

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Monday, 24 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 . . .

NON-POLITICAL STATEMENT

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

HON. H. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, I have a short non-political statement.

MR. SPEAKER: Does the honourable member have leave? (Agreed)
The Honourable First Minister.

HON. H. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, it gives me pleasure today to inform the House that today has been set aside as Seniors Day at the Legislature. This is the second straight year that we have declared a special day in honour of seniors. We do so because of the contribution that seniors have made, and continue to make to the Province of Manitoba, which is indeed immeasurable. Their wisdom, their hard work, their dedication to building a better world for all deserves to be recognized. Their continued wisdom and contribution to society is a source of pride to all Manitobans.

It is in recognition, Mr. Speaker, of their hard work and commitment for a better provincial community and world that we have made this a special day set aside for them. And judging by the excellent turnout, both last year and again today, we can all once again look forward to an enjoyable and pleasurable afternoon.

Mr. Speaker, it is only fitting that the doors of the Legislative Building are wide open to our senior citizens so that we, on behalf of all Manitobans, pay special tribute to them. I am sure that all members of the Legislature will join with me today in welcoming all the senior citizens present to the Legislature today, and I am sure that we all look forward to meeting you later.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

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

I am pleased to join with the Premier and to rise on behalf of the members of the opposition in this Legislature to salute our seniors and Seniors Day today, and to welcome so many of them to the Legislature. We hope that they will enjoy their visit and that they will return regularly and often.

As we begin Seniors Week in Manitoba, I would hope, as well, that all of us would be committed to ensure that every week is Seniors Week in Manitoba and that we conduct ourselves in that regard at all times.

The Manitoba which we are privileged to share in today is a vibrant and a strong community that has an excellent quality of life because of the efforts of our senior citizens and the foundation that they have laid. Manitoba did not progress and grow as a result merely of the actions of governments, or the initiative of governments, but of the efforts that have been put forth by generations of our people who committed their time, their talent and their sweat of their brows to build a better future for themselves, for their children, their grandchildren and of all future generations.

So in acknowledging and recognizing the efforts of our seniors, let us continue as well to pledge, to carry on the work that they have begun and to ensure that we are always mindful and committed of their needs and their concerns as we carry out our duties and responsibilities as elected representatives in this House in Manitoba.

Thank you very much.

MR. SPEAKER: Notices of Motion . . .

The Honourable Minister of Energy and Mines.

HON. W. PARASIUK: Mr. Speaker, I thought we were still on Ministerial Statements and Tabling of Reports.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS AND TABLING OF REPORTS

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

HON. W. PARASIUK: Mr. Speaker, I would just like to table a news release for Manitoba Hydro regarding their award on tendering for the information of members.

MR. SPEAKER: Notices of Motion . . .

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Government House Leader.

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

Pending the House dealing with the motion beginning on Page 5 of the Order Paper I would ask you, Sir, to only call Bills No. 65, 79 and 80 for first reading today.

HON. V. SCHROEDER introduced, by leave, Bill No. 65, The Statute Law Amendment (Taxation) Act (1985); Loi de 1985 modifiant la législation relative à la fiscalité. (Recommended by Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor).

HON. J. PLOHMAN introduced, by leave, Bill No. 79, The Highway Traffic Act; Le Code de la route. (Recommended by Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor).

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside on a point of order.

MR. H. ENNS: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I simply want to indicate to the government, and particularly the Government House Leader, whom I welcome back in his bench, that it would certainly be the intention of the opposition to provide a speedy passage of a bill like the one that is before us, Bill No. 79, which is the translated form of the The Highway Traffic Act and, indeed, provide first, second and third reading in one sitting to expedite the Business of the House.

It's my understanding that the bill is not available to the Chamber in printed form at this present moment, but I want to be on record as having indicated that, as a result of my conversation with members opposite, that was the intention of the opposition with both Bill No. 79, The Highway Traffic Act and The Summary Convictions Act, we were prepared to pass all three readings today.

HON. R. PENNER introduced, by leave, Bill No. 80, The Summary Convictions Act; Loi sur les poursuites sommaires.

