

## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Monday, 10 June, 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, on behalf of the Minister of Health, Bill No. 54, An Act to amend The Health Services Insurance Act (2).

### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**MR. SPEAKER:** Prior to Oral Questions, may I direct the attention of honourable members to the gallery where we have 24 students of Grades 5 to 12 standing from the New Hope Christian School under the direction of Mr. Peters. This school is in the constituency of the Honourable Member for La Verendrye.

There are 35 students of Grades 4 to 8 standing from the Poplarfield Elementary School under the direction of Mrs. Chudy. This school is in the constituency of the Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

There are 23 students of Grade 6 standing from the Montrose School under the direction of Mrs. Hanna. The school is in the constituency of the Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

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

### ORAL QUESTIONS

#### Crop reseeded due to windstorm

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

**MR. G. FILMON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Premier and it follows upon reports of the damage that occurred in the windstorm on Saturday to various parts of the province, and particularly losses that could result in rural Manitoba.

My question to the Premier is: in view of the fact that crop insurance regulations, where some varieties dictate that if the crops are not reseeded by today, that they will not be covered, I wonder if the Premier could indicate whether or not his government's prepared to intercede to give a few days grace so that people can accomplish the reseeded.

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

**HON. H. PAWLEY:** That question, of course, should be directed to the Minister of Agriculture.

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

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to advise the Leader of the Opposition that I have asked crop insurance officials to contact Ottawa to see whether or not a 24-hour to 72-hour extension can in fact be approved. The honourable member should be aware that part of the program does allow farmers to receive the 25 percent reseeded benefit as well as 50 percent of an actual claim.

Going on the experience of 1980, during our severe drought year, I am advised by crop insurance officials that strips which farmers are being asked to leave, a 12 foot strip for every 40 acres, those strips that were left indicated to crop insurance that although on the surface damage appeared to be severe, the damage nevertheless during the 1980 drought and the like, previous experience has shown that damage initially appears far worse than actually is the case.

Although farmers are being asked to make their decisions and do their reseeded, leaving a strip, nevertheless, we have asked Ottawa to consider anywhere from a 24-hour to 72-hour extension. There is also the possibility for farmers, Sir, to seed other varieties of the same crop which does allow them an additional 10 days in terms of seeding time. Those kinds of decisions can be made, but we have asked for that consideration and we hope to have some advice later today on that matter.

#### Cellulose insulation - approval of

**MR. G. FILMON:** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Honourable Minister of Housing, and it follows upon correspondence from suppliers of cellulose insulation who have appealed to the housing corporation to have cellulose insulation approved for installation in Manitoba under programs covered by government loans and grants. It is my understanding that the cellulose is approved both by CMHC and other provinces.

I wonder if the Minister intends to act upon that.

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

**HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, that matter is currently under review.

**MR. G. FILMON:** I wonder if the Minister could indicate approximately when he expects to be able to give some response on that matter, this being construction season and a time when a good deal of cellulose insulation could be installed.

**HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK:** I am not able to provide a definite time commitment at this time; however, the review is taking place and a decision will be made as soon as possible.

#### Crop reseeded due to windstorm

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

**MR. C. MANNES:** Mr. Speaker, I address my question to the Minister of Agriculture. It follows along the question asked by my leader.

Mr. Speaker, I asked the Minister, in view of the fact that showers are forecast today and tomorrow, and in view of the fact that equipment and seed is in place and farmers are wanting to know what crop insurance is going to do - all they are waiting for is an adjustment to take place and they can reseed - will the Minister indicate and tell us whether there is some contingency plan in place to allow some other people to adjust, or is he just going to wait for Ottawa over 72 hours? Certainly he has to have a more definitive answer than he has given us thus far.

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

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Speaker, I thought, in my reply to the Leader of the Opposition, I indicated to him that farmers are being advised that they can, in fact, reseed immediately, that they should be leaving a 12 foot strip for every 40 acres and go ahead and reseed. The benefits will be paid, once the adjustment is made, on the basis of that strip.

I caution, and I raise that caution, in that previous experiences of the corporation have shown that losses were not quite as severe as originally were thought to be. But the corporation has given farmers that assurance that they can in fact reseed. We are trying to have adjusters be in the field as quickly as possible, they are in the field now, but with the number of calls and the like, there is no doubt that claims are backed up. But, Sir, that advice is being given to all farmers who wish to reseed immediately.

**MR. C. MANNES:** A final supplementary, Mr. Speaker. I asked the Minister if any consideration is being given to relaxing the regulations so as to allow other individuals, other than crop insurance adjusters, to verify loss, particularly in those cases where entire and complete fields have been wiped away because of the heavy winds. Would some consideration be given to allow other people to verify crop losses?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Speaker, I want to advise the honourable member that some adjustments have been made and in terms of some of the assessment that the leaf area of the crop, while it has been damaged, nevertheless the basic root network and the growing portion, the basic body of the crop is still intact. To suggest that we should now get everyone adjusting crops, Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure that would be advisable to either the farmer and/or the corporation. But the practice of allowing a strip to be left certainly would indicate the nature of the crop that was there and would provide ample opportunity for an assessment and an adjustment to be made in the next two or three days.

### Hydro - 5 percent rate increase

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

**MR. H. ENNS:** Mr. Speaker, I direct a question to the Minister responsible for Manitoba Hydro. Mr. Speaker, last Thursday at the Standing Committee of Public Utilities the executive officer, Mr. Arnason of Manitoba Hydro indicated quite clearly to committee that

Manitoba Hydro would require a 5 percent annual rate increase to consumers well into the year 1994 to do two things: to re-establish the reserve fund at a satisfactory level as indicated by spokespersons for Manitoba Hydro; and to further quote Mr. Arnason, "that these increases would be necessary to cushion" what Mr. Arnason described as "a potential rate shock that could result from the transferring of construction costs of the Limestone Generating Station to the rate base."

Mr. Speaker, my question to the Minister of Energy is, that over the weekend this Minister and his Premier have indicated that these rate increases will not in fact happen and my question simply is, Mr. Speaker, whom are we to believe?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please. The honourable member is probably aware that he should not be asking questions on a topic which is before a committee which has not yet reported to the House. Would the honourable member wish to rephrase his question to seek information on a matter which is not before that particular committee?

**MR. H. ENNS:** Mr. Speaker, just on the point of order, I believe that what we are trying to do is make sure that, particularly in front of that committee that regrettably has a history of not always having the best of information put before that committee by very responsible people, namely, executive officers of Hydro who have subsequently had to resign.

**MR. SPEAKER:** What is the point of order?

**MR. H. ENNS:** Yes, there is a point of order.

I think it is extremely important that the members of this Chamber and, more particularly, that the members of the committee, the Public Utilities Standing Committee of this House, have some indication as to whether or not the information that we are being made aware of, who is speaking for what.

My direct question, then, Mr. Speaker, to try to follow your admonition, to the Minister of Energy: will Manitoba Hydro be allowed to increase its rates 5 percent annually to the year 1994 as indicated by their executive officer?

**MR. SPEAKER:** One moment, please.

The Honourable Minister of Energy and Mines.

**HON. W. PARASIUUK:** Thank you. Mr. Speaker, the president of Manitoba Hydro provided information to me some time ago indicating that the projections indicate that with annual rate increases at or below projected long-term rates of inflation, that would be sufficient to provide Hydro with positive net revenue. That means that the real price of electricity in Manitoba will further decrease in the future and help Manitobans have the lowest electricity rate structure in Canada and the United States. So, assuming a 7 percent inflation rate - he was saying that the hydro rates would be 5 percent, 2 points less than inflation - assuming a lesser inflation rate, then hydro rates would be below 5 percent. That's what was clearly said. What Hydro is doing in a responsible way is showing that in the future

hydro rates will increase, Mr. Speaker, by less than the Member for Lakeside's salary will increase, which means that in the next 10 years he will have more purchasing power to buy more electricity for his dollar than he would have today. We are virtually the only utility in North America that can make that claim while bringing on new construction facilities, Mr. Speaker, so that we will not only be able to maintain that position through the 1990s but well into the 21st century.

**MR. H. ENNS:** The committee was told, Mr. Speaker, that whatever the increase, the executive officer of Manitoba Hydro says it has to be 5 percent to the year 1994 for Hydro's purposes. My understanding of the statements made by both the Premier and the Minister of Energy over the weekend is that they will have monies, hydro revenues, to divert into their so-called Heritage Fund. But, Mr. Speaker, you can't put the same 5 percent or the same money into two different places. That's my question, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. W. PARASIUKE:** Mr. Speaker, we have indicated that money will flow from Hydro profits into a Heritage Fund in 1993. We have indicated, Mr. Speaker, that rates will increase to build up the reserves for drought and also to be used in a way that could cushion any type of unforeseen circumstance, as well as any type of new generating station at a rate that is less than inflation. So I ask the Conservatives whether in fact they are against that policy, because we can keep hydro rate increases below the rate of inflation, less than the rate that bread goes up, less than the rate that gasoline goes up, less than the rates of other consumer goods, Mr. Speaker. We think that's the proper policy. Are they agreeing with that policy or not?

**MR. H. ENNS:** Mr. Speaker, Manitobans will remember when inflation was in double digits, at 9 and 10 percent. They had no rate increases for a period of four years when the last Conservative administration was in office.

My question to the Minister is: can Manitobans expect a 5 percent increase minimal of the hydro rates to the year 1994?

**HON. W. PARASIUKE:** Mr. Speaker, we have never said anything of the sort. What we have is that, if inflation is 7 percent we would be under it, and that projection was at a 5 percent basis. If inflation is 6 percent or 5 percent, the rate of increase would be looked at every year and, Mr. Speaker, it could quite easily be below 5 percent. We have said that.

It will be related to inflation and it is our long-term intention to keep it below the rate of inflation. And I'm surprised that the Conservatives somehow want us to raise it higher than the rate of inflation. We, on this side, don't want to do that, Mr. Speaker, we will keep the rate increases below the rate of inflation while prudently managing the corporation so that we don't put artificial rate freezes on that force Hydro to suffer losses. That is imprudent, that's the wrong way of running a business.

### **Sawatsky, Gary - parole conditions**

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please.

The Honourable Member for St. Norbert.

**MR. G. MERCIER:** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Attorney-General with respect to Mr. Gary Sawatsky who was charged with murder on the May long weekend. My question does not concern the merits of that case, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Sawatsky was placed on, as a condition of his parole in August of 1984, was ordered not to associate with members of the Los Bravos organization. Would the Attorney-General investigate this matter and inform the House as to why the police department's recommendations, and suggestions that Mr. Sawatsky was indeed associating with members of the Los Bravos organization, why those recommendations to the parole authorities were not followed through with, and Mr. Sawatsky's parole was not withdrawn or suspended, prior to the May long weekend?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Attorney-General.

**HON. R. PENNER:** Mr. Speaker, I am astonished at the question. The member knows full well that parole is a federal matter run by the federal authorities; it is not run by the Government of Manitoba, and is not run by myself.

If he has a question, first of all, whether or not that was placed as a parole condition; if it was placed as a parole condition, then the question is appropriately directed to the Winnipeg Police, why didn't they enforce it? If it wasn't placed as a parole condition, although recommended, then that question should be referred to the federal authorities.

**MR. G. MERCIER:** Mr. Speaker, the Attorney-General is responsible for the administration of justice in this province. I asked him if he would consult with the City of Winnipeg Police Department in order to determine why their suggestions or recommendations to the parole authorities were not followed through.

**HON. R. PENNER:** Well, I take it that the member is providing information to the House, namely, that a recommendation by the police to the Parole Board was not followed by the Parole Board. If that is the case, then I have no hesitation in inquiring from the authorities responsible, the Minister responsible federally for the Parole Board, the Solicitor-General, why that was so. I have to deal obviously on a Minister-to-Minister basis, and would have no hesitation in doing that. I just want to be sure of the facts. If the member has facts of the kind that he's now advising the House, if he'll simply provide me with those facts I'll be more than happy to follow it up with an inquiry to the Solicitor-General.

### **Shorting, Clarence - mandatory parole**

**MR. G. MERCIER:** Mr. Speaker, I have another question for the Minister of Community Services and Corrections. The Attorney-General has indicated in the past that he has made no recommendations to the Federal Government with respect to mandatory release and the Minister of Community Services and Corrections has said that this is a matter for debate. Mr. Speaker, I would ask her if she would review the record of one

Mr. Clarence Shorting who was released on mandatory supervision while serving a sentence for robbery with violence - was released in 1981 - charged and convicted of rape and sentenced to four years and, while imprisoned, was released again in 1985 on mandatory supervision, and has just been charged last week with a case of sexual assault, break and enter with intent. Would she investigate that case and advise the House whether or not she will change her position with respect to mandatory supervision and mandatory release?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Attorney-General on a point of order.

**HON. R. PENNER:** First of all, this is entirely a federal matter; but secondly, to my point of order, I have said publicly - and I don't want my position misrepresented even inadvertently and I am prepared to assume that it's inadvertently that I am opposed to mandatory release - I think that the parole mechanism works best on a case-by-case basis. So I don't want the impression left that somehow you have in this government, because it's not within the purview of this government, but in this Attorney-General, a supporter of the mandatory parole which had broken down and we know that it has broken down.

**MR. G. MERCIER:** Mr. Speaker, I placed a question to the Minister of Community Services and Corrections. I wonder if she would answer it.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please. I am having some doubts about whether the subject matter of the last few questions are within the administrative competence of a Provincial Government. However, if the Minister wishes to answer, she may do so.

### **St. Pierre School parents - meeting with Minister**

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

**MR. A. DRIEDGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the First Minister. A group of St. Pierre parents met with the Premier in Vita on Friday and indicated, or served notice, that they planned to meet with the Minister of Education on Tuesday coming at 7:00 p.m. in the evening. The Minister of Education has refused to meet with this parent group.

Is the Premier going to instruct his Minister of Education to meet with the parent group from St. Pierre tomorrow night?

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

**HON. H. PAWLEY:** Mr. Speaker, the matter in question is one that will be dealt with. As to the Minister and the group in question from St. Pierre, the matter is a matter pertaining to, according to my understanding, a school division matter, the Red River School Division, and unless it is shown to be a matter involving provincial jurisdiction, I don't know why the Minister would be meeting with the group involved.

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

**MR. A. DRIEDGER:** Well, to the First Minister then. Is he indicating that the Minister of Education will not be meeting with this group tomorrow when they come into the House at 7 o'clock?

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

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I heard about the meeting that I was having with the parents in the newspaper. When people want to meet with somebody, they don't inform a third party of a time and a date that they are coming for a meeting without knowing that the person that they want to meet is going to be there and is available. As it happens, I will not be available at the time they have chosen at 7 o'clock tomorrow night. However, I am prepared to meet with the parent groups, and I will be communicating this to them.

I think part of my concern has been that there are two parent groups on this side of the issue, as we all know, not just one parent group, and that it would be very difficult for me to appear to be meeting with a group on one side of an issue, a group of parents, without being prepared to meet with the group on the other side of the issue, the other set of parents.

So as long as everybody understands that if I meet with parents, I will meet with all parents, and will meet with parents on both sides of the issue. I am prepared to set up a meeting with them at a time that is mutually acceptable to both of us, and I will be communicating that to them.

**MR. A. DRIEDGER:** To the Minister of Education then, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister indicate whether the parent group that is supporting the 50-50 language program in St. Pierre have asked officially for a meeting with the Minister of Education?

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** No, they have not, Mr. Speaker, but that doesn't take away the concern that I have, that in a very sensitive issue like this that is by law in the hands of the school division to decide when there is a fair amount of controversy and concern in the community and there are groups of parents on both sides of the issue, whether or not both sides request a meeting with me, I believe it is inappropriate for me to have a meeting with just one group of parents on one side of the issue.

So I will be communicating to them that I am prepared to meet, providing everybody understands that the offer will be made to both groups of parents on both sides of the issue.

### **St. Pierre teachers - assistance to**

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

**MR. R. DOERN:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Education concerning the three teachers at St. Pierre who are being transferred because they signed a petition along with some 450 other parents.

Can the Minister provide any assistance or protection for these three teachers?

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

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** No, Mr. Speaker, I cannot. Although there are protections in place for people who believe they have been aggrieved or have not been handled in a fair and judicial way. They have a number of avenues that they can follow and, obviously, they should and probably are having discussions with the Manitoba Teachers' Society who advises, informs and supports in areas like this. They have rights to arbitration hearings and to the courts if they feel they have not been fairly handled. They do not have redress and I do not have authority to deal with issues of hiring or firing of teachers in school divisions.

**MR. R. DOERN:** Mr. Speaker, I would also like to ask the Minister whether she can provide any assurances or guarantees of freedom of speech or freedom of expression to teachers in the classroom or in their capacity as citizens after hours.

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Well, Mr. Speaker, the points that the member is raising, and that is that people should have a right to speak out, should have a right to say what they believe and should have a right to freedom of speech as something that we all agree with. I suppose that he is trying to relate the two, the earlier question with the transfer and the suggestion that this is being done because people have spoken and the action is taking place because of that. If that were the case that would not be determined by me; I am not a judge. It would not be determined by the Legislature or the Department of Education; it would be determined by either an arbitration process or the courts.

### Violence in schools - concern with

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

**MR. C. MANNES:** Mr. Speaker, I address my question to the Minister of Education. The headline today says, "Drugs, violence at school alarm mother." The Winnipeg School Division vice-chairman - I believe it's Vince Bueti - indicated that an increase in violence at division schools has been noted by the board.

Can the Minister indicate whether the Department of Education has been apprised of this situation, and can she further indicate whether or not this is a growing trend in other school divisions throughout the province?

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

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, we were not apprised of the specific numbers. I know that the school division does ask for reports every two or three months and this information comes into them.

I think the remark was made in the media that there has been some increase. I do not know how serious it is or how big a problem it is. I expect that if it would seem to be either a growing trend or a serious problem that we would have heard about it.

We have had no formal communication with the school division prior to this, although we made contact ourselves this morning, and we are informed that their knowledge to date was that they were not aware of a specific problem that was outlined in that particular school, and they were following it up and indicated they would report to me.

So if I get additional information about either that particular school situation or the situation in general, I will report to the member.

**MR. C. MANNES:** A final supplementary, Mr. Speaker. The same individual, the vice-chairman of the board, indicated that the need for suspensions appears to be increasing mostly for violent behaviour. What is meant by violent behaviour and, again, to what degree is it increasing within the public school system?

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Those are exactly the questions that, clearly, I need direct and specific information for before I can make an intelligent answer. It's that kind of detail that I don't have, that I haven't been given, and that I require before I can answer the question properly.

