

## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Monday, 27 May, 1985.

Time — 2:00 p.m.

**OPENING PRAYER by Mr. Speaker.**

**MR. SPEAKER, Hon. J. Walding:** Presenting Petitions . . . Reading and Receiving Petitions . . . Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees . . . Ministerial Statements and Tabling of Reports . . . Notices of Motion . . .

### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

**HON. A. ANSTETT** introduced, by leave, Bill No. 48, An Act to amend The Municipal Assessment Act and Various Other Acts of the Legislature.

### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**MR. SPEAKER:** Prior to Oral Questions, may I direct the attention of honourable members to the gallery.

We have the High Commissioner from Zimbabwe, Mr. Chigwedere, accompanied by Mr. Nhemman, the 1st Secretary. On behalf of all of the members, I welcome you here this afternoon.

Also in the gallery there are 23 students of Grade 5 standing from the Cranberry Portage Elementary School under the direction of Miss Fidierchuk. The school is in the constituency of the Honourable Minister of Tourism. On behalf of all of the members, I welcome you here this afternoon.

### ORAL QUESTIONS

#### Labour Legislation - amendments to re plant closures

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

**MR. G. FILMON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Premier. I wonder if he could indicate to me if the proposed amendments to labour legislation that are expected to be brought forth this Session on plant closure have been reviewed by the Labour Management Review Committee and the Economic Advisory Committee to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable First Minister.

**HON. H. PAWLEY:** Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Labour, of course, will deal with that question.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Labour.

**HON. A. MACKLING:** Mr. Speaker, I know that I have had a meeting with the Management Labour Review Committee. I expect to be having a meeting with that group some time before the legislation is tabled in the House.

**MR. G. FILMON:** Have those amendments as well been, Mr. Speaker, reviewed by the Economic Advisory Committee to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology?

**HON. A. MACKLING:** I'm not familiar with what arrangements, if any, have been provided for that review, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. G. FILMON:** Mr. Speaker, will the proposed amendments be brought forth only if they carry the consensus support of the Labour Management Review Committee?

**HON. A. MACKLING:** Mr. Speaker, this government has an obligation to bring forth legislation which it believes is in the interest of all Manitobans and will do so.

**MR. G. FILMON:** Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the Minister of Labour is not committing to bringing forth changes to labour legislation with the support of the Labour Management Review Committee, the consensus support of all people . . .

**A MEMBER:** He never said that.

**MR. G. FILMON:** He did so.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please. Question?

**A MEMBER:** How would you know?

**MR. G. FILMON:** Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact as well that this government had to invest over \$1 million in Vicon in order to preserve some 100 jobs in Manitoba; and in view of the fact that a major garment industry manufacturer, Tan Jay, is proposing to move its head office out of Manitoba, both of these situations as a result of the payroll tax and the anti-investment labour legislation that's been brought forth by this government, will the Premier commit to removing the discriminatory anti-business labour legislation and the payroll tax so that we don't need to have these jobs continuing to be destroyed in Manitoba in the future?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable First Minister.

**HON. H. PAWLEY:** Mr. Speaker, I think it might be worthwhile for the Leader of the Opposition to acquaint himself with some pertinent information. No. 1, insofar as labour legislation in this province is concerned that we've enjoyed over the last two or three years, virtually the lowest rate of time lost due to strikes or lockouts of any province in Canada with the possible exception of Prince Edward Island. Mr. Speaker, also the Leader of the Opposition ought to be aware, if he is not already aware, that investment projections insofar as this year and also confirmed by last year, 1984, virtually the best, if not the best in Canada, Mr. Speaker.

I think the Leader of the Opposition would be much better in sharing with other Manitobans at obvious involvement and participation building investment, building jobs and also ensuring that there be harmonious labour relations rather than trying to pour cold water on the efforts of Manitobans.

**MR. G. FILMON:** Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the Conference Board projections for this year for Canada state that Manitoba will have a growth rate of 1.6 percent, tied for the lowest in the country; and in view of the fact as well that the Conference Board is suggesting we'll have one of the lowest job creation rates of any province in the country; and in view of the fact that investors and businesses who are headquartered here, such as Tan Jay, not only are expanding in Ontario, they've gone from 35 to 100 in Thunder Bay, they're moving their head office, will the government not remove the payroll tax and the anti-business labour legislation to get rid of these negatives?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please, order please. Order please. May I remind members that Oral Question period is a time for seeking information and not for giving it. Neither are questions supposed to be argumentative.

The Honourable Member for Arthur.  
The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

**MR. G. FILMON:** Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that Tan Jay Limited is proposing to move its head office from Manitoba, and in view of the fact that . . .

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

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please, order please. Question?

**MR. G. FILMON:** . . . last year they expanded their manufacturing in Thunder Bay from 35 to 100 employees, what is the government doing to try and protect investment and to try and ensure that Manitoba businesses can survive and prosper here and grow here?

**HON. H. PAWLEY:** Mr. Speaker, first, I would refer the Leader of the Opposition, in view of his lengthy preamble just a few moments ago, to the documentation in Economic Outlook for Manitoba, Investors' Dealers Association of Canada, which reflects a much more objective balanced view of the rapid growth by way of investment, by way of employment, by way of low unemployment, by the way of retail sales, by way of housing starts in the Province of Manitoba. There's no doom and gloom in this report.

Mr. Speaker, is the Leader of the Opposition informing this House and through this House the people of the Province of Manitoba that the labour legislation in the Province of Ontario is some way or other more anti-business, more restrictive, quite different from the labour legislation in this province?

If indeed the Leader of the Opposition is doing that, Mr. Speaker, then he is ignorant of the labour provisions that exist in the Province of Ontario.

**MR. G. FILMON:** Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the President of Tan Jay in a letter to this administration

has said that its only concern as a business is to operate in an environment which is conducive to risk-taking; and that during the Schreyer years we experienced our greatest growth, in relationship with that government, was amicable and productive, when is this administration going to remove the payroll tax and remove the anti-business labour legislation and get on with growth and job creation as it should be in this province?

**HON. H. PAWLEY:** Mr. Speaker, I abhor the fact that the Leader of the Opposition of this Chamber wishes to join and harshly become involved in a labour dispute in this province and take sides against women, against new immigrants, against the weakest and the most powerless in this province, that the Leader of the Opposition would join in this dispute in a way to provide his office in order to give support and comfort to one side of that dispute.

**MR. G. FILMON:** Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. I want to put on the record that I did not mention anything to do with the labour dispute or anything to do with information concerning any potential work stoppage. I am talking about the climate for investment and job creation in this province.

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

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please, order please. Order please. That was not a point of order. Does the honourable member have a question?

The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

**MR. G. FILMON:** Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that a company that employs 850 people in Winnipeg that says that its potential for growth is the greatest that it ever could be in this industry in Canada is not willing to invest in Manitoba, when will the government change its hostile attitude towards business so that we can have our Manitoba businesses grow?

**HON. H. PAWLEY:** Mr. Speaker, if the Leader of the Opposition doesn't know that when he makes reference to letters written by Tan Jay during this labour dispute, when he makes reference in respect to full-page ads in the newspapers over the weekend, if the Leader of the Opposition doesn't know that he unwittingly is taking sides on behalf of Tan Jay in a labour dispute involving women and immigrants in this province, then the Leader of the Opposition is much more naive than I would have thought.

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

### Cream quotas

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please, order please.  
The Honourable Member for Arthur.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question to the Minister of Agriculture. In view of the fact that there are many farmers who are depending on their daily incomes from the shipping of cream, in view of the fact that many of them are out of quota,

is the Minister of Agriculture recommending to them that they continue to dump the cream on the ground from now until the end of July?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** No, Mr. Speaker. The honourable member should be aware that the Milk Producers' Marketing Board is meeting, I believe, at this time, if they have not already met, to deal with the question of the global quota that is available to cream producers in terms of the block quota that they've implemented and they are reviewing their regulations as to how it is impacting on producers.

The honourable member should be aware that we did raise the question of inter-industry discussions and consultations between the processors and the producers of the cream in this province. There was a committee that had been in place for many years, had not been operative in fact for four or five years, until we had major discussions going back a year or so ago.

This committee has been in place, is working; in fact, there are representatives of the processors, the cream producers. There are representatives of the creameries on this committee. They're working through a very difficult problem; and in fact the board itself as I understand it, is looking at modifying their restrictions they have put in, in not allowing inter-industry transfers to allocate the full quota that was within the block.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** Mr. Speaker, what does the Minister of Agriculture recommend to these cream producers who are now dumping their cream on the ground, or in fact, feeding it to their livestock? What is his recommendation to them? What should they do with the cream that is building up in their fridges and in their cream storage facilities? What is his recommendation, Mr. Speaker?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Speaker, the problem of production in the milk industry - and overproduction in light of the industry is not new in the industry - — (Interjection) — The Honourable Member for Pembina says you shouldn't change the rules. Any rules that are there within the industry have not had any impact on the situation that there is now.

Mr. Speaker, the honourable member should be aware that the industry today is on a national cutback in the neighbourhood of between 2 and 5 percent and the month of April, this past month, saw the highest increase in production of cream in the recorded history in terms of this province.

So, Mr. Speaker, the difficulty of adequate quota is one that is there in the industry. It is less severe for the creameries themselves because they have the option of taking in cream in any amount and having it stored, at no cost to them, through the Canadian Dairy Commission and then recouping the supplies as they need it with no cost to them.

So the creameries would like to have, and I agree, any amount of cream that they can get because they really have no risk to take in terms of the supply of cream because they can put it into storage, no cost to them, and retrieve it for their marketplace anywhere

down the line. The difficulty rests with the producers who have, in fact, reached their quota, and that is not new in terms of the industry, it's a matter of having the board having enough foresight and managing that quota on a year-long basis and putting in the mechanisms there to be able to manage the production, in light with the global quota that they have. But it is not one that will be resolved overnight, Mr. Speaker, it will take a lot of consultation and work amongst the producers themselves as to how to work this one out.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact there was a regulation change in the last few months, under his government, that disallows the transfer of quota between cream shippers so that they can accommodate one another with the shipping of their cream, and not be forced to put cream on the ground, will the Minister of Agriculture force the Manitoba Marketing Council and the Milk Producers Marketing Board to reintroduce a policy that was working well under a previous administration?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Speaker, that just goes to show you how little the honourable member understands the industry. He really doesn't know the situation. Mr. Speaker, I'm really surprised that the honourable member wouldn't know the industry better than that.

Mr. Speaker, the honourable member knows that there is no connection whatsoever between the situation in the milk industry and the situation in the cream industry at all. I'm kind of surprised that he's trying to link the two situations together.

Mr. Speaker, to explain to the honourable member, the Milk Marketing Board has a global quota for the entire province as issued by the Canadian Dairy Commission. Within that global quota they do allocate two separate quotas: one for the milk production and one for the cream production.

Within the cream block, Mr. Speaker, the producers within Manitoba produce. Over the years, the Milk Marketing Board has in fact allowed, while individual producers have had quotas, virtually allowed a free flow of the production of cream in that quota. It has nothing to do with the issue that the honourable member alleges in terms of the regulations. The regulations, Sir, in place today are the same regulations that were in place in 1978.

### Chisholm, Al - resignation

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Virden.

**MR. H. GRAHAM:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Acting Minister of Tourism, the Minister who is also responsible for the Horse Racing Commission and, in light of the . . .

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please.

**MR. H. GRAHAM:** If I may, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to preface my question by stating that on Saturday I had the privilege, as the Member for Virden, to welcome to Virden the start of the Manitoba Great Western Harness Circuit for the coming summer, and I want to assure all members that it looks like it's going to be

an excellent summer. But I would like to ask the Acting Minister if a Mr. Al Chisholm, who had been hired as a judge for the Manitoba Great Western Harness Circuit, resigned one day before racing commenced.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Natural Resources.

**HON. S. USKIW:** Mr. Speaker, I am somewhat confused. I wasn't aware that Mr. Chisvin was hired as a judge. He is chairman of the board.

**MR. H. GRAHAM:** Pardon me. Mr. Al Chisholm, C-h-i-s-h-o-l-m.

**HON. S. USKIW:** Well, Mr. Speaker, obviously, I am not aware of the circumstances that the member alludes to. I can simply take the matter as notice.

**MR. H. GRAHAM:** Can the Minister indicate to the house whether it was the internal ping-pong politics of the Racing Commission that had anything to do with his resignation?

**HON. S. USKIW:** Well, Mr. Speaker, as I indicated a moment ago, I really have no knowledge of the issue the member alludes to, and I will take the matter under advisement.

#### **Shaw, William - full-time judge**

**MR. H. GRAHAM:** Can the Minister also indicate whether a Mr. William Shaw, who was an associate judge and is an employee of the Manitoba Liquor Control Commission, has been promoted to the status of full-time judge by the Chairman of the Horse Racing Commission who is also the Chairman of the Manitoba Liquor Control Commission?

**HON. S. USKIW:** Well, I will take that as notice as well, Mr. Speaker.

#### **Manfor - Saskatchewan wood economically viable**

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

**MR. D. GOURLAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Premier. In view of the fact that operations are being severely cut back at Manfor and, in addition, to various northern logging camps the Northern Truckers Association are also experiencing a disastrous year; and in view of the fact that wood is still coming in from Saskatchewan by rail to The Pas, my question to the Premier is: will he explain where he is quoted in the *Opasquia Times*, The Pas, April 24th of this year, "Manfor was likely using Saskatchewan wood as it is economically viable to do so; I gather that's a good economic arrangement"? I wonder if the Premier would explain what he means by that quotation.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable First Minister.

**HON. H. PAWLEY:** Mr. Speaker, the total package insofar as the arrangement with Saskatchewan is one

that is, in the overall basis, beneficial to the Manfor operation.

Mr. Speaker, I don't believe one can take a total package, such as Manfor, and then start to analyze as to whether one particular segment of the total Manfor operation should be altered or not. The total picture has to be examined, and part of that total picture is the arrangement that has been entered into between Manfor and the Saskatchewan operators.

**MR. D. GOURLAY:** Mr. Speaker, another supplementary to the Premier. Can the Premier advise the House today: is wood still coming in from Saskatchewan to Manfor?

**HON. H. PAWLEY:** I take that question as notice, Mr. Speaker.

#### **Harvey, Murray and Manfor - non-conflict of interest situation**

**MR. D. GOURLAY:** Another question to the Premier. Murray Harvey, Chairman of the Board, Manfor, is one of the principal shareholders and a director of New North Ventures Limited, which prints and publishes the *Opasquia Times* at The Pas. In view of the fact that Manfor does a considerable amount of advertising and commercial printing at *Opasquia Times*, can the Premier advise the House what guidelines are in place, or how does the government satisfy itself there is a non-conflict of interest situation between Mr. Harvey and Manfor?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Finance.

**HON. V. SCHROEDER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll take that question as notice as Minister of Crown Investments.

#### **Agricultural community - viability of**

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for River East.

**MR. P. EYLER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the First Minister. In 1982 and 1983 the Member for Pembina, and in 1984 the Member for Rhineland introduced Private Members' Resolutions in this House calling on the Federal Government to eliminate farm fuels' — (Interjection) — taxes.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Question?

**MR. P. EYLER:** In view of the fact, Mr. Speaker, that the Federal Government recently increased the excise tax on farm fuels by 2 cents a litre, can the Premier give the assurance that he will give consideration and perhaps donate some government time to this resolution when it is introduced again this Session by the Member for Pembina or the Member for Rhineland?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please, order please. The question is hypothetical. Would the honourable member wish to rephrase his question?

The Honourable Member for River East.

**MR. P. EYLER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A supplementary question to that hypothetical question,

then perhaps. Mr. Speaker, we have a Federal Government which seems to be using the carrot and stick approach to getting western farmers out of farming. The carrot is the \$500,000 capital gains exemption on the sale of their farms, and the stick is the 2-cent-a-litre gas tax that they've increased.

Can the First Minister assure the farming community that this government will do everything within its power, within its jurisdiction, to ensure the viability of the agricultural community in Manitoba?

**HON. H. PAWLEY:** I thank the Member for River East for this question. I would really have thought in view of the past record of the Member for Pembina, and the Member for Arthur, with respect to their attitude in regard to this specific measure during the time of the Liberal Government in Ottawa, who said they wouldn't have been able to wait to leap to their feet Friday morning or Monday, in order to pose questions to the Minister of Finance here and the Minister of Agriculture as to what they would be doing insofar as this imposition of tax by the Federal Conservative Government in Ottawa impacting as it is upon the farm economy.

Mr. Speaker, I will certainly look into what measures we can undertake, since obviously we can't expect much from across the way in regard to this item, as to ensure that the attention is brought to the government in Ottawa of the inflicting of additional financial strain upon the farmers of Western Canada, during a time when those Western farmers are having a very difficult time in eking out an existence.

### **Gas rebate to farmers - impact on provincial revenues**

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Pembina.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Premier. Could the Premier indicate whether the 4.8-cent-a-litre rebate to farmers as brought in, in the last six months, by the new Federal Government has any impact on provincial revenues?

**HON. H. PAWLEY:** Mr. Speaker, I gather it has not. And, Mr. Speaker, it is offset and the Minister of Finance can provide some further information in respect to that. I am disappointed though, I thought the Member for Pembina was jumping to his feet with the strength of sincerity, demonstrated by his past utterances in this Chamber, to have posed questions further on the question of what his Conservative Government in Ottawa is doing. And, Mr. Speaker, I'm very disappointed at the obvious lack of initiative on the part of honourable members across the way in regard to this matter.

### **Gosselin, Louis - meeting to discuss English issue**

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Morris.

**MR. C. MANNES:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I address my question to the Minister of Education.

With respect to the very sensitive issue of increasing the share of English instruction at the St. Pierre schools, the Minister has repeatedly indicated her unwillingness to be involved in the local issue and I can understand her reasons for saying that; however, did a Mr. Louis Gosselin, employee of the Bureau de l'Education Francaise, meet with the local Federation du Committee du Parent on April 16, 1985, to discuss the issue?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Education.

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Mr. Speaker, I'll take the specific question as notice in terms of, did a member of the staff of the bureau meet with the community on a particular day. Of that I'm not sure, although it is usual procedure for members of the Bureau to meet with school boards and school divisions when they are making decisions about programming, to provide them resource material, advice and support and information that they require in order to make their decision. It is quite probable as a member of the staff, that information could have been provided to the board to help them make their decision.

**MR. C. MANNES:** Mr. Speaker, my understanding was, the meeting was not with the local school board. Was the purpose of the meeting allegedly attended also by the director general of the SFM? Was the purpose of the meeting to discuss strategy against the percentage increase of teaching in English?

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Mr. Speaker, as I indicated in the first answer, that I have no particular knowledge of that specific meeting. I'll have to take any questions regarding that meeting as notice and provide the information to the member at a subsequent date.

### **Forest fire - Porcupine Mountains**

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Natural Resources.

**HON. S. USKIW:** Mr. Speaker, last week the Member for Swan River posed the question with respect to a fire at the Porcupine Mountains. I simply want to report to him that there were 300 acres involved in that fire. It appears to be man-caused and charges apparently are being laid, and it is apparently under control.

### **Beaver Dams - removal policy**

**HON. S. USKIW:** With respect to a question put to me by the Member for Emerson, as to whether or not there has been a change in policy with respect to beaver control in the Duck Mountains, I think the best way to handle that would be simply to pass on to the Member for Emerson the current policy which has been unchanged for some period of time.

### **Noxious weed control - rights-of-way**

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Pembina.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Highways. Could the

Minister indicate whether the districts are under any budgetary restrictions in their Maintenance Program to undertake noxious weed control programs along the rights-of-way owned by the province?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Highways.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Well, I could indicate as we've discussed during Estimates this year of my department, that there has been an expansion of the Maintenance Program. There has been no reduction, Mr. Speaker, in any of the maintenance areas this year.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Mr. Speaker, with a rather severe outbreak of leafy spurge, a highly noxious weed in various parts of the province, can the Minister give the municipalities in which the rights-of-way are so infested with such weeds as leafy spurge, that the department can undertake control immediately while that particular weed is in flower?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Well I would assume, Mr. Speaker, that the member is referring to those rights-of-way that are controlled by the Highways Department, not the municipalities. However, the question was somewhat ambiguous in that regard.

Obviously, the department will undertake the program in the same way they have in the past. If there is a particularly bad situation, Mr. Speaker, the member can forward details of that to me and I will ask the department to see if they can take specific measures to address it.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** A final supplementary then, will a simple phone call to the district office or the subdistrict office be all that is necessary for a municipality or an individual property owner to initiate Highways Department weed control along right-of-ways owned by the province?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** No, Mr. Speaker. I don't think that would be the appropriate way to do it at this time. I would like the member to bring forward the concern to me and we will deal with it through the . . .

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

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Well, the details of it, Mr. Speaker.

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

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please.  
The Honourable Minister.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** I don't know, Mr. Speaker, whether they want to hear or discuss this problem. It seems to me a joke rather than a serious problem, the way these members are proceeding.

It's obvious to me that there are some details that the member has not given with regard to the particular areas where there is a specific problem. I would like to get that information from the member, as I have indicated, and we will look into whether special measures have to be taken or whether the routine measures that are taken each year will suffice. That's the information that I will need.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Mr. Speaker, my question for the Minister: is he to be made aware of every noxious weed problem in all of the 15,000-odd miles of right-of-ways in Manitoba? He, as Minister, will receive all of those complaints or is he going to let the district offices, when notified, look after those complaints? Why does the Minister have to be the one who looks after every bad weed in the province?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Well, Mr. Speaker, the member, on the basis that he is indeed asking the questions in this House, seems to be indicating that there is an extraordinary situation that needs to be addressed and that it isn't routine. So under normal circumstances the departments through the districts would deal with the problem of weed control. However, if there are some special problems here that the member is trying to bring forward and is unable to do because he doesn't have the details, then we would address them through the department centrally through the Deputy Minister.

I would like to hear what those are. I'd like them passed onto us and we will see whether the routine measures that are taken on a year-to-year basis are sufficient to deal with the problem, Mr. Speaker.

### World Exposition '86 - Manitoba role

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Roblin-Russell.

**MR. W. MCKENZIE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Honourable First Minister. I wonder, can the First Minister advise the House what active role your government or Manitoba will play during the World Exposition '86 which will be held in Vancouver, May to October, 1986.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable First Minister.

