were admitted to the Home Care Program. Without the availability of this program, 20 percent would have required personal care home placement. Now, 44 percent would have been admitted to or remained in hospital and 36 percent would have been in a community without appropriate support. The Home Care Program expansion would also provide for an improved wage and benefit package for home care providers.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, I have a series of questions on home care. The Minister may not have these figures tonight, but does he have a range of support per client, per person? In other words, let's pick a figure and say \$10 a week up to a maximum of \$100 a week, a range of costs, what an average cost of providing home care per person would be basis the whole program.

Could the Minister indicate what the salary range is of the providers of home care and on what basis the government is setting their salary schedules?

And, secondly, I would assume that those people who are home care providers are basically similar to a contract employee. They certainly wouldn't be part

of the staff subject to the benefits, etc., etc., that other civil servants would enjoy working for the Provincial Government. I will leave it at those few questions right now.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: The staff will be able to find the exact details on that. I think I mentioned already one of the guides anyway that it is felt that unless there is some circumstance such as people have no place in a personal care home and so on and if it's an emergency, well there is not much you can do, but normally the rule is to keep people on home care at a cost less or certainly not more than it would cost to keep these people in a personal care home. That is one of the rules. The staff is trying to find the information.

Now, the staff, I shouldn't say they are volunteers, but they are people that might be working part time and so on, they are not organized. I don't think there is . . .

I have some information now. In 1982-83, the total number of people served on home care was 19,716, for an average of \$822.94; in 1983-84, it was 20,392 people served for a yearly average cost per person of \$895.03; and in 1984-85, there were 21,380 for an average cost per person of \$917.89.

These people are on hourly rates, they are not full-time people, and the range will go anywhere from \$4.75 to \$8.00, depending on the type of worker. This is one of the reasons why there is an increase this year to try to improve that a bit. I don't think that has been improved for a while, but they are all casual workers working on hourly rates.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, is it possible from information that the department has to establish that median range or the high-low range in costs per client? Is that information that's readily available? I don't want to . . .

HON. L. DESJARDINS: What we have to do is review the thing and look at the highest cost and the lowest. I'm sure the member doesn't expect them, how much for each. We have the average. I think you want the lowest one and the highest one? Is that what you're saying, the most money spent on one person for home care and the least money? See, it could be an hour or so, I guess. It's very difficult to tell.

MR. D. ORCHARD: That is the information I would like to have. It's not information that is essential if it's going to require a great amount of work to dig out. Then it's not that important.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, to the member, I'm told that this has all been placed in computer. We'll have it next year. We don't have it this year. Now we could find it for my honourable friend. We can scrutinize the records and, if it's the lowest one - I would imagine the lowest one would be just a question of hours. It's not going to tell you too much, because it could be somebody that's on for an hour, then for some reason or other is no longer on home care. But we can do that if you want, if we try to find the lowest money spent on one person and the highest. The average,

you already have, but that means we'll have to search the record of all these 21,000 people.

MR. D. ORCHARD: No, I don't need to have that question answered. I thought that would be part of the statistical base that we might be maintaining to give you an idea of where your high and low range are, because you're going to eventually at some point in time make a decision that it's too expensive to keep a person on home care, and you're going to handle them for presumably personal care home. That's why I was wanting to know the ranges. If they're not readily available, it's not information that is essential you dig up.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: I think I've mentioned that, that the guidelines have been that we would not keep somebody out of an institution at a cost higher than it would cost us to place them in an institution normally. In some cases, and I mentioned a case yesterday, there have been some exceptions done or we've bent the rules and we've practically broken the rules in some instances, but that is the guideline. I don't say it's the final thing.

Of course, if let's say there is an emergency today, something happens and we're told and there are no beds anywhere, acute beds or personal care beds, then if we have to have somebody around the clock and so on, even the cost of it, it would be for a short time. It would be a real effort to find a bed. But in the meantime, well then we won't look at cost in that time because there's no choice.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Who does the assessment as to how much home care an individual should receive? Is that the public health nurse? What level of departmental staff determines that?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: The case co-ordinator of the regional group working together with staff, different staff - it could be the public health nurse and so on - to find out not only how much but the type of assistance that person needs. Then there's an evaluation. You know, they're not placed on that forever and a day. Those are checked periodically.

That is also an area where we try to boost to have the staff, because it's all right to have the funds and that to put people on home care, but they must be assessed and at times the staff was overworked. That's why they were behind on that. So we're trying to beef up the staff a bit that will be able to handle these people or assess these people a little sooner.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Then presumably it's the same individual who would make a reassessment because, if I understand the workings of the program, an individual can not only go on the Home Care Program but, if their needs decrease, they can be taken off the Home Care Program. Does the Minister have available a number figure for people who have been removed from the Home Care Assistance Program not by going to a personal care home but removed because they've improved sufficiently or whatever the criteria are so that they no longer were deemed to need the Home Care Assistance?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: I think I could give him this. This information might help: the admissions to Home Care in 1983, 9,733; in 1984, 10,225. Now the discharge for home care was the question, I believe, was 9,419 in 1983, and 9,517 in 1984. Total numbers receiving home care service during the year, in 1983, was 20,379; in 1984, 21,225.

It's true. Home care does not necessarily mean that somebody is condemned to home care for the rest of their lives. I mean, the home care is there for different reasons. It might be somebody with the early discharge now, it might be somebody that will have home care for a couple of weeks or so that will be discharged after delivering a baby or so; could be discharged to the home and will have some home care; could be people that are sick temporarily and going through the rehabilitation that then will be fully rehabilitated. So these things change. That's true.

There are different needs. It might increase in some cases. In many cases, it could decrease also. It might be a temporary help they need.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Of the number of discharges from home care, is it fair to assume that some of those could be people who got placed in a personal care home and people who just were taken off the program because their needs were met and no further assistance is required? I presume also, would there be some people who are no longer with us?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: . . . to see what the members want. I think my best bet is to give you all the information. This way, I won't have to give you this piecemeal. It might be easier.

On the number admitted to the program, the alternative for them, had home care not been available would have been personal care home placement, in '83, 17 percent, in '84, 25 percent; remain in hospital, 46 percent in '83, 44 percent in '84; remain at home but without appropriate care, 37 percent in '83, 36 percent in '84.

Now the number discharged from the program, I think that's what - the reason for discharge was: placed into personal care homes or admitted to hospital, in '83, 23 percent, in '84, 24 percent; improved and no longer needing home care, 39 percent both years; improved and able to manage home care, 16 percent in '83, 15 percent in '84; deceased, 17 percent both years; and others, 5 percent for both.

MR. D. ORCHARD: What was the third one again? What was the third-last category?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Improved and able to manage home care?

MR. D. ORCHARD: Home care? Oh, okay.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Yes. 16 percent and 15 percent.

Caseload - I may as well give you this - the caseload statistics, monthly caseload by age breakdown as of December 31st - and I'll give you the four years, '81, '82, '83 and '84 in that order - 0-18 years old, 342, 268, 265, 280; 19-64, 2,059, 2,047, 2,135, 2,506; 65 and over, 8,122, 8,331, 8,600, 9,865; the total, 10,523, 10,646, 11,000, 12,651.