### Toronto-Dominion Bank - expropriation of

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

**MR. W. STEEN:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Urban Affairs and ask him that, since some weeks ago I wrote him a letter asking him about the Toronto-Dominion Bank branch office at Portage and Kennedy, whether it had to be expropriated by the North of Portage Development Corporation, and since I've received a letter back from Izzy Coop, the president, saying that the building would be demolished and that it could not fit into the plans of the North of Portage people, is the Minister and his department satisfied that all avenues were investigated as to see whether this building could be saved?

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

**HON. L. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Speaker, we are satisfied. They have to proceed fairly soon, they have to proceed on time. It certainly wouldn't be fair to the others. The bank had been advised, so they must start as soon as possible.

**MR. W. STEEN:** Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Minister could find out for the Members of the Legislature what the cost of expropriation and demolition of such a building is to the taxpayers of Manitoba.

**HON. L. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Speaker, I suppose I could, then I might as well get the full information, the demolition and expropriation of all the projects known as North of Portage project.

### Careerstart Program - process of appeal

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Turtle Mountain.

**MR. B. RANSOM:** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Employment Services.

Some time ago, I asked the Minister how long it took to process an appeal under the Careerstart Program and the Minister undertook to get that information for me. I don't believe he has answered that yet; does he have that information now?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Employment Services.

**HON. L. EVANS:** Mr. Speaker, I had thought the honourable member would be in the Estimates process which has been going on for several days where we had discussed Careerstart and other programs at some length. However, I can advise him that the appeal process takes between one day and one week.

### COMMITTEE CHANGES

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

**HON. A. ANSTETT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before we proceed with Orders of the Day, I would like to advise the House that we would like to make a minor change in the committee scheduling for this week. We had scheduled Public Utilities for tomorrow morning at 10:00 a.m. and Thursday at 10:00 a.m. to accommodate the requirement for clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 2, Sir, sponsored by the Minister of Health, which is now at clause-by-clause stage in Law Amendments, suggest that we will move Public Utilities Committee, scheduled for tomorrow, to Thursday, only, and then next Tuesday or Thursday, if required, and hold the Law Amendment Committee meeting tomorrow at 10.00 a.m. So Public Utilities is delayed till Thursday, Law Amendments tomorrow at 10:00 a.m., Sir.

Sir, would you call Bill 4 for second reading?

### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**MR. SPEAKER:** Prior to calling the bill, I wonder if I might direct the attention of members to the gallery where we have 10 students of Grade 7 standing from the Aberdeen School under the direction of Mr. Billows. The school is in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Burrows.

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

### ORDERS OF THE DAY

#### SECOND READINGS

#### BILL NO. 4 - THE MUNICIPAL ACT

**HON. A. ANSTETT** presented, by leave, Bill No. 4, An Act to amend The Municipal Act, for second reading. (Recommended by Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor)

**MOTION presented.**

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

**HON. A. ANSTETT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This bill to amend The Municipal Act is essentially an administrative and technical bill with only a few clauses that address changes in principle and those are, in a very complex comprehensive statute, minor changes as well. I will be distributing, and the Clerk has for distribution, copies of detailed explanatory notes setting out the present section, the proposed change with the reason for the change. Those notes only run four pages, Sir, and will assist members in discussion at committee stage.

Sir, for example, the minor and technical changes reflect reorganizational changes within the department, the Municipal Budget and Finance Branch is now referred to as the Municipal Advisory and Financial Services. That change takes place throughout the act.

References to the Manitoba Water Supply Board, which disappeared many years ago, are now being brought up-to-date in accordance with the new name, the Manitoba Water Services Board.

I won't refer to those changes in every section in which they take place, but that updating has been done in places where it is appropriate.

Sir, last year, we made a change, of necessity, because of the complex and detailed nature of the bill, Sir, running many sections and a full volume in our Statute. To assist members, I would ask leave to make reference to specific sections to assist members at this stage.

We made reference, Sir, last year, to the provisions in the act which deal with unorganized territory, and we need to include . . .

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please. Does the honourable Minister have leave to make those specific references? Leave has been given.

**HON. A. ANSTETT:** Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for St. Norbert has reservations. I will try and do it without specific reference to the sections then. Sir, there is a section then in which the "letters patent" reference is being extended to include unorganized territory. No additional powers are contained in the amendment, it's purely a matter of clarification.

There is also an amendment to another section in the act, Sir, which provides that ward boundaries, which are to be changed, must be changed prior to the year of the election.

There is a somewhat more substantive change, Sir, in a section which deals with the powers of municipalities insuring their councillors and employees from liability.

The current act provides that a municipality can purchase comprehensive insurance, but it did not provide for exemption from personal liability for members of council; nor did the section specifically authorize the purchase of insurance coverage to contend with the payment of legal expenses, Sir. The additional clauses to the original section which deals with this matter will clarify those concerns which have been raised by both municipal associations, the Union and the Manitoba Association of Urban Municipalities.

As well, the question of the payment of legal expenses is clarified in a new provision to these sections of the act, so that municipalities will have authority to provide for liability insurance for members of council. Members of this Legislature, I'm sure, have been aware over the

last number of years, in the late '70s and throughout the '80s, that there have been increasing cases involving municipalities and litigation with ratepayers or outside agencies.

The act did not specify what the position of an individual, either an employee or a member of council, was when the matter went before the courts. This makes it very clear that their liability accrues to them because of their role as a municipal councillor or an employee and is not attached to them personally, Sir. This is in accordance, Sir, with requests we've had, as I mentioned earlier, from the associations and municipalities at large.

Another area in which municipalities have expressed concern, Sir, has been the whole area of procedural by-laws at the municipal level. One of the things which has occurred in many instances is that ratepayers and others attending at council meetings have been unclear on the procedures in effect. In the past, there have been sample procedural by-laws provided to councils, and councils have chosen whether or not they would enact a procedural by-law.

This minor change in this section will require municipal councils to pass procedural by-laws. The department will modernize, brush up, make more current the sample procedural by-law which we supply to municipalities on request and the change in the act does not specify that the procedural by-law sample supplied by the department must be the one that's enacted. But for the benefit of members of council and for the benefit, more particularly, of the public and their municipality, each council will be required to have a procedural by-law.

The act will provide that the time and place of holding of meetings and the calling of special or general meetings would have to be clearly set out in the by-laws.

Most municipalities have these kinds of items clearly set out in procedural by-laws now, although some have either neglected or refused to establish procedures which will be a matter of public knowledge. The act will now require them to do so.

The procedural guidelines which the department has established over the year, although they won't be made law as such, will now be offered as a way of addressing this concern, and council will then have an assurance that those people appearing before them and councillors themselves have a set policy and can rely on an orderly process in the conduct of council business.

It is my hope, Sir, that eventually we will have, within reason, a standard procedural by-law across the province that, with some modifications, meets both the needs of the citizenry of the province and the needs of local councils with some variations to accommodate local circumstance.

Another very minor technical amendment provides some flexibility for municipal councils in holding their inaugural meeting, once again a request from the municipalities. The old provision provided that all municipal councils in the whole of the province had to have their inaugural meeting on the same day, basically at the same time to provide for the induction of the new council. There is provision now for some flexibility in the establishment of that date. It is proposed that these meetings will be held not earlier than seven days or later than 14 days following the date of the election.

As well, the question of coping with the proposed meeting where a quorum will not be present, is clarified

and I expect that municipalities will welcome this increased flexibility in dealing with quorum problems.

Another section, Sir, is amended to clarify the question of establishing and utilizing reserve funds in an unincorporated village district. The provision, Sir, will clarify the right that many assumed was there all along for UVDs to establish reserve funds. The question of raising amounts required for reserve fund purposes is also clarified.

Another section, Sir, will be amended to make it clear that the municipal Conflict of Interest Act applies to unincorporated village districts. That application removes the requirement for certain references in contracts and penalties contained in the current act so that section can then be repealed. That wasn't picked up when the municipal council Conflict of Interest Act was brought in, and this now will extend that to UVDs and remove the limitations on UVD councillors which exist. One of the benefits, Sir, of the conflict of interest legislation was that it freed municipal councillors from those restrictions. This will now be extended to UVD councillors.

Another section, Sir, is being changed to provide some flexibility for the Department of Municipal Affairs and for municipalities with regard to parks boards, municipal committees or organizations where the municipality is represented. For example, Sir, at the present time the section requires a municipal auditor to examine the books of a municipal recreation board if the municipality is represented in the form of one of its councillors on that board. The proposed amendment will provide some flexibility so the Director of Municipal Advisory and Financial Services may accept an audit report which is not done by the person appointed as municipal auditor. This is a matter which has been raised by many municipal councils, and I'm sure the proposed change will be welcome.

I trust members opposite have also heard the complaint that the cost of a municipal auditor audit on a minor community organization to which the council may contribute some funds or on the board of which a municipal councillor may sit can be prohibitive and, on some occasions, represent an amount equal to the full budget of the organization. So, Sir, it's proposed to offer some flexibility here.

Another amendment, Sir, clarifies the authority of Manitoba Properties Incorporated to pay grants in lieu of taxes, because of the ownership by Manitoba Properties Incorporated of certain property in municipalities on which grants in lieu of taxes are presently being paid and have been paid in the past. As presently worded, there was some lack of clarity and certainty as to that authority, although members may wish to discuss the detail in committee. The proposed amendment will make it quite clear, Sir, that Manitoba Properties Incorporated has the same obligation as a wholly-owned Crown corporation, to pay grants in lieu of taxes to municipalities and my department will continue to be the vehicle for those payments as it has in the past.

I believe, Sir, that concludes the matters of any import in the amendments. It is not an extensive bill, Sir. I believe that all of the amendments which affect the municipalities directly and which have been discussed with them in principle over the last year and, in some cases over many years, will be welcomed by municipal

government and the municipal associations. I hope members, if they have specific questions for committee stage, will make use of the detailed guide to the amendments.

I commend this bill to the House, Mr. Speaker, for second reading.

Thank you.

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

**MR. G. MERCIER:** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister. I would ask him on what principle should the taxpayer be compelled to pay for the legal expenses of a councillor who is negligent? On what basis should the taxpayer pay his legal expenses or any part of his premium for insurance coverage, or is this being done simply to emulate the provincial model which the New Democratic Party started in the mid-'70s after a slander action against a Cabinet Minister and continuing to provide insurance coverage for a record number of negligent or libelous misstatements by Cabinet Ministers?

**HON. A. ANSTETT:** Mr. Speaker, I regret that the Honourable Member for St. Norbert frames his question that way. I regret it for two reasons and I intend to answer it very specifically. But if the context of the opposition commentary on this amendment is to suggest that the willingness of a member of the public, a ratepayer, or anyone else, to sue a person holding elective public office is therefore a reflection on the person who holds that office, I'm appalled.

The municipal leadership throughout this province has experienced, as have members holding public office at the provincial level, an increased number of suits reflecting on their role as elected public officials. And they have expressed concern, Sir, that that liability is personal and that they have no protection from their municipality.

Now, if a member of council were to be found negligent in the performance of his or her duties, Sir, I expect that the electorate would deal with that member of council. But, Sir, to assume that because a member of council, in the performance of his or her duties, and this is the role to which this liability would attach, is to be sued by a ratepayer or anyone else in this province or from some other province, is to be sued for how they voted on a subdivision application, is to be sued for any other thing, I would expect that in that public role we would deem it only fit and proper that they would be offered the protection of the municipal corporation which they're elected to serve.

If the member is suggesting, Sir, that municipal councillors should not receive that protection, I would certainly like to hear him put that on the record on second reading. Their experience over the last number of years is a public one and there has been a dramatic increase in the number of those types of suits filed.

Now, while I don't accept the assumption the honourable member makes in his question, that because members of this government or of the Schreyer Government experienced some suits, and he suggests, Sir, it's because in some way statements made are irresponsible or whatever, to then assume, even if that

assumption were correct, that the same applies to those municipal officials who are being sued, I think is an offence to the municipal leadership of this province, without my even commenting on the offence that members on this side take from that comment which suggests that any time we are sued - and I don't know if I'm fortunate or unfortunate in not being in the category of those who've had that experience . . .

**MR. C. MANNES:** You will.

**HON. A. ANSTETT:** The Member for Morris says I will; I'm glad that he expects that I'll be here a long time. That's certainly my plan, too.

I hope the member appreciates the principle that's being addressed here and in no way suggesting that municipal councillors are being irresponsible in the way they do their job in offering this protection to them. I trust, Sir, that he'll make clear in the debate on second reading that in asking that question he was not making that suggestion either.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Are you ready for the question?  
The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

**MR. H. ENNS:** Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Roblin-Russell, that debate be adjourned.

**MOTION presented and carried.**

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

**HON. A. ANSTETT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.  
Would you please call Bill 7 for Second Reading?

### **BILL NO. 7 - THE AGRICULTURAL CREDIT CORPORATION ACT**

**HON. B. URUSKI** presented, by leave, Bill No. 7, An Act to amend The Agricultural Credit Corporation Act, for second reading. (Recommended by Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor)

**MOTION presented.**

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

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In bringing forth this amendment, Mr. Speaker, it is our intention to broaden the definition of farmer, to allow for loan assistance to legitimate part-time farmers who wish to eventually make farming their sole or major occupation. Sir, part-time farming has become an important alternative for many young and beginning farmers to enter the industry because of growing equity and capital requirements of the industry. Off-farm income is a major way of building up equity to provide the minimum capital needs to get started in farming; and furthermore, Sir, the current credit policy of MACC does not enable MACC to provide credit assistance to those legitimate part-time farmers who would not be able to rapidly



accumulate sufficient equity to develop a viable farm unit.

During my winter meetings, Sir, on farm financing, approximately 350 farmers were surveyed as to their preference for loans to various types of part-time farmers, and they indicated a strong preference for a number of options that we should consider as being eligible for MACC financing. Basic target groups, according to their preference, would be previous full-time farmers who as a result of adverse economic circumstances have been forced to obtain full-time or part-time off-farm jobs in order to sustain their farm operations. That certainly is a category that was supported by farmers surveyed and it would allow those individuals to keep a farm base and of course would ease, as one would say, the re-entry process into full-time farming as their financial situation would improve. Of course, by not losing that farm family, the rural community and rural Manitoba would benefit by having those people stay on the farm.

The second category that was supported was those who wish to start farming but do not have an adequate farm base to be full-time farmers immediately, but wish to phase into full-time farming. Typically this group would have to phase into full-time farming, and in order to get into full-time farming, of course, the capital required is very high and one would need substantial equity to be able to get that capital. To purchase a one section grain farm, I think, in southern Manitoba would require a capital investment of anywhere between \$300,000 and \$400,000.00.

**MR. C. MANNES:** Less now.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Less now, the Honourable Member for Morris says. An individual would require at least \$150,000 to \$200,000 cash down payment to have any hope of long-term viability on the basis of grain prices as they are. And this again would ease the entry of young beginning farmers, with little or no family support, into agriculture.

The third area being considered and being supported by farmers, is those who want to gradually take over their parents' farm, the inner-generational transfer. This would assist, as I indicated, to allow farm families to transfer farms to their next of kin in an orderly fashion. So we want to indicate clearly that this amendment to the act is not intended to open the doors completely; it is intended to have MACC provide financing for those who wish to maintain a working career, and supplement their income from farming.

We don't want to have that occur. Our hope is that farming, the intent on farming, that farming will be a full-time occupation for those people entering it. We don't want to provide the opener for the professionals who wish to set up hobby farms as a supplementary source of income, that is what is not intended. So the definition and the expansion and the criteria will be developed through regulations.

And I want to indicate to the honourable members, of those who were surveyed, almost three-quarters of the respondents to the survey showed support for MACC providing financing for part-time farmers; 96 percent of those who responded agreed that financing should be provided to those who have been forced to

work off the farm; 78 percent of those who responded support financing for those who wish to phase into agriculture; and again, 98 percent of the respondents support MACC financing for those who gradually want to take over their parents farm, while maintaining a full-time job.

Mr. Speaker, it was also very clear that 81 percent of those respondents felt that MACC should not - and I stress that should not - provide financing for those who wish to use farming as a supplement to their off-farm incomes just as a way to use the income tax for write-offs and professionals.

So, Mr. Speaker, we recommend these changes to the members of the Assembly and we hope that they will approve these amendments so that we can have the corporation begin doing the necessary work in developing program changes as it applies to part-time farming.

Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Are you ready for the question?

The Honourable Member for Roblin-Russell.

**MR. W. MCKENZIE:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Swan River, that debate be adjourned.

**MOTION presented and carried.**

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

**HON. A. ANSTETT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If there is a predisposition to dispense with Private Members' Hour today, I would be prepared to move us into Supply on that understanding.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Is there leave to dispense with Private Members' Hour today?  
Leave has been granted.

**HON. A. ANSTETT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I beg to move, seconded by the Minister of Education, whose Estimates start today, 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.

Mr. Speaker, we will be continuing consideration of the Estimates of Employment Services and Economic Security in Room 255. If they are completed at some point today, it would be our intention to then commence consideration of the Estimates of Industry, Trade and Technology.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MOTION presented and carried** and the House resolved itself into a Committee to consider of the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty with the Honourable Member for River East in the Chair for Education; and the Honourable Member for Burrows in the Chair for Employment Services and Economic Security.

## CONCURRENT COMMITTEES OF SUPPLY SUPPLY - EMPLOYMENT SERVICES AND ECONOMIC SECURITY

**MR. CHAIRMAN, C. Santos:** Committee, please come to order. We are considering Item No. 3.(f)(4)(a) Northern Development Agreement - Canada - Salaries; (4)(b) Other Expenditures; (4)(c) Northern Youth Corps; and (4)(d) Less: Recoverable from Northern Affairs.  
The Member for Gladstone.

**MRS. C. OLESON:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think we discussed the Northern Youth Corps earlier, so we can by-pass that one. But the Northern Summer Youth Education Program, what is the funding for that program?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Mr. Minister.

**HON. L. EVANS:** Mr. Chairman, that program involves, as is noted, \$190,900 worth of expenditure in the '85-'86 year, involving just a little over 7 staff years.

The program provides summer education opportunities for children residing in remote or semi-isolated northern communities through access to a 12-day educational and recreational program. The first and last day of each session are designated as travel days to enable children to be transported from their community to Cranberry Portage. So, in effect, it's a matter of bringing in people from these remote communities for a 12-day education and recreational experience.

Also, there are 16 post-secondary students specializing in fields related to youth education who are employed - they are summer jobs for these younger people who are employed - as counsellors. The staffing of course includes counsellors; there's a nursing administrator, kitchen help and so on to run this little training centre.