**HON. H. PAWLEY:** Mr. Speaker, I would accept that question on behalf of the Minister responsible for Business and Tourism. Manitoba will be playing a role in respect to Expo and the Minister will be detailing the extent of that role.

**MR. W. MCKENZIE:** Can I ask the First Minister if any of the privately-owned firms, or the companies from Manitoba's manufacturing base will have made plans to become actively involved with the displays at Expo '86 to add to, I think, what the theme of the exposition will be, transportation and communications? I wonder if any of the business firms in the province will be — (Interjection) — involved.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please. The subject matter of questions should be within the administrative competence of the government. Would the honourable member wish to rephrase his question?

**MR. W. MCKENZIE:** Can I ask the First Minister whether he's had any discussions with any of the businesses in the province, manufacturing, industrial or otherwise, regarding their plans to put up displays or take part in Exposition '86 in Vancouver next summer?

**HON. H. PAWLEY:** Mr. Speaker, as I indicated a few moments ago, the Minister responsible for Business

and Tourism will be pleased to provide as much information to the member and to the members of this House as possible in that regard.

### Chicken farming regulations

**MR. W. MCKENZIE:** Mr. Speaker, I asked the First Minister, it must be two weeks ago - and it was referred to the Minister of Agriculture - regarding the cutback of a number of broilers that local producers can take to their killing plant. I wonder if that information is available now.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Speaker, there is no exemption change in the production of — (interjection) — broilers that . . .

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Speaker, there is no exemption change in the number of broilers that a producer can produce. Where the board has attempted to define as to how much actual unregulated production occurs in this province, because of the national quota, they have instituted this measure of defining how much actual slaughter is being put through a processing plant based on previous years, slaughtering through a local plant. That's the criteria that the board has followed in order to determine how much slaughter is actually occurring by unregistered producers.

### Liquor Control Commission - markup on spirits

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

**MR. G. MERCIER:** Mr. Speaker, a question to the Minister of Finance. The Budget announced effective May 24th an increase, a levy on spirits, beer and wine, of 2 percent. Could the Finance Minister indicate whether the Liquor Control Commission will be applying, for example, its 138 percent markup on spirits which would result in about a 5.75 percent increase?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Finance.

**HON. V. SCHROEDER:** Mr. Speaker, I could tell the member about the newscast I heard which indicated that there was apparently a price increase of 25 cents on a bottle of spirits and 5 cents on a case of beer. I don't know what that translates into in percentages and I don't know that that's the final increase. I'll take the question as notice for the Attorney-General. I'm sure he'll let you know.

**MR. G. MERCIER:** Mr. Speaker, I thank the Minister for taking that question as notice.

### North of Portage Development - grants for labour centre

**MR. G. MERCIER:** I have a question for the Minister of Urban Affairs. Could he indicate whether the Provincial Government will in any way be lending or giving grants for the construction of the labour centre in the North of Portage Development?

**HON. L. DESJARDINS:** What centre?

**MR. G. MERCIER:** The Union Centre.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Urban Affairs.

**HON. L. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Speaker, not that I know of. Certainly it wouldn't be through our department.

### Telex to South Dakota response to

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Arthur.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** Mr. Speaker, last week the Premier indicated that the matter of hog exports and the imposition of artificial trade barriers was a federal matter and then decided himself to send a communication to the Governor of South Dakota. Has he had a response yet from the Governor of South Dakota?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable First Minister.

**HON. H. PAWLEY:** Mr. Speaker, the telex in fact was sent to three governors, not one governor, and there has been no response as of yet.

### Road resurfacing, City of Winnipeg - responsibility of

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Burrows.

**MR. C. SANTOS:** I have some complaints from some of my constituents about road resurfacing and I don't know exactly where the jurisdiction lies, so I would like to ask the Minister of Transportation whether the province has any say at all in the time or method of road resurfacing within the City of Winnipeg which is affecting some businesses adversely?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Highways.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Mr. Speaker, without having details of the particular situation, if it's in the neighbourhood of the Perimeter Highway in areas of the city, that the province may have some jurisdiction; otherwise, it's completely the jurisdiction of the City of Winnipeg. They are responsible, through Works and Operations, for the timing and the kinds of work that they undertake.

The member, of course, should be discussing it with the mayor or a councillor of the City of Winnipeg if he has concerns.

### NON-POLITICAL STATEMENT

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Elmwood.

**MR. R. DOERN:** Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I could have leave to make a non-political statement.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Does the member have leave? (Agreed)  
The Honourable Member for Elmwood.

**MR. R. DOERN:** Mr. Speaker, I think that an event should not go unrecognized in this Chamber; namely, recognition of a distinguished Manitoban.

The Honourable D.L. Campbell will be celebrating his 90th birthday today. We all know that he served in this Chamber from 1922 to 1969, some 47 years. He served for 10 years as the Premier of the province and is, without doubt, Manitoba's senior statesman. So I know that all MLAs and all Manitobans would want to wish him well on his 90th birthday.

### COMMITTEE CHANGES

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Riel.

**MRS. D. DODICK:** Mr. Speaker, I have a few changes to the Law Amendments: the Member for Churchill for The Pas; the Member for St. Boniface for Transcona; the Member for Springfield for Fort Rouge; and the Member for Inkster for St. James.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Emerson.

**MR. A. DRIEDGER:** Mr. Speaker, a change in Law Amendments: Orchard for Hammond.

### ORDERS OF THE DAY HOUSE BUSINESS

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Government House Leader.

**HON. A. ANSTETT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Before we call the first item of business for today, I would like to advise the House that the Standing Committee on Economic Development will meet on Thursday of this week, the 30th of May, at 10:00 a.m., to consider and report on the Annual Reports of the Manitoba Oil and Gas Corporation, ManOil, and Manitoba Mineral Resources Company Ltd.

Mr. Speaker, as well, I have a revised list of the order of Estimates consideration after some consultation with the Opposition House Leader. I believe members have already been advised that following Agriculture in the House will be the Department of Education; followed by Community Services; followed by the Jobs Fund; then Legislative Assembly; and Executive Council.

Sir, in the committee room, the committee section, following Government Services, which was announced last week, we would move to the Department of Employment Services and Economic Security; Industry, Trade and Technology; Housing; Energy and Mines; Civil Service Commission; and Labour.

That, Sir, would conclude the Estimates. Those are the departments in each section of the committee left to be considered. I announced the full list, Mr. Speaker, with the House, of course, knowing that the list is subject to revision and change, depending on the availability

of Ministers and critics. Any changes will be announced by me after consultation with the Opposition House Leader, but that is the tentative schedule.

Mr. Speaker, unless there are any questions from the Opposition House Leader with regard to those two announcements, I would ask you to call the resolution standing on Pages 4 and 5 of the Order Paper.

### RESOLUTION RE MANITOBA - A NUCLEAR WEAPONS FREE ZONE

**MR. SPEAKER:** On the proposed resolution of the Honourable First Minister, and the proposed amendment thereto by the Honourable Leader of the Opposition, the Honourable Member for Ellice has 40 minutes.

**MR. B. CORRIN:** Mr. Speaker, I adjourned this debate on behalf of my leader.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable First Minister.

**HON. H. PAWLEY:** Mr. Speaker, first I would like to commence my remarks by indicating my satisfaction at the level of debate which has taken place in this Chamber in regard to this resolution, which clearly must be one of the most crucial and demanding issues confronting not just Manitoba but the entire world community today.

Mr. Speaker, I have been impressed by the fact that I do believe, as a result of the discussion that's taken place in this Chamber, that there is room for consensus, the coming together of a resolution that would clearly and unmistakably demonstrate the united consensus of Canadians.

I would also like to particularly commend the Leader of the Opposition for his remarks which gave rise to the amendment which the Leader of the Opposition had presented to this Chamber. Mr. Speaker, I believe that this amendment, rather than remove from the original principle of the resolution that was introduced in this Chamber, adds to that original principle; and, by way of its proposal, that this House call upon both super powers, both the USSR, the United States, in the name of humanity, to intensify their joint efforts to disarm; and, accepting the fact that in order that there be a climate of trust developed, that such disarmament must take place by way of mechanisms that can ensure that there is verifiable disarmament.

Mr. Speaker, so what we indeed have heard in this Chamber with hardly any exception - I believe there was some reservation by the Honourable Member for Brandon West - but I want to just inform the Member for Brandon West, he must have been ill-informed insofar as the wishes of the young people in this province. I have spoken in many many high schools and universities over the past year, two years, three years in this province. This is the No. 1 issue, and those students are asking for a nuclear arms free zone. This is not an idea that germinated by way of a seed on this side of the Chamber; Mr. Speaker, it is indeed an idea that germinated amongst Manitobans, and especially young Manitobans.

So I would still encourage the Honourable Member for Brandon West to give his support to this resolution

in recognition of the fact that this is an idea that was truly given germination in Manitoba by the young people of this province who have certainly, without reservation I must say, in any address I have been called upon to deliver, expressed this as their No. 1 priority, close, of course, along with jobs, as being a matter of major concern.

So I would ask the Honourable Member for Brandon West to reconsider his thoughts in respect to that. His first blush of comments were understandable, and I would trust that the honourable member at this stage would give some further consideration.

We are all, as elected representatives, representing constituents, constituents that are concerned, first, that the monies that are being expended worldwide, billions of dollars, would be better directed to an all-out attack upon famine, poverty and unemployment throughout the world, Mr. Speaker.

I have grave concerns that until we do redirect our focus from the military to peaceful means of attacking the root causes of war, that it will be like spitting in the wind in order to attempt to ensure a climate for peace. So a firm stand has to be taken, Mr. Speaker, and it is not adequate that we opt out, or we withdraw, or we leave it to somebody else, or we indicate that the next fellow has got to do it, or the next country, or the next nation. But, Mr. Speaker, the responsibility rests with us, as individuals, and as a provincial community.

Since this resolution was introduced I have received personal letters from scores of Manitobans, from scores of organizations, from churches and other organizations, expressing their pleasure that Manitoba will be in the forefront of leading the way, for giving a clear and firm signal to all of Canada, in fact to all of the world, about our solidarity in respect to this most important issue that, as the Honourable Member for Brandon West has indicated in his earlier speech, cannot be tainted by partisan politics because it embraces all humanity, and must not be so tainted.

Mr. Speaker, as I indicated a few moments ago the amendment that was introduced by the Leader of the Opposition was in my view, one that can add rather than subtract, from the intent of the original resolution. It is important that Manitoba give a clear signal, and that is demonstrated by way of the resolution that was introduced in this Chamber.

It is also equally important, Mr. Speaker, that we ensure that the signal does reach the ears of those who are substantially responsible by way of power for the nuclear arms race on Planet Earth.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think it is important that every member join with the final resolution in this Chamber, so there be a clear message; so that when we do have the traditional Walk for Peace that takes place and supported by a broad section of Manitobans; in fact I believe I can say without fear of exaggeration that the Walk for Peace in Manitoba, ratio to population, probably exceeds that Walk for Peace which occurs anywhere else in Canada, I believe, even better than the Vancouver record.

So the intensity of the feeling does exist in the Province of Manitoba, and people from all political stripes participate in that walk. I remember when the former Deputy Leader of the Conservative Party participated in that walk; the Member for Winnipeg

Fort Garry, the former Minister responsible for Transportation federally participated in that walk; provincial politicians; the Mayor of the City of Winnipeg always participates in that Walk for Peace.

So what is important, that there be a all-encompassing broad consensus of support by all Manitobans, and for this issue that we set aside any partisan considerations that we might otherwise have.

There is not much point, Mr. Speaker, as I believe I indicated in my earlier remarks, that we spend days and weeks and months attempting to pass legislation in this Chamber, creating new programs and ideas for presentation to improve the human condition of Manitobans, and that we expend so much of our life, as elected representatives, whether we're Liberal, Social Credit, Conservative or New Democrat, if at the end we end up being part of a chaotic situation, a catastrophe that in fact blows the entire world to smithereens and our children, and children's children, along with the Planet Earth.

So, Mr. Speaker, I believe there is that resolve; I believe there is that commitment; there is that strength of purpose that is demonstrated in this Chamber that reflects the strength of purpose of Manitobans everywhere that are calling out for a clear signal, that are calling out for the two major superpowers. And I would hope that after that, Mr. Speaker, the others that orbit around the fringes of the two major superpowers would also be part of a nuclear arms reduction.

Mr. Speaker, I think we can do our little part - and I don't suggest it's a major part, never did, it's only a few inches along the path towards ensuring that we have world peace - but we can proceed a few inches here by ensuring there is unanimous support to this resolution. So we can say, not only to the USSR, and to the United States, and to our own government in Ottawa, every member in this Chamber spoke out clearly and voted unanimously in support of the resolution.

Mr. Speaker, therefore, I would beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Agriculture,

THAT the proposed amendment be amended by striking out all the words after the word "words" in the THAT clause and before the third WHEREAS clause, and substituting therefor the words "after the words 'third world; and'" in the fourth WHEREAS clause and before the sixth WHEREAS clause and adding thereto the following: "and

THAT following the word "annihilation" in the remaining WHEREAS clause and before the RESOLVED clause in the amendment, the following clause be added: "AND THAT the Resolution be amended, following the word "peace" in the RESOLVED clause, by adding thereto the following: "; and" and

THAT the word "FURTHER" be added after the word "IT" and the words "the Government of Canada to request" be added after the word "request" in the RESOLVED clause.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Since the proposed subamendment is somewhat complex I will take it under advisement to check it over.

The Honourable Government House Leader.

**HON. A. ANSTETT:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, I appreciate your taking the amendment under advisement. To assist

honourable members in understanding the complexity of it I have several copies, Sir, of what its impact would be on the proposed revised amendment should it pass; and also, Sir, should then the amendment passed as amended in the proposed subamendment, how the final proposed revised resolution would appear. That may be of assistance to members.

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by . . . Excuse me, Mr. Speaker, I had hoped the Minister of Education would be here to move second reading on Bill 26, but I believe we can delay that until tomorrow.

I would move, Sir, us into Committee of Supply, if possible, Sir, with leave to sit through Private Members' Hour.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Is there leave to dispense with Private Members' Hour today? Leave having been granted, the Honourable Government House Leader.

**HON. A. ANSTETT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I beg to move, seconded by the Minister of Agriculture, that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee to consider of the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

#### **MOTION presented.**

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Pembina.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Well, Mr. Speaker, this is a point of order, I presume. I wonder if the Clerk of the House might advise us when Hansard of Friday, May 24th, would be available? The purpose for my questioning, it contains the closing remarks on Second Reading to Bill No. 2 by the Minister of Health and we are to be dealing with that bill tomorrow in Law Amendments Committee. Now, I missed the closing remarks that the Minister had, and it would certainly be of benefit if I were to have a copy of the 10:00 a.m. Hansard from Friday, May 24th, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Government House Leader on the same point.

**HON. A. ANSTETT:** Mr. Speaker, I will attempt to answer the question on behalf of the table as soon as I am advised by the Clerk.

Mr. Speaker, I am advised that the Hansard is expected imminently; has been prepared and is at the printers.

**QUESTION put, MOTION carried** and the House resolved itself into a Committee to consider of the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty with the Honourable Member for River East in the Chair for the Department of Agriculture; and the Honourable Member for Burrows in the Chair for the Department of Government Services.

The Member for River East.

### **CONCURRENT COMMITTEES OF SUPPLY SUPPLY - GOVERNMENT SERVICES**

**MR. CHAIRMAN, C. Santos:** Committee, please come to order. This section of the Committee of Supply will

be dealing with the Estimates of the Department of Government Services. We shall begin with a statement from the Honourable Minister.

The Honourable Minister.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I would first like to comment on my departmental staff who have done an excellent job in putting together the Estimates - a number of them are at the back of the room - and perhaps introduce to the members of the opposition the new Deputy Minister, Eric Harbottle, who can just wave there, who has commenced work I guess about three or four months ago in the Department of Government Services.

Again we have had excellent co-operation and hard work by all of the department in putting together these Estimates, and I just want to thank them for their co-operation and ingenuity in putting together the package.

Before I introduce the 1985-86 Estimates and we get into the discussion, Mr. Chairman, I would like to comment briefly on the role and purpose of the Department of Government Services, just as an overview.

Government Services' members may well know it's a central service agency within the Manitoba Government. The department is responsible for providing a wide range of central support services to all departments and some agencies, boards, corporations and commissions. These services are categorized as property services and supply services.

Property services entail the planning, design, acquisition/construction and management of government-owned or leased property. They include such services as project management, design, land acquisition, accommodation planning, maintenance and operation, construction, security and parking, employee housing, contract services, energy management, and the operation of the Gimli Industrial Park.

Supply services entails the acquisition, supply management of common government commodities and services. They include such things as fleet vehicles, purchasing, inventory management, office equipment, telecommunications and postal services.

As the provider of these common services the department attempts to offer a cost-effective service to client departments - a service which, if delivered by departments themselves, would be neither as uniform nor as cost-effective to the government as a whole.

Having said that, in terms of overview, I will now highlight some of my department's major accomplishments during the past fiscal year.

During the '84-85 fiscal year the Emergency Measures Organization assisted in co-ordinating activities related to a number of incidents including: a severe ice storm in the Interlake and South-Central areas; forest fire threats with ensuing evacuation in the Manigotagan area; a heavy rain storm in the Winnipeg and Elie areas; tornadoes in southern Manitoba; an explosion with ensuing evacuation in the Neepawa area; as well as 57 other incidents requiring emergency response.

EMO has also co-ordinated and supported the development of 16 municipal emergency plans in this past year and some of them were ongoing. An additional 28 municipal and 25 Northern Affairs communities' emergency plans are currently being developed through

Emergency Measures. Flood emergency seminars were conducted in several rural communities to assist them in preparation for possible spring flooding, which members are aware of course did not develop but the potential was there - an extreme risk this spring in certain areas of the province. However, we were very fortunate.

Since February, 1981 to March 5, 1984, the province received \$648,662 in Federal Government contributions under the Joint Emergency Planning Program. In this regard, EMO assisted the province by liaising with the Government of Canada for this funding. In 1984-85, this program included the commencement of a five-year plan to improve Manitoba's state of emergency preparedness. Specific initiatives include the preparation and testing of emergency plans in various communities, the development and conduct of related training programs, efforts to preserve essential records, and ongoing liaison with private sector agencies to encourage their participation in emergency planning. Other projects under the Joint Emergency Planning Program include: the provision of specialized equipment for mobile monitoring units operated by the Provincial Department of Environment and Workplace Safety and Health; and provision for both a command post/rescue vehicle operated by the Town of Neepawa Fire Department and an emergency mobile command centre vehicle operated by the Government of Canada and the province.

EMO also continued to act as the province's liaison agency with the Government of Canada regarding disaster of financial assistance arrangements. For example, the province has forwarded a claim for \$1.1 million for the federal share of costs related to last spring's ice storm.

In 1985-86, the Manitoba Emergency Measures Organization will continue to implement and maintain program activities in emergency planning, training and education.

Also in 1984-85, the Manitoba Disaster Assistance Board was primarily involved with two major incidents. In response to the ice storm of April 27 and 28, 1984, the Manitoba Disaster Assistance Board received 227 claims. The total amount of compensation paid was \$174,235.00.

The Board also dealt with the City of Winnipeg basement flooding which occurred on June 16, 21 and 22 of 1984. The Board received approximately 1,100 claims and paid out approximately \$1.4 million in compensation to Winnipeg homeowners. In addition, the Board compensated 19 residents of Elie with \$6,393 as a result of this storm there.

In 1984-85, the department continued to promote increased efficiency and effectiveness in its programs. Computer equipment has been installed and programs have been designed to automate the activities of our Purchasing Branch. The complete implementation of this automated system is scheduled to take place in 1985-86 fiscal year. Personnel records were also converted from a manual to an automated system which will be enhanced over the next several years. In 1985-86, the department will commence to implement plans to develop automated systems for revenue control, inventories and cash flow projections.

In the area of management planning, greater efficiency and effectiveness was also promoted. In 1984-

85, the department implemented a management planning system called Management by Results to assist senior management in identifying tangible performance indicators and quantifiable expected results. In the upcoming year, the department will monitor this new management system to ensure that it will be of maximum effectiveness.

I would also like to mention my department's continuing efforts to achieve greater financial accountability. In 1984-85, the department's Internal Audit Program became fully operational. Audits were conducted in the Workshop/Renovations Branch, Material Supply and the District No. 4 Office. The audits identified areas where the Department can effect measures to increase efficiency, effectiveness and accountability. Recommendations were made and subsequently implemented. Materials Supply was audited in response to issues raised by the Provincial Auditor. In this case, the department made some 35 recommendations. Comprehensive audits will continue on an on-going basis to further promote efficiency in the department over the coming years.

Through the application of numerous innovative and proven energy management techniques, Government Services is continuing to achieve a 20 to 25 percent reduction in energy consumption in the operation of government buildings. Relative to the 1979-80 base year, a cost-avoidance of approximately \$1.5 million was achieved in 1984-85. We expect a \$1.7 million cost-avoidance for 1985-86.

An example of one of the measures we've taken to reduce energy costs is the shutdown of the main boilers in the department's larger facilities during the summer months. During this shutdown small heaters are used for heating domestic water. An example of this is the Central Power House in downtown Winnipeg where the cost-avoidance due to this measure was \$11,000.00.

The department has also continued to conserve energy and to reduce costs of the government vehicle fleet by acquiring the smallest and most economical vehicles for the job. Of the total number of sedans in the fleet, compacts now represent 95 percent, as compared to 88 percent in 1982-83. So we're continuing on that program, although it's very small changes over the years now because we're reaching the peak. In the upcoming year, the department will be concentrating its efforts on downsizing standard-sized vans where it is found practical to do so.

Also in 1985-86, the province will be providing day cleaning for selected buildings on an alternate day basis. The department expects to avoid \$100,000 through this experimental program.

In the area of land acquisition, in 1984-85, the department became fully involved in land acquisition activities for the North Portage Development Project. It is expected that total land acquisitions will eventually involve approximately 100 owners and tenants and will cost approximately \$30 million.

In 1984-85, renovations continued on the Robert Fletcher Building. These renovations now are virtually complete and they have won a Heritage Winnipeg Award in the Architectural Conservation category, and we are very pleased with that and I know the staff in the department are very proud of winning that award for that building.