Now the average monthly number of persons receiving selected services: nursing services - that is R.N. or VON - 1983, 3,900; in '84, 3,826. Auxiliary services, LPN, home care attendant, 2,269 . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: 2,541; Community Therapy Service 341, 348; Homemaking Services Community and VON \$6,790, \$7,229. If you want, I can give you average monthly numbers of person, homemakers, registered nurses, that's only for '83 and '84, homemakers, 2,020, 2,178; registered nurses 219, 251; LPNs 107, 120; home care attendants 223, 357; therapists 34, 34; volunteers estimated 1,200.

MR. D. ORCHARD: I may have the name wrong, but the home care attendants, I think was one of the categories, that would be basically, I don't know what other term to use, but your average citizen in the community that would go in and work with . . .

Under Other Expenditures, there's a fairly substantive increase this year over last year. What's causing the increases, there's some special direction in advertising or what's the nature of the increase?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: It's \$149,000 for initiative for computer assisted information system including client profile, resource base, and serving delivery information for streamlining operational process to get the kind of information that you requested earlier that I said we'd have next year, streamlining the administration and the records.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Is this computer installation - that I presume, is going in this year? Budgeted to go in this year? — (Interjection) — Now will this system be hooked up with MDS, Manitoba Data Services or is this a free standing system?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: It's free standing, Mr. Chairman.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Will there be a tendering process to establish who supplies the system, like you're talking, probably a relatively unique system, or has a decision been already made on the purchase?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: If it's that kind of purchase, we go through the Government Services, they'll order it for us. So they would have their tenders and so on the way they usually do with that.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Okay. But the department will probably give to Government Services the kind of equipment that they wish and the specifications you wish. Now does this go back to Administration and Financial Services? Was that where the computer resource people work?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: The request that would go to Government Services would come from there.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Have there been any decisions made on this computer set-up or are you in the process of putting together a call for proposal?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: No, not yet.

MR. D. ORCHARD: The purchase method, I'm trying to think back into my mind when we did this, when the Highways Department set up an inventory control program. I think we sent out calls for proposal or something along that line. Is that the method that will be used here to determine who has the most suitable equipment and the most economic purchase?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: The government works through the Manitoba Data Service, who have a list of things, and we have a list of things that are approved within. If that is approved, they will get it for us. They get the proper discount and so on through them. They ask for tenders and so on. I would imagine they do, but that is not done through our department. We can give them a list of the things we want and if that is approved, it has to be a part of the list that is approved and they would get it for us.

MR. D. ORCHARD: This is not the proper place to be discussing this then. But do I understand that the variety of equipment that can be supplied is a predetermined list put together by Manitoba Data Services in conjunction with presumably, Government Services?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Right.

MR. D. ORCHARD: What external agencies are funded under this appropriation?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: I'll give you the groups, and if you want the amount, I'll have to get that. There's Meals on Wheels of Winnipeg, Youville Foundation Inc., that's not the Youville Clinic, Youville Foundation. Then there's Independent Living Resource Centre and Ten Ten Sinclair Avenue.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please.
The Member for Burrows.

MR. C. SANTOS: At the committee meeting in Room 255, the ruling of the chair has been challenged and a formal request for a formal vote has been made, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Call in the members.
Order please. You have heard the report. Shall the ruling of the Chair be sustained?

A COUNTED VOTE was taken, the result being as follows:
Yeas, 22; Nays, 16.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I declare the motion carried.
The Honourable Minister of Labour.

HON. A. MACKLING: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I would like to address the committee in respect to the Minister of Health's Estimates. I would like to indicate that I haven't been here during the entire length of the Minister's Estimates and I regret that I wasn't here during the course of the few minutes prior to my arriving, but I understand that during the course of the debate there

was reference by the Honourable Member for Pembina to a document . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please, order please. We were considering Item 2.(g) Continuing Care when the vote interrupted the proceedings. I would imagine, if it is the will of the Minister to revert to that item that we would do so.

HON. A. MACKLING: Yes, we want to talk to that item.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Does the Minister of Labour have a point of order?

HON. A. MACKLING: No, I am talking to the item. I am saying, Mr. Chairman, during . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please, order please.

HON. A. MACKLING: In respect to the debate on this item . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: The item is Continuing Care.

HON. A. MACKLING: In respect to the debate on this item, and other items that have preceded it. The Honourable Member for Pembina has been referring to a planning document that apparently is a stolen document.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. The Member for Pembina on a point of order.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, I am surprised the Minister hasn't risen on a point of order reminding the errant member that we are going line-by-line in the Estimates right now.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. We are on Item 2.(g) Continuing Care. I would advise the Minister of Labour of our Rule 64(2), "Speeches in a Committee of the Whole House must be strictly relevant to the item or clause under discussion."

Item 2.(g) - The Minister of Labour.

HON. A. MACKLING: In respect to the issue of Continuing Care, the Honourable Member for Pembina has been referencing, in respect to a number of items, and I assume that he will reference in this item a document which I understand he has offered to table, but has not tabled. I am also given to understand, Mr. Chairman, that the Minister of Health indicates that there was a planning document that was stolen, and I would like the Honourable Member for Pembina to table the document that he's been referring to so that the Honourable Minister of Health can verify whether or not this has any relationship to the document that was stolen.

CHAIRMAN'S RULING

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. I believe that it may, perhaps, be useful to settle this matter with a ruling from the Chair, and I would note that Beauchesne does not give any specific necessity for a private member

to table documents referred to. Erskine May also says, and I am quoting from Page 433, these references go back quite a ways, but I will read it as it says: "On the 18th of May, 1865 the Attorney-General, on being asked by Mr. Ferrand if he would lay upon the table a written statement and a letter to which he had referred on a previous day in answering a question relative to the Leeds Bankruptcy Court replied that he had made a statement to the House upon his own responsibility, and the documents he had referred to, being private, he could not lay them upon the table. Lord Robert Cecil contended that the papers having been cited should be produced, but the Speaker declared that this rule applied to public documents only."

The document referred to is not a public document, it has not been released for public consumption.

Order please.

HON. A. MACKLING: On a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please, order please. I can find no necessity in our Rules, either our Rules of the Blue Book, either Beauchesne or Erskine May that would require the Member for Pembina to table the document which he has referred to. He has not quoted from it; he has referred to it; he has waved a document, no one knows what it is, it purports to be a document, but he has not quoted from it. There is, therefore, no necessity for the member to table that document. Regardless of the fact that he has stated that he has tabled it, he has not tabled it, and it may not be required to be tabled.

Item 2.(g) Continuing Care.