**MRS. C. OLESON:** Is there any cost to the students attending?

**HON. L. EVANS:** No, there is no cost, Mr. Chairman.

**MRS. C. OLESON:** I note from the Annual Report that these are Grades 4 to 9. Can a student go more than once and does that program run all of July and August? - with different groups it would be 12 days.

**HON. L. EVANS:** Yes, they would normally only go once in the summertime, although they could go a subsequent year, perhaps.

**MRS. C. OLESON:** I think we can pass that item.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 3.(f)(4)(a)—pass; 3.(f)(4)(b)—pass; 3.(f)(4)(c)—pass; 3.(f)(4)(d)—pass.

3.(f)(5)(a) Stevenson Aviation and Technical Training Centre, Salaries; 3.(f)(5)(b) Other Expenditures - the Member for Gladstone.

**MRS. C. OLESON:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could the Minister give us an outline of this program? Is it a new program? What necessitated it and where is it located?

**HON. L. EVANS:** It is new. It was established in response to a need identified for a training facility in

the province to provide programs in aircraft maintenance. At the present time, the centre is delivering what's called in-school portion of the very first Aircraft Mechanics Apprenticeship Program to be found anywhere in Canada.

In addition to apprenticeship training, the centre offers a wide range of manufacturers' endorsement courses and other industry-specific training with respect to Transport Canada's licensing and regulatory requirements.

I guess to put it in another way, what we're doing is training people who will be working, in large measure, not necessarily total but in large measure, in remote northern communities. There we need people who have mechanical skills to fix up aircraft that may land, may need some repairs, in those remote communities. Generally, it's a program that has been endorsed by industry. I understand that we do upgrade and retrain industrial employees to make them qualified to work on specific kinds of engines and that sort of thing.

Some of the money is obtained by charging back to the Canada Employment and Immigration Department, like buying of spaces as in a community college. In addition, we obtain some revenue from the companies who send their employees there.

**MRS. C. OLESON:** So there are students from other provinces. What does it cost the student to attend?

**HON. L. EVANS:** Okay, maybe the important thing, without getting into the numbers, although we've got some numbers here, for anyone out of the province we recover the full costs of it, either from CEIC or the employer. So it's fully paid for from Saskatchewan, let's say, so there is no burden on the Manitoba employer.

In total, of a \$202,800 expenditure - this is the total, the bottom line - we'll be recovering \$191,000 in this program. So there is not much of a net cost to the taxpayers. It's very - 10 percent, less than 10 percent.

**MRS. C. OLESON:** Well, when I meant cost per student, I should have also asked then, do Manitoba students pay a tuition fee, say, to both, or is it funded through this department?

**HON. L. EVANS:** The individual doesn't pay. It's either CEIC or the company that employs the individual.

**MRS. C. OLESON:** Maybe we can pass that, too.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 3.(f)(5)(a)—pass; 3.(f)(5)(b)—pass.  
3.(g)(1) Human Resources Opportunity Program: Salaries; 3.(g)(2) Other Expenditures; 3.(g)(3) Financial Assistance - Clients; 3.(g)(4) Human Resource Opportunity Centres - the Member for Gladstone.

**MRS. C. OLESON:** Are there still seven of these in operation?

**HON. L. EVANS:** Yes, there has been no change in the number from last year.

**MRS. C. OLESON:** How many people were served by this? Or could the Minister give us a brief resume of how the Human Resource Program works and what sort of assistance they give to clients?

**HON. L. EVANS:** Okay, there are two aspects. The program, of course, encompasses the centres. The centres are only one part of the program. The program itself involves all kinds of vocational counselling, work assessment, general counselling to people who are unemployed, and with particular reference to welfare recipients. In fact, this program I think got started originally back in the '70s with an attempt by the Government of the Day to try to seek employment opportunities to people on social allowances, social assistance.

So it is of a general nature; there is a lot of liaison. In fact, one of the reasons for putting the welfare or the social assistance money in with the job programs and these kind of programs was to bring everything together. So there is a great deal of counselling that goes on.

For the year 1984, which is the last year that we have, there were 509 cases of vocational counselling; there was 204 cases of vocational training and so on; 181 were placed in Human Resource Centres. Now there could be others going into the Human Resource Centres other than referenced by this particular staff, I would understand. But I'm sorry; that is of January 1, 1984.

As of December 31, 1984, there were 204. This is broken down, and I think there is some information in our Annual Report; but in total as of December 31, 1984, there were over 1,000 cases of people assisted either in vocational training, work training, referenced to Human Resource Centres, employment follow-up counselling and so on; so there's that staff. But as I said, the centres themselves, there are seven around the province and what we have been doing is something in larger measure this past year, I believe, something we started a couple of years ago, and that is to reach out from the centre with our work experience program. Up until about two or three years ago, all the work pretty well of the Human Resource Opportunity Centres was done under a particular roof, sort of a sheltered workshop more or less, rather confined to the workshop. There were exceptions, of course. In Winnipeg there were work crews going around painting and so on but, by and large, most of it was of the shelter workshop variety.

What we've done now is added that component. We've continued the sheltered workshop component, but we've added now the work experience program as of a couple of years ago, and we're continuing with that. What it does, of course, is to help those centres reach out and assist people in Glenboro, Souris, Virden. It would reach out and replace people in other communities and, therefore, it has a broader impact on the province. So to that extent, it is good.

The work experience program, we are prepared to place people after they have had a certain amount of life skills training, etc., and counselling, in real work positions, perhaps with a municipal council, a hospital, some private small businessman or whatever and they get the work experience right on the job. At the same time our counselling people, more or less, keep an eye on the progress of the individual and so on.

The ultimate ideal, of course, is for these people to obtain full-time regular employment at the end. Some do, some don't. It depends. It depends on the circumstances. It depends on the individual. But I would

say we are the foremost in Canada in this kind of programming. On a proportionate basis, I don't think any other province is engaged in this kind of activity to the extent that the Province of Manitoba is.

I recall being at a conference a couple of years ago where many of the provinces said that they had been getting out of this kind of service. I thought that was unfortunate because I think it's something that we have to do more of, rather than less of.

In terms of the centres, in 1984 we served 1,490 participants and in 1985 we expect to serve about 1,500. Of those, 650 were in a community base work experience program and 350 were in special programs. I'm sorry, that's in addition. The placement into employment or to further training out of that 1,500 were 540, and 210 completed the program and were considered ready for jobs. Some of them did obtain employment within a few weeks, but others we don't know. The bottom line is we felt that 750 had positive completion from that program.

So what we have done over the years is to expand the throughput of clientele. We've kept the size of the staff down, and we have been able to handle more clients because we've gone out to the private sector. We've gone out to municipalities. We have gone out to organizations and said, look, here are some people who need some work. We're going to continue to pay them this allowance. Will you give them a chance? Will you give them a job?

In Winnipeg here, there have been all kinds of interesting cases where we've placed people even in government departments and so on, including Mother's Allowances. Some people have been on Mother's Allowances for years and their children have grown up, but they're having a hard time getting back into the work force. This program can help them. There are quite a few success stories where women, in particular, have been given a chance, whether they're working in an office or in a technical lab or whatever. Some of them have been employed thereafter, so it has had some pretty positive impact.

I'm not saying it's as good as we like it to be. It can always be better, but it's an effort that is worth pursuing in my view.

**MRS. C. OLESON:** The referrals to this program are mainly from your field staff then, field workers?

**HON. L. EVANS:** The referrals are from the field staff, Mr. Chairman. There are a variety of places, not only our employment counsellors, but we get it from the city welfare departments, rehabilitation services of different kinds. There are different agencies around. Our own social allowances staff in the department might refer, so there are a variety of sources of names.

**MRS. C. OLESON:** The people taking this program who are on social assistance - and you mentioned that in some cases a lot of women were helped by this - is there a system for them for day care and babysitting services while they're taking these programs?

**HON. L. EVANS:** In fact, it's typical if a woman or a man who is in the program and is only able to work if somebody looks after the children during the day in

a day care setting, they are eligible for day care services just like anybody else is.

**MRS. C. OLESON:** You said your department approached businesses and municipalities and others to place these people. There, no doubt, is a great deal of effort made to place them in their own community setting.

**HON. L. EVANS:** Seven centres pretty well covers - mostly, I guess, southern Manitoba with the exception of The Pas. In most cases, people are working in the areas that they come from. I guess there may be the odd exception. In some cases, people may have to move or they travel back and forth. In places like Amaranth, they may have to come into Portage or over to Dauphin.

**MRS. C. OLESON:** We could pass this section, I think.

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

Resolution 57: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$12,746,500 for Employment Services and Economic Security, Employment Services, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1986—pass.

Item No. 4. Manitoba Bureau of Statistics. (a) Salaries; 4.(b) Other Expenditures - the Member for Gladstone.

**MRS. C. OLESON:** Mr. Chairman, there is a decrease in allocation for this department both in the Salaries and Other Expenses. Could the Minister explain?

**HON. L. EVANS:** There are three fewer staff, from 13 down to 10. We've reprioritized, reallocated some of the work. Some of the work that was done by the bureau, we are asking some other departments to do and also through computerization we've got some economies as well.

**MRS. C. OLESON:** How many government departments rely on this department for their statistical information and what departments are they?

**HON. L. EVANS:** Virtually, the bureau interfaces with all departments, some a little bit more than others and also with the Crown corporations. For example, Manitoba Hydro, in doing its estimates of future load growth, future demand, growth for the hydro, they want to get some estimates of population growth in Manitoba and they rely on the Bureau of Statistics for the official population projection for the province.

Here's an idea of the departments that use them the most, the Department of Finance is one of the bigger users; our own department uses them for the labour force statistics; Industry, Trade and Technology uses them quite a bit; Business Development, and so on.

Then there is general information for the public. There are requests from the business community and others out there. There is a general liaison with the Federal government. We have a lot to do with Statistics Canada. Under the legislation setting up the Manitoba Bureau of Statistics, we have access to certain detailed tabulations of Statistics Canada for Manitoba that we

wouldn't have had otherwise. It enables us to get more details, particularly of rural Manitoba which we wouldn't get out of the Statistics Canada reports.

I might add that the bureau is going on into doing as much original work as possible and we're particularly trying to get into small area data where we're using postal codes to get subprovincial small area tabulations which were never available before. We can only do that with the co-operation of Statistics Canada.

They have been engaged in a sourcing directory recently to identify supply capabilities of Manitoba firms for Limestone and other Hydro projects so that we can maximize the work in the Province of Manitoba.

Another important bit of work is preparing economic counts of the Province of Manitoba, the gross provincial product and all that type of material, many provinces are now trying to produce their own, and I guess Manitoba is one of the last to come into this, so a lot of work is being done there. They undertake reviews and surveys for different departments from time to time and act in a service capacity.

**MRS. C. OLESON:** Do they do any service for the private companies and so forth that require statistics? You don't do any contract work of that type?

**HON. L. EVANS:** No, Mr. Chairman, the bureau does not sell its services to the private companies. It doesn't act as a consulting agency. We are not competing with the private consultants in that respect. However, there is one caveat. Sometimes there may be a project undertaken between a private sector and the government, say, looking at some sort of a tourist study or whatever, and we will of course provide any data that we can to help them, but generally we are not in the private consulting business.

**MRS. C. OLESON:** What about the Health Department? Do you prepare statistics for them?

**HON. L. EVANS:** The Health Department tabulates a lot of statistics from Manitoba Health Services Commission. Those are their administrative records that they keep on people in hospitals, etc. The most critical piece of information that they use from us is population projections for regions within Manitoba to help project senior citizens populations 10 years, 20 years down the line with regard to the need for nursing homes, for example.

**MRS. C. OLESON:** Has this department, the Bureau of Statistics, always been with, say, the Community Services? Has it ever been with any other department?

**HON. L. EVANS:** Yes, it used to be with Industry, Trade and Technology and before that with Economic Development. It's been with two or three other departments.

**MRS. C. OLESON:** Was it a matter of the workload that it was put into this one, or did this seem to be, to your government, the best place to fit it in?

**HON. L. EVANS:** It's always been related to an economic portfolio type of department. I can tell you,

I was the Minister that brought the legislation in and I have a particular interest in it.

**MRS. C. OLESON:** You felt that it should stay with you?

**HON. L. EVANS:** I will let you in on a state secret. For eight years I worked for Statistics Canada and I know a little bit about the organization and some of the problems.

**MRS. C. OLESON:** I think we can pass that.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Pass this one? 4.(a)—pass; 4.(b)—pass.

Resolution No. 58: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$372,700 for Employment Services and Economic Security, Manitoba Bureau of Statistics, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1986—pass.

Back to the Minister's Salary, Item No. 1.(a) - the Member for Kirkfield Park.

**MRS. G. HAMMOND:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, this was an item that the Minister is aware that I am dealing with and without using names, I wish to bring the concerns that I've had on behalf of this particular person.

I had written to the Minister. First of all, I spoke to him in the House regarding this matter; wrote to him, sending him all the information on the 29th of March; sent another letter on May 22nd and received a reply on June 5th, all the while getting calls from the particular person that this was concerned with.

As far as I am concerned, in this particular case, and I am sure there must be others, it sort of read like a bit of a horror story. I found when I went over this, just this one case - and this is someone, I might add, that is not in my constituency at all but someone that just didn't seem to be able to find anyone who would help out - I can see that although I have done this on her behalf, I am feeling badly that I haven't been able to help any more either.

The last concern that she had and the thing that I particularly wrote about was hydro overpayments. I understand the department wanting to pick up these payments, but when someone turns in all their receipts over one year, and the overpayments are not caught then, but they are caught the following year when you go back a year-and-a-half, I think that is an error on the part of the department and I think it's an error that the department should be picking up. I know on behalf of this person I had asked that the whole thing be picked up because I really feel that over the years she has had to battle tooth and nail.

I don't know where they get the strength, quite frankly, to have to do this. She has had appeals on food allowances - because she is a diabetic - turned down. The Minister has okayed it; then has to appeal for retroactivity, turned down again, and the Minister okayed that from what I can gather. She's just had a long line of fighting the department.

I would think that someone who is in her sixties, who has been on social allowance for a long time, health is not good, and certainly this sort of thing does not help it, I think there is something very drastically wrong

in the department because I don't feel that she is the only one, but what I feel what does happen, is that not too many of them have the energy to fight back. I am sure I wouldn't have. It would be enough to make you turn to drink. But I think in cases like this woman who has had difficulties, \$103 does not sound like a lot of money; to someone who is on social allowance, \$103 is a lot of money.

What happened to this particular person is - and I understand that the department felt they were being more than generous by cutting the payments in half, at least the amount she had to pay in half and she was made to pay back I think it was \$11.30 a month rather than I suppose \$22.60 to which it might have been - but they cut her hydro payments back from \$15 to \$9, so she had a total of \$17.30 a month taken off her monthly payment, and some of this, six months of that, was an oversight by the department.

I really do feel in this case, then possibly it should have come off whoever's salary it was that made the error. Since that's not possible, and I am being a bit facetious when I say that, it just makes me feel that why should this woman have to pay for an error made in the department? I know you want to balance your books, but I can't help but look at all the grants that I have seen through your department going to all sorts of different organizations, and I see the amount of money that's been spent on the International Year of the Youth, and while these things are all very nice, in times, and in hard times, I think some of this money could be cut back. If you explain to the youth of today that they're possibly getting money at the expense of women who are on social allowance, they might be a little bit more eager to do things on their own. I know they are.

Any time you talk to any of the young people today, I want to tell you they are more than responsive. They understand where it's at. They know the hard times they have going to university. The ones who can't go to university get jobs; they know times are tough. I don't think anybody ever tells them about people like this. While they're getting funds to have an innovative program, someone else is having a hardship.

I really find that this woman has just had a terrible, terrible time because of this department. Now, when I phoned her to tell her about the contents of the letter where the Minister indicated that: "I regret the difficulties that she has experienced and the dissatisfaction she has felt with the social allowance program. I do not feel it would be appropriate to comply with your request that the \$103.68 overpayment be refunded. To do so would result in the inequitable treatment of other social allowance recipients who must comply with all social allowances policy requirements." If that's the department policy, fine. But when she turned in invoices the year before and it wasn't caught then, she darned well shouldn't have had to pay it a year after. I think it's pretty disgraceful.

Not only that, when I phoned this woman about your reply, it turns out that they decreased her hydro bill such that now the department owes her \$27.00. There is something wrong with the system. Never should we be in a position of your collecting this money from her, and then they've deducted it. They've made the payments to her on the hydro so low that now she's in a position that she has to collect from the department. There has got to be a better way to do this.

This woman, over time, has gone to the Ombudsman; there's been money spent there. She's been to Legal Aid; there has been money spent there, far more than the amount of \$103.68 was ever going to come to. If it had been caught in the first place, you wouldn't have had the complaint because she wouldn't have complained about going back a year, but she certainly had a legitimate complaint going back further.

The time that she has had to take going down, seeing all these people on this issue - she's a real fighter, and I can't admire this woman more for having to battle the system. I know that all things are not perfect, but I tell you, when I have read the file on this particular woman, from Day One she's had to battle. If she's not battling food costs, she's battling something else. This is just one case that has come to my attention.

I had another case that came to my attention on something very similar, but this is the one that just seems to go back time and time again. It's almost you get the feeling when you read the correspondence, and I hope that you did read it, that the minute you battle the department then, boy, they're going to get you. You don't dare question. I can't help but get that feeling for all that the Deputy Minister wrote letters saying what they were doing and how they were going to review cases and how they reviewed her case, it seems a shame that the Deputy Minister had to step in so often in this case and that the Minister has had to step in. I feel that there's something very wrong in a department - I would have thought that someone like this person, when this hydro bill came up, that they would have been reviewing her case with extra, extra care because going back to I think it's probably the late '70s - I've just picked up the files from about '82 - she's been battling with the department. I understand when people are on long term, but at the very same time I would think when this person's file came up, someone would have red flagged it and said, look, stop, let's take a good look at this person. She's had to battle.

But the feeling that I have had reading all the correspondence that it's the reverse. What has happened is when they see her file, it's stick it to her. That's the feeling I get out of it, rightly or wrongly. I'm sure this is the feeling that she has, because she's down every other week. She is having to trot down to somebody, whether it's the Ombudsman, whether it's the department. This isn't right; this isn't the sort of thing that should happen to people. They are in dire enough straits.

This government is constantly talking about helping women. Well, I think this was a good case, and I think even if the Minister had not been able to come up with the whole \$103.68, he sure should have been able to come up with the six months before. That should have been at least some measure of relief for this woman.