One of our largest construction projects, the New Law Courts Building is virtually complete and the official

opening took place on April 12, 1985. The opening marks Phase I of a plan to consolidate all court facilities in one complex. The existing Law Courts Building will be renovated in the upcoming fiscal year, at least will begin.

I would also like to mention the department's purchase of the historic Bank of Nova Scotia Building which will house various government departments. Extensive renovations to restore, replicate or retain the buildings origins features will be carried out in 1985.

Construction on the Provincial Building in Flin Flon will continue in the upcoming year. The building is scheduled for completion in the fall of this year.

In the new fiscal year, the department will continue its fire/safety upgrading initiatives from previous years. Upgrading of the Manitoba School for the Deaf was virtually completed, with minor renovations to be completed in the upcoming year. The department is currently undertaking upgrading of provincial institutions where dormitory facilities are located. For example, approximately \$1 million will be expended on fire safety for the main building at Headingley Correctional Institute. In addition, almost .5 million will be spent in upgrading the North Grove building at Portage la Prairie School for Retardates. Additional upgrading will commence in the fall of 1985 involving approximately \$800,000 for Selkirk Psychiatric Institute building at the Selkirk Mental Health Centre.

I would also like to mention my department's role in the Workplace, Safety and Health Program. The department is currently establishing a number of Workplace, Safety and Health Committees and will be proceeding to effect other measures in compliance with The Workplace, Safety and Health Act.

Finally, I would like to add that in 1985-86 my department will continue to review its operations for purposes of increasing efficiency and effectiveness and to ensure that our clients are provided with the optimum service delivery that is possible.

While there are many other areas I could mention at this time, I would like to draw these introductory remarks to a close and ask the critics if they have some comments and then we can begin the line-by-line discussion, Mr. Chairman.

I am pleased with our accomplishments in the department this past year. There are many areas that we can improve on and we will certainly be making every effort in that regard in the coming year.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Thank you. Either or both of the opting critics for the opposition may make the reply if they so decide.

The Member for River Heights.

**MR. W. STEEN:** Yes, thanks, Mr. Chairman. I might start by saying to the Minister we note that his department's expenditures are up from \$81 million to \$122 million. They're up drastically and in the Property Management areas where they are up substantially, the Minister in his opening statement spent some time on the Emergency Services area and went into the various ice storms that occurred and did a fair amount of damage in rural Manitoba, and the explosion that took place in Neepawa. A factor that I'm very close to is

the rain storms that took place here in the City of Winnipeg last June and the numbers of basements that were flooded that the Provincial Government assisted by more than \$1 million in the assisting of Winnipeg homeowners after that rainstorm.

He went on to mention new equipment and a number of other things and one area that really interests me is doing the audit in various branches of the government to see if they are operating as efficiently as possible and it's good that he's got an ongoing system where various branches each year will be audited and hopefully, over a five-year period maybe every branch within his department will be looked at for efficiency as to whether the manpower - or person power I guess is the word I should use - is working at its very best. They can only work at their best if the equipment they are working with is modern equipment and the type of equipment that one wants on the job.

I might at this time point out to the Minister that one of the complaints that we in the opposition have had and we've talked to the Government House Leader on it a number of times, is the fact that we have four secretaries looking after 22 members in the opposition, and working out of a space of about equivalent to a two-car garage, or less than; that they are working under such close working conditions that I am sure that if we took the matter up with the Minister who is responsible for The Workplace Safety and Health Act that we, as politicians, would be in violation of the work regulations that they establish.

Now, with the new program that both sides of the House have established - a legislative interns program to start this fall - it's very hopeful that the Minister of Government Services is going to be able to find some space, and it has to be within this building, or else the program will never succeed if those students are not working closely in relationship to the elected persons.

So, Sir, with those opening comments, we look forward to going through the Minister's Estimates.

I would ask the Minister, through you, Mr. Chairman, because our normal critic is not feeling well, the Member for Virden and myself and the Member for Kirkfield Park have agreed, from the official opposition side, to try and carry on in the absence. If the Minister and you, Mr. Chairman, will give us a little bit of leeway from the normal line-by-line routine on the questioning, I think that we will accomplish what both sides want, and that is to pass the Minister's Estimates in an adequate amount of time with a reasonably thorough study of the Estimates.

So with those comments, Mr. Chairman, we can perhaps start.

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

**MR. H. GRAHAM:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister spent a great deal of time with some aspects of this program, but I suppose it's only fair that you don't try and hit some of the sensitive spots, the problem areas that you have. I suppose that it's only natural; no Minister likes to have his department fingered by the Provincial Auditor.

I am very pleased to see that the internal audit that the department is carrying on, probably as a result of the concerns expressed by the Provincial Auditor. I

hope that it succeeds because there is a vast amount of public money being spent by this department. The Provincial Auditor expressed his concern in his annual report, and we sincerely hope that the areas that require tightening are in fact tightened up. The security that all of us want to have in the knowledge that our public dollar is being well-spent is one that falls pretty heavy on his shoulders.

I notice also that, while he mentioned the amount of new properties that they are going to be responsible for, the additions this year, he made no mention at all about some of the properties that he lost. Through the course of the Estimates, we will certainly want to ask a few questions about the properties that have been sold, and we would like to know just how well that transaction is working out with Manitoba Properties Limited and when we get down to Item No. 2, I think that will probably be the area where we would like to address quite a few remarks to the Minister with respect to that operation.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Thank you. The Chairperson at this point in time now invites the members of the departmental staff to kindly take their respective places.

Deferring the Minister's Salary as the last item for consideration by this committee, we now start our deliberations on Item No. 1.(b)(1), 1.(b)(2), Executive Support, and if the members so desires we'll call out the items so they can have free questions on any item.

Can I call them as a block?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Sure.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 1.(b)(1) to 1.(f)(2) were each read.  
1.(f)(2) Systems: Other Expenditures - Mr. Minister.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Mr. Chairman, before we begin I would like to pass out the staffing changes for the whole department for the year. I think it might be helpful to avoid any confusion later on or maybe detailed questioning in areas that could very easily be answered at one time. So I would like to pass out the staffing summaries to the members of the opposition and to all the members here and then perhaps just highlight the changes for them.

In the administration division, there is the addition of one staff and this is a secretarial position that was transferred from Supply Services, Executive Administration to provide for a computer programmer in the Systems Branch. An additional computer programmer was taken from within, so it shows an extra SY in that category. There is also a reduction of half an SY, that is the Minister because I am involved with two departments there is a reduction. So there is a net increase in the administration of half an SY.

In Property Management there is a reduction of one SY and that was made up of a building service worker, a position transferred from Physical Plant to Emergency Measures. So the position again was an internal transfer for other priorities and will show up under No. 6 on the sheet that I've passed to the members under EMO as an additional SY.

Under Supply and Services Division there is a reduction of three SYs total, as indicated on the paper that was passed about: one is a secretarial position

transfer from Executive Administration to the Administration Division, Systems Branch, to provide for the computer programmer that I just mentioned; and two in the area of the Postal Services. First postal clerk positions eliminated to there. That was accomplished by reducing the number of mail pickups and deliveries in the City of Winnipeg; so those are the major changes. I've mentioned the one additional one to EMO.

Now, Project Services, there are two additions. They are additional clerical positions approved for Land Acquisition Branch due to the increased workload over the last number of years that has been building up, and in effort to catch up on some of that increased workload, so we have two additional positions there. Again, they have been repriorized from within, from Supply and Services, as I indicated, and I've mentioned the one for Emergency Measures. Those are the staffing changes; they're relatively minor overall.

**MR. H. GRAHAM:** Mr. Chairman, when you're dealing with Executive Support, I think it would be very remiss if I didn't take a little time to express my appreciation, because I've been around this building for a few years, and during that period of time the former Deputy Minister, Mr. Brako, who has been a long-time civil servant and served this department and two or three other departments over the years, has provided for this province exemplary service over the years. I would like to express my appreciation at this time for the privilege of having known Mr. Brako and I certainly wish him every happiness and success in his retirement, which I understand, Mr. Minister, you said will be occurring in August, which is not that far away, really. So I want to express, on behalf of the opposition, our appreciation to Mr. Brako for the many years of faithful and dedicated service to the public in the Province of Manitoba.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Thank you.  
Mr. Minister.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Yes, I just want to add my comments to that. I neglected to do that in introducing the new Deputy Minister. Mr. Brako is still under the staff complement shown under Executive Support and is carrying out some special assignments with regard to the space use, particularly the Legislative Building, and I think that members of the opposition would find that welcome. It's an area that needs to be looked at in terms of the long-term requirements for the building and identifying exactly what the priorities should be for the building and that is the nature of his work at the present time until his retirement.

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

**MR. R. DOERN:** Mr. Chairman, I'm glad to hear that Mr. Brako is going to study the space requirements in the building, because the official critic for the Conservative Party mentioned they have a space problem and so do I. I would like to ask the Minister, either at this point or at another point, if he could indicate what the minimum space requirement is for a civil servant, No. 1; and, secondly, for an MLA, if there is such a measure; and, third, for an MLA and

a secretary. Because I think that on all of those counts the closet that I've been provided with is inadequate.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Well, Mr. Chairman, there are some rather detailed questions that the member is asking, and certainly that whole area should properly be dealt with under No. 4. Project Services and space planning. If that is agreeable to the members, I think that's where that matter should be discussed overall. It's quite more far reaching than simply the matter of Mr. Brako's current assignment dealing with the space requirements in the Legislative Building.

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

**MR. W. STEEN:** A short question to the Minister. Is this where one of the personnel was removed to another area of Government Services? Is that why there is the saving in Salaries this year?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Yes, that accounts for most of the difference there in the reduction in that appropriation.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 1.(c)(1) - the Member for River Heights.

**MR. W. STEEN:** Another question to the Minister. In his annual statement it says this branch, Management Support Services Branch, is integrated and is looking at policy and program evaluation and systems. The Minister, in his opening statement, mentioned that they're constantly looking at various branches within his department. Is this the area of personnel that really evaluates the various branches of Government Services as to whether they are working as efficiently as possible? Are these the people that carried out the audit that he referred to in his opening statement?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** No, the internal auditor is not under this section; Finance and Administration is where you would find the internal auditor. This is a program evaluation section which does review various programs within the department and makes recommendations as to their efficiency and organization.

**MR. W. STEEN:** I would ask the Minister, this is obviously a very small branch of his department, but could he tell us the job classifications that exist within this department? Are we talking here about five employees or six employees? Because his annual statement says that they are program evaluation people, and just what are their job descriptions or titles?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** There are PM02s, Planning Program Analyst 02s, in this area. The communications co-ordinator is one of the people in this particular area. There's an administrative secretary, an AY3; management support person, a PM04; a policy and program analyst PM02; and a special projects analyst, PM02; so there are three PM02s, an AY3, and a PM04 in this section, Mr. Chairman.

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

**MR. W. STEEN:** To the Minister, Mr. Chairman. He mentioned I believe a moment ago that this is where the audit personnel exist under this expenditure and we are looking at \$630,000 in Salaries.

How many persons does he have within his department that can go into another branch of the department and do an audit? Can he elaborate to what extent they will go in? How long will they stay in a branch?

Can he maybe use an example of a motor vehicle, or one of the departments that he has spoken of in his opening remarks, and give us an idea how long it takes for these people to do it, and a sample of what kind of results he has been able to see while he has been Minister of this portfolio?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Mr. Chairman, there are two SYs in this, the internal auditor and his support, an assistant staff member. So there are two that are involved with the internal auditor.

They have reviewed a number of branches in the past year. The time required depends, of course, on the complexity of the particular branch, the number of staff involved and the kinds of operations that they are undertaking.

The Workshop Renovations Branch was one of the ones that was reviewed this past year, and the review of the implementation of the recommendations were done as a result of the pilot internal comprehensive audit report. For example, they found that due to delays in replacing the manager of the branch there was some difficulty in actually implementing all of the particular recommendations that were made. However, that has been rectified and there will be a number of follow-ups on the recommendations that were made by the internal auditor.

I am not certain the length of time that was involved in that particular Workshop Renovations Branch and the particular findings. I could get that information for the member as to specific recommendations that were made but we don't have those here at the present time, Mr. Chairman. It's something I guess I could discuss with the member if he was interested. It's internal information for administrative purposes. It's not something that I get, as Minister, very much involved with in terms of the administration of the department. That's left largely to the Deputy Minister. If there are major recommendations that require policy decisions, obviously they would be brought forward.

I can mention the District 4 of The Pas as one of the major areas that was reviewed this past year; Material Supply was another one that was also done and it dealt with the reconciliation of the billing process and segregation of physical and administrative control over obsolete surplus material. These issues were addressed and new procedures have been implemented as a result of the internal auditor's work. So there has been some positive developments as a result of the work that they did.

With regard to Leased Properties, there was a complete internal review of the financial and management systems and practices of the Leased Properties operation. They reviewed the organization, the reporting relationship, the role of the program, planning systems and controls, and the reporting of

results and this has resulted in recommendations being made to improve the control and efficiencies of the systems being operated. The internal audit report for this section is still in its draft stage and is being reviewed by the branch management at the present time after it was brought forward. So the follow-up is still in process.

**MR. W. STEEN:** I thank the Minister. I would agree with him that he shouldn't table documents that might be discussing the names of personnel that are working in departments.

He mentioned the four departments, and I am glad he did because I missed it in his opening remarks, I couldn't take notes as quickly as he can read.

In this fiscal year, what areas of his department does he plan to have the audit branch review; or is this a matter of something that you don't publicly say and they go in unannounced; or do they go in fully announced with the understanding that they're trying to look for methods of making the department more efficient rather than being there as auditors to find matters that might be pertaining to personnel rather than efficiencies within the department?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Well, Mr. Chairman, my understanding is that the primary objective is to improve efficiencies within the department. They are not going in there on a witch hunt or trying to identify particular staff or problems with regard to staff and personnel matters. They are in there to look at the procedures that are in place, the programs that are in place, and the ways of delivering them more efficiently. They work very closely with the managers and staff in the areas that they are reviewing and with their full co-operation. So there certainly isn't that adversity kind of relationship that's developed between the internal auditor and the branches that are being reviewed.

With regard to the coming year, I believe they are going to be looking at the Personnel Branch, Design Services, Central Vehicles Branch and the Manitoba Disaster Assistance Board. That will be the four areas that will be prioritized for a review this coming year. There may be others depending on time available. We realize that we are dealing with two staff here.

**MR. H. GRAHAM:** Mr. Chairman, the Minister indicated that last year the audit dealt with Leased Properties, and took a fairly extensive look at those agreements.

Could I ask the Minister if the deal with Manitoba Properties Limited was one of those properties that they took a look at?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Mr. Chairman, individual leasing of Leased Properties, the process of dealing with Leased Properties was looked at by the internal auditor. The matter of the Manitoba Properties Incorporated is a financing arrangement, as the member is well aware, and any details as to the way that the financing is undertaken and the purposes of it would and should be best dealt with by the Minister of Finance. We are simply at this time continuing to manage all of the properties that have been managed before by Government Services. However, payments are made and that's why of course, when we get to that section

of the budget, to Manitoba Properties Incorporated, for the lease on those buildings, but the management is still the same as it's always been with regard to the Department of Government Services. It's simply a financing arrangement, as the member is aware, for the purposes of accomplishing cost benefits to the Province of Manitoba.

**MR. H. GRAHAM:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I'm quite prepared to leave that. When we're dealing with the audit and the fact that he had mentioned that they had looked at leased property I just wanted to know if they had looked at that deal. I presume from the Minister's answer that the answer is no, they did not look at it.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** No, the internal auditor from our department did not look at that particular issue.

**MR. H. GRAHAM:** Thank you.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 1.(d)(1) - the Member for Kirkfield Park.

**MRS. G. HAMMOND:** Could the Minister indicate what political staff he has in Government Services?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** I have two vacant positions in Government Services. Insofar as political staff, I do not have any political staff in the Department of Government Services.

**MRS. G. HAMMOND:** What are the two positions?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** One of the two under the Executive Support section here, that's one we passed already, the SA and the EA positions that were formerly there for the previous Minister which are vacant.

**MRS. G. HAMMOND:** If I may, is the Minister planning to fill those positions in the near future?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Mr. Chairman, I don't anticipate filling them as long as I'm Minister of more than one department.

**MRS. G. HAMMOND:** Are we at Personnel Services?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** We called all of Item 1 for flexibility. We will do the same for No. 2.  
The Member for Kirkfield Park.

**MRS. G. HAMMOND:** I noticed in the Annual Report that the department has an Affirmative Action Program and I was wondering how many women have been moved into senior positions since the program was introduced.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** There is currently, Mr. Chairman, an Affirmative Action Program that is actually being developed at the present time; it has not yet been implemented as such. The affirmative action coordinator has been hired. She is responsible for assessing and developing a program, assessing positions, identifying positions and people, assessing the pool of talent that is available, and then developing

a program to implement in a positive and active way an affirmative action program. However, that is still in the planning stage at the present time and so we haven't really seen the results of it at the present time.

However, there have been several affirmative action activities that have been undertaken. There has been an inclusion of the commitment to affirmative action in the '85-86 Departmental Role Admission Statement. There has been a distribution of affirmative action policy to management. There has been inclusion of responsibility for affirmative action in managerial position descriptions, integration of affirmative action to staffing function, affirmative action of routine staffing consideration. There has been accumulation of target group inventory files, as I indicated earlier, identification of target groups; establishment of communication links with agencies representing target group interests; hiring or promotion of 23 women into permanent or term positions in female under represented classifications.

So, even though the actual program hasn't been in place, there has been a number of women who have been affected at the present time. The hiring of 14 handicapped students through the STEP Program and the placement of 11 handicapped students in work experience projects was through the department. So there have been a number of positive developments in that area.

**MRS. G. HAMMOND:** The Minister mentioned a co-ordinator who was hired. Was that in-house? In other words, was that someone who was presently in staff, and what would her salary be?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Mr. Chairman, it was an external competition that resulted in the hiring of the equal employment co-ordinator at a salary for '85-86 of \$38,000; so it was not a person who was promoted from within the department. As a result of the competition, the best person for the job happened to be someone from outside the department.

**MRS. G. HAMMOND:** Outside the department, but possibly in government somewhere or was it just completely outside?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** No, Mr. Chairman, my understanding is that she was not from within government, at least the Provincial Government. I don't think she was from any level of government. I'm advised that she worked for the Federal Government.

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

**MR. H. GRAHAM:** Mr. Chairman, I realize this probably should have been asked under 1.(b), but can be asked under 1.(e) quite as well I think.

The former Minister had an executive assistant or a special assistant, Mr. Gary Grant, is he still in the employ of the department?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** No, Mr. Chairman. It was terminated sometime very shortly after the previous Minister retired from the position.

**MR. H. GRAHAM:** Was that a termination or a transfer to another department?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** It was a termination. He is not employed I don't believe by any department at the present time. I believe he's engaged in his own business of farming or whatever.

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

**MR. H. GRAHAM:** Mr. Chairman, I believe this is the area where we have the use of the computers. The Minister indicated that there was an extension of the computer program.

My first question is: all the computer programs that come under this system, are they tied into Data Services or are they free standing?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** I understand that there are both systems in place, some are and some are free standing. I could get the details of those that are and aren't, but at the present time that is the information the member asked for. They are not all tied into the Central Data Service.

**MR. H. GRAHAM:** The Minister indicated that computers are presently being used for, was it purchasing?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, in 1984 there were a number of developments in this area, and a number are planned for '85-86.

In the fleet management information system, in 1984-85, there was ongoing maintenance and enhancements to the system that was in place and conversion to a high-speed line printer; in '85-86, there will again be enhancements to the system and an implementation of the store's inventory system.

With regard to the property management system, there was the implementation of the commitment accounting systems in district offices; there was installation of computer hardware in Districts 2 and 4, and an analysis of revenue accounting systems. In 1985-86, it is planned to install computer hardware in zone offices and implement the revenue and accounting system.

As far as personnel information system, there is the development of the staffing system this past year, and a development of SY budget reporting. In the coming year, there is the planned completion of the second phase of the employee attendance record system.

Under common material identification system - that's another area - again the enhancements of the program this past year and the intention in the coming year to convert the system to an HP-3000, which has additional capabilities, and which is part of the purchasing system.

Under the purchasing information system, '84-85, there is the development of the purchasing bureau information system, and in the coming year an effort to enhance the system maintenance and enhancements for the system. It was implemented April 1st, I understand, this past year.

In terms of the inventory management system, there was an effort this past year to investigate the system alternatives. In the coming year, the department plans to develop a material management implementation program.

In the area of office services, there was a development of system designs this past year, and there is an undertaking this coming year to develop and implement the equipment inventory files.

In land acquisition, there was the investigation this past year of the integration into the property management system that's already in place. In the coming year, there will be a comprehensive systems review with regard to land acquisition.

In administration, there was in the past year the implementation of the budget preparation and analysis system, and in the coming year a continued development of the micro-based financial reports.

So those are the major areas.

**MR. H. GRAHAM:** Mr. Chairman, I suppose we should properly be asking questions when we get down probably to Supply Services.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Yes.

**MR. H. GRAHAM:** I just was curious as to how you could use a computer in the planning of purchases.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** It's obviously a very technical area, and we could have a computer programmer in here to give the kind of information that would provide us with all kinds of information as to exactly how it works and exactly what tasks are undertaken or programmed into the system, but I could provide some information.

The benefits of the system in purchasing, for example, is the availability of information, what is being purchased and where in the province it is being used, and this assists purchasing and developing more cost-effective supply strategies and new supply sources, especially in rural areas of the province. With an instant update of supplier information, the purchasing agents will easily be able to review the performance of suppliers.

Under the Buy Manitoba Program, which was initiated in 1983-84, it enables us to promote Manitoba industry. Statistics generated by the system will be used to evaluate the success of this program as to whether certain suppliers are becoming dependent on it and so on; how many are benefiting from it and which areas; how much total dollars are being saved or spent because of it. So it gives us a good opportunity to evaluate our Buy Manitoba Program and to formulate policy on that basis for similar future endeavours.

The modernization of the purchasing process through automation provides the capability of handling a greater volume of purchases and a more timely and cost-effective service to all customer departments. It does help with stock requirements, inventory, and providing information as to when it's expected, based on the program, that certain supplies are going to be required and in what volumes they are required to be ordered so that sufficient supplies are there, but not excessive supplies or inventory, because of course that results in additional costs.