The Member for Pembina.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister was reading off, just when everybody was coming in, the agencies that were funded under the External Agencies line and I missed some of them. Could the Minister repeat the list, please?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please, order please. The Minister of Health.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Meals on Wheels of Winnipeg - these are the external agencies - Youville Foundation, and I want to point out that that is not the clinic we were talking about this afternoon, the Youville Foundation - the Grey Nuns call everything Youville - The Independent Living Resource Centre; Ten Ten Sinclair Avenue.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Pembina.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, under Ten Ten Sinclair Avenue, the funding there. That surely can't be, with the budget at \$647,000 in total, under External Agencies, that can't be the budget funding entirely for Ten Ten Sinclair, is it?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Well, this year we're still negotiating.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Yes, but last year.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: I'll give you last year, and last year was \$543,700, the total, and you see there's an

increase this year. Independent Living Resource Centre was \$20,000; Meals on Wheels of Winnipeg, \$43,300; Youville Foundation, \$65,400 and Ten Ten Sinclair was \$415,000, so it was the biggest share.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Just let me get Ten Ten Sinclair straight in my mind. You've got a block grant that goes to Ten Ten Sinclair, are there similar per diems as well paid for patients as they're there, or does that represent the entire funding for them?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, this is for care only. Of course, those who need it would have income security to pay for their rental as they normally would. This is for their care. In other words, that's Fokus I, II and III. It's home care working together, anything extra, but they could still qualify for social security, those who qualify for it, to pay for the rent besides that.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Then is Ten Ten Sinclair at maximum occupancy, if that's the right terminology used? Is it being utilized fully right now?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: It's not an institution that we are involved with. It is a group of people who live together, who help each other, who need some of the same help, and they're entitled to home care like everybody else and that is their home care, let's say. It is not institutional living as such. It is, like if they rented a place, an apartment and so on, and they're working together. It's a program that they developed together, and we are paying that, our department - well, it's a program, of course - but, in lieu of home care, and these people, besides that, if they're on social security, if they qualify for that, they would get that also to help pay for the rental of the place. Now, I don't know. We're only dealing with Fokus I, II and III and I don't know what facility is left in that. It's not an institution that we run. We just take care of those patients. It is a program within that Ten Ten Sinclair. I think the Community Services might, I'm not sure. I don't want to start passing the buck, and she's not listening anyway, but she might know more than I know about it.

MR. D. ORCHARD: All I was attempting to do is determine from the basis of your Budget if you expect the occupancy to be . . .

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Not Ten Ten Sinclair, then in Fokus I, II and III.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Rhineland.

MR. A. BROWN: Mr. Chairman, a number of calls have been coming forward from time to time in which children who are looking after their parents require some remuneration for this and I know that this is a policy of the government. I'm not necessarily arguing with that policy either. But sometimes this creates quite a problem, that a child looks after a parent, cannot take employment because it's taking just about full time to look after the parent, and yet that child can receive no remuneration for looking after the parent, and sometimes this creates a problem.

I would just like to mention one instance which came to mind about three months ago when a lady phoned and she had a small income herself, about \$150 a month. Outside of that, they had to live on her mother's old age pension, it was the only income that they had. She had to give up her job in order to look after her mother. The hospital wouldn't accept her mother in there and then she had been panelled for the personal care home, yet there was no space in the personal care home.

So, in instances such as these, I feel that maybe we should take a look and maybe make a few exceptions somewhere along the line. I don't know if we really need to have such a hard and fast rule as what we have at the present time, because there are certain circumstances where you run into real difficulty and where it really is going to cost the government an awful lot of less money, if we just give a little bit of assistance, keep that person and the mother at home and have the daughter or child looking after that particular person. I cannot help but think that especially in remote areas, like in the North, where very often there are no other alternative situations, that we may have to, from time to time, make exceptions.

I would just like to hear the Minister's comments on this, whether this has been taken into consideration, whether it will be taken into consideration. It's a problem that is there. It's not a huge problem and I can see where this could be abused, but there are certain circumstances where I think that it would warrant for the Minister, if possible, to make an exception.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, I certainly recognize the value of the concern of my honourable friend. I must admit that I'm very very surprised that he would make this suggestion. I would expect this to come from somebody from this side. The situation is at certain times exactly how the member pictured it, but I think we're dreaming if we think we can start making exceptions. The exception soon becomes the rule. It's something that had been looked at. It's something that some people would advocate. I would hope that we'll be very very careful in doing that.

Do you remember that at times we are told that things are not the way they were before, the people are not accepting the responsibility. In the old days everybody had an old person with them. They were taking care of that. Now there's the rat race and everybody's working and they can't do that. All of a sudden, we're going to start paying the few - well compared to the old days - people family that are taking care of which it used to be a responsibility. If we're going to have to start paying all that, we're treading on pretty dangerous ground. I know that the member is right, that at times a few dollars might help. That has been under consideration for a while and I would say that it still is. It would be going in the same thing as some kind of a trial basis. We're looking very seriously at working with the group, with the handicapped, for instance, and saying to them, well, here's a certain amount of money to care of you. Instead of us providing the service, you will just have the money that we would normally spend here because they feel they know better what they need, what they want for them. In that case, they could probably do something like that.

So, I guess, this might be the start of something and somebody might come in with some idea that we'll say, fine. But the thing is that we're afraid of abuse and we're afraid the exception would become the rule and it would be very costly. Again, that's what I say, that certainly some of the people from that side would say, here, you're taking more responsibility away from the family. You're encouraging them again, and the state is doing everything instead of encouraging the family unit to accept responsibility. So these are, I guess, the two sides of the thing, but I recognize that what the honourable member said is absolutely true, and in some cases we probably would save money. But in the long run, you know, do we start something that we can't deal with, that it's going to be a lot more costly than expected from everybody.

MR. A. BROWN: I realize, Mr. Chairman, that there is an inherent danger in even allowing a certain amount of relatives to be paid when the situation certainly would warrant it, but I don't think that we should ever close our eyes to the fact that as a result of us not being able to give any remuneration whatsoever to relatives that the parent or whoever, once they are in hospital, then the family will refuse to accept them back home again, and certainly this is part of that problem. So, therefore, they have to remain long-term patients in hospital. I think it possibly would warrant a study to find out just exactly how much of this is going on because I know that this is going on. Once that particular person gets to a hospital then the family from then on refuses to accept them back into the home again until such time as there is room in a personal care home or whatever. I think it does warrant some looking into.

Another question that I have, Mr. Chairman, is about care to the senior citizens in the North. I am thinking particularly of a community like Cross Lake where you have the Natives, some of them are treaty Natives and some of them are Metis. Is there a problem in the Metis community looking after the elderly or what kind of facility do we have up in that area so that we can give them the kind of care which we are receiving in some of the more heavily populated areas?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Every Manitoban is entitled to qualify for home care except the people on a treaty because that's the responsibility of the Federal Government on the reserve. People on treaty that are outside of the reserve qualify, but not on reserve.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Pembina.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At the risk of getting into another great hair-pull tonight, I want to bring to the Minister's attention certain bits of information, and I will mention the individual's name - it's Theresa Ducharme again.

Mr. Chairman, when I questioned the Minister about his releasing of the information, the Minister made a couple of accusations at me. The Minister said yesterday in question period, "Mr. Speaker, first of all, the member should start by telling the truth." Then later on the Minister said, "If the member is irresponsible enough," - meaning myself - "to make an accusation before knowing the facts . . ."

The circumstance with Theresa Ducharme is one that goes back for a number of years, and the Minister is quite well aware of that because he has been involved with her probably even when he was Minister of Health in 1977. When I became Health critic, I got on the phone list and that's not, I guess, unusual, and after meeting with Mrs. Ducharme in her home and talking to her a number of times, I thought I had a reasonable handle on the problem that she's got.

I wrote to the Minister because she had made indications that her hours of home care assistance had been decreased from 1981 to now. I wrote to the Minister and attempted to find that out and received a reply from him which disagreed with what Mrs. Ducharme was saying to me. So I sent the Minister's letter out to her in which he replied to my request and I invited her comment back because you can't have two different stories.