In the correspondence from the Ombudsman, and I'm not referring to her medical file which they threw out, I understand that. I'm just going on just generally what has happened to this woman and how she is feeling about the system. They are saying in each case that the anti-poverty organization, when they wrote a letter on her behalf, that it seems that she has been harassed by the department, like anyone who looks at the file feels that. I feel that the Minister is very remiss in not coming to a better solution than he did on the hydro bill, because here again is someone - and they have

a hard time fighting. There is nobody really that fights on their behalf, because nobody even knows they're out there half the time. It's like there is a forgotten part of society out there on social assistance.

I understand that the Minister can't step in, in every case. But good heavens, the correspondence has been going on for about three or four years to the department and to the Minister. Everything's done under duress. I can't help but feel that this is one person and that it's happening to so many more, only we won't hear about those women because they haven't got the energy to come forward.

**HON. L. EVANS:** As I have indicated to the member before, she herself has agreed and, as described, this is a case that has been around for a long long time.

The Ombudsman, as I understand, did clear the department on the administrative side and we have taken the usual measure of having Mrs. Harder's case being looked after by the Deputy Director of our southwestern district office in Winnipeg, rather than a regular councillor.

I just say this - a couple of points - we have over 22,000 cases we are dealing with in the Province of Manitoba. That does not include any of the municipal welfare, that is handled by the cities, we reimburse them. But we are dealing with 22,000-plus cases and in any administration it is impossible to always be perfect, it is impossible to always be making the right judgment. We have a large staff, we have hundreds of people in the field dealing with social assistant recipients day in, day out. I guess the service is only as good as your staff out there. It's like Eaton's or The Bay or any big organization; your impression of Hudson's Bay is as good as the clerks that you deal with in that store, I suppose, and the kind of service you get.

Again, I am not familiar with all the ins and outs, but perhaps she may have had some unfortunate circumstance. But the problem is that you have all these agencies available; the Ombudsman was available, the Ombudsman looked into it, cleared the department. There is the Welfare Appeal Board which she and any recipient is entitled to go to. The Welfare Appeal Board are not civil servants, they don't work under the Deputy Minister. The Chair and the Welfare Appeal Board are directly responsible to the Minister and they are free, under the act, to make adjustments, and they do make adjustments. So, she had that recourse and she has gone through them as well.

I believe in this case my Deputy Minister also met with this individual regarding this hydro overpayment, as well as, with other concerns. I don't know what else I can tell you, except to say, it is very very difficult. I can't, as a Minister, wipe out a debt; I can't wipe out a debt for anybody. The only way we can wipe out a debt is to go to the Cabinet and have a special Order-in-Council passed. The problem that I see, and that I am advised by staff, is that from time to time these overpayments occur and to collect back we usually have a deduction from the regular future monthly payment of some amount, hopefully it's not too much, so that it is not too much of a burden. But, if we allow it in one case, then we have no justification for not allowing it in other cases.

So what the member is bringing up is a major policy issue. I think what the member is bringing up, because

she feels great compassion for this individual, and I can understand that, is that we should have a policy that if we make an error - if I didn't misunderstand her, if I heard her properly - if it is the department's fault in making an overpayment that the department should be responsible and, therefore, there should be no bill back or requirement to pay back an overpayment, if it was the department's responsibility. I think that was the suggestion.

What I find in this field of welfare and social assistance is that whenever you make an adjustment in a policy, and even something that sounds pretty innocuous or whatever, it always ends up with a lot of money.

The suggestion was made that we provide phones to everybody. Well, our best estimate of that, because 75 percent of our clients now have phones and they take it out of their regular allowance, that would cost us at least \$1.5 million. So a little adjustment for one individual, you multiply that by thousands of cases and you're always talking about an adjustment of hundreds of thousands, if not millions of dollars, and right now we're paying nearly \$150 million in social welfare to the people of Manitoba, or whatever the number is, it's shown in here. It varies, but it is a lot of money.

So, if the member would like, we can sit down further, or I could have her sit down and talk to my deputy and go over this further. I think the most important thing is not necessarily all the specifics of the individual case, but more the policy implications of the case. The one policy implication that I could see is that we should take the responsibility where we make an error.

We had what was called a Ryant Report, Ryant Commission, and some major suggestions were made with regard to changing procedures, but every one of them had a very big cost. We were talking about tens of millions of dollars everytime; it looked so good, it looked so right and so proper but we, as a government, have got to come up with that money, and that's our problem.

**MRS. G. HAMMOND:** I understand, Mr. Chairman, about the cost. On this particular overpayment, I think if it had been reviewed, or the department had reviewed the one year and had forgotten the other six months that they had overlooked. Because I think going back one year on somebody who is on social assistance is certainly long enough when they're reviewing it from year to year. If they can't find the overpayment after one year, then that's not the recipients fault. I think, as in anything else, and you'll find this in business, too, when it turns out to be their error, after a number of years, people sure go after them.

I feel what is happening, in cases like this, is in most cases people cannot fight back; they don't have the resources, usually they don't have the strength. We have someone here who does and she'll probably die fighting the department. Unfortunately, I hate to think that it might be because she's having to fight that she might go earlier than she had anticipated; but that is her feeling, too, that her health is getting worse from all this and not better, and I can well understand that.

What I do feel is that the department could possibly, if there are a lot of cases of overpayment and underpayment, that maybe they could review six months and then that doesn't hurt the same way when you are

looking at hydro bills and when you're looking at these bills. These people have to do it anyway and they're turning it in so it wouldn't be any problem for them possibly to look at it in hydro overpayments, or whatever payments there are like that where it does cost, because that \$17.30 a month for six months is a lot of bucks when you haven't got very much.

I really think that they might look at looking at it a little more frequently so that this sort of thing doesn't happen, because I'm sure it is happening all the time, and that they must be very careful when they do one year. I think after one year is finished and you have told the person everything is fine, I don't think you go back on them another six months. If they have to find some way of taking it out of expenses, or something else out of the department, I suggest that's what they do. I would think in very short order that these errors wouldn't reoccur, but I think that there should be something done.

I think what I'll do is I will take the opportunity to meet with the Deputy Minister on this and go a little bit further because she did give me some other information that I prefer not to put in public.

I do think that there is never a perfect system, possibly, but when you're dealing with people who are underprivileged, and in so many cases it is women who are struggling, and in lots of cases, they don't know their rights. That was the case of this person, too, it was just as she went along and she started to battle that she found out what rights she did have. I think they have to be extra, I'm trying to think of the word - careful, is probably not the right word that I'm grasping for - but I think when dealing with these cases, and I know there are many, but then that's the problem today that we have. We've got so many people who are out of work, so many people who can't get jobs, you can't but lay that at the department and the government. This is part of what happens when you're in government. You say you're creating jobs. We're looking, and you see more and more people going on welfare, more and more people having to be on unemployment insurance and we have a big problem. So there's a lot more that needs to be done.

But I think in cases like this the department has just got to bend over backwards when it comes to dealing with these people, and letting everyone know just what their rights are so that this doesn't happen again.

**HON. L. EVANS:** I appreciate the member's concern. I just want to make this comment, that in this area of administration I find that whoever is responsible is in a no-win situation, because there are many many people such as the honourable member who feel very compassionate towards a lot of our clients, and who feel we should be doing more and better, etc. Then there are a great many people of our fellow Manitobans out there who think we're too soft on welfare recipients, that we should be a lot tougher and there are just too many people abusing the system.

I might advise, the overpayments don't normally come from utility bills. My understanding is it's from other things where people may have other living arrangements that are not reported and other income that's received that is not reported regrettably, then when it's found out subsequently, then an overpayment has been

discovered and adjustments are made. That's the more commonly known case and I don't want to pass any judgment on them. I'm just saying those are the facts.

But I just want to say this, that in some cases we pay the utility payments directly so there is not even a cash payment. It goes to the recipient. We would pay it directly.

I want to also make this general observation. I think what we have in Manitoba is, with all of its administrative difficulties, we have a fairly generous system. What's been going on around Canada in the last two to three years has been a cutback and a reduction in assistance to the poorest people in the land.

If you are under 30 and single in some of the Maritime provinces and, I believe, Quebec, you could get \$150 a month, take it or leave it. That's for everything. You're supposed to live on \$150 a month, food, clothing, shelter and everything and, of course, they can't.

I was in New Brunswick, and the New Brunswick Minister said, yes, we only pay \$150.00. I said, well how do those young people manage? He says, well they shack up. They get together, four, five, six in a room, and then there are all kinds of social problems that emanate from that.

The Province of Manitoba, the Government of Manitoba has not cut back. We have not discriminated against young people. Whether you're 18 or 80, you're entitled to the same rates that have been established to help people who are in need. To that extent, I think we're like a shining beacon in the way we've treated the people on welfare.

The other point is, that in some provinces, they have really attacked the rights of women. In the Province of British Columbia, because there was discrimination I think between fathers' allowances and mothers' allowances, Mr. Bennett and his government eliminated mothers' allowances. There are no such things as mothers' allowances in the Province of British Columbia anymore. They removed them a couple of years ago.

In B.C., a mother - it doesn't matter how many children - she has to be prepared to go out and seek and find work and prove that she's getting work before she can get any help. In the Province of Manitoba, you automatically get social assistance if you have dependent children and you have no other source of income. It's almost like a right, and it has been like that for 25, 30 years, ever since the system started.

I'm just using those as two examples where, in my judgment, in my view, some of our Canadian sister provinces have gone backwards. They have cut back, and they've made it much more difficult in the name of saving money for the poorest people in the land.

Our government on January 1, 1982, increased social allowances rates by 16.5 percent, way and above inflation. The honourable member perhaps knows what I'm going to say and what I'm talking about because, regrettably, under the administration of Mr. Lyon, the rate of increase of social allowances was below the rate of inflation. Inflation was, let's say, running 9 percent, 10 percent, 11 percent, and the social allowance recipients were getting an increase of two or three percentage points. That hurts. That really hurts when inflation is raging and you're getting only a quarter or a third of what the rate of inflation should dictate.

In January 1, 1982, we increased by 16.5 percent to try to catch up, and we did bring our social recipient

rates up very substantially. Since that time, we have kept pace with inflation as we've been able to calculate it. I'm just making that as a general case. I say, by and large, the Province of Manitoba has been generous, is generous. No system is perfect. You'll always find some problems. I would like to and I do appreciate the member's concern, because it is a genuine, legitimate concern and I have made some notes based on her concerns. If we can maybe make some improvements to the administration, I would be the first one to try to do that, and we'll see what we can do.

But I do repeat, anytime you make a so-called improvement, it usually costs the taxpayers more money. The taxpayers of Manitoba have been damn generous to social recipients in this province to the tune of \$140 million to \$150 million a year.

**MRS. C. OLESON:** I don't want to either increase, decrease. What I would like to point out is, I think some of the fault is in the present system. I don't care about Saskatchewan or some of the other places particularly, and it's Manitoba that I'm concerned about, and so often it's the women in Manitoba who we have to be concerned with.

So where we find places that they've got to fight, these are the things that we're going to fight for here in Manitoba. These are the concerns that I have as an opposition member and would have as hopefully a government member, that we would look at these things and try and make changes that are sensible and that do not add to the cost, because as you say Manitobans have always been generous in every way.

But there are lots of cases right in this department where I have seen lots of money going out the door that I think, especially in some cases, where if it was explained what's happening to another segment of society that people are willing to say, well, look, I don't really need that. But no one seems to be explaining. All they seem to be doing in society today is pointing out, look, they've increased the tax on chocolate bars. I find great fault with things like that where they don't say to somebody, we're doing that to maybe help someone else. I think that governments in all areas could do better in explaining the reasons that we might have to help other people.

**HON. L. EVANS:** Another point I would like to make is that, particularly with young people but of all ages, we are designating special allocations under our Manitoba Jobs Fund programs, like the Manitoba Jobs and Training Program. We make a special effort in the department to identify people who could get out and work and they do want to work. Most people do want to work. So we're bending over backwards to say, okay, here's somebody who is on welfare. Here's our jobs program. Let's do what we can to get the private employers, because it's the private employers that are hiring them. We're not hiring them, but we're making the wage subsidy available to the private employer and we're saying to the private employer, here are some people that are available.

So as I said, that was the rationale of putting all the welfare money in with the job programs and so on and, hopefully, somehow or other provide opportunities for a lot of people who are disadvantaged.



So I'm proud of the fact that we have allocated 25 percent of our monies under of the Manitoba Jobs and Training Program for Special Needs, including social allowance recipients and including women and there are some disabled categories and so on, but we recognize it and I agree with the member 100 percent. We have to do as much as we can to give these people an opportunity, and I'm sure we both agree that the vast majority of people who are healthy and capable of working do indeed want to work. They would much rather work any day.

**MRS. C. OLESON:** Mr. Chairman, there were just a few things I wanted to mention. One of them was an Order-in-Council that I received after we had discussed the Youth Year programs and that Order-in-Council was authorizing \$650,000 to the International Year of the Youth. Now was that to pay for the projects that we have discussed earlier, or was that in addition to the \$530,000 for projects that we discussed earlier?

**HON. L. EVANS:** I don't have that to read but, if I understand the member, I believe she is referring to the authority we had to spend up to \$650,000 in the way of grants to youth organizations. Originally, it was \$500,000 but, because we had so many requests, we increased it by \$150,000 to give us a grant authority of up to \$650,000, but all of those monies go to the young people, that's all grant money.

**MRS. C. OLESON:** And in a further Order-in-Council of May 29th, it authorized the Minister to hire an executive assistant at \$29,050 per year. Was that in addition to the staff that we were discussing under the Administration before?

**HON. L. EVANS:** No.

**MRS. C. OLESON:** That was within that parameter. Now another matter. Some time in January, when the Minister was speaking to a group, he was suggesting that business people should pay a tax, that businesses should pay a tax to help with job training. I am just wondering if the Minister had pursued that, and is he thinking of implementing it, because I think the employers in this province would not take too kindly to that sort of a suggestion since they already train a fair lot of staff and since they pay the taxes that go into these job training programs that government does. So I am just wondering if the Minister is considering making that a part of a new budget that he might bring out.

**HON. L. EVANS:** Mr. Chairman, no, we are not thinking about bringing that in as part of a budget or a new tax or anything like that, it was a suggestion we made to the Federal Government, to our sister provinces. If you did anything, such as, create a special training tax or a training levy, that would have to be done nationally; I would never suggest that we do that alone. A lot of monies are now being paid out for training in industry, but we felt that there would be more equity. What's happening is a lot of the big companies will take advantage of the training monies and the little companies may not; we thought it would be more

equitable, we thought there would be more attention paid to training in industry if you had this fund. There were some other arguments, so we threw it out as an idea. We did discuss it at one federal-provincial conference but that's about as far as it's gone.

**MRS. C. OLESON:** Well, in just summing up this department, I didn't notice in the discussions of social assistance any policy changes, anything new really to be built into the system, particularly in one area that makes me wonder, and that is the incentive, or in this case is non-incentive. Now for people on social assistance to take part-time work, at the present time, any monies that they acquire through work or, I guess, in many other cases through compensation or gifts and so forth, it is immediately deducted, of course, from their social assistance. It seems to me that some method could be found that would encourage people to find jobs and to help themselves. I am sure, when the Member for Kirkfield Park was discussing the problem that she was bringing to the Minister, people are willing to work, but in the case of people on social assistance, when every dollar is taken off that assistance, it doesn't give them much incentive to try and do at least part-time work and, in doing the part-time work, getting themselves some experience and something to write out a resume, something to tell a future employer as having some experience. So I am hoping that the Minister's department is working on that area, it does concern me.

I know, as he said before, any changes you make usually end up in costing multi-dollars but I think that's one area that we could look at. It's been mentioned to me many times, in discussing this both with recipients and others, that there should be something to encourage people to take jobs when they sometimes get the opportunity, even on a very very limited basis, but some percentage or something worked out that would allow them to keep some of that because, of course, there are expenses that come up especially with families that wouldn't be covered under social assistance. As we all know, any of us that have raised children, they want things and feel they need things that I am sure the social assistance doesn't allow them.

I was concerned when I read the list of the Youth Year projects that had been approved. There are some interesting and, I am sure, some worthwhile projects there, but when you weigh that against some of the needs of some of the people in the province, as the Member for Kirkfield Park was saying, you have to look at it and wonder if some of the youths really do need these. Even though they are a one-time thing it seems like a lot of money to spend over .5 million, when there are so many people that could so badly use these funds.

When I first read the Youth Year suggestions and looked at them, oh, there were all kinds of suggestions that looked like a lot of fun, but then to read the actual list of things that were done and the multi-dollars spent, it makes one wonder when you get calls from people who have severe financial problems, that are on social assistance, or are losing their businesses or their farms because of no fault of their own, and then we see this kind of money spent. It does make you wonder because we are not the affluent society that, perhaps, we once were and I think that has to be taken into consideration.

I don't think I have anything in particular now to mention. I think we have covered pretty well everything fairly thoroughly and there is always question period if there is something we have missed.

**HON. L. EVANS:** I appreciate the member's comments. I just want to make one small point, and that's with allowing recipients to keep their wages.

We have to be guided by the federal guidelines because we cost-share with Ottawa. We have some grandfather rights that enable us to allow the recipients to keep more than the nationally permitted amount, I've forgotten the percentage. Recipients can keep a certain amount now; we can't go any higher because the Federal Government won't let us go any higher without losing cost-sharing.

We brought it up at the last federal-provincial conference suggesting that that limit be raised, but I don't know whether anything will come of that. I agree with the member, though, on that point. But we do pay more than the national average, or we do allow more than the national guidelines simply because of some sort of grandfather rights that we have from years ago apparently. But those are some good points.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 1.(a)—pass.

Resolution 55: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$2,266,800 for Employment Services and Economic Security, Administration and Finance, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1986—pass.

We shall take a small recess while we are waiting for the next department to be considered.

**MR. A. DRIEDGER:** Mr. Chairman, the committee requests that we recess until 8 o'clock, by leave.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** By leave, the committee members shall return at 8 p.m. this evening. (Agreed)

## SUPPLY - EDUCATION

**MR. CHAIRMAN, P. EYLER:** We are considering the Estimates of the Department of Education. Does the Minister have an opening statement?

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is my pleasure to introduce the Estimates for the Department of Education. In doing so, we will be distributing \$573.6 million to school divisions, an increase of \$11.8 million, or an increase of approximately 2 percent, Mr. Chairman.

For the third year in a row, there will be no increase in the provincial levy on property tax for education.