That was one of the major advantages in it that we found, especially in the areas of supplies. The inventories have been reduced and what is kept in inventory is just what is required.

**MR. H. GRAHAM:** Well, Mr. Chairman, if a computer is being used as a recording system for purchases, I

have no objection to that, but I was under the impression that it was the information that was in the computer was probably the information that was being used for purchase. If that is the case, then I do have a little bit of concern; because if that is the basis, then I wonder how often the information that's in the computer is being updated because there would then be a tendency to be buying because the information was in the computer. We could be missing out on new products on the market and improved products, if we were buying on the basis of the information that was stored in the computer.

That was the reason why I raised the question, if it's purely as a recording system for purchases after, but if the purchasing is being made on the basis of the information that is provided by the computer then I have a little bit of concern.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Mr. Chairman, I am advised that this information is constantly being updated. Every purchase is being recorded, and information on that purchase is being recorded as to suppliers and the nature of the required equipment or supplies that are needed by the department or by other departments. It goes by demand obviously.

I am not certain what the member is getting at in terms of the nature of supplies that are ordered. If they are affected by the information on the computer, obviously, they have to be to a certain extent in terms of specifications, but also we have to remember that what is ordered is dictated by the demand for it, which is identified by the consuming departments. But the information is constantly being updated and therefore is generally very current because it reflects every additional purchase that takes place.

**MR. H. GRAHAM:** Well, Mr. Chairman, perhaps we can get into a more detailed discussion when we get into Supply and Services at which time we will have additional information. I'm prepared to let it wait till then.

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

There will be no resolution on Item No. 1.

The Member for Elmwood.

**MR. R. DOERN:** Mr. Chairman, just a question here. Where is the Art Advisory Committee in the Estimates?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Under Design Services, Mr. Chairman, No. 4.(b).

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** By leave and by agreement, I will call all of Item No. 2 so we can have leeway in our questions.

Items 2(a)(1) to 2(j)(2) were each read.

The Member for Elmwood.

**MR. R. DOERN:** Mr. Chairman, on the question of parking, we had several hundred spaces at the Law Courts where the new addition is and now that has been taken away. There was at one time a discussion of a parking structure. My impression is that employees in the area are now scrambling more than ever trying

to get into the Legislative Building lot, etc. How many spaces are there in the new Law Courts addition? How many spaces were there for surface parking before?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** I understand, Mr. Chairman, that there was actually a net to gain with the new spaces coming on stream, 86 new parking spots, and with the gain on using the old vehicle garage for parking purposes now, that with those two combined it did more than offset the loss of spaces that were available at the present site before the construction.

So we're going to be net gainers in terms of total spots that are available, not that anyone's suggesting that there's sufficient parking spots, but there hasn't been a net loss as a result of it.

**MR. R. DOERN:** Can the Minister give me any numbers of surface parking and how many now in the building and how many in the provincial garage building?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Well, Mr. Chairman, as I indicated earlier, I understand there are 86 parking spots in the new Law Courts Building and there was a gain of 90 parking spots in the surface parking area that were previously used by fleet vehicles and for the garage purposes, and 32 in the garage itself, the provincial garage. So there was a total of 208 new spots that came on stream. The net gain would have been - how many did we lose in the old Law Courts Building area, was it around 100 - from what I can gather from adding up these figures there was probably a pretty well break-even point, Mr. Chairman, on the parking spots that were lost when the Law Courts Building was constructed and those that were gained as a result of the other measures that I mentioned. It was very close to a saw-off on that, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. R. DOERN:** Can the Minister indicate - I assume, I don't know, but I assume that before it was a scramble parking system on the surface of the old Law Courts area - is that the case now? Or are the 30 spots in the provincial garage assigned and the 80 odd spots in the basement of the new building assigned, etc.?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** I understand, Mr. Chairman, that the majority of those spots were not scramble parking on the old surface lot. There were some that were, though.

Now as far as the new parking spots, the 30 in the garage are not assigned - they are assigned - and the 86 in the Law Courts Building are also assigned spots but there was a number of the others that were lost that were assigned as well.

**MR. R. DOERN:** Just in terms of sequence and phasing, is the Minister indicating that those surface spots by the old provincial garage have just been freed up now or were they freed up a year or two ago?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** About two years ago before the commencement of construction of the new Law Courts Building, they were freed up.

**MR. R. DOERN:** Mr. Chairman, just a small suggestion. I park close to the Holy Father in front of the building

and we have noticed in the last few years we once had a painted system of perpendicular lines, which made it very difficult to park because you had to make a left-angle turn, then that was finally changed to a 45- or 60-degree turn, or whatever, but the lines haven't been painted for a couple of years. I keep telling Mr. Johnston that they need painting. He keeps saying he has to see if he can get it through the Minister. All it requires is two cans of paint and one employee. I'm sure that the Reverend Malinowski would even be prepared to either assist or to bless the employees who will undertake the project. But I would just recommend that to the Minister, that the lines need painting. It's a small thing, but would he see that this is done?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Mr. Chairman, I understand that some are done each year and they kind of rotate over a couple of years to have them all done. But if there is a need for accelerating that pace, I'm sure we can arrange to have that done.

I just want to mention the total parking in the legislative area from the figures that we've finally got added up here. Before the construction of the Law Courts Building there were 1,090 spots in the legislative area. During construction there was 1,093, an additional three; even though we lost those spots, there were other areas as I mentioned earlier, that came on stream. After construction there will be 1,179. So there will be a total of about 90 spots additional after everything has been completed.

**MR. R. DOERN:** Mr. Chairman, I was also wondering whether the department had any recent discussions to provide a parking structure in the area south of the convention centre or whether there have been any discussions with the Winnipeg Convention Centre in terms of encouraging the government to build a parking structure which would be connected to the Winnipeg Convention Centre, which is now celebrating a 10th anniversary; or whether they have also approached the government in terms of purchasing. Has there been a discussion to even purchase that provincial property for any extension of the Winnipeg Convention Centre? Have there been any discussions along those lines?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Mr. Chairman, there has been some interest by the convention centre. I believe about two years ago there was a study approved under Destination Manitoba for funding of a program for an analysis of what might be done. It's very valuable property, as the member knows, and I personally would not like to see it confined to a parking structure. I think there is much more potential for it. We should at the appropriate time, we have been looking at it as to whether we should enter into an agreement for a lease purchase kind of arrangement with a developer in that area, but I would see it being much more than just a parking structure, obviously integrated with perhaps a hotel and office requirement facilities.

So there's that kind of thinking going on, but certainly not any plans at the present time to actually construct a parking structure by itself on that very valuable property.

**MR. R. DOERN:** Mr. Chairman, what I am suggesting isn't at odds with what the Minister is saying. It's quite

possible to design and build a structure which is parking in the lower levels and other purposes above, hotel or convention centre, etc.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for River Heights.

**MR. W. STEEN:** I don't want to jump all over the place, so I have a question regarding parking.

The Minister will recall about a month ago, I offered him a ride over to the convention centre and I said to him at the time that it occurs fairly often to members of the Legislature where they are asked to attend a function that's on at the convention centre. So often it's in the day time when you're rushing over to a luncheon meeting or even a good example was when the convention centre itself celebrated their 10th anniversary and they had a formal program at 10:00 a.m. one morning.

If it could be made possible that some limited parking for members of the Legislature while they're going to functions at the convention centre, representing their constituents or representing the government in the case of the Minister, could be made available to members. I don't say that parking stalls should be kept just for members, but perhaps staff people who leave their offices fairly early in the morning and then they're gone in their endeavours and their particular style of work for the government, that those stalls could be used perhaps during the day through the commissionaire who operates the lot and they could be made available for an hour or two-hour periods of time, and I don't mean for the whole day.

But there is a commissionaire on there and he has, over my last 10 years, gotten to know me and usually will find me a place that he knows that someone is away for most of the day. But I think maybe if one or two could be made available on those basis, it might be worthwhile.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Mr. Chairman, I recall the conversation that we had on this matter. We can certainly assess as to the requirement for it and the justification of a spot. It should be done, I think, in a flexible way as the member has indicated because with the difficulties for parking and the pressures there for other employees, it is very important that we do not tie up more spaces than we have to. But we'll look at assessing the need for it. I know there is a need from time to time. It's a matter of how we apply it.

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

**MR. H. GRAHAM:** Mr. Chairman, while we're still on parking, there are a few servants of this Legislature who work extraordinary hours, and I'm referring to the girls that work in the production of our daily Hansard, who normally work until three or four o'clock in the morning. I know when I was Speaker of the House there was a problem with parking, where a person leaving this building very late at night and their car is parked a considerable distance away, and the lighting around here is not that great, we have to be concerned about the security of our staff. I was wondering if the Minister would give consideration to parking spots that are close

and well lit giving double use, say a Deputy Minister's stall being given to the staff of Hansard who are leaving this building at very late hours in the evening or morning.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Mr. Chairman, the only difficulty I could see there, if there was some overlap in the time it might present a problem there. We can look at that. I think it's a worthwhile suggestion; it's a matter of whether the other cars have obviously left before these people come to work, and if they don't maybe there's even a way to have them go out and move their cars into those spots in the daylight hours, instead of waiting until the middle of the night when they get off work. There might be some way to do that, but we'd have to look at whether there is an overlap there that might cause a problem.

**MR. H. GRAHAM:** Mr. Chairman, I raise it because I know now there is an informal relation where they are allowed to park in a no-parking spot immediately in front of the building, but that in itself can cause some problems.

So I would ask the Minister to consider, as a priority, the safety of the staff who are leaving here at very late hours, or the early hours of the morning, and making sure that either we provide adequate lighting, and maybe even we should consider limited access to these buildings. I know we used to put chains across some of the driveways, but that doesn't seem to be happening any more. But it is a concern for the safety of those staff and I would ask the Minister to give it a fairly high priority in his agenda.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Mr. Chairman, I certainly appreciate the suggestions by the honourable member and we can look at the matter of lighting and of course the matter of closer parking.

I just want to mention, in terms of the chains across some of the entrances, there is no change in policy with regard to those. They have been away being repaired or painted or something, but that has been completed and they should be out there now in the evenings.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for River Heights.

**MR. W. STEEN:** To the Minister, what is the policy regarding chaining off the different approaches to the Legislative Building? What hour do the various approaches get blocked off?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** The hours that used to be, and if there hasn't been any change, and I understood that there isn't, it would be 10 o'clock in the evening until six in the morning - all except Broadway and that is open all the time, the Broadway entrance.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 2.(a)(1) - the Member for Virden.

**MR. H. GRAHAM:** Mr. Chairman, when we're dealing with the general field of Property Management, I was wondering if it's possible if the Minister could provide us, not at the present time, but hopefully for this evening, with a list of all the properties where the government leases space - the name of the property, the owner

and the amount of rent that is paid per square foot, rather than the total amount, on a square footage basis. Is it possible to have that list for this evening?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** I think most of the information is available, except the cost per square metre on the printout that we have; otherwise, we have a list of all of the properties in the client department, the owner of the building, leased premises, street address and landlord of each of those, the department that's occupying the space, the total amount of space that is being occupied, the lease term and the expiry date for the lease.

Now, I don't know whether we give out all of that information regarding the terms, leases and expiry dates and all of the addresses and everything of the individual landlords as public information. I'd have to take that as notice, but we could provide most of it. Certainly, if there are certain aspects of it that should not be released publicly, I would like to check that. I have no personal problem with providing that information, but I think it's important to protect perhaps the confidentiality of the owners of the buildings, but I'll certainly consider having that. We have the printout for all of the buildings and all of the leases certainly.

**MR. H. GRAHAM:** Mr. Chairman, the affairs of government are public information and I would think that it would certainly fall within the realm of propriety to have all of that information available. I would begin to become suspicious if the Minister would not want all of that information released. I would like to know why he would not want all of that information released because it falls in the public domain and I think it is in the public interest.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** I think the major concern I would have would be with the various rates, certainly it's a matter of business practice and if we have succeeded in negotiating a rather lower rate in a particular area, that's not something that that particular individual would like his competitors to know about, the exact rate that he's leasing it for, that kind of thing. So there might be some limits to that as to when it's in the best interest, or when the interests of the owners of the buildings are being protected and when they're not, and the implications of doing that. That's my only concern. We could alter maybe the demand for the information without identifying specific owners, or without going into as much detail on the actual per square foot rental rate which might be in force at a particular time. It certainly varies from lease to lease a great deal depending on the situation, the negotiation steps that the particular individual takes, and the requirements that are there for government in a particular area, and whether they need the space, the availability of space in a particular area. As the member knows, there could be quite a variance.

I guess what I'd really like to know is what purpose the member of the opposition would have for wanting all of this information, as to what purpose it would serve?

**MR. H. GRAHAM:** Mr. Chairman, it is our responsibility to examine the operations of this department to see

whether or not they have made good deals in the public interest and, if we are going to be denied that information, then how are we going to be able to assess whether or not this Minister and his department is acting in the public interest for the public of the province? I think it is information that we should, as opposition members, have access to so that we can look at it and see whether or not this Minister is acting in the public interest and making good deals on behalf of the people of Manitoba.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** I guess, Mr. Chairman, we could certainly provide the global information that would be very helpful in terms of the overall lease accommodations in the province, but I think even the rates per square foot would vary so much because of the different conditions attached to each lease as to whether the kinds of services that are included in that lease would change the value, so it would be rather difficult to compare one with the other as to whether it was a triple net lease or not and so on. So there is a number of considerations there.

It certainly would be very difficult to compare apples with apples anyway at any rate without going without going into a lot of detail as to exactly what was provided for in that lease. So I don't see the particular value that one could make in terms of comparing one with another one in a particular area, and of course would vary from area to area in the province and that kind of thing.

I wouldn't mind providing a list of the total leased space and of the locations that we have leased space and who's using it and all kind of thing.

**MR. H. GRAHAM:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I can get that information except for the square footage, a lease rate. The total amount paid I can get already, but it will take me weeks and weeks of work, but it's all available in Public Accounts. So the information is available already, but it isn't in a concise form. So it's not a matter of whether the information should be released, it is already released, but it's only in a lump sum form.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Well, Mr. Chairman, on the computer printout that we have, we have all of the leases and the total square feet, the location, the occupant, and so on; we don't have the cost per square foot and the total cost for each of those. The member is right. This information is compiled, that I have in my hands here this computer printout, for Public Accounts and therefore is certainly public information.

The details with regard to the actual cost per square foot and the total dollars paid are not included in this information and would be very cumbersome and time consuming to actually add that to this, but we could certainly supply the member with this information, if he wanted to ask particular questions on it.

**MR. H. GRAHAM:** Yes, another question of the Minister and again for this evening, has the Minister a separate list dealing with Manitoba Properties Incorporated, or is that all involved in this one list?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, there is a separate list because those are owned properties, and

this is leased properties. So there are two separate lists involved and we do have a separate list for all properties that are included under MPI.

**MR. H. GRAHAM:** That list will be made available, too?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Mr. Chairman, we have a list of all the government-owned buildings that are included under MPI, leased by us from MPI, and their addresses and we can supply that information to the member. We'll get copies made of it.

**MR. H. GRAHAM:** Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** The lists that we'll have are those that are currently being transferred under MPI. There may be others, but that hasn't been compiled in detail yet - additional buildings - but these are the first list of buildings that will be included up to this point. They are complete.

**MR. H. GRAHAM:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I thank the Minister for that information and we'll look forward to that over the supper hour so we can have an opportunity to peruse it. In the meantime, we have a rather extensive expenditure under Workshop and Renovations. Can the Minister give us a further breakdown on that particular section?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** The majority of that expenditure, Mr. Chairman, is for Salaries. As the member can see, there are 82 staff years in that section and that is the major source of expenditure. The Workshop/Renovations section provides the in-house construction and renovation program for government-owned and leased accommodations; and provides construction and renovation services; millwork and furniture repair services, for various departments; supports both the employee housing and property management divisions, their maintenance programs as required; and supervises subcontract work on jobs at locations throughout the province.

About 50 to 60 percent of the work is subcontracted and then wherever it is more efficient, we use our own staff. They are utilized for small jobs, where it would be less efficient to engage a private contractor. There has been some reductions over the years in this area but not this past year, the staff years are exactly the same. But there has been a substantial reduction over the last, I believe, five years in the total number of staff there. So we are attempting to do more in that area with fewer people and to provide more of the work for the private sector.

**MR. H. GRAHAM:** These salaries and wages, would they all be classed as term employees? You said you did a lot of subcontract work, about 60 percent was under subcontract, would they still be classed as term employees?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** They are only for the supervision; it's our permanent staff that are supervising, maybe the member misunderstood. The 50 to 60 percent of the work is contracted out and therefore no government staff years are involved, except for supervision of the

project from the government's interests being protected.

**MR. H. GRAHAM:** So the 60 percent of the work being done does not appear in this appropriation at all. This is just the supervisory.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** That's it. No, this reflects the actual workshop for 40 percent of the total work that's done; 40 to 50 percent of the total work that's undertaken. Renovations are done by in-house staff and that's what we're talking about here, and part of them are term staff, I understand, and casual staff who are hired for peak periods and when the need is greatest.

**MR. H. GRAHAM:** When you said 60 percent of the work is contracted out, the employees on that job, would they come under the construction/labour schedule of wages?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** We don't have any particular jurisdiction or requirements under our own act and department with regard to what they pay their employees. Obviously, they have to conform to their collective agreements of the province, but there is no special requirements imposed on them through Government Services.

**MR. H. GRAHAM:** If there was a renovation project, for instance, as there has been, an extensive one, at the Provincial Archives Building, which also falls within Winnipeg, would the standard of pay conform to the Greater Winnipeg construction pay schedule?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Yes, that's my understanding, that's a major renovation job. A contractor has the work and he is performing it under the same circumstances and controls as everyone else is doing in construction work in the city.

**MR. H. GRAHAM:** And the term employees that the department has, would they also fall under the same schedule of payment of wages?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Well, they are paid according to the MGEA Agreement. Whether it's the same, or more, or less, I am not certain at this time, but they are obviously civil servants and paid under the MGEA Agreement.

**MR. H. GRAHAM:** Even though they are only hired temporarily for one job or a six-month term?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** They are paid according to the classification that they have been categorized into. It really depends on what is outlined and specified in the MGEA Agreement as to what their benefits and pay is. I can get details of that, but that's the governing force as far as the term staff under this section.

**MR. H. GRAHAM:** Well then, it is entirely possible, and even highly probable, that we could have government employees working on a project together with contractors' employees, and they would be coming under different pay schedules administered by another

department of government, the Department of Labour, that requires a standard of wages that is set that would be fairly uniform. Is that right?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Well, it's possible that that could happen. In most cases, of course, there are separate jobs where, other than supervisory jobs, the people that are working on renovation jobs for the government, the government employees, are usually of a smaller nature and it's not usually the case that government employees would be working on the same job where there is a contract let. However, it may happen from time to time and, obviously, they are governed by the MGEA Agreement, the civil servants. The others, as the member has stated, are regulated through the labour laws or their own collective agreement, which is a good point.

**MR. H. GRAHAM:** Labour laws specifically exclude government, government employees do not come under that; is that right?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** The labour laws, as the member knows, are there to set minimum requirements in most cases, and collective agreements, obviously, are the effective authority with regard to the working conditions and requirements. The collective agreement in place at the particular time between the union that is involved and the employer would be the controlling factor with regard to working conditions and wages and so on.

**MR. H. GRAHAM:** But wouldn't the Minister find it rather strange that he is a lawmaker in this province and passing labour laws that would affect most of the working people in the province, but not necessarily all of them? He would say that one schedule of wages applies to anybody that is working on a contract doing this work for government, but the same wages and laws don't apply to my own employees. I find that rather strange.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Mr. Chairman, if the member wants to pursue this he should be pursuing it with the Minister of Labour, it's the first point; secondly, if there is a collective agreement in place that dictates what the requirements are. If there are none in place, the minimum requirements under the labour legislation govern the conditions of employment. So, obviously, there is a collective agreement in place with regard to MGEA employees, and that is the effective vehicle.

**MR. H. GRAHAM:** But, at the same time, Mr. Chairman, if the subcontractor, who is an employer, if he has a collective agreement in place with his workers, and that agreement differs with the standards set by the Labour Department, which set of standards would apply?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Discuss it with the Minister of Labour. I think I have stated that, too. Generally the minimum, through the labour laws, are set with minimum wages, minimum requirements, and the collective agreement generally provides for more benefits and provisions than are required by legislation. So I don't think there is any conflict there or any problem with that. Obviously, if there is a collective agreement in

place, it has more provisions in it than the basic laws have that are there to protect those that don't have the benefit of a collective agreement.

**MR. H. GRAHAM:** Well, Mr. Chairman, we'll leave that alone. But I notice in the Estimates there is a total of \$2,848,200 for Renovations covering wages, expenditures and some minor projects. Less: Recoverable from Other Appropriations, that \$1,326,600.00. How does the Minister arrive at that figure?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** I'm not certain I heard the question, but this is recovered from other departments for work that Government Services undertakes for them or from the capital account for capital works that are undertaken through this branch, so that accounts for the \$1.3 million that is recovered then from the other departments.

Now, is the member asking how do we arrive at that amount?

**MR. H. GRAHAM:** Yes. Is it a total cost recovery?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Well, in general the workshop recovers the costs of all projects that are undertaken in response to requests for services from Government Services maintenance. So leasing Supply Services, like departmental programs, are from other government departments or agencies for which an appropriation has been identified, that's where it's recovered. Where the cost is not recovered is from miscellaneous unbudgeted work which is considered to be the responsibility of Government Services or, in some cases where the project costs are too small to warrant recovery.

Now in terms of the actual dollars and the rates, I have to get some information on that. I'm not certain exactly how they arrive at the amount that is charged and that's what the honourable member is asking about.

Mr. Chairman, labour and materials are charged but not administrative costs.

**MR. H. GRAHAM:** Not administrative?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** No.

**MR. H. GRAHAM:** Mr. Chairman, I believe this policy of charge-back came in - what was it - last year or was it the year before?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Mr. Chairman, it's been here for many years. The charge-back policy has been in place for many years.

**MR. H. GRAHAM:** I wasn't aware of that.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** In this section.

**MR. H. GRAHAM:** In that particular section.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** In this particular section, yes.