Now I don't have access to the records the Minister has in terms of determining the hours. If I can avoid the risk of raising another issue - I can't punch a PHIN number and pull that information up - but on April 8th, just a couple, three days ago, I got a reply. If the Minister wants a copy of this, it's my only one, but I'll table it and the Minister can get a copy. But here is the problem.

First of all, I should start off by indicating that in the Minister's letter he described the amount of home care that's currently made available, and maybe before I read the reply I should give you some background so that the information for members of the House is as complete as possible.

Basically, right now Mrs. Ducharme, whose husband works for Winnipeg Transit, gets home care assistance from 10:00 in the morning till midnight and has orderly service as needed during those times of attendant care hours. That level of hours is provided five days of the week. They have made the case since Mr. Ducharme had a heart attack, I think a fairly serious one, that it would be most beneficial to both of them if they could get some hours reinstated on Saturday to allow an eight-hour home care program so that Mr. Ducharme could undertake an exercise program which would be beneficial to his health, get him some time off because when he is home in the evening at midnight, of course, he looks after Mrs. Ducharme.

So basically that's been the centre and the focus of the dispute, and what home care has done is to indicate that there is a desire for eight hours of home care on Saturdays, then basically we could pare a couple of hours off during the day and allocate them to Saturday - but still the hours would remain the same. I think, if my numbers serve me correctly, there are 70 hours per week of home care that Mrs. Ducharme is currently receiving.

Now in her reply to the Minister's letter - I won't read some of the editorial comment because that won't serve any useful purpose - but Mrs. Ducharme makes the point, "In 1981 I began employment with the Manitoba League of the Physically Handicapped. This was a precedent setting act in the International Year of the Disabled." Here is the illustrative information: "My work hours were 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, five days a week. I received attendant care service from 8:00 a.m. to 2 midnight five days a week as well as eight hours of attendant care on both of my husband's days off all the while I was employed." This is a total of 96 hours per week, and her . . .

HON. L. DESJARDINS: What was it he said - 96?

MR. D. ORCHARD: 96 hours per week in 1981. Her question at the end of that explanation is, "Does this not disprove his comment of no reduction in hours?" That is the point that I was attempting to elicit and attempting to clarify when I wrote the Minister because there is basically one thing at issue here, and that is the desire to provide some sort of relief on weekends for Mr. Ducharme because prior to his heart condition in 1981 there was attendant care for eight hours on both Saturday and Sunday in addition to - if my numbers are correct - an extra two hours a day in terms of attendant care, five days a week while Mrs. Ducharme was working.

That was the point that I was attempting to clarify, and I believe that figure is correct from 1981, and it does demonstrate that there is a reduction in the number of hours, as I said in my introductory remarks, there has been a cutback of service from 1981 till today in terms of the departmental support of Mrs. Ducharme.

I regret that this has become an issue where the Minister believes I have not been indicating what is truthful and presenting truthful facts because, in my estimation, I have been - unless the information being provided to me by Mrs. Ducharme is not correct and the Minister could easily determine that.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: First, I would like to congratulate my honourable friend for the way he brought this thing up today. I have no problem with this kind of discussion and I think we should do a little more of that.

The situation where I reacted because I felt at the time that the honourable member, first of all, made a pretty vicious speech - I don't know if that's exaggerated - against the Member for Transcona, made some accusations that he wasn't interested. You know, I think you would have to accept that. We all do part of that, but I mean that was repeated.

Secondly, it was an overall policy that he pulled out his book and said that we said we would improve the health care, which was true, and then he gave the impression that was a complete reduction. Now that person, and I give her a lot of credit and I think she knows that and I've told her on many occasions - I've met her on many occasions, many more than I've met a lot of people who have been trying to meet with me because of lack of time, because I admire her fighting quality. But then I found out, the same as the previous Minister found out and other people, that there is no satisfying this person. That was the situation.

Then there were statements, accusations through the media a number of times that she made, personal and otherwise. It's not vindictiveness, but I think it is the funds from the taxpayer. I think my honourable friend will realize also that there's a limit to what the taxpayers can do. This is a service that we practically invented here in Manitoba. It was the first one, and we're very proud of it. It's not perfect. We can't give everybody what they want, and we have a lot of people to serve, not only just a handful of people.

Now what has been done - and I think my honourable friend was asking a question. I recognized the question that he asked a while ago, and I think he got the answer.

He was told that you are not given so many hours, and then you're that for the rest of your life. There is no doubt that there has been a reduction in hours. That is true. There is no reduction in the overall care, in the health that we assisted and the cost has been very high.

The cost, as I say, even during the time that her husband was hospitalized, it wasn't her fault. She didn't like the idea of being hospitalized, but she did accept that, part of the hospitalization, but we still gave her help and attendance to get her out of the hospital also. So we were doing both. We were keeping the bed in the hospital and providing home care, which is not a usual thing to do. I think everybody has to be fair and recognize that.

Now the situation was, and I've sent the people and I have brought it to the attention of home care many times, that the husband wasn't well and she was given more time.

Now she has 12 hours a day, five days a week, plus another 10 hours to help her husband, which you were saying, and she was told that she could adjust the way she wants. She still gets 60 hours. We think that's pretty fair at a pretty high cost.

In fact, the complaint that she gave the honourable friend - and I know that she approached him, she's approached pretty well everybody, which is her right. I don't mind that at all, and it is not a question that we're trying to get even because she approached somebody else. She approached everybody. She approached us in the days of Mr. Sherman also.

The situation was that we're doing the best we can, and we're giving some flexibility. She criticized us, and she was going to take us to court that we didn't do that. I say that, because this was all in the news media. She chose to make this stand herself. She went to the Human Rights. The Human Rights, when they got the explanation, accepted certainly the position that we had. She also went to the Ombudsman, who couldn't do too much about it.

So I don't know what else - I don't mind my honourable friend wanting the information. I think he's entitled to it. We could do it here or do it outside of the House whenever he has anything like that. I think he knows that. I think I've given him some information on the situation.

I give that person an awful lot of credit, but I think there's a limit when people are accusing us repeatedly and it's not right. I think that we have to tell the story the way it is, and that's all we have done. So I'll gladly give all the information, and again we'll play ball as much as possible but there's a limit in what we can do. That is one example that probably we would be justified in saying, this is too costly, this person will find a place at an institution and so on. But we know how badly she wants her freedom, how much of a fighter she is, and we respect that. Right now, I say that we're bending the rules to try and please her.

But my honourable friend is right, there has been some cutdown in hours from the time that she needed, because of sickness of her husband. Her husband is now re-established, and that has gone down. I'm not saying he's in perfect shape, but I think that we are justified. I think that, at one time, we were - well at many times, I think we were spending more money than some people would think we should on one person in Manitoba.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, I thank the Minister for his answer, and I appreciate the problem that providing service to individuals like this provides to the department. It's quite a challenge. It's a challenge that no government likes to have to make, because you'd prefer your citizens not to require that kind of service, first and foremost.

But, Mr. Chairman, the point that I was attempting to clarify by letter was to see indeed if there had been an hours reduction in time, and there was — (Interjection) — I think maybe I heard a comment saying, after her husband got better. I'm talking about from 1981 in which there is a reduction of some 24 hours of care per week.