Mr. Chairman, with the new government support program introduced for passage this Session, I believe we have successfully been able to do the following: we've been able to correct the major deficiencies in the old program and we know that they were, using 1980 as the base year, was causing a lot of problems for a number of school divisions. Having a funding formula that was based on heavy increases in enrolment, based on large numbers of students, caused a lot of disparity for our smaller schools and school divisions, so we have moved away from funding just

based on large numbers, in order to deal with those inequities. One of the examples there, of course, is our well-proven by now and very successful Small Schools Program which recognized the special needs of small schools, regardless of the numbers of children they are educating.

One of the other major deficiencies was the fact that there was no equalization program in the old support program, and we have introduced an equalization program that we have improved each year so that, in this coming year, we will be distributing \$56.8 million which will reduce the range in special levy mill rate on property between the wealthiest and the poorest school divisions. I might add, Mr. Chairman, that had we not introduced the equalization program, I believe that about half of the divisions in the province would be in serious financial difficulty.

We have also brought in a weighted per pupil block grant which helps us deal with the issue of declining enrolment.

One of the other factors that we looked at, Mr. Chairman, was socio-economic factors and the effect of poverty on educating children. I admit that it is unique for an education system and a Department of Education to admit, I think they all recognize, but not too many of them like to admit that this has a major effect on a child's ability to learn and, I believe, that we are one of the first provinces in Canada to introduce a program that we call a compensatory program that had \$2 million in it last year, and this year will provide an addition \$1 million throughout the Province of Manitoba, specifically to address the large and increasing number of high-risk disadvantaged children.

Throughout the province, Mr. Chairman, this is no longer an inner city issue, although it used to be perceived as an inner city issue, school divisions, rural, northern, right across the province, are reporting to us that they are also having increasing numbers of high risk children.

Apart from correcting the major deficiencies and dealing with a major impact on education of children, the socio-economic factors, we've moved in a number of areas of priority and we've moved on computer education where we've expanded our support and our resources on curriculum development, training for teachers, development of software and acquisition of hardware.

We are continuing on the, quite successful I think, early identification program, and we are increasing our support for special needs children, particularly in the area of severely multihandicapped children, children in institutional care. We are moving in a significant way on programs for the blind and some increases in support in programs for the deaf. These are the areas that we moved in that were, and continued to be, top priority areas for the coming year.

With the help of school divisions, Mr. Chairman, we were able to maintain board expenditures as we predicted. We were able to maintain programs, maintain staffing and improve, in a number of areas where there was the greatest need, and I think that is something that all of Manitobans can take credit for, because that is not happening in other jurisdictions across the land and it has only been achieved here, I think, through the co-operation of trustees, superintendents and teachers in the Department of Education working

together: one, to get the best amount of resources that we can; two, to distribute them in the fairest way; and three, to still continue to deal with the high priority needs. All of us, I think, have been prepared to put maintenance of programs as the top priority, and maintenance of existing jobs as the second.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that, as we go through our estimates, we will be demonstrating that we have moved in almost all areas, even though this is a difficult resource year and there are limited resources; that we will have, either by better management or by reallocation of resources, been able to maintain programs and address the high priority needs.

School divisions, Mr. Chairman, were also very pleased at the savings of thousands of dollars, in fact, I think our estimate suggests that school divisions across the province will probably be saving about \$2 million because of earlier payout to school divisions by the Department of Education, thus reducing their need to borrow as much money. This is something we all want to get away from, we simply don't have the luxury these days of spending any more money than we have to on interest rates. So I think that was an important move that we made where we put money in the budget to pay the money to school divisions more quickly so they would have it for their programs; but secondly, so they would not have to borrow as much money.

In the curriculum field, we are continuing to shift from development and implementation and we're moving our resources, both financial and personal. Resources had been redistributed on about a 60-40 basis - 60 percent for implementation and about 40 percent for curriculum development.

We're moving a lot in the area of co-operation with the school divisions and curriculum implementation, instead of designing an implementation program that comes from the Department of Education and is laid on the province as a whole. We are going to each individual school division, finding out what they're implementing, at what stage they are at, and what help they need, and we're designing joint programs, co-operative programs, between school divisions and the Department of Education where we are working together with them on their implementation program.

Our assessment program this year is going to cover two very important areas, the first one will be the kindergarten program, and this one has not been formally assessed since it was brought into place. I think it is very important we know how important our early years are, and it is very important that we now take a good look at our kindergarten program and have an evaluation to see how successful it is and whether or not there are any improvements that we can make.

We'll also be doing a review of the English program; and the other two that are designated, after the Kindergarten and the English will be, I believe, Science and Math.

We have moved to provide support for Heritage Language programs, Mr. Chairman, through grants, through the development of curriculum, and through resource materials. I must say that I am very proud of a centre that was opened about a couple of months ago that we call the Multi-Cultural Resource Centre in the Department of Education. It is a part of the library,

but it is a very special part and a unique part. It is a resource centre for multicultural resources for additional support for curriculum for teachers in the classroom. This is a case where you, with co-operation and sharing, can get very good resources and materials without developing them all yourselves and spending a lot of money. This centre has some resources going in from us and some staff, but largely we're gathering material from the cultural and ethnic group themselves who are sharing it and volunteering to let us use it with other groups and organizations that have already prepared material.

So it's a case of, by finding out what's there and by sharing and co-operating, we're getting an excellent centre. I think we already have calls on this, and a number of other areas, from across the country where they're finding out that we're moving in a very progressive way in a number of areas like this, and the Resource Centre is one of them.

I announced a short time ago the Accelerated School Construction Program, and this obviously is going to be a major thrust of the Department of Education this year. We have more than doubled the money that we're putting into school construction. We had 15 million in last year, and we're putting in 37 million this year. Its priorities are going to be related to the new criteria for building schools, and we're focusing largely on renovation and upgrading of older schools.

As we know, Mr. Chairman, the large amount of money in the last decade or so has gone to the building of new schools, something like \$300 million over a period of 17 years into construction of new schools, and about \$15 million into renovating and upgrading older schools. So from that figure alone it's clear that we have a lot of catching up to do in the renovation area.

We are moving in two other areas that are important. One is we're encouraging community use. We are encouraging school divisions to incorporate into their plans some community-use space, and that would be determined by the unique needs of the various communities, whether it be day care; in some cases, it might be community kitchens or that kind of thing. That can be determined by the communities, but we're encouraging that.

We're not just encouraging, but we're requiring energy conservation measures. We have a lot of information now that shows us that, by building in, whether you're renovating an addition or building a new school, by building certain elements into the design that we can save a lot of the heating costs down the road. Since the amount of money for operating the 714 schools across the province runs into literally millions and millions of dollars, this is clearly an area that we have to move. So we'll be providing school divisions with criteria that they will be building into their plans, and also holding some workshops and giving them some help and information on what we should have in the area of energy conservation.

The interesting thing about that, Mr. Chairman, is that it isn't the really expensive gadgets or pieces of equipment that saves the money, although there are some of those around. The ones that are really cost-saving ventures are the smaller things that can be built in quite easily without a large amount of money.

The Bureau de l'Education Française is continuing to develop its curriculum materials for the three

programs, and is working with the Federal Government on a number of projects and proposals that we have before them. I do want to say here that the Bureau is recognized across Canada for the high quality of curriculum materials that it has developed. We have a lot of provinces looking to us and looking at our curriculum in this area.

We intend to continue in the area of Child Abuse Prevention Program which we started last year but it's a very important program. We are working this year with the parents. We have a program going with the Home and School Federation where we are going to send out kids and put on workshops for the parents. This will be a joint program between the Department of Education and the Home and School. So this is an expansion of a program that's very important, but that recognizes that both the parents and the school and the teachers have to work hand in hand when we're dealing with such sensitive issues as child abuse.

We've continued with our public involvement activities, and there are a number of them. The library being open to the public is becoming more and more successful and a larger number of the public are recognizing there's a tremendous resource there and are beginning to use it. Our Layman's Guide to The Public Schools Act, by all records - I'm not sure what the number is to get a Canadian best seller, but we've way surpassed that. I think we have distributed last year about 40,000 copies, and we're expecting to distribute about another 15,000 copies this year.

**MR. C. MANNES:** I asked you for a copy and I never did get one to read.

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Oh, my goodness, I'll run right down and get it. Imagine distributing 55,000 copies to the public, and the Member for Morris was not able to get one.

**MR. C. MANNES:** I asked about a year ago.

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Did you? I'll give you a dozen.

**MR. C. MANNES:** No, I only want one.

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Anyway, it's clear that parents want things like laws affecting their child's education put in simple, English language that they can understand, and we will be updating that.

Frontier School Division, we announced that we would allow the move toward local control where communities were ready for it and wanted it. I have set up a resource team that is presently available to go into those communities that wish to move prior to the next election.

We had our first education series this year. Its purpose was, of course, to do a better job of informing the public about major educational programs, and I'll have more information on that at a later date.

We will be dealing this year, and focusing on inner city education and inner city schools. I will be discussing that at further length, the action that we hope to take there. I think we all know that's an area and the school division that has the largest concentration of high-risk children, and it has to be recognized in terms of the resources and support that is given to them.

The Department of Education previously really only serviced outside of the boundaries of the city limits, so they serviced the rural area and the northern and remote areas. I understand why that happened probably initially, and I think it was largely because the needs were great out there and the rural and remote divisions did not have the numbers of professional people perhaps that larger urban divisions were able to have. So they needed more help perhaps and more support.

However, I think it's clear now that really the Department of Education should be servicing the entire province, and when the needs of the inner city are as unique and high as they are in our, and in every inner city dealing with large numbers of high-risk children, we have to move our resources and support to meet those needs.

I expect to make some improvements and changes in our Canadian Studies Programs at all levels, both the public school system and in our colleges. We'll be talking more about those, I think, at a later date.

I think, in summary, Mr. Chairman, we can be proud of our achievements. I think we can be proud of the level of funding, and you have to look at the level of funding we've given the schools and the education system over the three-year period, not just this last year. You have to look at how we have allocated and managed the funds we've had, and I think we've done a better job of using the money that we have had, and eliminating unnecessary activities or programs.

We're doing quite a good job, I think, of training and retraining of staff. We've done this in both the Department of Education and in the colleges. Since this is a trust of the future that other employers are going to have to undertake, it's important that the Department of Education be one of the frontrunners, I think, in terms of recognizing the need for and providing training and retraining opportunities for staff.

We have improved our programs in a number of areas. We have taken initiatives in the top priorities, and I think we've done it during limited resources and without some of the very serious negative things that are going on in other provinces. We haven't cut back seriously in our education programs; we haven't interfered or controlled board expenditures; we haven't taken over negotiations between divisions and their staff; and we haven't had major layoffs in staff. So our resources have been limited, as have they been in other provinces across the country, and yet we have managed to maintain both our education system and our staffing. I want to go on record as saying thank you to everybody who was so co-operative and participated. It was a tough job. I think we've done it well.

I think the details, I think probably the major general points that I would like to make in opening up my Estimates, it is a difficult year for us all and I think that we have managed well.

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

**MR. C. MANNES:** Mr. Chairman, it's a pleasure once again to enter into the debate and the discussion associated with the Minister and the Department of Education Estimates.

Mr. Chairman, when I was reflecting on how I would prepare an opening statement for today's Estimates,

I thought that it probably would not be wise to move into too many specific areas, we would save that for the Estimates proper. However, I thought it would be a proper time to talk about assessment. The Minister indicated within the area of curriculum, she was going to talk about assessment programs and she listed the priority, the programs that would be reviewed. I suppose I want to be even more general than that, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to assess the performance of the Minister over three and a-half years, realizing this could possibly be the final Estimates within the 32nd Legislature.

Mr. Chairman, when I listened to the Minister and I've listened to her carefully for some two or three years, today she strikes me as one who is tired; certainly, tired of being in a high profile political position of the Minister of the Department of Education. If one goes through the many many press releases - and I'll move into more detail on that later - but if one goes through them quickly, does a casual review of them, they realize that the Minister really is tired. I think some of the performance lately over the last year-and-a-half shows that.

Mr. Chairman, the educational area within this province indeed within any jurisdiction is massive in size; it is massive in program; it touches us all; some understand more of it than others. Obviously people who consider themselves professional in the field, feel they have a much broader understanding of the whole system than those who do not.

The terminology and the jargon that have come into this whole area, of course, are not well understood by the community at large, and I dare say in many cases, it has caused separation between parents, the community at large from school and from school matters in many respects.

Funding in itself, Mr. Chairman, is an issue that is not well understood. I was hoping as a result of Dr. Nicholls' review and by the Minister's policy change within an area of funding that there might be some attempt to make more understandable to those involved in administrating and setting policy within the areas of education at school division levels, there might be some attempt to make that whole process of funding a little bit easier to understand. I don't detect that as having happened.

Also, Mr. Chairman, the curriculum today is becoming a major concern. Regardless of how educated one is, everybody feels that they have a right to comment within the area of curriculum. Today I believe the public school system is coming under greater attack because of the fact that professional educators are perceived to be taking control of the whole area of curriculum and program development.

Mr. Chairman, the Minister when she came into this office, I think in the minds of many, had the perfect makeup and the perfect history to administer well this department. We all know that she was a former trustee, the former head of the Manitoba Association of School Trustees. We also know that she had a close working relationship with teachers in general and, of course, the Manitoba Teachers' Society specifically. I think she was given credit for having a sound grasp of educational issues and I don't think it would be wrong for me to say that she was considered a friend to all in education, including parents. However, Mr. Chairman, I submit that she has failed and she's failed in large order.

Well, what has the Minister done that causes me to say that, Mr. Chairman? I'd like to review the record. Firstly, leading up to the '81 election to a minor degree, but also review the record of the Minister since the Pawley government came into power in November 1981. Mr. Chairman, if you remember the NDP election material, and I'll only make one reference to it this time, it said in the whole area of education and maybe the Member for Roblin-Russell can help me. — (Interjection) — It's all right, it's not that long.

If the Minister can remember and she probably was not part of writing that material - maybe she was - that election document said that the property tax burden would be lessened. Of course, Mr. Chairman, those people in our province who heard that and those who realize that two-thirds of the property tax burden is associated with Education - if it isn't two-thirds, it's not far from that - felt that within the area of Education, there would be some change of taxation, such as there'd be a lessening of the property-tax load.

Well, Mr. Chairman, I'll even go back a little further than that. I'll go back to a document where the Minister herself made numerous statements with respect to Education. It's a 1979 speech given by herself and I'll refer to it a number of times, but I can tell you it is a well-developed and I dare say a well-presented speech no doubt.

But, Mr. Chairman, I won't go into detail at this time, although I could review what was said in the Estimates in 1981 by colleagues of the member, present and former; by the former Member for St. Johns, I believe Mr. Cherniack; by the present Minister of Finance and by the past member, I think maybe it was Seven Oaks, Mr. Miller, in discussing the Education Support Program of the day, and looking at the pitfalls from their point of view as to the change in the funding of education within this province. Mr. Chairman, the essence of what was said in the '81 Estimates was this: firstly, the Government of the Day was taking control of the spending of education and they were putting school divisions now into a strait-jacket so that they couldn't increase their funding at will. That was the criticism used by the members opposite.

But the greatest criticism was left for the Government of the Day, the Lyon Government, because this increase of \$70 million spending in 1981 was financed by borrowing, 70 percent of it was financed by borrowing according to the NDP members in opposition of that day, and therefore it was worthy of severe criticism.

I only mention that because today, over the last half year, and in spite of what the Minister said in her opening remarks, we have now a new funding program in this province which, Mr. Chairman, was built on that same program brought in by the previous government. Oh, there have been some minor changes here and there in my view, and we'll move into them in more detail as we go through that department. But, Mr. Chairman, let everybody realize that in fact what we have in place today is the funding mechanism to school divisions was something that was brought in by the previous government but hotly criticized by members and their colleagues in a previous time.

Well, Mr. Chairman, what has happened to the Member for Logan since she has become the Minister of Education? I went to this book, Mr. Chairman, there are 180 press releases, approximately, that have been

released under this Minister, 180 in three-and-a-half years. I tried to in some way categorize them and, quite frankly, I couldn't. Yet, in reviewing them, a number of points jumped right out, and those were the areas that were not covered, not addressed in 180 press releases.

"Like what?" you ask. Well, I just referred to one of them, Mr. Chairman, dealing with the system of formula funding in support of our public school system. In spite of all the criticisms in the past, Mr. Chairman, what we have in place today - and the Minister today is bringing forward legislation, some of it housekeeping - that allows us to change the name, the terminology from the Education Support Program to the government in support of education program. The Minister refers to changes in equalization, and we'll move into that in a little bit more detail, but the foundations of that program have not changed, Mr. Chairman.

So when the Minister talks about the criticisms that were in place and, yes, there were some criticisms because 1980 was used as the base - I am talking about the previous formula - some school divisions were impacted seriously because in fact they had practised some thrift in spending the year previous. Let the Minister be honest with the people of Manitoba today and say that some school divisions were impacted negatively with her new formula, or will be in years to come, and that she has seen fit in at least two cases I know of, through a process of ad hoc change, the contributions to a couple of school divisions. So, Mr. Chairman, let not the Minister stand and say now that her system is so radically different than the one that was previously in place and has corrected all the supposed problems because I dare say it is very close to the one that was introduced by the Lyon administration.

Mr. Chairman, just a final comment in this whole area. The Minister pays lip service to 90 percent funding. My colleague, the Member for St. Norbert, asked the Minister when we would achieve the goal of 90 percent funding in support of education. Of course, the Minister had to give a truthful answer and she says, well, it depends on resources. It had to be dependent on resources. Well, Mr. Chairman, we understand that and that's of course why we asked the question. So I ask what is different today in the area of funding of education? Very very little, virtually nothing.

What else did the 180 press releases not address? Mr. Chairman, I heard no reference whatsoever being made to relieving the property taxpayers. I know the Minister takes some consolation in the fact that the levies have not changed for the last three years. But how else could they do anything else but not change in the last three years after that promise given in 1981? We know that school divisions will face significant increases another year and I know some of them are this year. We haven't been able to obtain totally the requirements taxation-wise by all the school divisions within the province, and I hope the Minister will provide that for us, but we know there will be major increases in school division levies another year.

Of course, Mr. Chairman, through the next few days we will have an opportunity to look at this whole question of wealth versus poor within the areas of school divisions and the implications it has on equalization, because I can't believe for one moment that Dr. Nicholls will take the commission throughout this province, his one-man

commission, and hear all the comments made by people throughout this province with respect to the unequal levying of values on property, and yet the Minister stands up before us today and say still, with some certainty, that we have to move tax dollars from the rich to the poor when everybody agrees that we can't even define what rich and poor mean.