**MR. H. GRAHAM:** But the \$1.326 million is purely an estimate at this point in time, an estimate that's based on projects that you have scheduled for this year and

this is your estimated cost - or the whole thing is an estimate for the year - and it is a consistent figure that is being used in your estimate of cost recovery then?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** It's based on known projects for the coming year plus an average over several years in the past that has been required in that area.

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

**MR. H. GRAHAM:** When you have the heading "Physical Plant" those are buildings that are 100 percent used for this department, is it only?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** All departments, all government-owned buildings.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 2.(b)(1)—pass.  
2.(b)(2) - the Member for River Heights.

**MR. W. STEEN:** I would like to ask the Minister, the Estimate shows that this particular expenditure is up by \$1 million this year or about 8 or 9 percent. What is happening new in this area that's going to require another \$1 million?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** The increase for salaries in that section is largely due to the increased provision for severance pay, overtime and statutory holiday pay. Also a major part of it is provision for merit increase and reclassifications because we're dealing with 577 staff here. So that's where you get the majority of it.

In Other Expenditures, there is an increase of \$1 million and that is due to the increase in water and sewer, due to anticipated rate increases and the addition of new facilities such as the Heritage Building - that's the Bank of Nova Scotia Building - the Auto Diesel Shop at Red River Community College and the new Provincial Judges Court and the Brandon Fire College, these are all new buildings that have come on full year costs for them this year. A large amount of it is taken up by increased provision for heating and others due to anticipated increase in rates and new facilities coming on stream, and an increase in light and power used in new facilities coming on stream - a 5 percent rate increase is anticipated there overall. Increase in maintenance due to new facilities, almost all of this is because of new facilities coming on stream, most of these increases.

**MR. W. STEEN:** Can the Minister, because he made reference to the Bank of Nova Scotia Building in his opening remarks, and he did say in his opening remarks they're going to try and keep the building in its present design because it is an historic building and a very fine piece of architecture, what is the government's plans then to utilize that building? Who is going to have office space on Portage Avenue off Main Street?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** We can get into that discussion if the member wishes, but it's more suitably done under Project Services, planning that space requirements there and that's where that would be discussed.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** It would be Item 4.

**MR. W. STEEN:** I also wanted to ask the Minister about the plans for Fort Osborne Barracks and should that be asked under Item 4 as well? Where does that come in?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** The plans for it include space planning, yes.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 2.(b)(1) to 2.(c)(1) were read and passed.  
2.(c)(2) - the Member for River Heights.

**MR. W. STEEN:** I was going to say to the Minister that I was hoping under 2. Property Management, (c) Workshop/Renovations, Other Expenditures, that he would have had an increase this year instead of a decrease in expenditures so that he can maybe knock a hole in the wall between the outer office of the PC Opposition Caucus and arrange so that we can have the third caucus room that the government has now.

I might tell him that when that space was the Liberal Caucus room and was turned over to the PCs it was used at that time by eight caucus members as offices and they, of course, were just at the tail end of our term, relocated into other offices in the building, and then when the government switched over MLAs have all been located elsewhere in the building, in either suites of offices or individual offices.

Now what used to be a waiting room for members of the Legislature to meet with constituents and so on was taken over by the then Conservative administration to be a secretarial open office area, the government caucus room remains as a caucus room, and then this third room, which I am sure the Minister is very familiar with, I believe is being used by a lot of research staff that the government have and perhaps storage. When you consider that two-thirds of the members of the government are Ministers of the Crown and do not occupy the caucus rooms, other than for likely major caucus meetings, and that we have a space of under 500 square feet being occupied by four girls and, thanks to the government, we have received some up-to-date modern equipment so that their efficiency is much better, and a relatively small caucus room for a 23-person grouping. I would say to the Minister that I would hope that maybe that third room I am speaking of could be subdivided in half, a wall could go in that wouldn't disfigure this building, and that perhaps more space could be made available.

There are two reasons why, Mr. Chairman, the Minister should want that to happen. Firstly if, after the next election, his side is occupying the smaller quarters, gaining 50 percent more office space for the secretaries prior to the election might not be a bad idea. Secondly, if we are back in there, we just couldn't function properly with the small and limited space. As the Member for St. Johns has said, a lot of that space is used for storage, it's used for research. We mix our research people down in amongst the members' offices, and some of them work in the outer office areas.

To me, there is nothing wrong with that but, as I said in my opening remarks, our four girls in the secretarial pool, looking after 22 members, because the Leader

of the Opposition does have his own secretarial staff, that is twice as many caucus members being serviced than the government has that are not members of Cabinet. I know that the Government Services Minister always says, well the constituency work is done by the secretarial pool in the caucus and that Ministers only have departmental stuff done that way. Well, this is fine, but we have four girls working out of inadequate space and trying to do work for 22 members.

I was hoping that he would show some increase in expenditure there and that maybe something could happen during this Minister's term as Minister of Government Services to enlarge the space for our staff.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** It is my understanding, Mr. Chairman, that that isn't even the appropriation, although I am not blaming the member for raising it at this point. That would come under 2.(h) Alterations, Furniture, Furnishings and Incidental Expenses - Project Management: Minor Projects there. But, at any rate . . .

**MR. W. STEEN:** It's so important to us that we wouldn't call it a minor project.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** . . . or capital. It's a very important matter that the member has raised. I know that the Deputy Minister has discussed the requirements with the caucus chairman from the Conservative party. I don't believe, in their discussions, that this was raised as a major issue. I understand that in certain discussions the discussion was with regard to the word processing equipment and where it should be stored, I guess, is an immediate problem and that, I understand, has been accommodated. However, the deputy did ask the caucus chairman to get back with any other concerns that he might have and he hasn't, so I guess we'll be hearing from him on this.

It's well known that that is a small caucus room, and there may be some way to expand on the end where the old Liberal caucus room was located. It may be necessary for the other caucus room to expand partially into that waiting area, or that reception area that is there now, which is very underutilized, I believe. Perhaps it would only have to be half the size that it is right now, so I don't think that it should be ruled out as something like this being arranged.

As the member has identified, though, there is a cost involved and we have to work that in through the Estimates process. It obviously hasn't been budgeted for this year, but it is something that we could consider and I think probably best addressed through the member's Legislative Management Commission, raised there, agreed upon, and then put forward as a proposal for Estimates, or asking the Government Services Minister to put forward a proposal for Estimates discussion next year. But since it affects members' services, I believe that it is probably where it should be discussed in terms of the overall requirements for MLAs.

**MR. W. STEEN:** I would just like to point out to the Minister and members of the committee that we have a new machine in our caucus room, a computer-type machine, and any time that members of our caucus

are meeting, in either a caucus meeting or a meeting with special interest groups, or outside groups, or two or three members meeting with a delegation and they use the caucus room, because it's our only room that is suitable for such meetings, the person that operates that machine has to leave the room and the machine sits idle for that period of time.

We discussed earlier in your Estimates, Mr. Minister, about your Audit branch within your Government Services. Well, if your two persons that work in that area saw how this machine has to be shut down for periods of time that run up to two hours at a time; our Wednesday morning caucus meeting, the machine is shut down completely. It's, therefore, greatly underutilized because it has to be located in that room because where the secretary staff is you just couldn't wedge another waste paper basket in, that's how tight that is. This is why, if this kind of equipment is going to be made available to members of the Legislature, it has to be located in places where it can function and function properly. Currently, as I say, that piece of equipment, which we appreciate having, is shut down many many times during the week because of meetings going on in that caucus room.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** There are a couple of alternatives, Mr. Chairman. Obviously, we can have the staff discuss that further with the caucus chairman, and other representatives as you see fit, and look at whether the alternative of expanding at the present location is the only one, or whether it would be much more efficient, at least in terms of the capital costs involved, to perhaps look at another location for that machine. It's a question of what would serve the function the best considering all of the alternatives and the costs involved. So we'll certainly be pleased to discuss that further with the member and representatives of his caucus.

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

2.(d)(1) - the Member for Virden.

**MR. H. GRAHAM:** Mr. Chairman, I believe the Minister promised us a list . . .

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Yes.

**MR. H. GRAHAM:** . . . of the Manitoba properties.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Yes. Mr. Chairman, I did indicate that we would provide that list, only we haven't got it copied yet. We don't have sufficient copies, or any additional copies right now, and we will have that for after the supper hour if the member would wait till then.

**MR. H. GRAHAM:** Is it possible for us to have it so we could look at it through the supper hour?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Well, I am sure if the member wants to drop by my office in 10 minutes or so we'll have a copy for him.

**MR. H. GRAHAM:** Can we call it 5:30 then?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** That's fine, sure.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We'll call it 5:30 p.m. The committee members shall return at 8:00 p.m. this evening.

## SUPPLY - AGRICULTURE

**MR. CHAIRMAN, P. EYLER:** We are considering the Estimates of the Department of Agriculture, Item 4, Agricultural Development and Marketing Division, (a) Administration, (1) Salaries.

The Member for Arthur.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I would have thought the Minister may have had some form of a statement to make today dealing with the crisis that a fairly substantial number of producers are facing the agriculture community.

Mr. Chairman, we have had a very serious development take place in the last few days because of a change in policy; because of a change in direction; because of this administration's inability to foresee what was developing in the dairy industry; and, because of his inept ability to deal with it, we now have cream producers with an overabundant supply of cream either feeding it to their livestock, or dumping it on the ground. At the same time, Mr. Chairman, we have creameries, we have consumers who want to buy the commodities from the farmers. What it means is if there isn't a change in policy allowing those individuals to continue to ship their cream, we will see many people laid off in the creameries; we will see people on the farms that are producing the creams going out of business; and I say, Mr. Chairman, we have what is, in my mind and in the minds of a lot of people, a crisis in the agriculture community. And what do we have the Minister of Agriculture doing? I asked him in question period today if he would take immediate action, take immediate action on behalf of, not the big farmers of this province, Mr. Chairman, not the incorporated farmers, Mr. Chairman, but the small farmer who is trying to eke a living out of a tough economic system where, in fact, that has been one of the few areas he/she could work in.

I heard many reports as I was driving to the legislature today where many family units have depended on this cream cheque, or the cream cheques that they have been getting, for the purchase of groceries. Where are they going to get the money? I asked the Minister, what was his recommendation to those dairy farmers as to what they should be doing with their cream? And it's not like, Mr. Chairman, the production of grain, or the production of a less perishable commodity; it has to happen now, Mr. Chairman. The cows have to be milked morning and night; the cream and milk are separated at both times. It's put in a can and when the can gets full it has to go to the creamery. And if the creamery, because of a government regulation, is unable to accept it, unable to accept and purchase the cream, what do they do with it, Mr. Chairman? What do they do with?

And the other point I made and I want to make over and over again is that the creamery have a market for that commodity. The creamery can sell it, they can sell it to my constituents, they can sell it to the people of Winnipeg or Brandon, there is a market, that's the problem. And when you have a problem like that, who do you look toward to solve it? You look toward the

Minister of Agriculture who has all of the marketing councils, all the marketing boards, all the supply management systems answering to his office and to his desk; that's who has to answer for it, Mr. Chairman.

He says, well, it's the Natural Products Marketing Council or the Milk Producers Marketing Board's responsibility. Well, Mr. Chairman, it is their responsibility to the point in which, when it's working well and the policies are working well, then they administer. But when there is a breakdown in the system, such as we're having today and many, many - I know that the report today from Vita was that there were some 50 producers unable to ship cream and that before very long there would be an additional 50 producers unable to ship cream. I heard a report from Inwood that there were many people there being turned back.

My colleague and I last week, on Friday or Thursday in the Legislature, asked the Minister of Agriculture if he would get involved because we have many calls of producers having their product turned away from creameries. He's had some time, Mr. Chairman, to take hold of it; he's had some time, it isn't as if it happened just this morning. It's been coming along for a few days and he's been warned by members of the opposition; he's been warned by the producers of cream. Why are we in a crisis situation, Mr. Chairman, in this province in the dairy industry and the cream shippers. I'll answer that question, Mr. Chairman, it is because we have an incompetent Minister of Agriculture and, as I said to the First Minister the other day, if the Minister of Agriculture is not prepared to stand up and protect the small family farm people, then we should have a different person in that office. That's what we need, apparently, Mr. Chairman.

Why doesn't he take hold of his responsibilities, Mr. Chairman. Why doesn't he either take hold of his responsibilities or resign the office. That's what I'm asking for, is his resignation if he's not prepared to defend the small dairy producers in this province who are now dumping their cream on the ground. The consumers should be furious, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. H. ENNS:** They're crying out for a product.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** That's right. They're crying out for a product. There is a demand. The creamery people are saying, "If we don't get the cream from these producers, what are we going to do?" They're going to close their creameries. That means the layoff of many many people.

So we have a problem in our society which the Minister of Agriculture has the full responsibility for and what is he doing? He's doing absolutely nothing, Mr. Chairman. He stands in this Legislature and says, "It's up to the Marketing Board and up to the Marketing Council and they're working on it. It's because the National CDC have cut back on the quota availability."

Well, let's have a little fresh thinking from the Minister of Agriculture. There are some options that he could be looking at, Mr. Chairman. There are some options.

His government, Mr. Chairman, are proposing to spend \$1 million to help a manufacturing industry from outside this country to establish here in Manitoba or to maintain the operations here in Manitoba - a million dollars. But what is he prepared to spend on the dairy

farmers in this province and the cream people? Absolutely not a cent; not a cent, Mr. Chairman. We hear - and I know it for a fact - that we've got consumers in this province who haven't got the opportunity, been given the opportunity to buy some of this surplus, and that's what it's all about, Mr. Chairman.

These people who are producing cream are producing it for the consumers here in this province. There hasn't been a reduction in the consumption, Mr. Chairman. Has there been anything? Has this Minister carried out any program or has the government carried out any program to encourage the consumers to use more cream and butter? No, Mr. Chairman, that's one of the options. People say, "Well, what would you do, Downey?"

I say one of the things that could be done is some promotional work by the Department of Agriculture to encourage them to use Manitoba-produced cream and cream products. Yes, Mr. Chairman, the Minister is prepared to have his government spend \$1 million to support Vicon, to spend \$40 million to bring in an airplane manufacturing business, and yet he hasn't got a nickel for the dairy farmers or the cream producers or the creameries in this province. That's how important he is in this Cabinet of Howard Pawley, the Premier. He's the weak link, Mr. Chairman - well, he's one of the many weak links. Why doesn't he stand up to protect those people in our society who aren't the big cream shippers, who aren't the multinational milk producers or milk processors or cream shippers? They're the small people in society, Mr. Chairman, the people who we care about; the people who the Progressive Conservatives care about, Mr. Chairman.

**A MEMBER:** The little guy.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** The little guy. That's right, the ordinary farmer, the ordinary person, that's who the Progressive Conservative Party supports and looks after, Mr. Chairman. That's who we look after and that's who we care for.

The Minister of Agriculture could put himself in the class of protecting the little farmer and the dairy farmer if he would make some changes to the dairy policy and to the cream shipping policy right now, one small change, Mr. Chairman, and that is if he'd say that Farmer A who is producing cream and has got his quota full and use some of the quota that Farmer B is not using to its maximum. That's what he could do, Mr. Chairman. Let it not be said that there aren't some things that can be done. Yes, he could revert to the policy of the Progressive Conservative Party and allow some internal transfer of quota, Mr. Chairman. That's what he could do. — (Interjection) — Yes, he did change it. The Natural Products Marketing Council did change, and when it says that he's following our policies he's playing dangerously with the truth because he's not.

If he was following our policies there would be flexibility within the system and Farmer A who has overproduced on his cream quota could now use Farmer B's quota. That was our policy, Mr. Chairman, and that still should be in place. We may stay on this portion of his Estimates until we get a commitment, unless he's prepared to move closure when he runs into a stone wall again - yes, Mr. Chairman, and can't give us the answers that we want.

Mr. Chairman, we want the Minister of Agriculture to get involved and involved today so that the farmers who milked their cows this morning and tonight, when they separate their cream, can ship it to a creamery and get paid full value for it and not be penalized. That's the objective of the Progressive Conservative Party in dealing with our farm community. We protect the little guy. We want the small person to be able to look after themselves and pay for their groceries and the clothes for their children.

Yes, Mr. Chairman, I have pointed out the main thing that he could do and that's allow for transfer of quota between producers. It wouldn't be difficult. He could call the Natural Products Marketing Council and the Milk Board into his office and say, "Look, it's gone far enough. There are people being hurt by this policy that we have, that they're being hurt financially. We're on the verge of losing many jobs in the creameries. We're seeing a very valuable commodity that the consumers of this province need. Now, let's get our act together and let's allow the transfer of quota." He could do that, Mr. Chairman, if the desire was there.

But you see this Minister has got a problem, because he, himself, is in a supply management system and he has a fair chunk of quota allocated to him, and he doesn't want to mess around with this because he could have some difficulties in his back shop in his own yard, Mr. Chairman, with this whole supply management system. That's where we've got a Minister of Agriculture who had better make sure that he's clear on his own thinking and he separates himself from what is happening today in the dairy industry. He knows that it's got larger implications for him personally.

Mr. Chairman, that's my concern and I want him to come clean with the people of Manitoba. I'm concerned about the little farmer. The Minister of Agriculture, as far as I'm concerned, should be able to manage the affairs of the supply management system without having to worry about his own, and I'm sure he does. I want to make sure that the small cream shippers in this province are given the assurance here today in this committee that he will take immediate action, that he will call the Natural Products Marketing Council and the Milk Board in, the administrators of this program, so that tonight when a farmer milks those cows, separates the cream, that he doesn't have to throw it on the ground or feed it to the pigs, Mr. Chairman.

**A MEMBER:** If they have pigs.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** If they have pigs. Yes, Mr. Chairman, he can do it. If the will was there in this Minister of Agriculture, he could do it. He can't stand in his place and say that he can't, because I know that he has the ability and the power within the system to do it. That's what it's all about and if he can't handle it, Mr. Chairman, then I suggest he let somebody do it that can. Yes, Mr. Chairman, that's what we're suggesting.

Now, he may take it on the lighter side, but I'm not taking this as a light issue. He smiled because of the baffle-gab after question period today. I'm pretty serious about this because I know darn well, in my experience I'm milked cows. — (Interjection) — Yes, you call it baffle-gab, but I'll tell you, I'm not baffle-gabbing, I've milked cows. My colleagues, many of them, milked

cows. My family have milked cows and it's darned hard work. It's darned hard work and I've turned a separator and we've shipped cream. How would you like it if you'd gone — (Interjection) — the Minister of Agriculture says, so what.

**A MEMBER:** Separate the cream and then pour it in the sewer.

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

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

The Member for Arthur.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** Mr. Chairman, some of my colleagues and some of my opposition members may take this lightly. I don't take it lightly. I take it darn seriously. I take it seriously because there's a lot of hard work that goes into the production of cream.

**A MEMBER:** Of course.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** Yes, and I'm not bafflegabbing, as the Member for Springfield says, who talks about laying an egg. Does that make someone a turkey? The turkey is on the other side because he can't handle his job. I am serious, Mr. Chairman, and I hope that every member that is sitting in this committee is, too, because . . .

**A MEMBER:** Well, here we go again.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** Yeah, here we go again. I know how much hard work goes into the production of cream and the milking of cows and the separating of it. It costs money; it takes ambition, and those people aren't asking for government handouts and welfare, they are not.

All it would take is this Minister of Agriculture, with the stroke of a pen, Mr. Chairman, to say, yes, I care about you people that put a lot of hard work into this system; I care about you.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** You're full of nonsense.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** No, I'm not full of nonsense. You have the power within your office and your department to straighten this thing out this afternoon if the will was there to do it.

He makes reference: Does it make me an authority because I milk cows? No, it doesn't make me an authority.

**MR. C. MANNES:** We know the effort that goes into it.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** That's right. I can appreciate every person who sits on a farm today who has the problems that they are faced with.

How would he like to do a full day's work in his office? How would you like to do a full day's work in his office, a hard day's work of answering mail and doing the kind of work activity that he normally does, the Minister, and somebody came in and just shredded

everything and said tomorrow you have to do the same thing? The next day they shredded the same thing, and day after day, just because one Minister of Agriculture, under the New Democratic Government, didn't have the desire, or didn't have the will to move on their behalf. Yes, everything goes up in smoke. Your wishes and your aspirations are gone. Yes, that's how serious it is, Mr. Chairman, and I don't want anybody in society to take this issue lightly.

I was phoned real early in the morning from a constituent of the Minister of Natural Resources last week who was prepared to come and dump the cream on the front steps of the Legislature. I wish I'd have recommended to him that that's what he do because apparently that's what it is going to take to get the attention of this. But I didn't recommend that; I thought that the Minister of Agriculture would have some compassion, that this government would have some compassion and take action. I didn't think it would blow up to the magnitude that it has the beginning of this week.

Yes, Mr. Chairman, that's what farmers are talking about now. That's how frustrated they are. I am extremely disappointed. I am sure my colleagues who have spoken on this, and will be speaking on it, have got the same kind of constituency concerns.

So I ask the Minister again, before I sit down and my opportunity to speak here at this time in Estimates, I ask the Minister again if he will, on behalf of the small cream shippers, on behalf of the small family operated cream processors, on behalf of the consumers that can use this cream and butter that is produced in Manitoba, will he stand in his place - and I challenge him to stand in his place and say yes, he is going to?

In fact, we would let him recess from his Estimates for a few minutes to go and get the meeting in action, that he is going to meet with the council, he is going to meet with the cream shippers, representations of the Milk Board, and exert his pressure to get the problem solved. Yes, I would give him time from his Estimates. We would give him an hour, whatever it would take, and it would be with the thought in mind of getting those people together. — (Interjection) — The Member for Springfield likes to keep yapping from his seat where he seems to speak best.

We had four years and we didn't have the problem in the dairy industry that these people have. The cream shippers could adjust quota from one producer to the next, and we didn't have the problem, but this government imposed a regulation, or allowed a regulation imposed . . .

**HON. A. ANSTETT:** There's no change.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** Yes, there is a change; that's what you have to get through your head. There was a change and you can't transfer a quota from one producer to the other. You can't transfer quota from one producer to another.

If, Mr. Chairman, the member and Minister want me to read into the record, then I will take the opportunity to do so what our policy was. You know, the Premier has a habit of only partially reading into the record what is advantageous for he and his government.

Well, Mr. Chairman, our policies - this doesn't specifically relate to the cream shippers, but it does

deal specifically with the milk industry and their problem, but I won't take the time at this particular time to read it because I want a commitment from the Minister.