That's the point that I was making in my introductory remarks when I opened my remarks in this department, because rightfully or wrongfully a lot of us have pretty long memories when you get into politics. There were some pretty wild-eyed accusations and irresponsible statements made by opposition MLA's criticizing our Minister of Health. Some of them were slightly opportunistic about their criticism, some of them . . .

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Both parties have done that over the years.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, the Minister of Health from his seat says, both parties do that.

Incidentally, I didn't accuse him of that. He has made his share of accusations and whatnot, and I will make my share too, but what was aggravating, Mr. Chairman, was to see the kind of very very questionable attack from time to time by some members of the opposition against the Minister of Health and the opportunistic use of people's problems to advance their political careers, not necessarily the problem that the individual had.

When you get a government that was elected in 1981 with the promises that I drew to my Honourable Minister's attention on health care and not cutbacks and of restoring the health care system, and then when you run into a situation like the one that I've discussed tonight, where the level of service and the number of hours of service have dropped from 1981 when we were government and cutting back health care services according to the allegations of the then opposition, the New Democratic Party Opposition, and then you find that same individual today in a circumstance where the hours are reduced by approximately 26 hours per week. The family health situation has changed and if there was a need in 1981 for eight hours of weekend care to give the husband some additional time off on his days off, then certainly it would exist now.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: There is another factor that was known that should be added. At that time, the husband was working split shifts and they needed more time. He's not any more; there's less time required, that extra time besides the . . .

MR. D. ORCHARD: I don't know, I think Mr. Ducharme still goes to work at noon and comes back at midnight, that's my understanding. But at any rate, Mr. Chairman, the level of service, the number of hours of service that were provided in 1981 by a government that was alleged

to be cruel and heartless in their approach to health care and social services to people in need, in 1981 the level of service provided to this one individual was some 96 hours per week.

Under the enlightened and reformed administration of the New Democratic Party, some three-and-a-half years later, that level of service was reduced by 26 hours per week when, as I was saying there before the Minister added his comment, today if anyone could justify eight hours on a weekend it would probably be that couple now with the additional medical problems that have surfaced since 1981. That was the point I was making last Monday. I realize that this government does not like to have it pointed out if things are being done.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: We're no different than any others.

MR. D. ORCHARD: That's right. You're not different; I probably didn't enjoy sitting as a Minister in government having people point out where we were doing something - reducing and whatnot.

Mr. Chairman, when I made the statement on Monday, I made it in what I believed was full and complete knowledge — (Interjection) — Mr. Chairman, this issue is getting slightly confused because the Minister did make a mistake by standing up and putting that information on the record because . . . Mr. Chairman, we can debate this for a long while but I did not ask the Minister for any information to be tabled on that individual. Not at all, not at all. The Minister chose to put on the record certain dollar figures that his department had provided in support and I never asked for that information.

It's coincidental that he didn't do it on Monday afternoon; he did it later. He did it Tuesday night out of the clear blue. He may have been perfectly justified, etc., to do so, but I did not ask him for that kind of information. I asked him for information in a letter, to tell me whether the hours were reduced, as alleged. The Minister said, no, etc., etc., in his letter and that, sir, was not correct. The hours have been reduced since 1981 — (Interjection) — In your letter, in your letter of reply to me. Sir, you can see it. It's my only copy; I'd appreciate getting it back.

Mr. Chairman, when two cases are put forward, and I'm reasonably confident that I have my facts straight, I'm going to make the accusation cold and clear against the government when I think they can be faulted, and I did that. But the Minister says that when that happens he's going to defend himself, but he defends himself in strange ways because he, in essence, said the member should start by telling the truth. That's what he said of me in question period on Wednesday — (Interjection) — No, you didn't qualify it, because my question was very specific on Wednesday and I was giving the Minister straight information.

The case I presented about cutbacks was correct in this individual's case and I regret that the Minister used figures of government support to her in a public fashion. I don't think that added anything to the resolution and the smooth movement of our Estimates process but that was his choice. What I'm demonstrating tonight to the Minister is that indeed there has been a reduction

in the level of service. it's a reduction that I don't think some members would have tolerated if they were sitting in opposition, but they tolerate them when they're sitting in government.

They allow them to happen when they're sitting in government and that, sir, is the case that we have consistently put forward, that this government, this New Democratic Party has individuals in it that like to be on both sides of the issue and tread very, very abusively with some of the privileges that honourable members have in this House and use them to their own political, personal advantage when in opposition; but when confronted with them and the responsibility of government, the story changes pretty quickly. The story changes 26 hours when you're in government and it's all right. It's all right because now we're New Democrats and we're government and the service we're giving you is quite adequate.

it doesn't matter what we thought of the service you were getting in 1981 when we were in opposition. That doesn't matter anymore because we've achieved the political aims we wanted; we've achieved government and we used anybody for a building brick and a climbing stone to get there and now that we're there we don't have to worry about it. So, Mr. Chairman, the circumstance I think is fairly clear, that from 1981 to 1984 or '85, whichever year you want to choose, '85, this individual is receiving less hours of care out of this program. That was the information I requested and, to my knowledge, presented it fairly. In my opening remarks, that there was a reduction, a cutback in service.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister of Energy.

HON. W. PARASIUK: Mr. Chairman, I want to partake in this debate because of certain statements made about me by the new Health critic which I can't call lies because that would be unparliamentary and I can't call the person making them a liar because that would be unparliamentary; but what I do say, Mr. Chairman, is that what he was saying was certainly untrue and I want to take some of these things through.

He has said - this is on Page 635 of Hansard, Monday, April 8, 1985 - that there's been a cutback in home care and in orderly care and that the Minister of Energy and Mines doesn't answer her phone calls and doesn't deal with her and has just said today that I have only dealt with her in one or two instances.

I have known Theresa Sawchuk since she was five years old. My family knew Theresa Sawchuk when she was five years old and stricken with polio and put in an iron lung. We lived on a farm at that time; we brought vegetables, virtually weekly, to that family. We've been very close with that family; we still are very close with that family.

When I have someone get up and make statements like that, they can be quite easily defended against a person like that. Let's go through some of the facts.

This government and members of the government on this side of the House have met with Theresa Ducharme, who is a fighter, and will fight for her case and always wants a lot and people will make judgments as to what they think is sufficient and what isn't sufficient, but I commend the Minister of Health and

the New Democratic Party administration because he met with her. I commend my colleague, the present Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology because, when he was Minister of Urban Affairs, he met with her; and I commend the Minister of Transportation because when she was raising points about Handi Transit, he met with her.

When Theresa Sawchuk Ducharme wanted to meet with Cabinet Ministers in the Conservative Government, she couldn't. She did not have the opportunity to meet with the Minister. She did not have the opportunity to meet with the Minister of Urban Affairs and the Minister of Transportation. She's had that opportunity. She continues to have access and people will listen to her case. She's made the case, and the case that she was making then was with respect to a privately owned orderly service. She raised a number of concerns. She raised concerns to me that this private entity, in her estimation, had acted irresponsibly a number of times, did not meet the commitment, did not come and attend her, and punctual attendance for someone who is in a wheelchair and on a respirator is very important. She had a stretched bladder in a couple of instances. She went to the hospital. She raised a whole set of concerns.