Mr. Chairman, again the Minister says, from her chair, we can in education. Obviously then, she is doing it from a different method of assessment. She is doing it through assessment then of some sociological reason; she is not doing it through the tax and the assessment rules. So maybe she can be more definitive when she has an opportunity to address the question again.

Mr. Chairman, to continue, 180 press releases, but not one addressed the area in a major fashion. I shouldn't say not one, I couldn't find many that addressed the area of program development within the public school system. Mr. Chairman, the Minister pays at least lip service to allowing parents to have influence on programs. As a matter of fact, someone said, and I quote, talking about programs, "However, they also believe . . . "talking about parents, " . . . strongly that parents should have an influence on programs. They want the academic program to be emphasized and to be considered important." The author of that statement, of course, was the present Minister of Education, and I'll quote from her freely over the next few minutes, Mr. Chairman.

Yet we see today within the program development area, within the controversial and very sensitive health curriculum optional areas and also within the social studies curriculum which is becoming an emerging issue, as I go through the list of people, I don't see where parents are on those committees that have drafted those curriculums, Mr. Chairman. Yet the Minister says that the parents have to be vitally involved in this area of program development. So, Mr. Chairman, the Minister says one thing and then when she's in a position of power does another.

Fourthly, Mr. Chairman, when one looks at the 180 press releases, one does not see addressed the massive influence the Manitoba Teachers' Society has upon the Pawley Government. Nowhere is that indicated specifically within the press releases. I think other members may want to make reference to that. Although releases talk about changes including the portability of tenure and tenure after one year - of course, just the other day I spoke on pension reform and on full-formula pension at age 55, massive costs that have been granted to one special interest group within a Manitoba context, Mr. Chairman.

Yet I don't see where the Minister has come out and said anywhere that her place as the highest-ranking official within the area of education within this province was to take the side solely of one vested interest group, Mr. Chairman. But yet I can find press releases, press release after press release, whereby government decisions have been made to support one group within the area of education.

Yet what did the Minister of Education say in another day, 1979? She said: "I know teachers and principals are professional, skilled and capable people. They have special knowledge about teaching methods, course content and development. However, this is not sufficient to give teachers licence to run the educational system as they see fit."

Mr. Chairman, anybody that's in a neutral position at all couldn't believe that the Minister of Education can make one statement in 1979, and then go through 180 press releases and see the numerous decisions that have been made by the government opposite in support of the teaching profession in this province.

Well, Mr. Chairman, moving on - not one of those press releases has addressed the growing disenchantment with the quality of education, not one of them. I tell you, Mr. Chairman, today there is a genuine concern in many parts of this province, and it's tied into the belief by many that there is not excellence within the public school system, a belief that there are other priorities held by the department today and also by the Government of the Day. Many people believe that the vast average of our students in the public school system are not being challenged fully.

Of course, surveys within the Minister's own department, conducted by her department and conducted by other institutions, would bear this out. Winnipeg School Division No. 1 test results have been given great review and coverage over the last year. Of course, the Minister, I know in her mind, believes that there are socio-economic reasons that are totally behind those results, but it forces people in their own minds to ask the question: well, what is happening in our school division? They have a legitimate reason for asking, because the priority of this Minister and of this government is not on quality education. Mr. Chairman, it is one of the pressing issues of the day within this province. Everywhere we go, everywhere I go, people come forward to express their concern.

The Minister just moves from one issue to the other. The Red River Community College surveys done within their institution and students there are shown not to know as much about Canadian history and the Canadian context as they should. The Minister, two weeks, three weeks later, announces at the Trustees' Convention that she now is going to put a greater emphasis on Canadian awareness within the curriculum. The Minister just reacts, Mr. Chairman.

In 1979 she was a leader. There were things that she wanted to do, she was going to do, but today she reacts.

So, Mr. Chairman, today the Minister says the quality is there, and she uses as her reason - and I'll bring it out of Hansard if I have to - that 85 percent of our students today graduate from high school with certificates or diplomas. She says 90 percent of our teachers have degrees. She says by those definitions educational quality must be in place.

Yet MAST and MTS and MASS are all crying out for a review of the high school system. The Minister says, well, they have for years; but I say they're becoming very serious. They want to know what the government has in mind with respect to the public school system. I wouldn't want to be a teacher today, because no longer in my view could a teacher decide to stay on a basic, straight, academic track. No, the teacher today has to be prepared to deal with all of society's problems within the context of the public school system. The Minister says, no, I won't grant a review. We'll continue to subject upon the public school system the problem of society and we'll ask that system to deal with it, and we'll demand that system deal with the problems.

That's why people who are involved within the public school system are crying out for the Minister to have

a review to set some goals and objectives as to what is to be attempted. People today I believe, Mr. Chairman, are becoming frantic about their children's education and their future place in the workplace and that is why I think more and more are going to private schools, and that's why I think more are weighing other options and disenchantment is growing.

Yet the Minister says, and I don't have time to quote, Mr. Chairman, that we are not work factories, as if schooling in itself doesn't lead to work. The Minister wonders why people are talking about the quality of education. Yet she said last year on Page 761 of Estimates, and I quote: "Where we look at our programs and study them and we have deficiencies and problems, I am quite prepared I don't intend to be nor want to be a good news Minister. I think it is important that we recognize deficiencies." Mr. Chairman, 180 press releases - not one deficiency recognized. So, Mr. Chairman, I guess we have none then. How do things change in the period of two or three or four years?

Well, Mr. Chairman, my time is running out, but teacher evaluation is not addressed at all, and yet what did the Minister say when she was running to be a member? She said, "Teacher evaluation should be done on a comprehensive long-term basis with adequate feedback about their performance and help and support where there is a problem or weakness. Most of all, they do not want evaluation done on a casual informal basis, or not done at all. Something must be done to help teachers improve their performance. Parents expect that their children will be taught by capable people. The public has less tolerance for incompetence than the system has."

Wise words and yet when the Minister is in position, she hasn't done one thing to develop teacher evaluation and when we ask her about it, what does the Minister say? That is up to the school divisions to bring forward the processes. She washes her hands of any responsibility of developing evaluation techniques - has done nothing in three-and-a-half years.

Mr. Chairman, I have to pass over the lack of addresses with respect to universities. But let me conclude by saying there are good issues introduced and discussed within the 180 press releases. There are some important issues, but in my view, the Minister has changed completely.

This speech that she gave in 1979 to the River East School Division principals and vice-principals is a wonderful speech, Mr. Chairman, but I dare say there is hardly one area that she has worked towards solving some of the problems in the concerns that she had at that time in 1979. It makes me ask the question whether she even wrote it, and if she wrote it, whether she believed in it, because I can hardly believe a person in her position, if they had written this and they believed in this, having done nothing to work towards some of the major goals and some of the major concerns and some of the major directions that she believes education should have.

Mr. Chairman, I close by saying, I believe the Minister is tired of her position and the Premier really should turn over the head of this very very important department to somebody else who could possibly show a new thrust of energy.

Thank you.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Item 1.(b) Administration and Finance, Executive Support: (1) Salaries - Madam Minister.

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** I'd like to make one other point that I meant to make in my opening remarks. By design I chose just to make my opening remarks related to the public education system. I thought it would be more appropriate not to tie in all of the post-secondary. When we get to post-secondary in the Estimates, I intend to make some appropriate remarks there.

**MR. C. MANNESS:** Mr. Chairman, I couldn't introduce all my opening remarks either and I'll follow the Minister at that time.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Item 1.(b)(1) - the Member for Morris.

**MR. C. MANNESS:** Mr. Chairman, the Minister says I should read the whole speech into the record. I suppose I wouldn't be afraid to do that. To me it was a very well prepared speech and I compliment it. If she wrote it, I sincerely compliment her for it. I just can't believe that the person who wrote this speech and the person who is in the highest position of being Minister can really not attempt to address so many of the concerns that she put forward in the speech.

Mr. Chairman, we are discussing 1.(b) Executive Support. I'd ask the Minister if she would tell me whether the Deputy Minister and all the assistant Deputy Ministers' salaries are included within this item.

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Whether all the Deputy Ministers, all the assistant Deputy Ministers? No, this is my office and the Deputy Minister's office.

**MR. C. MANNESS:** Could the Minister tell me whether there is any change at all in the staff complement and furthermore, across the whole spectrum of the Estimates, can she tell me what the staff increases were on average salary-wise?

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Mr. Chairman, in this department there is no increase. It is the same level of staffing as it has always been. I'm having a little bit of trouble with the question. Is he asking for a report now on all the salary changes in all the departments? Surely we'll do that as we go through department by department?

**MR. C. MANNESS:** No, Mr. Chairman, I didn't ask for a detailed breakdown. I wanted to know whether there was an average across the board, change in salary, to the Department of Education.

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** It is close to zero, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. C. MANNESS:** Mr. Chairman, before we proceed too much further, I would like to ask some very general questions with respect to firstly, statistics. Last year I asked the Minister to provide for me projections of student numbers within the public school system or some 15 to 20 years out. I think the Minister gave me one set. I'm wondering, a year ago, and my memory cannot recall whether it was just for one year or whether it covered a five-year interval, I'm wondering if there

are any new numbers that she can provide at this time with respect to future student enrolments in the Province of Manitoba.

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, we have them. We only do them for about a five-year period, so if we didn't provide that figure or that information, we can give you the information on a five-year period, but not beyond that.

**MR. C. MANNESS:** Mr. Chairman, I can hardly believe that, just going out five years. We're building schools that'll be in place hopefully for 30 or 40 years or more. Surely we have to make some attempt to forecast beyond five years. Is the Minister saying that all the capital directed towards the building of schools and to refurbishing schools, given her recent announcement, are based only on five-year projections as to numbers?

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Mr. Chairman, projections are done in two areas: we do some overall projections of student enrolment, and school divisions also do projections. We use statistics and information that's available like Statistics Canada; they do longer range national projections and we use those. School boards are required in fact, when they're looking at their capital requirements, to project on a 10-year basis. So they build into their requests information that predicts in their school division what they expect their needs and their enrolments to be over a period of 10 years. So we project on a five-year basis; we use other statistics and information that's projected in a longer term and school divisions do their own individual forecasting.

**MR. C. MANNESS:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I'm somewhat surprised to say the least. I can't believe, for instance, that the Minister can make a announcement of a new funding program without having taken it through some very stringent, very detailed sensitivity analysis, and running it forward some number of years with various projections of student numbers.

The Minister has indicated somewhere, and I can't recall where, that the student base in Manitoba is now moving into an area of static where we're developing a new plateau, and I'm wondering on what basis the Minister makes that statement. Surely that statement has to be, to be worth anything, based on something more than five-year projections, so again I ask the Minister, will she share with me some projections or forecast beyond five years?

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, what I will do is share the basis upon which the study that was done and the information that we gathered that formed the basis for deciding on the level of capital construction in the schools for the coming year. While the Member is accurate that we do look at enrolment, that is one of the factors and one of the very important factors was the condition that the schools were in across the province. We undertook a study, that's the first-ever study, of the condition of the schools across the province; we have it on computer and we have very detailed information that tell us what the needs are.

The construction needs are not just for additional new buildings and in fact, right now they've turned



around from new building requirements, to requiring additions and renovations to older buildings. That does not require additional student population. What you need there and what we have is a large number of schools across the province that have not been touched since the day they were built; that have not had any renovations; that are totally out-of-date; that have dreadful heating and ventilation and lighting and very, very poor quality of space. So the program that was designed, is designed on two bases: although the overall provincial enrolment is static, we have the unique situation of a number of school divisions continuing to face increased enrolment through the growth and development of new subdivisions; on the other hand, we have a tremendous need - I think the numbers that I gave before - we're spending something like \$300 million on a new school construction over a period of 17 years and \$15 million on renovation and upgrading of older schools.

We have schools in the inner city that were inadequate when the parents went to school. They now have children in those same schools and there hasn't been a thing done to them, so the basis of the capital construction program is information on enrolment, plus information on the condition of the schools and what that tells us is that if we don't move now to fix up these schools, they're going to have to be destroyed. In other words, they're getting to the point where renovation and upgrading is still possible for a more reasonable figure than it will be for a replacement. But if we don't move to renovate and upgrade, we'll have larger replacement costs down the road. It's based on all of those things.

**MR. C. MANNESS:** Mr. Chairman, my question went right over the Minister's head. Obviously, she's very defensive because I've not been critical of that program; I used that as an example. Let's say I'm a teacher that wants to come into the profession and ten years from now, I want to know whether I have a job or not. So I want to ask a legitimate question. How many students are there going to be in Manitoba schools 10, 15 or 20 years from now? The question is one in general nature. I ask the Minister again, does the department have nothing more to go on than five-year forecasts and if that has led the Minister to believe that the base today is static, what will it be like in 10 years? Will it be more dynamic or not?

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Mr. Chairman, we expect with the wide variety of information we have available about birth rates and Statistics Canada and information that we gather, enrolment statistics, that there isn't going to be a major change before the year 2,000. The enrolment is stabilizing; it is going to be stable; it is stable now and it isn't going to change much up until the year 2,000.

**MR. C. MANNESS:** Mr. Chairman, I ask the Minister, seeing that 1.(b) covers Executive Support, can the Minister indicate how many special assistants and executive assistants she has in total?

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** I have an executive assistant and a special assistant.

**MR. C. MANNESS:** Can she provide to me the names of those two people?

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Yes, Val Coward is the executive assistant and Barbara Boes is the special assistant.

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

1.(c) Research and Planning (1) Salaries - the Member for Morris.

**MR. C. MANNESS:** Mr. Chairman, last year we had a fair discussion within this whole area and the Minister indicated last year, Page 760 of Estimates, and I was asking her questions with respect to the research reports, she said, "The fact is that they're going to be made public and you are the Education critic," and I believe the Minister was talking to me. Continuing my quote, "You should be automatically getting them, so I will direct that that happens so it doesn't require somebody to remember that you should be on all lists for receiving documents that we send out to the public."

Over the past year, can the Minister indicate whether there have been any public releases, public research reports that have been released since a year ago and, if so, why I have not received any?

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, we have released some reports. It was my understanding that the directives that I gave at that time have been carried out, and that is, that the education critic gets the reports automatically as soon as they are released, without my having to direct that he receives them. Two that have been released since last year's Estimates are Curriculum Implementation and one on Grade 12 Intentions, and it's my understanding that you received both of those.

**MR. C. MANNESS:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I do remember the Grade 12 Intentions one coming to me. I guess I ask the question as to what's been happening then within that department over the last 10 months, because the material that I did receive came shortly after Estimates. I know we had another request, one of our staff people went down to the Minister's department and requested all the latest public material and, when they were brought to me, I did have most of them and they had been provided a year ago.

So I will then ask the Minister what her research department has been doing over the last year?

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Mr. Chairman, the Department of Research and Planning has undertaken a number of major activities over the last year. Part of the jobs that they do is to prepare research documents or studies that provide information, perhaps to us and sometimes to others who want information, to develop new programs or to carry out their planning, but that is only part of their activities.

One of the things they have undertaken a great deal this year I think would be called Interdepartmental Planning, in other words, the Department of Research and Planning, in the Department of Education, has undertaken a major role in terms of working with departments when we are going through our Estimates, and our policies and programming activities for the coming year, to develop an integrated planning

approach to those Estimates decisions, so that the programs and the policies that we are bringing in place are based on planning activities. So they carry a major role, as they should, in planning.

The name of the department is Planning and Research, and that means it has two major activities as its function; one is research, and the other is planning, and a lot of the work that has been done has been in that area.

We ran seminars on planning for school trustees. The responsibility and the role they take goes beyond just the department and we ran a series of seminars for school boards to help them understand the planning process a little better and identify some ways of building it in with their budgeting and policy and program activities. Those were really very well received by the school trustees. I had more feedback on the quality of those seminars and the help that it gave to boards, after they were undertaken, that it's clear we need to continue doing this kind of activity.

We have developed a data base on long-term transient funding, enrolment, staffing and school division profiles with each division so that we have that information for us when we are planning our programs and our funding, and we also make it available for school divisions.

I would say a lot of the information that we are gathering is certainly not just for our information alone, but it's for our information and that of school divisions to help them make their decisions.

We have, as I say, conducted a couple of major studies; we have implemented a system to improve mail and document tracking in the department, which is a very important area; we have initiated the development of a new teacher information system; conducted an evaluation of the impact of the new initiatives in the post-secondary field, and I think we can talk about those when we get to that activity.

They have also been active in doing a couple of research projects related to individual school divisions that wanted some help; they are taking a major role in looking at the new initiatives that we are undertaking in terms of quality in inner city education.

In terms of the new teacher information system, we replaced the old media forum, which was on an old computer system brought in in 1971, with a very new and modern teacher information system. The old one was slow and difficult to assess and had a data base that was a doubtful quality. If there is one thing the department has done, it's really tried to improve the information we have, the quality of it and the use of it. We were gathering a lot of information that wasn't very useful; we were duplicating a lot of the information that's gathered. They have now, through the Research and Planning Branch, eliminated a lot of it and they are making much better use of the information that we get. It's going to allow school divisions full access to data about their own teachers, and I think it's a very significant advance in the use of information technology in a co-operative venture with MTS and school divisions. They won't be reporting the data twice; that's going to be very helpful.

I would say that those are some of the areas that have required the work of the Research and Planning Branch.

**MR. C. MANNESS:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I thank the Minister for that detailed review and, yes, I can concur

with her, the reports I had with respect to the seminars held with the regions were positive. However, I ask the Minister, the internal interdepartmental planning documents, or reports, or analyses, are they numbered? Do they exist in a form like this?

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** No, Mr. Chairman, they do not.

**MR. C. MANNESS:** Mr. Chairman, that's my problem. I was given a bulk of materials a year ago and they are sequentially numbered. For instance, in 1983, I think there must have been 20 reports done - I am guessing, I thought I had one up as high as 83-17 or 18 - I have five of those, I have 83-04, -09, -10, -14, -12. It would be obvious to everybody that there is a continuous listing between 1 or 20, or some number; I don't know how many were done in 1983. In 1984, I have 84-06, and I believe I have another couple somewhere. I have none that I can recall for 1985.

Would the Minister tell me whether three-quarters then are the reports, first of all performed and, secondly, were prepared in 1983 and indeed virtually all the reports prepared within this Research Branch in 1984 and all of them in '85, if any of them have been developed, in fact are private? They are not public material.

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** No, Mr. Chairman. They're not all private. Some of them, it is my intention to make them public, but we're at a stage where we're not quite ready to do so.