I want a commitment from the Minister, when he rises, that he is going to take immediate action on behalf of the small cream shippers, all the cream shippers, the creameries, and the dairy consumers in this province, all consumers, on their behalf. Will he, when he rises, not give us a lot more baffle-gab? Will he stand in his place and be serious about the livelihood of the farm community that he is to represent? That's all he has to do. He has to answer he will take immediate action on their behalf and that the system will get back to normal in the next few days. Will he take that immediate action?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** This is an issue that's been with us for quite some time in terms of the entire milk industry. It is not a new issue. It's unfortunate that the Honourable Member for Arthur decides to be very selective in the way he approaches this problem.

Mr. Chairman, the cream industry is an integral part of the entire milk industry. I will try and explain for the honourable member so that he does understand the relationship because it's clear that he is trying to mix apples and oranges or at least put, if he is not trying to mix it up, if he is honestly not trying to mix it up, then he is deliberately trying to mislead members of this committee and members of the farm community.

Before I do that, Mr. Chairman, I want to go through some of the history that the cream industry has gone through in this province. For the member to rise in his place now at this point in time, dealing with an overproduction of cream, I find it, to say the least, bordering on the deceptive in terms of what he is trying to put forward.

Mr. Chairman, the dairy industry, the cream industry in this province was allowed to decline in virtually every year of their administration until it hit a low point in the year '81-82 in terms of cream production. They allowed the cream industry to decline.

In fact, Mr. Chairman, during their term in office, a number of creameries closed down in the Province of Manitoba. I have the notes on them. In terms of 1978, when they were in office, the Chatfield Creamery closed, Mr. Chairman. In 1980, the Beausejour Creamery closed; in 1981, the Glenella Creamery closed; in 1981, the Crystal City Creamery closed; in 1982, the first year we were in office, the Melita Creamery closed.

Mr. Chairman, for the honourable member to get up here and to suggest that somehow everything was rosy when they were in office and that a snap of the finger on my part will cure the problems in the cream industry is totally rubbish.

There is no connection whatsoever between the policy of selling partial herds on market share quota and what the Milk Board has imposed — (Interjection) — Mr. Chairman, we did not make any such regulation. On May 8th, the Manitoba Milk Producers Marketing Board made that change. They notified their producers. Mr. Chairman, we have made representations and, in fact, the board is reviewing those regulations. But I am not sure, Mr. Chairman; I am not certain at this point in time what impact that will be on the total amount of quota available, because there is no doubt that the

cream industry in the Province of Manitoba has been treated very very, what I would say loosely in terms of that part of the industry by the Milk Board.

First of all, there's never been an attitude that we have to make it an integral part of our whole milk marketing scheme and we run the industry as an industry. We've allowed producers, even though they have had individual quotas, to basically market cream as much as they've wanted to produce regardless of whether they've been over quota or not. That's the way the milk board has treated the cream industry because of the way cream has been marketed in this province. Basically, the production has not been constant. It has gone high and low. It's been very sporadic in terms of production.

What has compounded the issue, of course, is the amount of quota that is available, both on the milk side and on the cream side in the national sense. The entire country is in a cutback situation and the cream industry is faced with the same difficulty, although the producers in the cream industry have not been regulated to the same extent that milk producers are and it's been much more difficult for the milk board to deal with this matter. In fact, Mr. Chairman, for many years, even though there was a standing committee of producers, processors and the milk board for the cream industry, that committee was never really active and had not been called.

Several years ago, matters were raised with us by producers as to the differential of pricing between various creameries in the province and what could be done about that. We met with the milk board and asked them to start treating the cream producers and the cream industry as an industry and deal with them on an equal footing with the milk industry and work and build the liaison and build the communications that really needed to be done within the industry.

They did reactivate the committee; there are representatives from the creameries; there are producer representatives, and there are milk board representatives and that committee is active and is working. It's my hope, Mr. Chairman, that the co-operative approach - and I resent in the sense, maybe I don't resent - the Member for Arthur would like nothing better than to now say that the allocation of quota is a government responsibility so that whenever any problem arises in terms of how the quota system works, it really should be a government responsibility.

That's the pitch he is making, Mr. Chairman, and that is not a government responsibility; it never has been and will not be. It is the responsibility of the elected producer board within the milk industry and should be. That should be a function and will be a function in terms of the industry.

What should be a government role is the liaison, the work towards building the industry, towards looking at the future needs of the industry, the requirements in terms of processing, where the industry is going and to provide that kind of climate.

Mr. Chairman, it's obvious that in the last number of years cream production has hit an all-time high in this province. It has risen from the all-time low, as I've indicated, in 1981-82, when the production was down to - I think I have those statistics, Mr. Chairman - 1.1 million kilograms. In cream production, that was the low point and has risen in '82-83 to 1.216 kilograms;

and in '83-84 I believe it went up to 1.206; and in fact 1984-85 heading onward. But the key month of course in '84-85 was the highest month of production in April. Never in the history — (Interjection) — Mr. Chairman, no one changed the rules. If any rules were changed they were done by the milk board and they are now reassessing. What kind of nonsense.

Mr. Chairman, if there is leadership - the Budget — (Interjection) — Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member for Pembina will, in fact, have his chance in terms of dealing with the dairy industry.

The dairy farmers of this province haven't seen anything yet. Clearly, they will see what will occur over the months and years ahead by the new Federal Budget. If the dairy industry has been, in fact, hard done by in this province, the Budget will really set it straight, Mr. Chairman.

In order to ensure consistency with the market oriented approach to agriculture and with the minimization of subsidy measures, the government will consult the producers and consumers in a design of a new long-term dairy policy.

Mr. Chairman, what clearly is evident in that Budget is that dairy producers will receive cutbacks in terms of services by the Federal Government, whether it be on the monetary side directly to the industry or on the program side directly to the industry.

So, Mr. Chairman, clearly the Budget will have a major impact on the dairy industry in this country and then we will see who has been treated shabbily by whom. That's when the milk will sour; that's when the cream will sour in the industry, when the policies of the new Federal Government will rest on the dairy industry.

Mr. Chairman, the moves made by the milk marketing board not to allow the global quota to be shifted internally, is being reviewed and should be reviewed. That will provide some of the leeway. I have no difficulty with that. But for honourable members to suggest that somehow we change the rules, Mr. Chairman, I reject categorically, and I wish the honourable members would stick to the facts in terms of the industry.

We will work with the producers for the betterment of the industry, whether it be in milk or in cream, to make sure that the industry is efficient and healthy. The problem that is plaguing the industry now likely will plague the industry for months ahead in terms of the supply of product.

There is no doubt that nationally we are in a cutback situation on quota and I do not see any short-term relief in terms of the overproduction of milk products.

Mr. Chairman, there is no doubt that the creameries of this province, as I said earlier, can market all the product that can be produced; because if they don't have a market they can store it through the Canadian Dairy Commission policy, with no cost to them, no storage charges and when they require the product they can put a call on the product which does not extend their cost of operation one iota, Mr. Chairman. So there is no loss whatsoever to the creameries of this province and there is no difficulty for them to process the product.

So, Mr. Chairman, I don't believe that any commitment of any sort is not only not required - I think the honourable member is, in terms of his assertions, not accurate, doesn't reflect the situation, so that we will hear what comments he has to make on the issue.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** Again, we've heard from the Minister a lot of talk and no action, Mr. Chairman. A lot of talk and no action. He continues to make some reference to the fact that the rules weren't changed, that it was all as it was before and that we were seeing dairies close under our administration, Mr. Chairman. The economic times in agriculture weren't quite as tough under our administration as they are now. There weren't as many people producing cream. There was more flexibility in the system, Mr. Chairman. We had a little better economic climate in which to deal.

But I want to challenge the Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Chairman . . .

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Order please, order please.  
The Member for Arthur.

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

I want to make reference to a letter which was drawn, sent by Secretary of the Manitoba Marketing Board, Mr. Craig Lee. Yes, Craig Lee, Secretary, Marketing Board. — (Interjection) — This was the 18th of the fifth month, 1978. A letter which I asked the Minister of Agriculture to table a short while ago, following some of the accusations of the First Minister that I hadn't told the exact facts as they were. Well, Mr. Chairman, I make reference to Page 2, point No. 1, Page 2, and I read it for the record, for the press and the media.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Minister of Agriculture on a point of order.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, I don't mind debating this issue here, provided we can agree then once we go through all the honourable member's comments on this issue that we will effectively, pass the Manitoba Natural Products Marketing Council under which this issue is designed. If the honourable member wishes to raise the issues here, then that's fine. Because the issue can be discussed under that, where all the issues of dealing with the marketing boards should be discussed under that topic.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for Arthur to the same point.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** Yes, we're dealing with Agriculture Development and Marketing Division, General Administration. Now under the Marketing Division, there is Administration. Now, he's trying to say that we don't get the opportunity to debate further, the Manitoba Beef Commission, the Manitoba Hog Marketing, the Broilers, and anything else. The point I want to make, Mr. Chairman, is that it is in order to do it now because we are dealing with Marketing Division; we are dealing with the part of the department which this report's due and we are going to debate it now because it is, in fact, before the public. It is a crisis in Agriculture and we want to deal with it at this particular time and it is in order.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Minister of Agriculture to the same point.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** I have no difficulty of debating the issue. Mr. Chairman, if the member wants to debate

it, let's move to the Manitoba Natural Products Marketing Council under which the Beef Commission and all the Hog Marketing Boards, all the marketing boards that he wants to talk about. I have no difficulty debating them. But let's go on to the proper item of the Estimates where we can debate them. I have no difficulty there, Mr. Chairman. Though all the items that the honourable member has raised that he wants to debate can be debated to his heart's content under item 6.(d) of the Policy and Economics Division, Manitoba Natural Products Marketing Council, where all the issues of the Beef Commission, the Hog Marketing Board, the Milk Marketing Board, all the marketing boards can be debated, Mr. Chairman. I'd be pleased to move the Estimates there if the honourable member wishes to debate that as a timely motion. Let's skip it over. Let's go into that item and we can debate it all we want, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for Arthur to the same point.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** Yes, same point, Mr. Chairman, we're dealing with Agriculture Development and Marketing Division (a) Administration, Salaries and Other Expenditures, and that, Mr. Chairman, is what we want to deal with. And that's what we're dealing at this particular time. And I don't see any reason why we're out of order at this particular time. And there is another opportunity to discuss marketing on (f) of the same Estimates. — (Interjection) —

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, I indicated to the honourable members that if they wish to debate these issues, let's move the Estimates now, Mr. Chairman, to the Manitoba Natural Products Marketing Council on that issue and let's debate it. Because all the items that the honourable member speaks about are under the jurisdiction of the Manitoba Natural Products Marketing Council. I have no difficulty debating that. But, Mr. Chairman, I don't want to go through that debate on marketing now and then when we get into the Natural Products Marketing Council, start the debate all over again.

So, Mr. Chairman, let the honourable member make up his mind where he wants to debate it. If he wants to debate all those issues here, that's fine, I have no difficulty. Otherwise, Mr. Chairman, those items can be fully debated when we reach the Natural Products Marketing Council and I offer the honourable members that if they want to debate them now, let us move the Estimates to the Manitoba Natural Products Marketing Council and let's debate the issues.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for Arthur to the same point.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** On the same point of order, I ask you, Sir, to make a decision as to whether or not the opportunity to discuss marketing matters under the Marketing Division under the general heading and I'll refer it to you, to provide special services in crops, livestock, soils, water, technical services, agriculture training and marketing to field staff and farmers, General Administration. Mr. Chairman, I ask you the

question, if we're not allowed to debate the particular issue on marketing that we're debating and then, go into the other areas of marketing at any other point where it says Marketing Branch? I ask you the question as to whether you're going to rule us out of order?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Order please.

Clearly the Estimates are designed to be line-by-line with the only duplication being at the Ministerial Salary level. It would be up to the members to decide at what point, if there is ambiguity in the line-by-line, at what point they wish to discuss each item. They ought not to be discussed twice under two different headings.

The Member for Pembina.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** I have absolutely no disagreement with what you're saying. You will find in the layout of the Department of Agriculture's Estimates that right now, Administration provides for just that, Administration of the entire development and marketing branch. Administration's responsible for communicating to the Minister various decisions within the branch. And we are discussing some of those decisions today. It may well be that we end up asking detailed question under Marketing Branch, but we're talking broad policy. Administration used to be responsible for policy direction in government. There has been a change in policy that we want to debate under the line of Administration and the Minister does not want to discuss Administration and the policy the administration advises him on? I find that completely bizarre, Sir.

The appropriate time to discuss policy of a department is under the administration of that line. Detailed questions as to the operating of the Marketing Branch and the various boards, etc., can be undertaken possibly as you suggest under Marketing Branch, but we're talking a policy decision this government has made. It is affecting the livelihoods of Manitobans, and it's most appropriately discussed under Administration.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Minister of Agriculture to the same.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** I'm pleased that the Honourable Member for Pembina has clarified the Conservative caucus' desire to debate. The issues that he is speaking about in terms of policy of marketing, fall under the jurisdiction of the Natural Products Marketing Council and the Division of Economics and Policy Branch.

I'm glad that he clarified it because those very issues fall on the whole area. The area dealing with the Agricultural Development and Marketing Division deal with the broad context of marketing of products in general in terms of food products in the generality.

Mr. Chairman, the very specific policies of marketing and changes in policy that he speaks about should be discussed under the Manitoba Natural Products Marketing Council and the division policy item or the appropriation No. 6 when those issues can be more clearly debated because they are talking about changes.

I'm pleased that he clarified it; changes in cream policy; changes in all those kinds of policy that they spoke about, that you change this, you change that. All those changes they are speaking about are issues directly affected by the Manitoba Natural Products

Marketing Council and the legislation that marketing boards and/or their agencies operate under.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for Minnedosa to the same point.

**MR. D. BLAKE:** Mr. Chairman, are we still on the point of order?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Yes, we are.

**MR. D. BLAKE:** I fully intended to make a contribution to this debate on this particular subject and I have some important questions to ask in Government Services which is next door and I've been sort of waiting my turn to say a few things to the Minister on this. I just want to make sure that I'm going to be able to get those feelings on the problem with the cream shippers on record now, otherwise, I'll go to the other committee and discuss it later, whatever your ruling is.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Order please.

If the policies which are under discussion are under the responsibility of the Natural Products Marketing Board, then those items ought to be discussed in that area. If they are related to the administration and any administration approach to that board, it should be discussed under this item. There are, however, two separate distinctions to be made in this area.

I don't know the technicalities of who administers what and I will have to rely on the members for guidance on that.

The Minister of Agriculture on a point of order.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, just to be very clear. The division dealing with Development and Marketing Branch deals in the broad context of international trade, deals with the whole area of Technical Services animal industry. The area of policy in terms of marketing of specific products under the legislation of the Natural Products Marketing Council which the honourable members speak of and that is milk, cream, any of the products in which there is a marketing board, a marketing commission or the like, should be debated under the issue of policy under Item (d) Appropriation No. 6.

So, Mr. Chairman, I offered and they declined that offer to move to that whole area we'd bring the appropriate staff in to debate that very issue now. They said no. Then, let us go line-by-line until we get there and we can debate until the debate is concluded.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** Mr. Chairman, still on the point of order.

It's a pretty fine line as to where this should be in fact debated. Yes, the policies and operations of marketing direct responsibility comes under the Natural Products Marketing Council, but the Marketing Division of the Department of Agriculture is asking for funds and they spend money, Mr. Chairman, to promote agricultural commodities, — (Interjection) — yes, he agrees, to promote agricultural commodities. We have a surplus, apparently a surplus of cream. We have a problem with the marketing of cream which his department could be helpful in the administration, the money could be spent in that regard.

Mr. Chairman, the argument can be made that it can be debated in both places and the reason that I am suggesting that it should be debated now and the reason we're carrying it out is just because today the problem is before us.

If the Minister wants to, again through the numbers that he has supporting him in committee, then I suppose that we will go line-by-line. We, through debate, are not going to be allowed to freely debate it and with that, Mr. Chairman, if he wants to force us to go line-by-line, which he has the power to do, then I guess we have to succumb to that power.

**MR. H. ENNS:** The heavy hand of government.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** The heavy hand of government again has to be moved to support the — (Interjection) — and don't let it be said, the Minister made the comment that he offered us the opportunity. He is not offering the opportunity. As soon as I was prepared to provide some evidence that would make him look bad, the heat got a little high in the kitchen and he had to change. He had to start calling in the rules change. Mr. Chairman, I was about to provide information that would say that he was not telling the facts as they should be told and let the record show that that's why he wanted to now change to line-by-line.

I'm prepared to go line-by-line, Mr. Chairman, and I will ask the Minister as to how many staff and what are their major responsibilities of the administration within this department and is Mr. Pringle still the Deputy Minister in charge of this department?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, in the Administration Branch, there is no change in staff. There's two staff and there is no change in activity and that is correct that Mr. Pringle is Assistant Deputy Minister in charge of this division.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 4.(a)(1)—pass. 4.(a)(2) - the Member for Swan River.

**MR. D. GOURLAY:** Mr. Chairman, last week I asked some questions regarding the Flood Assistance Program and I think I was referred to another section and I'm not sure; I didn't write that down. I was just wondering if you can advise me the appropriate line to bring this up.

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

**HON. B. URUSKI:** As soon as we reach Item 5. Farm and Rural Development, the next section after we complete 4. We're on Appropriation No. 4. Once we hit Appropriation No. 5, it would be appropriate to raise those issues there.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 4.(a)(2)—pass; 4.(b)(1) Animal Industry Branch: Salaries - the Member for Arthur.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** Mr. Chairman, I'm wondering again if my colleague from Swan River, his question probably has been answered. Is that as well the area in which we'll be encouraged to ask about the Drought Program, last year's program or do we have the opportunity under the Animal Industry Branch?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, the Drought Program was specifically handled by this division so the honourable member could raise questions dealing with drought here. Mr. Pringle and his branch were involved in the Drought Program.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** Mr. Chairman, a question to the Minister. What does the Animal Industry Branch do? What is their main objective? What do they carry out, as far as the department is concerned?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, there are 54 staff in the Animal Industry Branch and the branch and I guess places an emphasis on animal management for continued improvement in production efficiency through the provision of technical resources and information - excuse me - animal husbandry management services and regulatory support for consumer protection and support for animal research.

There's a number of specific activities that the branch is involved in and that is the Beef Consult Program. Staff have developed a computer assisted program to help cattle producers in making management decisions. This program utilizes farmers' own records, physical and financial, to provide an analysis of the operation. We're now testing the program. There's about 25 farms involved in the program to undergo actual on-site testing; but more emphasis on physical and financial record keeping by farmers will be necessary to enable them to make better management decisions.

There was of course the home study course on Beef'85, providing they need lessons, commodity groups special activities, hog days, fairs, on-farm demonstrations through Agraman and Agrafood Agreements provide support for on-farm livestock production demonstrations such as pasture and hay management, on-farm feeding and finishing, management of replacement heifers, bull testing for feed efficiency and rate of gain, herd health, feedlot management, insect control and there's a number of other specific areas, physical production records - that's ROP; Commercial Hog Improvement Program and the Dairy Herd Improvement Association, the feed testing lab, brand registration, bull test stations, Progeny Proving Program, milk and dairy products inspection and, of course, livestock research in this whole area.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** Mr. Chairman, I'm interested in the cost of which the Minister's carrying out some of the programs, his feed laboratory testing costs, all services provided by the Department of Agriculture Animal Industry Branch. What has been the increased charges to the producers through services provided there, such as the bull test station charges. Has there been a change there? The feed testing lab, the increases in charges there, the services that the Department of Agriculture provides for the livestock industry in Manitoba, basically is the question.

We've heard a lot about this Minister and his no increase policy. I'd like to know what the increases are, because I've been made aware that there have been some substantial increases under his administration to the farm community and some of them fall within this Animal Industry Branch.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, in terms of the bull test program, there is no charge per se. There's a grant

provided and we expanded the whole program of testing. The program was expanded in the last couple of years. There are two new test stations since I have been Minister; one in the northwest region of the province and one in the Interlake. The amount of support has continued the same of \$50 per animal, per bull placed on test. In '83-84 there were grants provided for 579 bulls with an expected expenditure of \$30,000, and on 600 eligible bulls for '84-85.

So, Mr. Chairman, the number of animals on test has increased substantially over the last number of years. In fact if you go back to, say, '78-79, there were 440 bulls. Then it rose to 555 in '83-84; a slight decrease in '84-85, and expected to have 600 this year.

In terms of costs of grain testing, the present fee for grain analysis is \$10 per sample. That's to include dry matter, protein and test weight. A complete feed analysis which may include dry matter is \$12, dry matter, protein, calcium and phosphorous. That's complete feed analysis, \$12 per sample. Roughage analysis, hay, straw, silages, hailages, may include dry matter, protein fibre, calcium phosphorous, it's \$12.00. Individual nutrient analysis or test may include trace minerals, salt, fat, nitrate, urea, \$5.00.

Just to tell the honourable member, the \$10 grain analysis is a change from \$7 to \$10; the complete feed analysis is from \$10 to \$12; the roughage analysis is from \$10 to \$12, and the individual nutrient analysis remains at \$5.00.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** In other words, we've seen, in a percentage way, a fairly substantial increase charged to the livestock producers in this province when you calculate it on a percentage basis. The Minister, I think, should just be reminded that anytime he's talking about increased charges to the cattle producers and the farm community, that he's very much a part of it, even though it may not appear to be, in dollars and cents, a large item, but on a percentage basis it's fairly significant.

So I just wanted the record to show that when he pretends to be holier-than-thou, he isn't; that he is in fact carrying forward charges to the farm community within his own administration, within his own Department of Agriculture. That's the point I wanted to make, Mr. Chairman, that he has increased charges to the farm community and the services that are provided to them, particularly at a time, possibly, when a lot of farmers, particularly last year, had to depend on feed-testing services to make sure that the feed they were using was balanced properly.

I know there were a lot of difficulties with some of the feeds in the western region of the province where the drought was heavy, so it's just one more little difficulty that the farm community had to face and it wasn't made easier by this Minister of Agriculture, but was made more difficult.