She also said that she kept a record of everyone who attended her because she does keep detailed records. She said she thought that there were some billings being made for calls that weren't actually made. She had concerns about the quality of service. She had concerns about the billing. She raised that in letters with the Minister at the time. She made phone calls and got no response.

I'm proud to say that this Minister of Health looked into the whole matter and when the Auditor looked at it he found that there were discrepancies in billing. Furthermore, when the New Democratic Party Government assessed the situation, they determined that it was in the public interest to have a public orderly service. I commend them for that move because that was a move that would not have been by the Conservative Party. It was one that they raised complaints about. They said, what about this poor private entrepreneur? They did not raise concerns about the quality of care being given to the patients. Their concern was with the entrepreneur. So, I commend my colleague, the Minister of Health for acting in a responsible way. I might add that the level of orderly care continues at the same level as when her husband was ill. I believe that her level of orderly care has indeed increased, because her husband has difficulty lifting her. That is reasonable; that is understandable.

I have been in touch often with the Minister of Health and my executive assistant has been in touch often with the Department of Health pursuing her case. His executive assistant has dealt with the case many times. I do not say that Theresa Sawchuk Ducharme shouldn't push her case because she is a path breaker. She was a path breaker in moving out of an iron lung, having spent many years in an iron lung, to be in a wheelchair on a respirator. She pushed with Air Canada to have Air Canada have greater cognizance of what the requirements of the physically handicapped are with respect to air travel. She broke ground there. She has been breaking ground within the Department of Health in terms of type of care provided.

She has raised concerns about not being fairly treated from time to time. She has gone to the Human Rights

Commission and she has gone to the Ombudsman. She's had her case looked at and that's her right as a citizen. It's her right to push for these things as a citizen.

She was very pleased, as was the League for the Physically Handicapped, when we established a publicly run home orderly service. She will raise her complaints and I give her latitude to do that. I think it's her right to do that.

I will be dealing with the Sawchuk family and Theresa Sawchuk Ducharme far into the future, long after the Member for Pembina has forgotten about that family. I have dealt with her for a long, long time. I respect her fight for life. I don't do the sorts of things that the Member for Pembina does when he's trying to take a different tack from the Bud and Larry Show. The Member for Emerson, earlier today, said that Bud didn't do a good job. If he thinks he didn't do a good job, if he says the Bud and Larry Show is over — (Interjection) — That's what he said. If he says he didn't do a good job then I wonder . . .

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please.

HON. W. PARASIUK: . . . Shut your mouth, I'm talking.

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

HON. W. PARASIUK: If that's the case, let them take their new approach. It's not working; it's backfiring. He's digging himself deeper and deeper into his hole and he started off in a pretty deep hole when he took on that task. He goes on beyond that and makes the wildest, most untruthful allegations to a citizen. I somehow announced Health programs back in 1977. Again, Mr. Chairman, I can't say that's a lie and I can't say that the person saying that is a liar, because that would be unparliamentary . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please.

I would refer the member to Citation 326(2): "Words may not be used hypothetically or conditionally, if they are plainly intended to convey a direct imputation. Putting a hypothetical case is not the way to evade what would be in itself disorderly."

The Minister of Energy.

HON. W. PARASIUK: Well, I certainly wouldn't want to convey anything like about the Member for Pembina. All of us know about the character of the Member for Pembina.

A MEMBER: Is that imputing a motive?

HON. W. PARASIUK: I wouldn't impute a motive about that person. I don't think the Member for Pembina has a brain large enough to develop a motive. I think we just have Pavlovian responses, Mr. Chairman. The type of statements that he would make are the type where he would get up and make consistently - he's done that since 1977 - lacking in substance. What we get is character assassination over and over again. If one

read through the speeches of the Member for Pembina, if one wanted to steel oneself to do that - I wouldn't recommend it unless one was a glutton for punishment - one could take a look at the type of drivel that the Member for Pembina has constantly come up with, attacking people all the time, never dealing with the subject, never dealing with the issues, but he has done that consistently. Read through his speeches from '77 to '81, read through from '81 to today, you get no variation.

A MEMBER: Have you read it?

HON. W. PARASIUK: Yes, I have read some of it. My lips don't get sore when I read them.

What you have then is complete character assassination all the time. The point is that one has to look at the source and determine whether one character is being besmirched when you have someone like the Member for Pembina making statements like that. It's just like being attacked by Joe McCarthy - the same quality, the same technique. In fact, usually when he fails in terms of trying to attack one in terms of character assassination, he then starts getting into the redbalting, because he does that consistently when he runs out of both a researched argument and a logical argument.

So I don't dwell very much on the type of comments by the ilk of the Member for Pembina, because one can look through his history when he was in office. You see all the sad cases of a little boy being pushed around by his Cabinet and colleagues, over and over. So when he aspires now to somehow crawl back up in his colleague's esteem, by trying to attack individuals, we don't worry about it.

In fact, I'm quite pleased that you have someone like the Member for Pembina acting as the Health Critic. I am quite pleased. It's the best thing that could happen to us. I believe that from time-to-time the former Member for Fort Garry might have had some credibility, although not always, not completely and we can go into it. When we get into Personal Care Homes, I'll talk about my experiences with the former Member for Fort Garry with respect to the St. Adolphe Nursing Home, and what took place there, and what the implications were and how it reflected in the last provincial elections with so-called people who weren't tied in with the Conservative Party and supporting the Member for Emerson in a flagrant disabuse of the election rules. So we can get into that, and we can get into those stories later on.

A MEMBER: What about the Steinbach Office building?

HON. W. PARASIUK: We can get into that. We're quite prepared to.

A MEMBER: The St. Adolphe's Personal Care Home.

HON. W. PARASIUK: That's right, the St. Adolphe Personal Care Home publicly supporting with ads for members . . .

MR. B. RANSOM: What constituency were you living in when you ran in 1973 Willy?

HON. W. PARASIUK: I was living in the Riel constituency.

MR. B. RANSOM: Oh, were you?

HON. W. PARASIUK: That's right.

MR. B. RANSOM: I see.

HON. W. PARASIUK: I moved in there, supposedly the day after the requirement, because I had bought a house about three months earlier.

A MEMBER: There's no residence requirement.

HON. W. PARASIUK: There was - not a residence requirement - it makes no difference. But when the election was run I was living there. If the Member for Turtle Mountain wants to talk . . .

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please.

A MEMBER: He wants to talk about breaches of the act?

HON. W. PARASIUK: That's right, I will.

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please.

HON. W. PARASIUK: But you see what you find when one starts raising these points about the Conservatives, immediately they try and slither around it, but that's to be expected from them.

So when we get to Personal Care Homes I'll get up and speak on that, because I've been accused by some person out of Pembina constituency and I would love to debate health care with the Member for Pembina. I want to find out where he was when the backlog was being established because my colleague, the Minister of Health, has had to run pretty hard and you can't catch up immediately when you have four years of that type of government. The public understands that. The public in Transcona understood that it took a bit of time to get caught up with the senior citizens homes that were arbitrarily cancelled by the present Member for Sturgeon Creek. It takes a bit of time to make up when people get up there and publicly say, oh there's no need for these things, so they cancel senior citizens homes. So they cut back on personal care homes and then they have the audacity to get up two and three years after we are in office, saying, you're not catching up sufficiently. They had a guilty conscience because Saturday night before the 1981 election - what was it on a Tuesday - Saturday night they were out making commitments that they were going to expand Concordia Hospital. That's the quality of their health care planning, that's the depth of it, and that's the substance of it.