The department undertakes a number of studies. First of all, not all of the studies are for us. Some of them are commissioned by other groups or people. It may be a school division. In a number of cases, we have done studies and reports and I can give one example, the Amaranth Education Review which was a review of the education system in the Amaranth area. It's very controversial, very sensitive issues with a large amount of public concern about the quality of education in that area.

We got agreement of all parties that we would both provide a mediation and a study role in this issue. They agreed to the terms of reference and we did the study. The report then went to the board. I'm giving this as an example, because it's not the only one that has been done this way. We did the study for the board, and the report was for the use of the board to help them deal with the issues that they were dealing with. The board then made it public. So there are a number of cases where it is not our right, I suppose, to make a report public that has been commissioned by another body.

There is, for example, a request in for a report by the Grants Commission that may become public, but initially the information is required and asked for by the Grants Commission to help them deal with an issue that they're dealing with. They will look at the information, and then they will make the decision on how to handle the report. Others are things that we have undertaken to look at that are released and that we expect to release.

I differentiate between internal documents that are not studies but are documents that we use internally in helping us make our Estimates decisions. You know, when you're talking about the expenditure of large

amounts of money, you need information to make it about where the money's going and what it's doing and what the numbers of students are, some information on evaluation. Since the purpose of them is internal planning and decision-making, those are not necessarily useful nor made available to the public at large, nor are they handled in a way that it would be appropriate to release them. They are not in the same form. They're not handled the same way.

**MR. C. MANNES:** Mr. Chairman, I accept the Minister's differentiation between an internal planning document and these Research Bulletins. I accepted that when she provided her first answer.

But my concern is, firstly, why shouldn't members of the opposition when they are considering expenditures within this department of \$500,000, why we should not be provided with a listing, not the reports, with a listing of what this department is doing? The Minister uses a fine example. I wasn't aware her department had prepared or done some research for the Amaranth School Board. I can understand why that material may want to be kept private. Of course, once it goes to that division board, naturally I have the right, as I suppose anybody does, to ask that board for a report. There is nothing wrong with that procedure.

I now ask the Minister whether she will provide for me a listing of all the research that has been done, not a copy of the conclusions, not a copy of the reports, a listing of all the reports that have been done.

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Mr. Chairman, it seems to me that the system that we've devised is a reasonable system. The differentiation that I have indicated made sense to me, where the reports that we intended that will be useful for public release are released; those that are shared and done for other organizations or institutions are given to them. Those that are internal planning documents that are not specifically research documents necessarily but, in many cases, just basic information that we use or gather from the Research and Planning Branch in order to help us make our decisions.

If I start coughing, you're going to be in trouble. Has anybody got a lozenge?

**MR. C. MANNES:** A lozenge? Do you want a candy?

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Yes, would you bring it over, please? I suppose, in order to answer the question from the Member for Morris, I would have to take a look at what it was that we had not made available to date to see if there was anything there that I thought was appropriate to release. To date, I don't think there is. I think those things that should have been released have been.

**MR. C. MANNES:** Mr. Chairman, for the third time, I'm not asking for the internal documents that are necessary to prepare Estimates, that are necessary for the government of the day and the Department of Education to reach policy decisions. Of course, that's private in-house material and, of course, that material isn't to be provided easily, even though we have an information bill that was just laid on the table here the

other day that really grants few exemptions to what we can ask for.

I am asking for documents that are bound like this, Mr. Chairman. I'm not even asking for the documents. I am asking for a listing of what this department has done in the area of Research Bulletins for groups, for the department, for school boards, just a listing, a single sheet over the last three years. I can't understand the Minister's reluctance to provide for me that listing. What is she trying to hide?

Indeed by my understanding of the new Freedom of Information legislation, that it would be material that we could so request as members of this House. We again are being asked to provide spending of .5 million for this department. Surely we have a right to know what it's doing outside of the internal planning that it is doing within its department.

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** I really have no trouble with that either. If the member is saying that the internal planning sort of reports and papers that we use internally for helping us make our decisions are not the things that he's after, that he's after the bound reports like the one that he handed out, he is getting them all to my knowledge. Those that have been released, he has had a copy of them sent to him. Those that are in the works and have not been released yet but will be, he will receive a copy as soon as they are released.

The other things are not in the same form. They're not the same kind, and they're not the same purpose. They are internal, working papers. That he doesn't have. That, I wouldn't understand the purpose of the list even of those documents, but the other ones that are research documents put out by the Department of Research and Planning, I have no trouble with, and you have them.

**MR. C. MANNES:** Mr. Chairman, I won't be waylaid on this. The Minister told me that, in fact, the internal documents were not given sequential listings of 1983-84-85 - whatever. I haven't asked for those. The Minister will not make me believe for one second, for instance, that 83-01, or 02, or 03, and I may have either one of those, I don't know which, but that those three documents aren't in a completed state, or close to it, of this fashion, not for 1983. So, again, I am asking the Minister, I'm not even asking for a completed report, I want to know what the department is studying? I want to know what it is they are studying and for what group outside of the department if, in fact, that is the case?

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** The Member for Morris, Mr. Chairman, said he wasn't going to let up on this point and I don't want to be vague on this point or not to be direct in my answer. We may be having a little bit of trouble trying to understand exactly what reports and what it is that the Member for Morris is after. I mean, we're both listening to the words you are saying and we are saying, exactly what is it he is asking for? Are you asking for the 1984 reports that were released - the official reports of the Department of Research and Planning - are you saying that you've got those, but you want to know what is in the works to see what is coming, what will be coming or what will be released in the future?

**MR. C. MANNES:** Mr. Chairman, Report No. 83-01, was there a report so numbered; was it performed, completed; has it been made public and, if not, can the Minister tell us why; and if it has not been made public, can she at least tell the opposition what it was that was studied?

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Mr. Chairman, I think some of the confusion, and I think it is honest confusion and questioning that is arising, has come about because of the way we originally organized some of the reports that were coming out of the Department of Research and Planning, because in 1983 we numbered, both internal documents and those that were to be released. Because they were, the member saw a numbering system with some holes and deficiencies in it that he believed were public reports that he should have had access to and what, in fact, they were were internal documents. When we realized that problem, as we were trying to explain to him, that there weren't any public reports that he wasn't getting, unless it was by accident that we hadn't sent them to him, that those things were internal documents. We changed it so that those things that were numbered were the public reports that were to be released and the internal documents were not numbered. So that last year we released the numbered reports and this year we have not released any reports yet although there are a number of reports that are in the works that will be released when they are completed.

**MR. C. MANNES:** Well, that clears up some of the confusion, Mr. Chairman. If the Minister would check Hansard, one of my first questions: were the internal documents numbered in this sequential fashion? I asked her that question. The Minister said they weren't. So, Mr. Chairman, I then asked the Minister what outside groups, I'm not talking about school divisions now, what outside groups, outside of the department, outside of public school divisions have asked for the Research and Planning Branch within the Department of Education to perform some type of research?

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Mr. Chairman, in terms of direct requests from an outside branch, not a school division or an outside agency, a direct request for a research project for this year, the only one that we have, I think, is the University Grants Commission. However, there is a lot of consultation and a lot of discussion and information sharing between school divisions and the Department of Research and Planning that might not take the form of a special report that is bound and released, but, nevertheless, is a request for a reasonable amount of information and support that comes to the Department of Research and Planning by school divisions, but those would not be listed.

**MR. C. MANNES:** That is for 1985. Can the Minister indicate what outside groups have requested research work done in years 1982,'83 and '84?

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Mr. Chairman, I think it is important to say that the requests from outside groups would be small. Clearly, most of the requests are going to come from the education system. It might be the Grants Commission. A lot of requests come from school

divisions. There was a request from the Museum of Man and Nature, and I would consider that to be an outside group asking for information.

**MR. C. MANNES:** Why will the Minister not provide to me the total listing of outside groups, and secondly, schools divisions that have requested research done in some area? I'm not even asking for a detail of the research. Why will she not present to me a listing of the school divisions who are requesting research done, and of course, then I will approach those school divisions and they will decide whether they want to share any of the results or not?

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Mr. Chairman, I'm quite happy to share the information with the Member for Morris, we're not trying to hide anything. The school division, the one direct request, where there was actually a report, I mentioned it was the Amaranth Education Review that went to that school division. The other ones, there are no others, and when I talked about the activity of the Department of Education, there have not been what you would call a major research study for a school division. There are a lot of requests for information that the Department of Education either has access to or can access into, I suppose, that is sometimes useful to school divisions. So I would imagine there are a number of school divisions that are calling in to get information that the Department of Research and Planning has, or has access to that they provide, but I am not sure how useful or how good a record we keep of individual requests for information from school divisions. It isn't really what the member is after. There are no other major research projects undertaken by the Department of Education for school divisions.

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

**MR. R. DOERN:** Mr. Chairman, I want to direct some questions to the Minister here under this area. Presumably she has people who she relies on for research and to examine material and to look at material that is of some value to her. Of course, given the complexity of her portfolio and the onerous workload, I assume she has staff who attempt to look into areas that she is interested in and also provide her with information on programs that may or may not be controversial. I wanted to ask her for some explanation of her actions in this Chamber and at a press conference a few months ago when the Honourable Member for Morris raised with her the support and promotion of materials for young people that many Manitobans considered to be unsuitable.

I'm, of course, looking back about two months, three months actually, to a debate that we had in regard to the government's financial support and endorsement and the provision of fundings for the purchase of Manitoba magazines and periodicals. I want to ask her if she can clarify her stand taken at that time, because we had a situation where two Ministers of the Crown, namely, the Minister of Education and the Minister of Cultural Affairs, were both presumably backing a program of the Department of Cultural Affairs.

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** On a point of order, my first point of order.

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

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Normally, I am quite open and flexible about where we deal with things, and I realize that there is often a way to find a way to bring a subject in. In this case, the Member for Elmwood has suggested, has tied in bringing it in under Research and Planning on the guise that I must have people with capacity and capability to examine major questions when I'm making decisions and therefore, it's appropriate to handle it under Research and Planning.

I would say that the questions that he's asking, I am quite prepared to answer. I think it's inappropriate under this line. The program that he's talking about is handled under Program Development and Support Services. That's where I expect to deal with it and expect to have the appropriate staff here. So if it's all right with him, I think that is far enough away from the line that we are on - in fact, quite far removed from any matter that is before us with the Estimate line that we are on and the department we're in, that I ask for a deferral to Program Development and Support Services where I expect to have it dealt with fully.

**MR. R. DOERN:** Mr. Chairman, I wouldn't press the point too much, other than to say that we are dealing with Administration and the running of the department and the area of Research and Planning. It seems to me that this matter could be discussed here. It could be discussed in a number of areas but, if the Minister isn't prepared or wants to await the arrival of some reinforcements, then I would be prepared to wait.

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** The matter is not a research matter. It's not an administrative matter. It's a program matter, and it belongs under the Program Development. That's where I prefer to handle it.

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

**MR. C. MANNES:** Mr. Chairman, I'll ask a question with respect to Other Expenditures. I could probably wait till you've passed 1.(c)(1), but I'll ask it now. Why the increase of some just short of \$45,000.00?

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Mr. Chairman, that is largely money that is recovered from the Federal Government that is related to some research that we are undertaking on French language programming.

**MR. C. MANNES:** What would that research be?

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** It's evaluation of student achievement in a number of programs.

**MR. C. MANNES:** Will that be public information once that report is completed?

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Yes, it will, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. C. MANNES:** Is it completed now?

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** No, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. C. MANNES:** When will it be completed?

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Possibly next spring, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. C. MANNES:** Mr. Chairman, can the Minister be a little bit more definitive? Can she tell us specifically what is being studied? It leaves a lot to the mind to attempt to determine specifically what it is. Could she lay before us the guidelines of the study in question?

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Yes, Mr. Chairman. Largely, we're looking at achievement of students in français programs. We are looking at the teacher requirements. I would say that those are the major areas, the evaluation of the existing programs and teacher requirements.

**MR. C. MANNES:** Mr. Chairman, I ask the Minister, is the performance of the student within the français program, is it to be measured? Then I would ask, against what standard?

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Mr. Chairman, this is presently in the fairly initial stages right now. So a lot of the questions, we are just working through. We're in the process of developing the tests right now that will be used. I think that perhaps we could probably provide the Member for Morris with some interim information when it gets a little farther along about exactly what's being studied and how it's being studied since the report itself won't be completed for some time.

**MR. C. MANNES:** What school divisions or school division is to be used as the case study? Has that been determined yet? If it has, which school division?

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** It hasn't been totally set yet, but it likely will involve all school divisions offering français programs.

**MR. C. MANNES:** Just before we pass this, just a couple more questions with respect to this study. Is there some specific individual within the Research and Planning Branch who will conduct the research? Is there a close interconnection tie between the Research and Planning Branch and also the Bureau?

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Mr. Chairman, first of all, the overall responsibility for the study will be done as are all others, by the Director of the Department of Research and Planning, Dr. Benjamin Levin. We will be coordinating that with the staff in the Bureau. It's likely that we will be putting somebody on contract. There's a high possibility, because it will require specific French language skills. So somebody will have to be designated that can handle the survey and the study and that has yet to be determined.

**MR. C. MANNES:** The Minister seems to be indicating that for the purposes of this study the government will be going outside of the department for that expertise. Is there an open contest now for the selection of that individual or firm to fill that need?

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Mr. Chairman, we will be taking responsibility for the design of the project and the

survey. What would be done that might be contracted out, you might say it was of a much lower level skill requirement and would likely be done by a graduate student, it wouldn't necessarily be done by, for instance, someone with a high capacity in Research and Planning, but where the details and the work would be carried out, perhaps by a graduate student.

**MR. C. MANNESS:** I ask the Minister, who, in the department within this branch or within the bureau, is undertaking the responsibility? Obviously the director. When there are a number of studies on the go and can't really be in charge of them all, totally, who at a lower level is taking the responsibility of designing - and if not designing - watching the day-to-day activity of this particular project?

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Mr. Chairman, I am informed that on this study, that the director will be personally involved. While it's true that he can't do all of the studies himself, it is also true that he does take a direct hand in some of them. In this case, he will be in concert with some staff from the bureau that I indicated before and the person in the department that will be handling the day-to-day supervision will be Mrs. K. Wong.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 1.(d)(1) Personnel Services: Salaries - the Member for Morris.

**MR. C. MANNESS:** I notice a slight increase in this appropriation, Mr. Chairman, can the Minister explain why?

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, the increase in this department is largely related to the increase of one staff person and that is a Human Resource Development Officer who is helping carry out responsibilities in the training and retraining area, which is something that we have undertaken in terms of our staff in the Department of Education and in the colleges.

It takes a great deal of time and a great deal of consideration when you're looking at and working with people on an individual basis as we did in both the field services and the colleges branch, where we undertook to have no layoffs and I think retrained something in the neighborhood of 65 people working with each one of them on an individual basis. So it's the addition of that one staff person and that's the area that they will be working.

**MR. C. MANNESS:** Mr. Chairman, I'd ask the Minister to elaborate on that somewhat. She talks about an extra staff person in the area of Human Resources for the purposes of retraining and then she says retraining staff. How are individuals within staff selected for retraining? Do they apply? I don't understand the procedure. Maybe she can help me.

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, for two years in a row now, we have had a fair amount of redeployment throughout the Civil Service and particularly in the Department of Education; one, where we eliminated an entire existing branch, Field Services, and worked with the people on an individual basis.

In some cases, they took early retirement. In some cases, they moved into other areas where they had

skills where they could fill jobs that were needed, had a higher priority than the ones they were in. In other cases, we provided some retraining, in other words, they didn't quite fit some of the new positions. We examined their skills and then gave them some additional retraining and then moved them into new positions.

So people don't apply for it, although I think that a number of staff people would recognize this as an opportunity. Although in some cases, when you're on the list for redeployment, it looks like a nightmare and people are horrified and worried about it. In this case, after we'd gone through our procedure of identifying retraining opportunities and new job opportunities, I suppose a lot of other people would have liked the opportunity to have some retraining opportunities like that.

In the colleges, they were on the redeployment list largely because of courses that we had eliminated through our criteria, where courses were no longer being taught or positions were no longer being kept open and it was because of the redeployment requirements, combined with the commitment to not have any layoffs, that what we were faced with was the requirement to retrain.

We did it on an individual basis; we assessed and evaluated the skills and abilities of each individual; looked at the programs that were coming down the pike, and with a modest amount of retraining, I think that it went from about two or three months' training - the longest was a year - and I think there was just one person that had to pull out of their job and be retrained for an entire year. All the others were to retrain on the job while they were carrying out their duties and then moved into a new position.

Most of the retraining that's been done has been done in the college area. But this is all done, all of our personnel activities in Education, including colleges, are done through our Personnel Services Branch.

**MR. C. MANNESS:** I'd like to know a little bit more as to how this new person performs his or her function. Does the individual sit down with the person who either wants to change position or because of some change in program, now has a redundant position within the department? Does the Human Resource person sit down with the person and sort of guide them along to these changes? Why is it an appropriation this year when so many changes occurred last year, particularly within the community college system?

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Well, I suppose we would have liked to have had it last year, Mr. Chairman, and I am sure I speak for the staff that's sitting in front of me that took this on as an additional task on top of their ordinary jobs because it was very time consuming. The person has not been hired yet. It's a new position that has not yet been filled.

Although we had a fair amount of redeployment and retraining that took place last year, we're still in the process of completing the retraining and the training programs that we undertook last year and we expect it's going to continue. The requirements of the Education system are going to keep changing and we are going to have to, more than any other employer

I suppose or any other business whatever you want to call us, be in front of the parade in terms of recognizing the need to retrain staff to bring them up to date with existing knowledge and to train them with skills that will give them opportunities to fill jobs that are not going to be redundant a year or two down the road. We are putting that position in because the activity that we have undertaken was there the year before last, it was there this last year, and it is going to likely continue for a number of years to come.

For example, each year we measure the college courses through the seven criteria that we have established - and we can get into that when we are in the post-secondary education - but what we know is that we will, I am sure, be eliminating courses every year and it will be necessary, No. 1, because the courses are becoming outdated, outmoded and outneeded - I lost my train of thought; I had one second point there and I've forgotten what it is. I will give it to you the next time we are talking about this.

**MR. C. MANNES:** Whether I want it or not.

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Whether you want it or not. No, I think we know that we are going to change the courses this year and change the criteria. It means there are going to be a number of people again who are teaching courses which are going to be eliminated. I am sure that this government has indicated clearly through its actions over the last few years that they are committed whenever possible to redeployment, to retraining and job opportunities for the staff. We don't just throw them out on the garbage heap because their skills are no longer needed or their positions have been eliminated. It's going to be a heavy and ongoing activity for some years to come.