As well, I want to ask the Minister if he's prepared to deal with some of the matters dealing with the hog marketing report. Is this the area in which we would expect to deal with the hog producers and the Hog Producers' Report for the province?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, we have never dealt specifically with the Hog Producers' Report. The honourable member should be aware that the Manitoba

Hog Producers' Report, out of courtesy to all members of this House, is provided annually - as I believe, the university sends in a copy of their National Research document for honourable members.

The honourable member, if he has specific questions dealing in the veterinary services area, specifically in those areas of the hog industry could raise those questions there insofar as marketing and the like. As I've indicated before, those questions dealing with marketing boards, commissions and the like, should be dealt with under the Natural Products Marketing Council.

While I'm on my feet, Mr. Chairman, I wish to indicate to the honourable member that the fee changes were debated last year. There's been no change last year in terms of the charges of feed analysis. They are last year's charges. We have not made any changes as yet to the fee analysis, so the changes are the same.

Presently the feed testing fees represent about 16 percent of the cost of providing the service to the producers. We have at this point in time no intention to be going to full cost recovery, as is the move at the federal level, Mr. Chairman. The honourable member should make his views known to his Conservative counterparts in Ottawa, that the move to reduce expenditures in agriculture of \$65 million last November, an additional \$50 million this year, and an additional \$50 million each year over the next four years, will have a major impact on the costs borne by producers.

So, Mr. Chairman, I ask the honourable members to make sure that they tell their farmer friends and their elected representatives in Ottawa of the impact that their producers, our producers in this province and in this country will face by the reductions that the Federal Government is putting into place, in terms of the agricultural industry. That is a major move being made and I don't hear anything about that, Mr. Chairman. I kind of get the feeling that even though we've held our budget and increased it substantially over the last number of years, the cutbacks that we are seeing at the national level are now - we're having the Conservative group on the opposite side being apologists for the Federal Government.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** Mr. Chairman, it's expected that the Minister of Agriculture would try and transfer the blame to someone else when he's doing exactly the same thing. He didn't say that he wasn't going to continue to increase the services to the farm community. He just said that he wasn't — (Interjection) — He just said from his seat that he didn't say that increases weren't warranted. Well, what is his policy? What level is he going to increase? I have no difficulty in telling the Federal Minister of Agriculture anything. I have no problem at all, but I want — (Interjection) — Yes, that's right, we talk to him when we have the opportunity.

But I say to the Minister, what is his policy then? To what level is he going to go? He says - and I'm not so sure that the Minister is truly reflecting what the Federal Minister's policy is either - that they're going to go to 100 percent recovery. I have never heard that, Mr. Chairman, that that's what their target is. If it's this Minister's objective to go to 50 percent, I don't know. He isn't telling us. All he immediately does is jump to try and deflect the area of criticism to the Federal Government.

Mr. Chairman, I think maybe I should bring to the Minister's attention that in his annual report, he talks about when he's going to debate what. In the Annual Report of the Department of Agriculture there's quite a lot to deal with as far as the livestock industry is concerned, as far as the hog producers are concerned, as far as the hog industry is concerned, and I would hope that he's not going to try to restrict us from dealing with matters of agricultural parts of the report of the Department of Agriculture. I would hope that it's in this area that we could do so because this is where he makes reference to the Commercial Hog Improvement Program. They've got a general outline on hogs and what's happened, Mr. Chairman, so I make the Minister aware of the fact that we would certainly be hopeful, and insisting that we could debate everything that comes from the Department of Agriculture Report.

In that regard, Mr. Chairman, does the Minister have any plans to impose compulsory brand inspection or manifestation in the province under this particular part of his department for the beef industry in Manitoba?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, there are no plans at this point in time. The item was discussed a couple of years ago with the producers, the MCPA and the beef commission and producers in the province and that certainly was an option that was viewed as one that should be considered, a manifest system and compulsory brand inspection. Those two areas - I guess the mood of the industry does seem to go at one time pretty much in favour of it and then the support for those moves wanes. Really, at the present time, I don't believe that there are any serious discussions going on in those two areas with the department and with producer groups.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** Mr. Chairman, the Minister really doesn't have a policy or any direction. Again, he's unable to put on the record what he believes should happen as a Minister and there really is no desire by the Minister to take any action or move in any direction. He's just leaving it hang - is that what we're to take from his answer? - he doesn't have a policy, as the Minister of Agriculture, as to whether or not there's need for compulsory brand inspection or for the manifestation and the movement of livestock in the province. He doesn't have a direct answer and is unable to give us one. If I'm correct in what I've just said, then we will pass on and question in the next area.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, the honourable member should be aware that the whole question of compulsory branding is a very expensive system. There is some question whether or not the industry and/or government can, in fact, afford such a system. There are discussions dealing with the whole area of bonding and that is moving along. There will be a decision made sometime in the future on that question. How soon that will be, at this point I can't indicate, but I know that that area is under active discussion with the auction marts and the like, but the question of financing and cost of such a program is of major concern in terms of the compulsory branding. The whole area of manifest, I have to admit, we looked at and it is again a question as to whether or not the benefits outweigh the costs of the program.

There is a debate internally whether or not we accomplish very much by having a whole system of regulation in terms of trying to determine the movement of cattle, and how effective the system will be. There is a group - and staff have discussed this and the pros and cons of that issue have been discussed a number of times over the last number of years, there is no final decision on that at the present time.

It's not just a matter of imposing something in the industry. You see, I question somewhat when I hear honourable members opposite saying, well, he's got no policy. Mr. Chairman, if we rammed something like that down, you would hear no end of the honourable member's criticism of ramming something down the industry's throat without consultation. That's what I would hear from the honourable member opposite.

So, Mr. Chairman, we have tried to bring about these changes, this kind of change, which is not a fundamental change to the industry but it is an expensive one and we want to examine the merits and the benefits to the industry before we bring it in. It will be brought in when the industry is ready, both financially and, I would say, politically in terms of the industry wanting that change and saying it should be done.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** I thank the Minister, Mr. Chairman, for a non-answer. I would like to deal specifically with the Minister in the area of beef cattle and we'll maybe have another chance, but I think it ties into this particularly dealing with the annual report and the monies that are spent to improve efficiency to maintain our quality and our numbers of beef cattle in the province. I ask the Minister of Agriculture, what currently is the size of the beef herd in Manitoba. Could he give us the numbers, what the current beef herd is and what it has done over the last five years as far as numbers are concerned?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, the total beef herd as of January 1, 1984, is down 2 percent from 1983. The total beef herd which includes cows, heifers, bulls, slaughter cattle, and calves, total beef herd of 824,000 is the statistic that we — (Interjection) — as of January 1, 1984. StatsCanada figures, Mr. Chairman. — (Interjection) — 824,000.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** Can the Minister give us what it was in the 1981 census, I asked earlier, five years previous?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, we'll have to get that for the honourable member, as I don't have the figures here. I just don't have the information, we'll get that for him.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** Mr. Chairman, could the Minister give us the number of beef cattle producers in the province currently?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, the last census available to us is 1981, so that we're looking at approximately 13,000 farms in the Province of Manitoba that produce beef cattle.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** Mr. Chairman, it seems to be 1,000 less than what he has in his annual report this last

year. I would wonder what the reason for the discrepancy would be. He says 13,000 as of 1981. Has there been in fact an increase in beef producers in that term, or is there something wrong with his recording?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, the statistics can change. StatsCanada statistics, as I understand them, will record anyone who produces any beef that is marketed commercially, and would, in fact, number them as a farm. I can't give the honourable member any greater definition unless I get their complete fine data as to how they have defined it, but that's basically the information we have here.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** Where would the 14,000 figure come from in 1983-84? Or maybe it's the 24 percent that are the milk shippers. Is that taken away from them?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, I'm sure that the figures in the report would be an estimate made by staff. If we look at the report, possibly some of our staff can comment on how the figure was arrived at.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** They should be able to get a fairly accurate number of producers in the province, and should be able to give us a fairly accurate . . .

**HON. B. URUSKI:** How?

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** Well, he's got the Manitoba Beef Commission - I'm sure they must have some handle on what's in the province.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Not everybody's in the Beef Commission.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** I ask him, Mr. Chairman, because I have a concern. I have a concern that we have seen the reduction in our numbers over the last two or three years; as well, we've got numerous programs and spending a lot of taxpayers' money with the objective of trying to maintain a beef herd. Apparently, it's not working to the best advantage that it should be. The question is, why are we still seeing reduced numbers of producers and the beef herd.

I would hope the Minister would be able to provide some information in the near future in regard to that.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, I just looked at the report that the honourable member is reading from, and the figure likely is - there is no deviation from what I gave the honourable member. I gave the honourable member figures of 13,000, strictly in beef cattle.

Mr. Chairman, the statistics of 14,000 shown in the annual report, page 18, 'Beef producers include dairy operators, cow-calf operators, cow-calf and feedlot operators, or feedlot operators. Of Manitoba's 14,000 beef producers, 24 percent are fluid milk or cream shipping operations; 41 percent are cow-calf operations; 34 percent are cow-calf and feedlot operations; and 1 percent are feedlot operations. That would bring the entire industry and combine it with the beef industry, which would account for the 1,000 difference in terms of the statistics.

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

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

I'd be remiss if I didn't recognize the winner of the 1984 top 20 provincial winners in the Manitoba Hog Marketing Report, and recognize the efforts of Mr. and Mrs. Hans Immerkar from Swan River, who placed first in the province with an average index of 108.36, and also to Burtondale Farms, Larry Burton, who placed 6th.

In District 4, there are 13 producers out of the Swan River constituency placing in the top 20. I just wanted to put on the record the fine showing in producing hogs from the Swan River constituency.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, I want to join my honourable friend to pay tribute to all hog producers in the Province of Manitoba on that very issue, because I believe the honourable member knows that Manitoba ranked far down the list of provinces in terms of herd improvement and quality of production. We have come a long way over the last decade and it is in no small part due to the cooperative work between our department, the Hog Producers Marketing Board and the producers of this province.

We have moved, I believe, to near the top of all provinces and, of course, the production of hogs along with it, Manitoba has increased its production substantially over the past number of years.

I think the co-operative approach of the industry and the government in this instance is certainly warranted, and I thank the honourable member for raising the specifics of the producers in his area.

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

**MR. C. MANNES:** Mr. Chairman, I'd like to move the discussion back to some of the numbers associated with the beef industry in our province.

Does the Minister have any knowledge as to what the cow number is, the female number is, within the beef herd in the province, as of some date in 1985?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, the beef cows in Manitoba - there is a reduction of approximately 15,000 head, from 340,000 in 1984 to 325,000 in 1985; that is, January 1, 1984 and 1985.

In Saskatchewan, that has — (Interjection) — well, Mr. Chairman, I think it should be noted what has happened across Western Canada and although honourable members may not ask for it, I want to give them the record because certainly Manitoba cannot be viewed in isolation from our neighbouring province. Saskatchewan had 830,000 in 1984; down to 785,000, for a percentage of '85 as of '84, 94.6; Manitoba's percentage of '85 as of '84 is 95.6; our sister province to the west, Alberta, had a cow herd of 1.290 million in '84 and '85, 1.210, for a percentage of '85 as to '84, 93.8. All three provinces did suffer reductions; Manitoba suffered the least reduction as a percentage of their cow herd, but there's been a reduction in all three provinces of the cow herds.

**MR. C. MANNES:** I thank the Minister for those figures. I'm wondering, though, if he can provide again the 1981 base. As he's probably aware, that would come by way of census, the StatsCan census, whereas

I believe these other numbers have probably been extrapolated in some sense from the '81 base, taking into account various sources of information.

Does the Minister have available 1981 census statistics with respect to the female herd?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** We likely have those statistics, but we don't have them here. I will endeavour to get the statistics going back, say, five or six years, but I don't have them here, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. C. MANNES:** I'll accept that answer, Mr. Chairman. I just hope that the Minister, once he provides those statistics to me, and he may wish to do so on the base for all three Prairie Provinces - hopefully he'll allow me an opportunity to pursue some questioning with respect to the future of the beef industry. I imagine I can do that during the consideration of the Beef Commission.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Hopefully, if we can get those numbers by the time we are on the Beef Commission, certainly those questions can be raised during that debate.

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

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** Mr. Chairman, just seeing as the Minister gave us the information, I would like to comment on it. He gives the numbers of January 1, 1984 to January 1, 1985, and then says that everything has to be kept in context with the other provinces.

I would remind the Minister of Agriculture that we saw in Western Canada, particularly in Saskatchewan and Alberta, a very severe drought in the period which he talks about. I'm sure that — (Interjection) — well, the Member for Ste. Rose, I don't know where he lives or where he keeps his head - I know where he lives - but there wasn't such a severe drought through all of Manitoba. The southwest region of the province was severely hit with hoppers and drought but, basically, the Interlake, the Westlake area, the Ste. Rose area where he lives, there were some relatively good hay crops, good pastures. A lot of the cattle from the southwest region and Saskatchewan move into community pastures in his community, so I think he would want to withdraw that statement and take his head out of the sand. Yes, there were pockets of drought throughout the different regions of the province but, in general terms, Manitoba had less of a drought impact in total than Saskatchewan or Alberta. They were severely hit and I think could justify the reason for the more reduced cow herd. Again, I would have thought Manitoba would have held up a little better particularly in light of the programs that the Minister says he's carrying out to support the beef herd. So I think it's just important to make sure the record is clear.

As far as the hog industry is concerned, Mr. Chairman, and seeing as the Minister will not talk about marketing issues and wants to delay the marketing comments, I will make a few comments and I do think it's important to recognize, as my colleague from Swan River has done, on behalf of our party, that we compliment the individuals who have worked to improve the quality, because the hog producers are in a very competitive

business and want to make sure they put out a top quality product. It has had a marked improvement in the quality.

A specific question dealing with hogs - is this where the funds are coming from, from the Department of Agriculture dealing with the weanling pig program, the support for the weanling pig marketing program. Is this where it flows from? The marketing branch?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, yes, the support in terms of the weanling program is under this section. If the honourable member has any questions dealing with it, he can raise them here.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** The basic question is, what is basically happening here? What are the numbers of weanling pigs being handled? Has it improved the quality and the disease problems that have traditionally gone with some of the marketing of weanling pigs? How much money is currently going to the weanling pig producers marketing co-op - I think it is - I'm not sure of the terminology. What is the current grant? Is it expanding? Who's in charge of it? I'd like a few basic comments, if the Minister has any knowledge of it - the amount of money we're spending on it.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** While my staff are getting the details there - the province's involvement with the producers was in the form of a start-up grant - two times - in terms of the organization in co-operation with the Hog Producers' Marketing Board. The basic concept, as I think the honourable member is aware, is to attempt to provide for producers who do not have a farrowed finish operation with a steady flow of healthy weanlings marketed through the central marketing agency of the producers' co-operative. That is the role of the producer organization. It's called WISSCO, Weanling Improvement Sales and Services Co-op. Since first sale of May 15, 1984 up to February 26, 1985 sales totalled 7,021 head, Mr. Chairman. That was the specific amount of the statistics that we have from the co-op to date.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** How much money went into it in the two grants? The total hogs marketed, I understand, is 7,000 hogs approximately. How much money has gone into it?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, I'm given to understand - and I can't recall the figures directly - up to this point, the assistance to the co-op has been \$15,000 from the Province of Manitoba.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** Mr. Chairman, what does it cost the producers to sell their pigs through this co-op, their piglets?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, we'll have to get the details. I don't have the details of that operation for him. There is, as I understand, an original application fee to become a co-op member and from the marketing of each hog, then there is, I believe, a levy. There is an original start-up application and a marketing fee. We'll have to get that information for the honourable member.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 4.(b)(1) - the Member for Swan River.

**MR. D. GOURLAY:** Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister would have any provincial data on the per capita consumption of red meats and poultry, as to which way those statistics are going. Are they holding steady? Going down?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, in terms of consumption, it has dropped. It is in the range of between 80 and 85 pounds per capita, the consumption of beef. I don't have the statistics for pork and poultry. We will get them for the honourable member. I don't have those available. In terms of those statistics, we should be able to provide them when we get into the whole area of policy and economics. The Economics Branch does all the statistical correlation and work with StatsCanada and they would be the branch that would have those figures available. In any event, we will try and get those statistics for the honourable member.

**MR. D. GOURLAY:** Mr. Chairman, I thank the Minister for that. I would like to get the information when he has it available.

Another brief area I'd like to mention is the dairy goat milk production. I noticed there was a program on TV recently about this item and the problem of marketing this commodity. I wonder just whether the Minister has received any requests for assistance in marketing this and whether there is any potential for increased production of goat milk in Manitoba.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, there are, I believe several groups within the province who are in the production of goats for both milk and meat. There is discussion within the groups as to whether there be a special plant for processing either specialty cheeses and/or processing for the meat. There is some disagreement within the groups themselves as to which might be the appropriate mechanisms or way to go in terms of the growth of their industry.

The industry pretty much has been what one would call direct farm-to-customer sales in terms of the production of milk and cheese products and the like. Our staff have been involved in discussions, but it requires the industry itself to define which way they intend to proceed in terms of the further development of the industry, whether it stays where it is or the development.

We're prepared to assist with any definitive plans that may come from the industry, but there is a divided opinion amongst the producer groups. I believe there is a group in the Interlake. I think the Honourable Member for Lakeside has a group in his area that are fairly active in the promotion and production of goats. There's a group in the Eastman region and, I believe, there's a group in the Minnedosa or the Western part of the province. That's what I'm aware of and there may be other individual producers scattered throughout the province, but that is the extent of the industry. It is not a very large industry but it is one that, certainly, in terms of the European flavour of our mosaic certainly could — (interjection) —

**MR. H. ENNS:** That has a nice ring to it. That sounds very nice.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Isn't that nice?

**MR. H. ENNS:** European flavour of our mosaic - I'll have to remember that.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** That's production of both the specialty cheeses and meat products could be and should be promoted within our province.

**MR. D. BLAKE:** Mr. Chairman, just while we're on this it would seem an appropriate time with the drop in consumption of red meats would probably be due to the publicity surrounding the high cholesterol attributed with heavy red meats. I wondered with the production of buffalo and elk on some of the game farms where it's being tested to a limited degree, where buffalo meat is apparently very low in cholesterol or animal fat content, I wonder what the Minister is doing to encourage this type of meat production in the province or if his department has done anything along those lines.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, the whole debate on cholesterol, if anything, is very much suspect and I would say clearly inconclusive in terms of the red meat industry and comparing beef to other red meats. The expert Committee on Animal Science has recently come out with a fairly definitive assessment that really clearly points to the difficulty of, in fact, the whole debate on cholesterol and really shows it up as being totally inconclusive. As a result, I believe that in the future, there will be groups and there will be experts who will, from time to time, come out - like we had in the whole debate on eggs and we have it on red meat - will come out with accusations which may, to a degree, affect consumer preference and consumer demand.

I believe one of the major contributors to the decline in consumption of beef has been disposable incomes of working people. Clearly, the beef industry has some efficiencies, which way it has to go in terms of production which could, in fact, increase the productivity and decrease the costs if, in fact, we did a number of basic things on the farm, but until consumer incomes increase and that will have, in my mind, a marked effect on the consumption of beef all over North America.

Mr. Chairman, the beef herd south of the border has slipped much more dramatically than ours has in the last number of years. Their beef-cow herd has declined more dramatically than the Canadian beef herd and we don't see, in the short run, much optimism for any recovery. At best, it will be a holding pattern and trying to continue to maintain the share of the market that we've had but, certainly, the pressure has been on from the poultry industry.

**MR. D. BLAKE:** Yes, I'd like to agree with the Minister there, although, the beef consumption, the red meat consumption in the United States is probably still up around 100-and-some pounds per capita rather than 86, or has it dropped as significantly as ours?

My question to the Minister was what has his department done or has he encouraged the raising of buffalo and an expansion of that, the elk ranching philosophy, which the meat has proven to be much lower in cholesterol content, what is his department of the Department of Agriculture done to encourage this type of ranching or growing for resale, the buffalo or the elk?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, we've co-operated with buffalo producers. In fact, one of the producers who happens to be - I believe from the Honourable Member for Pembina's constituency - who has a ranch in my area in the Moosehorn-Gypsumville area has leased a fairly large tract of Crown land for the raising of buffalo and there's a ranch just north of town here on No. 7 Highway in the Komarno area; there's one just south of Teulon — (Interjection) — in the - it wouldn't be Erinview - it'd be just a mile or two south of Teulon on the east side of No. 7 Highway; there's one in Ochre River.

Our staff do work with them. It's not that we go out and do any major promotion work but, certainly, from the herd health, the whole area of provision of Crown lands and the like, we certainly co-operate with people going into the industry.

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

**MR. H. ENNS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I'm pleased to hear that the Department of Agriculture is taking that position with respect to this form of livestock production. Mr. Chairman, let me immediately put it on the record that in my judgment, a good Hereford, or Charlais-Hereford cross, or Limousin cross, or any other good commercial beef animal will lure me to a supper table faster than any other.

However, Mr. Chairman, for the reasons that the Honourable Member for Minnedosa brought to the committee's attention, there are those that wish to pursue this line of livestock production and, regrettably, have not had the same kind of co-operation from some other members of this Minister's Government. I'm thinking particularly in the Department of Natural Resources where there has been not just a neutral position but a very negative position taken and where, indeed, perhaps because of the influence like, perhaps because of people like that great expert in livestock production, the Member for Inkster and others, who see something morally wrong, something corruptible about using elk or buffalo or other wildlife for this kind of meat production.

I'm simply saying, Mr. Chairman, that, first of all, let's understand one thing, that consumers are becoming more specific in some of their requirements. The question of whether or not the leanness of this particular meat, cholesterol content is appealing to some of them. It has a market. I don't particularly encourage and I don't take exception to the fact that the department should be out there spending a great deal of their time and resources in promoting this area. I think the department is taking the right position in being helpful when called upon in terms of animal health, and being helpful when called upon in terms of nutritional problems, and generally providing a service when requested.

I would certainly ask the Minister and the department to contain the enthusiasm of some of his colleagues in government who have seen fit to throw nothing but roadblocks into the development of any kind of livestock other than the traditional.