I commend my colleague, the Member for Health, for going out, doing his homework, listening to people, looking at the need, making changes with the home orderly service and bringing it under the public domain, spending time with people who do raise complaints, establishing a valid five-year plan for capital projects,

and a plan that deals with need on objective substantive basis.

I think that my colleague, the Minister of Health, can quite easily deal with the types of, I think, over-stated, somewhat hysterical statements made by the Member for Pembina. If they think that they will somehow enhance their credibility by departing from what they say; that is, by departing from what they themselves call the "Bud and Larry Show", then let me tell you, they won't succeed. They won't succeed at all.

A MEMBER: We call this the "Don and Larry Show."

HON. W. PARASIUK: No. No, we don't call it at all.

A MEMBER: Yes, we did.

HON. W. PARASIUK: We don't call it all. We call it a pretty good show on our part and you've got a no show on your part.

A MEMBER: We call it a great show on ours.

HON. W. PARASIUK: Good, if that's the quality of the attack in the debate, let me tell you, we welcome that tremendously. We welcome it. We've had those types of efforts made before. They don't work and I welcome the opportunity in the future to debate more, substantively hopefully, if they can dredge up some substance. — (Interjection) — I wouldn't mind listening to his rebuttal at all, because I can tell you, it will all be nice and substantive. One can expect that from the Member for Pembina. He will get up and start calling people names, because that's the way he does it. It's a tactic that one knows by this stage. I'm surprised that he hasn't run out and picked up his book on communism and held it up and started ranting from that perspective. But what he should realize is that after a while people completely disregard that. If the member wanted to show his integrity, because he says we lack integrity - especially that I lack integrity, I don't mind that, because I look at the source - I say to him when he waves a document around and he says he's got a document and the Minister of Health says that his Planning and Research Office was broken into and that there is a stolen document . . .

A MEMBER: Was it reported to the police?

HON. W. PARASIUK: Yes it was. That's right, do you want to be a part of that?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Do you want to show this to the police? Do you want to show this to the police?

A MEMBER: This is the report that we knew about.

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

HON. W. PARASIUK: I asked him. He doesn't want to table it to us, when he gets back, show it to the police.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Do you want to show that document to the police?

A MEMBER: This is the report nobody knew about.

HON. W. PARASIUK: Well, no and now they're trying to say . . .

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

HON. W. PARASIUK: There was a break and enter in the Minister's Planning and Research Office, a document was taken. A few weeks later we have this document, not this document necessarily, but a document being waved around purported to be this document. The Minister, other people, asked him to table it; he won't table it. I say if he doesn't want to table it, will he at least show it to the police? A very simple straightforward question on that. — (Interjection) — Not at all, not at all.

HON. A. ANSTETT: Think about it.

HON. W. PARASIUK: You think about it. You think about what you're doing.

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please.

HON. W. PARASIUK: I never heard anything like that in my life, and I expected a bit more out of you.

HON. A. MACKLING: It's under investigation . . .

HON. L. DESJARDINS: You just finished saying, did you tell the police, report it to the police.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please, order please.

HON. W. PARASIUK: We've asked ourselves; we've asked specifically of the member, would he table the document. He says he won't, and I am surprised that he is skating around like that.

Now they're saying, of course, we don't have to table it. According to the rules, you don't have to table it. That's fair enough, but I'm surprised that the member wouldn't say, look, I want to clear the air on this and I'll table the document, but that's not what he's doing.

He had the chance to show his integrity right now and we'll see whether in fact he does it. I certainly welcome the opportunity to hear his "rebuttal" and see how he wants to deal with the whole issue of what he will do with that document because I feel quite confident that he won't table it. I feel quite confident that, having waved something around earlier today or waved it around yesterday, that now — (Interjection) — the Member for Sturgeon Creek says, well he has to read it now. It's amazing.

So I give the opportunity to the Member for Pembina to get up and show what he's made of by tabling that report.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Pembina.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, the member that just spoke wanted to challenge me to tell what I'm going to do with the document, "Manitoba and

Medicare." I'm going to do with it what I told them earlier on I'm going to do with it. I'm going to read it. I'm going to read it and I'm going to find out what you're planning for Health in Manitoba. It's as simple as that; that's what I'm going to do with it. I'm going to read the nice document that this Minister didn't know about.

Mr. Chairman, the member that just spoke, . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please.

MR. D. ORCHARD: . . . I took down a quotation and I think it's correct. I think it's correct word for word. This gentleman who claims to have all the integrity in the world and doesn't deal in personal innuendo and doesn't get involved in these name-calling things and things like that . . .

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

The Member for Pembina has the floor.

MR. D. ORCHARD: . . . and I put that on the record because that is the action that you engaged in in 1981 and in 1980. It's as simple as that. I wouldn't have put it on the record if it wasn't factual.

Mr. Chairman, the last speaker that just spoke, he said that I have a habit of never dealing with the substance and never dealing with the issue; and we listened, and I listened very closely for however long it took him to get this vitriolic poison out of his system, this pent-up anger and rage that he has, and I listened very carefully to see if he would deal with the substance of the issue that I raised with the Minister of Health and with the statement I made that the level of service to that person had been cut back from 1981 until 1985.

Mr. Chairman, the Minister knows it's been cut back because he's been contacted. He knows it's been cut back by 26 hours per week from 1981 to 1985, but he didn't deal with the substance or the issue there because he knows that he's been caught. He knows that they have cut back services; he knows that person receives less from a New Democratic Government that promised to restore care than she did from a Progressive Conservative Government, a situation that alarmed him so much when he was in opposition when another Manitoban theoretically had some problems, he brought the person in, called a press conference and made a great issue of it. I mean, now he won't even deal with the substance and the issue that I raised which said, and I confirm, and ask the Minister to at least have the decency to stand up in the House and say, yes, there are 26 hours per week less service being offered to his own constituent now than there was in 1981 under a Progressive Conservative Government.

He could at least show that he had some semblance of integrity and honesty if he dealt with the issue and the substance, but he never. He simply went off in his little mind set and his accusations and his comments that quite often he does when he's caught on an issue where he's wrong on it because he doesn't like to be proved to be wrong; and that's what's happened tonight.

It's not my constituent; this is a Manitoban that I think many people know. I got to know her over the last several months and I posed her case and her

problem to the Minister and the answer is that the service has been cut back from 1981 to 1985.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Some of it and some has increased. Conditions change. Don't forget the conditions are changed. That's not important.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, you can attempt to wiggle out of the situation as much as you can. I would say it is very important that the condition has changed since 1981 because my understanding of the circumstances from 1981, when there were eight hours per day off of orderly service and Home Care service provided. No. On the days off of Mr. Ducharme, there were eight hours per day provided to give him a break on the weekends; and circumstances have indeed changed. He has since suffered a heart attack and this government does not, for whatever reason, provide any care on the weekends.

I agree, conditions have changed and the hours have been cut back by 26. Mr. Chairman, I'm very stubborn when I have the facts.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: You haven't got the facts.