**MR. C. MANNES:** Mr. Chairman, I would like to gain some perspective of the total number of employees that come under the responsibility of the Department of Education.

When the Minister says "staff," she obviously includes all those people within her divisions and branches, and she also then includes all those people instructing in colleges. I don't know if she would include those individuals instructing at universities; I would think not. But the point is, what is the total number of people that she considers her own, and what percent of them or how many of them over the last two years have been redeployed or have been retrained under this internal program?

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Mr. Chairman, the staff that I am talking about, the only reason I am talking about the two - and I actually don't like to pull in the college side and the retraining program for colleges into this category - it's been necessitated because of the Human Resource Development Officer whose role serves both the retraining and training opportunities for the public school side and the college side. That's why I have been getting into that other side. I prefer to go into a lot of the details about the retraining program under "colleges" where we are prepared with the full information on the numbers that are being retrained through the colleges.

If it would suffice to say, I will give you the total numbers of staffing. We have 536 staff years in the school side, what we call the public school side, and 1,203 in the PACE, in the college side, post-secondary education side. The Human Resource Development Officer under this category is meeting the training and retraining needs of staffing in both of those areas.

**MR. C. MANNES:** Changing the subject somewhat, Mr. Chairman, the department undoubtedly hires a number of consultants through the year. Do they come under this category, 1.(d)? If they do, can the Minister tell me what is planned for this coming year? If they don't, can the Minister direct me to what part of the Estimates the consultants' hirings would fall under?

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Mr. Chairman, I am not sure; it doesn't come up under this appropriation necessarily unless there were a particular contract that we had signed under this appropriation. So where it would come up is actually in each section or each appropriation had there been a decision to have a contract or work performed by a group or a body outside. It would show there. I don't have a total list; it isn't very large; we have not done a great deal of outside contracting. Where we come up to the appropriations we can keep it in mind and identify them or if the member wishes we can actually sit down and go through them all and make a list and provide him with that.

**MR. C. MANNES:** Well, I will take the Minister up on her latter offer; and that is if she can provide a listing of the total outside consulting performed last year even, and what's coming, I would appreciate that. I ask the question because I have an ad that was placed by the department, or by the government in the January 19th edition of the Winnipeg Free Press for an early childhood consultant, and also a curriculum consultant on January 19th. That was Competition No. 2. I see these from time to time and I am wondering whether in fact they fall within this appropriation or whether they are sort of interspaced throughout the Estimates.

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** The two that were mentioned by the Member for Morris, the early identification consultant and a curriculum consultant, are not contracts as I am defining contracts. Those are staff years; they are permanent positions; They are filled through the normal hiring procedures and competitions that the Civil Service goes through. When they are hired, they are not on contract; they are in permanent positions as regular staff. Those would show up, for instance, when we come to Program Development Support Services; those two people and those two staff years are in curriculum development and program development and support services area.

I thought that he was asking for people that may have been hired for a short-term and I perhaps can give one example. It would be Dr. Tony Riffel (phonetic) who was hired to do the study on the Amaranth School Division where it wouldn't be a staff position, it wouldn't be a permanent position; it would be somebody outside who was put on a contract for a term with specific terms of reference. That's what I thought he wanted a list of when he said contracts, not job positions.

**MR. C. MANNES:** Well, I suppose it's a matter of semantics. A consultant, of course, usually indicates a term period of which you pay fees for services. The Minister is indicating though what I really want is contract work and if she provides that, fine, and my reference to the ads, using the word "consultant," by this terminology is really the one chosen through the competition and then becomes a full member of the Civil Service Commission.

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** You want it just to be - maybe on secondment is the one place in the Department of Education where consultant isn't the normal term like outside consultant. We call our curriculum people in the various areas consultants: language arts consultant, social studies consultant, science consultant. We sometimes do put them on secondment. One of the things in education is where very good people identified in the field that we may want them to serve in the department for a year or two but not necessarily go into a full-time 20-year position. We hire them, put them into permanent positions, but they are on secondment from their school divisions.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 1.(d)(1)—pass; 1.(d)(2)—pass.  
1.(e) Financial Services (1) Salaries - the Member for Morris.

**MR. C. MANNES:** Mr. Chairman, this area is called Financial Services. I'm wondering if the Minister could just take a minute to tell me specifically what is the intent of this particular branch and maybe she could give me some further understanding of what it does.

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Yes, Mr. Chairman. This branch provides administrative and accounting services, I guess, to the department, to myself and to other areas like the Public Schools Finance Board. They administer other grants. They administer the miscellaneous grants, assistance to school divisions and educational organizations. The departmental accounting services are in this section and the internal audit group which is taking on responsibility for providing some auditing services within the department and within school divisions throughout the province. They participated and were largely involved, of course, in the design and implementation of the Government Support Program. Anything related to administration, finance, funding of schools, comes under this branch. When we are determining new programs and new grants, a lot of the detail work and the consideration is given by this branch.

This branch is also responsible for instituting what we call the FRAME accounting system. I think this year we have all the school divisions in the province on FRAME where for the first time they are all accounting their programs and grants under the same accounting system, so it is going to be much easier for us to get information to compare funding, programs and activities by school divisions. This is something that we've been working on for two or three years. They do the revised general ledger for the Public Schools Finance Board. They provide school divisions and districts with help too in the areas of accounting. Those are, I think, the major activities of the branch.

**MR. C. MANNES:** The Minister made reference to the FRAME system of accounting. I have before me the Annual Report 1984 covering 1983 audited statements. I'd ask the Minister, first of all, whether there is always this lag; maybe by definition that has to occur that way, but more importantly, the Minister indicates that now all school divisions are part of this and yet this report indicated there were some eight school divisions that had not chosen to be part of it at that time. Are all divisions now part of this?

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Yes, it has been taking place over a period of two or three years. This is the first year; now all divisions are on FRAME.

**MR. C. MANNES:** I would ask the Minister, when this report is released, will it have in the future a specific date of release? I take it, for instance, that the Annual Report for 1985 must be somewhere in the works and to what point in time will that cover?

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, the next report will be due in the fall of 1985 and the question he asks related to the lag in the report coming out is related to the timing of the audited financial statements by school divisions which are required before it can be drafted.

**MR. C. MANNES:** Mr. Chairman, the Minister is bringing forward a bill that will allow the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council to decide when school divisions have to report, other than what is maybe stated in the act. How does that change tie into the whole reporting system?

First of all, within FRAME, is the intention of the Minister to have school divisions present draft budgets at a sooner date?

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** No, there is no change in the dates for preparing draft budgets. It is January 15th for draft budgets. That isn't changing.

**MR. C. MANNES:** What is?

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** We don't expect any changes in the dates.

**MR. C. MANNES:** Mr. Chairman, this group, as the Minister indicates, administers all grants. Does this group then devise the grants and design them also or is this done in conjunction with the Research Branch or does this group, specifically, do all that determination, setting of criteria?

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, when we are making decisions on grants or grant changes, the consultation, the department does not work in isolation, nor do they work with just one other department. They will work with every department that is affected. If, for instance, the grant is one that goes out through program development support services or affects a program that is funded there; if it is one that affects funding through the bureau; if it is one that affects funding for Native education programs, they would be in consultation and discussion with the people in each of those branches



in order to make a decision on what the needs were, what the deficiencies were and what the formula and the funding levels needed to be.

**MR. C. MANNESS:** Does this branch at all enter into the discussions associated with the government entering into an agreement with the Manitoba Teachers' Society with respect to pension reform as has occurred over the last few months?

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** No, Mr. Chairman.

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

1.(f) Computer Services: (1) Salaries - the Member for Morris.

**MR. C. MANNESS:** Mr. Chairman, I would ask the Minister if there are any changes within the department's computer facilities over the past year?

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Very minor changes, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. C. MANNESS:** Can the Minister review for me again the equipment, the hardware used, is it department's exclusively for their use in all its facets of statistical and financial material or is it equipment that's shared with other departments of government?

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Mr. Chairman, the equipment that we have is shared completely within the Department of Education and within branches and sections of the Department of Education, but is not shared with outside departments. You know, unless I suppose colleges or, within the Education system, there is sharing.

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

1.(g) Communications (1) Salaries - the Member for Morris.

**MR. C. MANNESS:** Mr. Chairman, as I indicated in my opening remarks, this particular branch has been quite busy on behalf of the Minister. There have been some 180 press releases. Can the Minister indicate what other functions this department performs other than providing her with a fair amount of press release material?

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, just to comment on the editorial comment that was made first, I didn't count them but it's interesting to me to find that there were 180 press releases. I think the point that could be made there is that they're not press releases about nothing; they're press releases about something. They're press releases about either programs or policies or funding or new initiatives or activities of the Department of Education and if the 180 sounds large it's only related to the amount of activity that we've undertaken. But that's a small part of their role which was the question from the Member for Morris.

They've undertaken a fair amount of activities in the whole communication field and I would say that one of the major sort of changes, that was taken was the restructuring of Education Manitoba. It's a magazine

that goes out every two months and since it has been changed, we have been receiving tremendous sort of support and recognition for the quality of the magazine. We're dealing in each issue with major subjects of interest and concern; anything from child abuse, we've had major sections on child abuse, or new curriculum. It takes a fair amount of time; it has the distribution of 18,000 - I was going to say 17,000; I was out 1,000 - has a distribution of 18,000 across Manitoba and it's highly regarded.

We also, as I indicated before, undertook our first television program and its sole purpose was to inform the public and it was called "Education Today" and we had a series of 12 programs that dealt with topics everywhere from seniors to a BUNTEP program out in Brandon University, student aid, the Canadian Science winners, computers in the schools, inner city Education, the individualized competency-based learning that we undertook in the colleges. So that that was the major activity and sort of a new field for us and one that we were co-operating and had the co-operation of CKY where they made the television time available to us and we developed the program and now we're looking at numbers of people that were looking at them and what the target populations were. But I think it was a good effort to go beyond communication within the education field which we generally focused on before and go out to the public. They are also doing the distributing and the preparation of the Layman's Guide to the Public Schools Act which I said is so popular that we're into, I think, about our third printing and have got about 66,000 copies with somewhere around 55,000 being distributed. That they have undertaken.

I would say that those are the major activities of the branch.

**MR. C. MANNESS:** Can the Minister indicate how this branch ties into the Premier's Communications Branch? How is the interaction between the two groups? Does the Minister have total control of her communications staff or does the Premier have first call upon them, in certain situations?

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** I have total control over my communications staff and it would require - I'm willing to share any time the skills and abilities of my staff are recognized and useful; but it would require a request and approval by me for that, so I am in total control of my communications staff.

**MR. C. MANNESS:** Can the Minister indicate the staff complement? Could she tell us how many writers there are? I'd like to get a better feel for this particular branch. I'd like to know, other than the director, what other positions are in place.

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** We have exactly the same complement as we had last year. There's been no increase or no decrease. We have the director; we have one person who is the Editor of Education Manitoba, which I just explained. We have two secretarial staff and two writers and one media specialists and I suppose that media specialist, if I was to describe that role, the television series is a very new activity for a branch like ours and it requires that kind of skill. So those are the seven people.

**MR. C. MANNES:** Does the Department of Education do any advertising in non-government publications at all? If it does, is it this particular branch that's involved in it or what branch was in the Estimates would be involved in placing ads within non-government materials?

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Not to my knowledge. I was just reminded that we do advertising with colleges, post-secondary education, but that is within the education community. It's not an outside advertisement. I cannot recall at this time an outside advertisement.

**MR. C. MANNES:** Mr. Chairman, I don't know if this is the proper place. I'll let the Minister direct me. But I see certain materials come out from this branch, and almost all, of course, communications come from this particular branch, but I see reference in some areas to the Department of Education. I have noticed, 1984, it's Manitoba Education. Could the Minister tell me the reason for the change in name of their department? Is it an official change? How did it come into being?

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** I think I partially answered this in a question that came up a little earlier, and I indicated that the name change is part of a central program to have some sort of rationale and logic to the names and the identification of the departments throughout the government.

**MR. C. MANNES:** Mr. Chairman, did I hear the Minister correctly, some better understanding of the department? It's been called the Department of Education for decades. At whose request has the name changed? The Minister's explanation certainly is far short of being a reasoned approach. I ask her again why the name was changed.

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Mr. Chairman, there isn't anything interfering with people continuing to call it the Department of Education if they so wish and many do, because, as he indicated, it's been called that for a long time.

The designation on the material has been changed in conjunction with a central program that is dealing with the naming and identification. It's part of an identification activity and program within the government.

**MR. C. MANNES:** Mr. Chairman, I tried to follow closely the Minister's answer. She says it's part of an identity change, and she indicates it's a central decision. Can the Minister tell me whose decision centrally it was to change the name? Was it hers? Did it come from the Premier? Again, was there some difficulty on the part of the citizenry of this province identifying with the name, the Manitoba Department of Education? Were there some people in our midst who did not know that the Manitoba Department of Education was the Manitoba Department of Education?

I ask her again the rationale for the change. Where was the confusion previously that has caused this change to come into place?

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Mr. Chairman, the changes that were made were not related to any one specific

department, but were related to the overall departments within all of government. It was part of the Visual Identity Program. The name change was recommended as a result of that program.

**MR. C. MANNES:** Did her department seek a legal opinion with respect to changing the name from the Manitoba Department of Education to Manitoba Education?

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Mr. Chairman, I don't believe it's a legal change.

**MR. C. MANNES:** I'm sorry.

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** I don't believe it's a legal change.

**MR. C. MANNES:** The Minister didn't answer the question. I asked her if her department sought some legal advice from Crown counsel with respect to the change in name?

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Mr. Chairman, I think I suggested it wasn't a legal change which, to my mind, would not require a legal counsel.

**MR. C. MANNES:** I ask the Minister to again pose the question to her staff whether, in fact, the change of name for the department, whether or not Crown counsel was called in to seek as to their opinion as to whether such a change would be legal. The Minister once now has indicated that Crown counsel advice was not sought. I ask her again if that's correct.

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Mr. Chairman, it's my understanding that the name under The Administration and Finance Act is still the Department of Education. It has not changed. What we're talking about is a Visual Identification Program that is not a legal change and, therefore, does not require legal counsel approval nor consultation.

**MR. C. MANNES:** Mr. Chairman, I didn't ask whether Crown counsel had approved the change. I just asked her the question, whether their advice had been sought. The Minister chose not to answer. I guess I could present

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman. I did answer. I said, I did not seek legal counsel's advice, because we did not feel it was necessary because we were not making a legal change to the name.

**MR. C. MANNES:** That's odd, Mr. Chairman. I have an interdepartmental memo dated February 22, 1985, coming from a Gail Mildren, Crown Counsel, Civil Litigation Branch, directed to one Leonard Floyde, Director of Administration, for Manitoba Education. The subject is the change of name for the Department of Education.

I'll quote: "This is simply to confirm in writing our conversation back in December with respect to the use of 'Manitoba Education' instead of the phrase 'Department of Education' legal documents. As indicated over the telephone, there is no problem with

the department identifying itself as 'Manitoba Education' in general correspondence and other similar documents. With respect to contracts entered into by the department, these will still be required to be entered into by the Minister or Deputy Minister of your department as it must be a legal entity (such as a person) which signs a contract.

"With respect to legal proceedings, there are various rules set out in The Court of Queen's Bench Act and the proceeding against The Crown Act which govern these situations. It is not possible to bring or defend a suit in the name of 'Manitoba Education' under those rules."

It goes on: "Your real concern appeared to be with respect to the name to be used on documents such as Orders-in-Council. My advice is that until there has been a formal change of the name of your department pursuant to Paragraph 8(c) of The Executive Government Organization Act, the department would continue to refer to itself as the Department of Education in formal governmental documents such as these." The letter then makes specific reference to Section 8 of The Executive Government Organization Act.

It concludes: "Continuing to use the official name of the department until it is officially changed in such government documents will also avoid any confusion in the future as to what entity is being referred to in documents such as Orders-in-Council."

My question to the Minister: did her department seek legal advice from Crown counsel with respect to the change of name?

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Mr. Chairman, the information that he suggested is exactly what I was trying to say. What I was trying to say is that where we are just talking about identification, we are using the name Manitoba Education. Where there is a requirement for contracts or a legal contracts or some form, we, and the department knows, are required to carry them out under the name of the Department of Education, and to my knowledge, we are doing so.

**MR. C. MANNESS:** Mr. Chairman, the Minister has given me that answer three times now to a question that I have not asked. The question I have asked is has her department, did her department seek legal advice from Crown counsel with respect to this question? I'm well aware what Crown counsel said. I ask her the question, did it seek advice?

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Mr. Chairman, the members of my staff asked for a legal opinion from counsel about the use of Manitoba Education.

**MR. C. MANNESS:** I thank the Minister for finally admitting that it happened, Mr. Chairman. I would ask her at whose direction members of her staff asked Crown counsel for that advice?

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Mr. Chairman, with all of the things that are initiated within the Department of Education in a year, we can't quite remember who it was that initiated or first suggested that we should check with counsel on this matter. There are a number of people that could take credit. It could have been Mr. Floyde, it could have been the deputy. We're not quite sure who raised the issue first.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Order please.

The hour is 5:30, time for the dinner recess. I'm leaving the Chair and will return at 8:00 p.m.

## ERRATA

By error, the following text was omitted from Page 2706 of Hansard of Thursday, 6 June, 1985. The omitted text should have followed the question by Mr. C. Manness.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please. I believe that the honourable member is seeking information about costs arising as a result of Bill 26. Even though the honourable member has not referred to the actual number of the bill that is clearly the matter about which he is referring. The question would then be out of order.

The Honourable Member for Swan River.

**MR. D. GOURLAY:** Mr. Speaker, I direct a question to the Minister of Housing. In view of the very tight housing situation at Churchill, I direct two questions to the Minister of Housing. First of all, why has the minister recently removed the maximum rental limits on existing government housing units at Churchill; and, secondly, when will he provide details of a new housing project that he announced would take place? He made this announcement in Churchill in March.

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

**HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK:** Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I'd like to correct the Member for Swan River; in fact, there has been no change at the present time in the rent structure for the public housing. However, we have met with the community last March, and there have been many discussions since with members of that community, to come up with a scale that would be more acceptable to the province and to the Federal Government and, at the same time, would make the possibility of home ownership more attractive.

We are working on a number of programs to assist with the housing situation in Churchill and these will be made public, in due course, once we have dealt with all the concerns that are being expressed to us.