I think the Honourable Minister wants me to refer to a specific theme and that's wild game farming and there's nothing wrong with that, as I understand it, and

I would like to know that his department officials, when somebody is operating a wild game farm, will provide the same kind of service that the Minister has just indicated, because there's absolutely nothing wrong with it.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to remind the Honourable Minister that not so far from his home ground in the Interlake, a little further north, we have, I think - and I've watched the development with some enthusiasm, because of some initial responsibility that I had in it, in the establishment of a Wood buffalo population in the Waterhen; and, of course, Mr. Chairman, what are we talking about there? We are talking about several problems. Firstly, about re-establishing a species that is more or less extinct in Manitoba; secondly, providing some worthwhile economic activity for our Native brothers in that area, who I understand have been given the responsibility for the management of the herd; and then, thirdly, to harvest them, Mr. Chairman. They will be harvested, either in hunting, and they will be harvested for their meat value.

Mr. Chairman, what is certainly supported on the one hand by this government and by the Department of Natural Resources for the people in the Waterhen in establishing the Wood buffalo population, the Wood buffalo herd for those three purposes that I mentioned, is as rational a reason for anybody else that has the desire and has the capability and can put together the necessary pasture and hay land, Crown land, whatever land it is, private or otherwise, to do the same.

I simply would ask this Minister not to allow the politics of the over zealous naturalists to prevent him from carrying on his responsibilities as Minister of Agriculture and administering to those livestock needs as well.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the honourable member's comments. Let me assure him that the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Agriculture work very closely in many issues, including the issues that we are speaking about today.

There is but one major difference from what the honourable member said and the position of the Department of Natural Resources vis-a-vis the raising of, whether it be buffalo, whether it be deer, whether it be elk. The major difference is that the species can be raised in captivity for slaughter for meat production. Where the major difference in approach takes place is in the area whether those animals then will be released from captivity and hunted. That's where the major difference occurs.

Commercial game farms, Mr. Chairman, that's where the Department of Natural Resources, in terms of that department's policy, has taken a position that that is not the method in which they wish to raise game. In fact, the Department of Natural Resources have worked very closely with the Waterhen Band in the production and raising of the bison for that area; but it is not on the basis of running a commercial game farm. It can take two forms, as I understand it. It can take the form of production for meat processing, as we do with horse meat, as we do with buffalo meat, as we did have in the Gypsumville area, the deer ranch.

Mr. Chairman, there is certainly a difference of opinion as to having those animals raised in captivity and then

letting them loose and be hunted. That's where the Department of Natural Resources has and the Minister of Natural Resources has certainly taken a clear position of saying, no, to that kind of an activity. The commercial raising - no difficulty, and we will work with them and we will work co-operatively with the department in making sure that the herd health is there, from an agricultural point of view. We in fact have assisted the - I think it was bison - in terms of marketing, European marketing, and a number of areas on the marketing side, so we're there to support, but the honourable member should not try to mix the two up, because they are not synonymous in terms of the issues in the industry.

**MR. H. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, one always hopes that during these discussions one can clear up some fuzzy thinking on the part of the person responsible, in this case, the Minister of Agriculture.

I want to tell him, what is the difference? Certainly there's no difference to the animal, from being shot and having his throat slit in the confines of a yard or being shot and having his throat slit by a hunter. I want to further tell you, and I want to put it on the record, because I happen to know the original terms of agreement that established the Wood buffalo herd in the Waterhen. The management is being given over to the Indian communities involved and they will make the management decision that if they can get \$800 for the meat, if they slaughter it, as the Minister says is acceptable to him, or if they can get \$1,500 for the same animal by issuing a big game permit to a hunter, particularly if he's an out of resident hunter, they will do it that way, and I just don't like the hypocrisy of it. That is written into the agreement; that is part of the management agreement that has been signed with respect to, particularly Indian leaders responsible for the management of the Wood buffalo population that is being built up in the Waterhen.

I can tell you, Mr. Chairman, I would think my Indian brothers will have their economics, will have not too much difficulty in sorting out where their economics lie. If they have an opportunity . . . After all, this is one of the whole reasons for establishing the herd, to provide economic base for people that have been far too long underprivileged, particularly economically; and if they have the option, and they know, in terms of the land area where the herd is situated in, that they have to harvest two years from now or three years from now, 50, 60 or 80 animals, and they can get \$2,000 for each animal that they allow to be hunted under special terms and conditions, by special permit, or if they can get \$800 for the meat value, surely nobody here will hold back the economics offered to our Indian brothers in this instance. I would think not, I would hope not a blinkered bureaucracy and department, for some fuzzy reasons that have been imposed upon them by people like the Member for Inkster.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, I don't disagree with the honourable member's comments vis-a-vis what happens to the animals - does it make any difference? I guess the real question is, what do you call sport? Do you call shooting fish in a barrel, sport, or what do you call sport, Mr. Chairman? That's I guess what is

at issue. You can certainly follow that line and say, what matter does it make to the animal whether you've had it in captivity and you take it and you allow it to run half a mile away and then you go out and shoot it while it's already had human personnel around it so it's been tamed, in effect, by the presence of humans, or do you in fact call it a sport, that the animal was raised and bred in wilderness and it really becomes, in fact, a sport.

We have the same situation in Ontario. I remember living in the Windsor area and land there was at prime. You could not hunt anywhere with big game unless you went into Northern Ontario. There were private pheasant farms, where in fact in the morning you phone up and said, we're coming to hunt pheasants and the owners would in fact say, how many do you want? We'll let six go. You pay for six whether you get them or not, they're there. That's really at the nub of the issue, what do we call sport? How the end of the animal is achieved and its use is one thing; but is it sport? That's really the nub of the issue, isn't it?

**MR. H. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, I suppose it all depends from what end you're coming at the question. Certainly, Mr. Chairman, to those 15,000 chickens that are raised in little steel cages and go right into the eviscerating plant, that's not much of a sporting chance for those chickens and for those birds.

On the other hand, a couple hundred of pheasants that I may want to raise on my private game farm, and I release them, they have a sporting chance and some do get away. They have a sporting chance, so let's - depending on what you want to talk about sports. I want to tell the honourable member if he wants to talk to some more militant animal rights groups, they'll tell him about the sporting chances of livestock slaughter that goes on in our packers, in our eviscerating plants, etc. etc.

So, Mr. Chairman, I know we're coming off the debate of agriculture, but I would look to this department and to this Minister not to become too sanctimonious in this issue, and in the first instance, acknowledge that in Manitoba today every possible opportunity ought to be given for livestock operators to diversify in any way, form, or shape they can to help supplement their incomes.

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

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** Mr. Chairman, I will ask the Minister if it would be appropriate to debate some of the hog issues now or should we wait until we get into the marketing section of the department?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, any questions with herd health or programming in terms of hogs, no difficulty. If he's talking about the current crisis in terms of the U.S.-Canadian situation, I would prefer that the honourable member concern his debate when we come to the National Products Marketing Council.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** Basically dealing with policy in the hog production area, Mr. Chairman, I made reference earlier to the Hog Producers Report and I won't make reference dealing with marketing, although there are

some issues dealing with marketing, but I do have a question of the Minister and see if this reflects his thinking. As Minister in the area of livestock production, I ask the Minister about his feeling about the directive or the concern of the hog producers of this province on the production of hogs through feed company support, financial support, and that type of thing. Is he in tune with that, or he is supportive of it, or does he oppose it? At the same time, is he supportive of, or does he oppose the particular development of a Hutterite colony at Neepawa, who are planning to develop a processing and killing plant, really vertical integration that way into the processing; and what are his feelings about the support of our livestock and our hog industry in reverse, Mr. Chairman?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, clearly the whole area of stabilization does not provide for vertically integrated operations, where feed companies directly are involved in the production of hogs. — (Interjection) — Well, Mr. Chairman, that clearly indicates the government policy towards vertical integration.

Mr. Chairman, we have certainly supported producers in organizing, whether it be through co-operatives, whether it be through setting up of corporate instruments to process and market the products if there is an opportunity, but in terms of primary production, the long-standing policy of this government is that it be handled by primary producers themselves and vertical integration, to the extent possible, be discouraged.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** Mr. Chairman, I asked the Minister what his feelings are towards the marketing board, having the power or using their powers to license hog producers in the province, or permit or not permit individuals in Manitoba as to whether or not they can produce hogs?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, the Hog Board has in fact, in terms of licensing or not, in terms of production, I am assuming that the honourable member - and maybe he can clarify his remarks - is he indicating whether the Hog Board is looking at the whole area of supply-management, where, in fact, producers are licensed and the numbers of hogs that they produce be recorded, or is he indicating that the Hog Board issues licences for exporters? What area is he really speaking about?

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** No, I'm speaking particularly in regard to production and individuals who are getting support from feed industries and that type of thing, that the Hog Producers Marketing Board have indicated that they may be considering licensing new hog producers. I'll make specific reference.

I would have thought the Minister may have read it, because he and his government are mentioned in several areas dealing with policy, but on Page 3 of the report it says, "Recently your board and delegate committee" - this is a report to the producers I'm quoting - "Recently your board and delegate committee met with members of the Manitoba Feed Manufacturers and Mills, and explained our position. If feed industry support is not forthcoming to halt the escalation of this

type of production, the Manitoba Hog Producers Marketing Board is seriously looking at new producer licensing system."

Now they may have justifiable reason and concern in that area, but I ask the Minister, does he support the licensing or the powers to licensing hog producers? It may be that certain individuals have used that kind of support to start farming, that the funds may not have been available elsewhere. I ask the Minister's own policy, as to whether or not he thinks that licensing of our hog producers in this province should lie fully with the responsibilities of our producer boards? What's his position?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, I can't generalize in the statement the honourable member makes. If he has some specific areas that he asks an opinion, in terms of where I stand on licensing or not, then let him raise it and I will endeavour to give him an opinion. Mr. Chairman, if the honourable member has a specific area that he wishes to raise as to where the licensing of hogs or hog producers should occur, let him raise it.

I've indicated to the honourable member how the government, through its policy in terms of the Oog Income Stabilization Plan, does treat vertically integrated operation. We do not allow them to be stabilized in terms of the program. They're not allowed. It's a clear indication from government that we are not encouraging that kind of production and do not intend to support that financially.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** Mr. Chairman, he states what his policy is as far as the Stabilization Program is concerned. The question is, will he allow the licensing of hog producers, new producers, by the Manitoba Hog Producers Marketing Board? Will he allow them to enforce a regulation, if imposed as to whether or not people can produce hogs, that they need a licence to start hog production; if, in fact, they get support - and you can call it vertical integration if you like - if they get support from a feed company to start their operation, if they get support in any way?

I am not speaking out in support of a feed mill raising of hogs. What I'm asking is, will it be his intentions to allow - whether it be the hog board or any other board group in the province - to license - well in this particular case it's hogs because in supply management areas, people are either licensed or non-licensed producers or registered or non-registered, I guess is the proper term. The question is, is he going to allow the imposition of licencing of hog producers in the province? Will hog producers have to be licenced or will he get involved and not allow licensing of hog producers?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, there is a clear distinction between licensing and registration. All hog producers are now registered. Every hog producer who markets and is required to market through the Manitoba Hog Producers Marketing Board is registered. They are now registered.

The licensing, one would have to know the reasons that the licensing is being looked at or considered, I think it should be an industry decision in terms of what kind of licensing would they impose. The dairy industry,

for example, I believe there is licensing within the dairy industry and there's registration within the dairy industry, the licensing in terms of health standards and operations of dairy.

In terms of the hog industry, one would have to know the specifics of what the honourable member is getting at, in terms of whether or not any kind of licensing take place. I'm not sure what the honourable member is getting at.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** The question is does the Minister of Agriculture support any proposals that would allow the imposition of licensing on new producers as an entry requirement, or as a requirement to produce hogs in Manitoba, that they would have to have a licence to produce hogs in Manitoba?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, I can't answer a question that has a lot of hypothesis to it. Mr. Chairman, all producers today have to be registered to produce hogs and market hogs in the Province of Manitoba.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** Mr. Chairman, the Minister is not dealing with the subject that I'm bringing before him. Certainly, producers have to be registered to market hogs through the Manitoba Hog Marketing Commission. I haven't got any problem with that.

What I've made reference to was the possibility of the imposition of a licensing requirement for people to produce hogs in the province. It's a straightforward question. I asked him if he's supportive of that kind of a policy or whether or not people will be able to produce hogs whether they have a licence or not. Does he support the licensing of hog producers or new hog producers would have to be licenced before they could produce - meeting certain types of regulations or restrictions I guess - but I ask him the question, does he support the licensing or the proposal to licence new hog producers?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, in effect, what the honourable member is speaking about - I'm assuming and I don't know, I'm guessing depending on the circumstances - if the board decided to say that they wanted to licence all producers who are vertically integrated with feed companies, that they were, in fact, going to try to limit the amount of production through vertical integration by licensing. Obviously, that's where you'd be headed wouldn't you?

In fact, Mr. Chairman, the whole area of floor price that was suggested by the Chairman of the Hog Marketing Board certainly is headed towards the whole area of supply management when, in fact, you would decide to say a particular market price becomes the floor price of your product, you are headed towards a form of supply management.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that kind of an issue would have to have a lot of debate and a lot of discussion amongst producers. Certainly, the licensing of producers is not new in terms of agriculture. It really depends on the form of licensing of what one wants to deal with in terms of licensing. You do get a licence to produce, a marketing licence, through the Canadian Wheat Board. You do have through the dairy industry licensing so that you can be paid subsidies and the like because

there is a restriction on a number of producers who enter into the industry. — (Interjection)—

Certainly, Mr. Chairman, in the area of the production of eggs, there is supply management. There is licensing in the area of broilers, Mr. Chairman. In the area of turkeys, there is licensing in terms of supply management. In the area of hogs, Mr. Chairman, the producers of this province, we certainly have stayed with the producers and have supported their position that there be no supply management in the production of hogs in this province. If that's what the honourable member is asking me to state, I have no difficulty of stating that, that in terms of wishes - and this government certainly has respected the wishes of the producer groups - that the open production area in the hog industry be maintained, we have supported that.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** Mr. Chairman, I guess the problem I'm having - and I made reference to the comments by the Chairman in the Hog Marketing Report - that the Manitoba Hog Marketing Board is seriously looking at new producer licensing system. That's really the concern that I'm bringing forward. I don't particularly think that we should have the hogs produced by a vertically-integrated system, but who defines what a vertically-integrated system is? There are many producers in this province that depend entirely on feed companies to supply the feed for them.

Now, if a person is to start to produce hogs in the province, we have a young producer who goes to a feed company and says I'll produce the hogs, you provide the feed and at the end of the month I'll make a payment. Is that vertical integration? If that's the case, we've got a lot of vertically-integrated hog producers in the province. There are a lot of people get their total feed supplies from a feed mill that is separate from their own operation.

The question I'm asking, is he supportive of the licensing aspect that has been talked about by the Hog Marketing Board? If it is Cargill they're getting at and, if that's the case, then if the Minister is against the hog program that Cargill have introduced and they're going to support a licensing system saying if you get your feed from Cargill, then you can't produce hogs in Manitoba, is that what we're really talking about here? I ask the Minister to be a little more clear as to what his position is on possible licensing of hog producers in the province. Are people who want to produce hogs going to have to be licenced and does he support it? Two questions.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, the honourable member should also raise the question as who he believes should produce hogs in this province. Mr. Chairman, does he believe that the hog industry — (Interjection) — Well, Mr. Chairman, I don't want to see the hog industry moving towards total vertical or major vertical integration. If that requires some form of screening by the Hog Board in terms of the contracts, then we would have to look at that.

Clearly, primary production should be in the hands of producers in this province. That's really the bottom line, Mr. Chairman, if the honourable member is raising a question. That's where we stand in terms of

preference. I can't answer the question any differently than he poses.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Mr. Chairman, my colleague has raised a fairly interesting issue with the Minister.

The Minister has not exactly been his usual forthright self. As a matter of fact, he's been his normal self and that he's walked around the issue and he hasn't addressed the question.

I'd like to find out from the Minister, he said that as long as the producer board and the producer organization has not been in favour of supply management which would restrict the entry of new producers into the market - he's gone along with it - and that's the position they support. He also qualified it by saying that yes we support what the producers want. Is the Minister telling us that if the hog producers of Manitoba collectively decide that they want supply management and thereby would exclude new entrance to the market - and in this case I'll give a perfect example at home. I've got a 12-year-old son who for the last five years has raised a small number of weanling pigs to wait over summer to market weight over summer. He may take an interest in that and when he starts farming, if he does, may want to enter into the hog business. If it's a supply managed industry, at that time, his entry will be denied. Is that the kind of future agriculture this Minister would support?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, I can't answer a hypothetical question of the honourable member. Mr. Chairman, any supply management scheme has to have at least the majority of the producing provinces in this country. No province on its own would in fact be able to, or could introduce supply management and restrictions on a number of people entering the industry. That can't be done, nor should it be done.

Producers across this country would have to decide collectively if they were to enter into any kind of supply management scheme. That certainly has not been in the cards, nor is it all being talked about or thought about within the producing circles in this province. If anything, there is a determination by producers not to go that route.

Mr. Chairman, the route that producers are moving, of course, is into tripartite stabilization, having a national stabilization program. We are one of the signatories of the four provinces of Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta and Manitoba in favour of national tripartite stabilization for red meats. The question of what form it will take and what kind of support levels is a matter that I believe will be under discussion. In fact, on the hog industry, we were very close about a year ago, in terms of the type of program and the level of support. Practically all the details were in fact generally agreed to by the Canadian Pork Council. There was a reluctance at the federal level to move on that one area. The then Federal Government wanted to go ahead, beef or nothing at all, and we got nothing.

Now I don't know where we will go on the hog industry, in terms of stabilization and that whole area, but that's certainly the area that we've talked about with the hog industry and hog producers, that being a national program so that there is no, in terms of support pricing, any pitting of one treasury against the other one.

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

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Mr. Chairman, philosophically, this Minister apparently supports supply management as it applies to eggs, broilers turkeys. Does he support supply management for a major red meat commodity like the hog industry?

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

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, the industry, the producers themselves have to decide that question.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Mr. Chairman, I'm not asking how it happens. I'm asking this Minister, philosophically, whether he supports supply management in the hog industry, something that is a relatively important question in agriculture today. I'm not asking him how it happens or what the mechanism is; I'm asking him, as Minister of Agriculture, if he supports a supply management concept in the hog industry.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** It would be up to the producers to decide.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** So as Minister of Agriculture, this Minister does not have an original thought in his head as to supply management for the hog industry is what he's telling us today.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, that will be a matter for the producers to decide.

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

**MR. C. MANNES:** Mr. Chairman, I'd like to ask one or two questions with respect to licensing facilities and this whole question of vertical integration.

Mr. Chairman, I'd like to know whether the government is taking the lead in trying to put forward a definition. Obviously, they must have one within their own sphere of responsibility, given that, as the Minister indicates, that there are no stabilization payments made to somebody that the government considers to be a vertically-supported hog producer. I'm wondering what criteria or what the definition is of an individual who is removed from being an individual covered under - a producer who is receiving support in one fashion or another from a feed company, by what reason and what criteria is he . . .

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Order please. The Minister of Agriculture on a point of order.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Yes, I rise on a point of order. I don't mind the specific questions that the honourable member raises. Again, that whole area of stabilization and criteria of the specific Hog Stabilization Program falls under the Natural Products Marketing Council. I'd appreciate that he raise those specific questions when we get to the council.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 4.(b)(1)—pass; 4.(b)(2)—pass.

4.(c) Veterinary Services Branch: (1) Salaries - the Member for Arthur.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** Mr. Chairman, has there been any major changes in the Veterinary Services Branch or the policy and delivery of the services? What is the current status of the Veterinary Services operations in Manitoba right at this particular time?

I might as well add at this time that I'm pleased about some of the media coverage recently of my own local veterinarian and her operation at Melita. I think it was a good program and I compliment Pat on her work and the show that was put on. I think it was a good opportunity to show to the public some of the work activity that is carried on; but I ask the Minister, has there been any policy changes? What is the current number of operating Veterinary Branches? I know some time ago Fisher Branch were anxious to get a plant in their town. Has there been any development in that area?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, we do have 30 districts operating and I'm told that there will be seven assistants added or replaced by June 1st, in terms of the veterinarians, additional in support to the existing districts that we have.

There have been, in terms of policy changes, Mr. Chairman, I'm not aware that there are any major policy changes in the operation of the services lab. There are changes in the whole area of the drug centre. We are computerizing the service to speed up the service to veterinarians and trying to build up a larger inventory. It has in fact been very, I would say, is a very productive centre, but it's getting to the point that the existing staff in the centre cannot handle the workload there. In fact, during the past year, volume purchase and controlled markup of the vets services has in fact saved Manitoba farmers just under \$2 million on the drug distribution.

This branch, as I indicated, has recently acquired a computer system which when fully instituted will control inventory, improve turnaround time on orders and allow for continuing expansion in volume with constant staff levels.

So, Mr. Chairman, the Drug Distribution Centre has done, and is doing, a remarkable job in terms of direct savings to farmers, to livestock producers and poultry producers of this province, in terms of pricing that is in our neighbouring provinces. We, in fact, by those calculations, by those assessments, are saving the Manitoba producers just under \$2 million, \$1.9 million in one year.

In terms of semen distribution, Mr. Chairman, the obtained semen is from 14 studs and ensures a province-wide availability of this wide choice. The semen is made available through a regular delivery route to technicians and farmers. Over 4,000 farmers make use of the service and, Mr. Chairman, net sales have increased from \$276,000 in 1977 to over \$660,000 last year.

So, Mr. Chairman, those two areas of activities certainly are, in fact, something that Manitobans and Manitoba producers have to be proud of, in terms of the operations of that Drug Centre.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** Well I would have said the Minister was out of order in the area of discussions, Mr. Chairman. I was waiting to get to 9. Drugs and Semen

Purchases to debate that, but if this is where we'll do it, I have two or three questions in this area. The Minister has two sets of rules, one for himself and one for the opposition.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** I didn't get to purchases.

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** Well, Mr. Chairman, if we're going to debate it now, I will ask the Minister a couple of questions because I've had two areas of concern brought to my attention. One was dealing specifically with the change in policy in the computerization of the Drug Centre, and I'd ask the Minister if he's had any

communication with any vets who are displeased with some of the activities?

He has to appreciate that whenever the director moves on a program, that everyone who deals with him isn't always in support of what is taking place. I ask the question, has he had any specific problems brought to his attention, as I have and I'll try to get a little more clarification for him at later date, probably later this evening or tomorrow; and the other area of concern and that's dealing with the A-1 delivery.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** It is time for the dinner recess. I am leaving the Chair and will return at 8:00 p.m.