MR. D. ORCHARD: You haven't changed the facts; you haven't dealt with the issue and neither did your Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please, order please.

MR. D. ORCHARD: The man that tried to defend you never dealt with the substance of the issue I raised because he can't, because he knows the service has been cut back. It's as simple as that, and, Mr. Chairman, it's unfortunate . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please, order please. Order please. I would appreciate it if all members address their comments to the Chair rather than to each other personally.

The Member for Pembina.

MR. D. ORCHARD: I certainly will, Mr. Chairman. It's unfortunate that they can't deal with the issue when the issue has been a cutback in service, something that was not promised to happen.

Health care was promised to be improved by this government, to be restored, etc., etc. It hasn't been; this is one individual who . . . — (Interjection) — Sorry, there was a little game score interruption there. I'm sorry.

Mr. Chairman, the Minister of Labour is chattering from his seat and he said something about never scoring a goal in his life. Well, we saw the example of his competence earlier on tonight and we'll continue to see that level of competence from the Minister of Labour.

Mr. Chairman, the issue is simple. There's cutback in service to this individual, no question about it, and the government may have very legitimate reasons why they're doing it and I don't argue with their ability to make that decision. That's what you're government for, to decide where you're going to prioritize your services, where you're going to increase services, where you're

going to decrease services. This is one of the cases where you've chosen to decrease service, for whatever reason. That's your prerogative but don't try to leave the impression that it hasn't happened, simply to protect yourself from positions you took irresponsibly when you were in opposition and promises you made to the people of Manitoba in the election campaign that you haven't been able to keep. Don't hide behind those two areas when you have made decisions and which you have reduced. — (Interjection) — Mr. Chairman, the Minister says explain the difference in cost. He just told me tonight that this service is going up. You're paying the people more. I presume that's happened. Mr. Chairman, all the Minister has to do is go back to 1980, to 1981, pull out the hours that were provided of service, pull out the hours that were provided this year and he'll see what I'm saying. All he has to do is go in and punch his new PHIN number and he can get it.

So, Mr. Chairman, we've had an adequate discussion on this. I think the point has been made and the Minister — (Interjection) — Well, if the Minister chooses not to listen on behalf of a Manitoban, that's fine. That's his prerogative, that's entirely his prerogative. He can do what he wishes with the information, but it's my job to bring it to his attention as I have tonight.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Health.
Item 2.(g)(1) - the Honourable Government House Leader.

HON. A. ANSTETT: Yes, Mr. Chairman, to the same questions that were raised in part by the Member for Transcona. Mr. Chairman, I do not raise either a question of privilege, or a point of order, but I do raise a matter which I believe is of serious import respecting the conduct of our discussions this evening.

Mr. Chairman, I think I should advise the House that it is my understanding that there has been the unauthorized removal by theft, to be reported to the police, of documents from the Planning and Research Office of the Department of Health.

Mr. Chairman, I wish also to formally advise the House that I have reason to believe, and I will present a prima facie case to that effect, that one of the documents extant is on the desk of the Honourable Member for Arthur, beside the Honourable Member for Pembina, and was a document which he waved in this House and which he is now placing on his own desk, which is the actual document removed from the Planning and Research Office.

A MEMBER: Are we going to have a court case on this?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Okay, Watergate.

A MEMBER: Are we now having a court case?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Okay, Watergate.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please.

HON. A. ANSTETT: Mr. Chairman, I raised this matter under these circumstances, because I believe there is

a very serious question of propriety here, and I will be referring shortly to Beauchesne Citation No. 61 and be making a request, a formal request, as Government House Leader, of the Member for Pembina.

But first, Sir, I would like to point out that the document which the Minister of Health said he did not have; he did not have, because only eight copies existed and none of those copies had been removed from the Planning and Research Office. There were eight copies only made and, sir, all those copies are identifiable. The Minister of Health has not seen that document, sir, only the Planning and Research staff which developed it have.

The document consists of a large number of xerox pages divided into 9 chapters separated by canary yellow dividers and is covered on each side by a canary yellow piece of paper. All documents are fastened with long Acco fasteners and the document, which I believe the honourable member has, the fasteners are fastened on the front, and at the upper edge of the front of the document the name "Diane" is written in pencil.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that if the honourable member will advise this House as to whether or not that document meets that description in all detail, that that member is in possession of a stolen document, and I believe he has an obligation, if not to advise the House, Sir, to advise, in accordance with Citation 61, the City of Winnipeg Police.

I cite for you, Sir, Citation 61: "Beyond the few exceptions made, a Member is fully responsible in the ordinary courts for any offence not 'within the scope of his duties in the course of parliamentary business.'" Sir, I submit it is not parliamentary business to be in possession of stolen goods. I ask the member, I challenge the member, to satisfy this House that he is not so in possession; if he refuses to do that, Sir, to satisfy the City of Winnipeg Police.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Pembina.

MR. D. ORCHARD: The document I have is not the document so described by the Minister.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: It is so the document, you know it is.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. Order please.

A MEMBER: Why did you deny possession?

A MEMBER: Are you making an accusation?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Yes, and I am saying that's a stolen document; yes I'm saying it's the stolen document.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Well, I said it wasn't.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Well, it is, it's a stolen document.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. Order please.

MR. F. JOHNSTON: Are you making an accusation?

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. Order please.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: It's a stolen document. You know it is and he knows it is.

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, order, both of you. I call the Minister of Health and the Member for Sturgeon Creek to order.

The Honourable Government House Leader.

HON. A. ANSTETT: Mr. Chairman, I will accept the honourable member's word in this House, although I believe I have a prima facie case and have submitted a prima facie case to this House, but since there is no breach of the privileges of this House, I am not prepared to move a motion to cite the honourable member; but I would ask the honourable member, respectfully, sir, to satisfy the people of Manitoba, and the City of Winnipeg Police, that the document is not the stolen document to which I referred. Having not done that, sir, there is no requirement that could be made in this House that he satisfy the House, and I, sir, in respect for an honourable member am prepared to accept his word, because under the rules, we have no other choice.

However, sir, I think he does have an obligation to satisfy the Winnipeg Police Department by producing that document to ascertain whether or not he is in possession of stolen goods.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. The Government House Leader has mentioned in his preamble that he was raising neither a point of privilege, nor a point of order. He was therefore debating under the terms of reference of the committee.

The Member for Pembina has stated that it is not the document referred to, and under Citation 322 we must accept the statement by a member respecting himself, and particularly with his own knowledge must be accepted.

Since there was no point of order or point of privilege, there is no matter which can be ruled on. What happens outside of the House with respect to police investigations is not, strictly speaking, under the purview of this committee at this time.

Item 2(g) - the Minister of Health.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Committee rise.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Committee rise. Call in the Speaker.

IN SESSION

The Chairman reported upon the Committee's deliberations to Mr. Speaker and requested leave to sit again.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER, P. EYLER: The Honourable Member for Wolseley.

MS. M. PHILLIPS: I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Inkster, that the report of the Committee be received.

MOTION presented and carried.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Honourable Government House Leader.

HON. A. ANSTETT: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Energy and Mines, that the House do now adjourn.

MOTION presented and carried and the House adjourned and will stand adjourned until 10:00 a.m. tomorrow (Friday).