SPEAKER'S PROCEDURE STATEMENT

MR. SPEAKER: Prior to Oral Questions, I have a procedural statement for the House.

On June 13th, the Supreme Court of Canada issued a statement respecting Section 23 of The Manitoba Act. In light of that statement, it would be prudent for the Assembly to introduce such procedural changes as could reasonably be expected to withstand the scrutiny of a court of law.

Research is currently under way in order to assess further recommended procedural changes, which will be announced in due course. Those recommendations which can be made at this time are being made by means of this statement so that they will be in the permanent record of the House.

It is recommended that:

1. Notices of bill appearing on the Order Paper be printed in English and French.
2. Motions for all stages of enactment of bills be printed in English and French.
3. The Mover of a bill read either text, preserving the freedom of choice stipulated in Section 23.
4. The Speaker or Chairman put the question in either language, which question, if requested, be read from the table in the other language.

The above procedures were in effect in the Manitoba Assembly prior to 1890.

5. For amendments at committee stage, the House of Commons procedure be followed, whereby amendments in one language are accepted, with the translation being made at the earliest opportunity, thus avoiding delays in the committee's work.

The Legislative Assembly Management Commission has determined that English and French versions of Votes and Proceedings be printed and that these be

bound at the end of each Session to produce separate volumes of the Journals. This is the present Quebec practice and the Manitoba practice prior to 1890. Until such time that the practical delays in implementing this production can be overcome,

6. the motions be printed in the Votes and Proceedings in English and French.

These procedural changes have been put into effect as from today and will continue in effect until the House decides otherwise.

I am confident that these procedural changes can be implemented satisfactorily and recommend them to the House.

ORAL QUESTIONS

Expense accounts - release of information

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

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

My question is for the Premier. Given that a number of his Ministers have refused to release information on the expense accounts of senior civil servants and heads of Crown corporations, will he be requiring them to release this information for the public?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

HON. H. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, I would like to take that question under review. Certainly insofar as The Freedom of Information Act is concerned, it's my view that information, at the time of the proclamation of the act, should be made available. Any other questions pertaining to the area that the member is making reference to, I would like to take that under review as to the circumstances.

MR. G. FILMON: Mr. Speaker, will The Freedom of Information bill, as it is presently before the House, require that expense accounts of senior civil servants and heads of Crown corporations be made available to the public?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

HON. R. PENNER: First of all, Mr. Speaker, I point out that the bill is ordered for debate and will be before committee tomorrow. However, answering the question, at least on an interim basis, it is my advice that is likely the case. If the act is not clear enough in that respect, and we'll have further advice after committee stage before we get to the clause-by-clause, then the appropriate amendments that are required can be brought in.

I should simply point out that the only reason for some delay in doing it now is, not that the bill itself doesn't deal with it, but we have an interdepartmental committee that's been working really for a couple of years to enable ready access to such information to be made within the time limit stipulated in the bill, and we are approaching that time with reasonable dispatch.

Statutes of Manitoba - procedure for translation

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. G. FILMON: I'm wondering if the Attorney-General on a further subject could indicate whether or not he, or his department, had submitted to the Federal Secretary of State's department a review, in summary, of the procedure of translation of our statutes into French; a summary as to where we were, and a program as to how quickly we could translate the remaining statutes that were intended to be translated prior to the Supreme Court decision.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

HON. R. PENNER: Since approximately 1980, early 1981, there has been a fairly continual working relationship between officials in the Government of Manitoba, at the time when the members opposite were government and continuing, and officials in the Department of the Secretary of State with respect to facilitating the responsibilities that we have with respect to the translation of statutes and other material, exchange of resources and so on. It hasn't got beyond that in terms of any formal requesting made at this stage and when that stage is reached, as likely it will, the First Minister will be making an announcement in the House.

MR. G. FILMON: Mr. Speaker, I'm given to understand, and the Attorney-General could correct me if I'm wrong, but last fall the Attorney-General submitted to the Secretary of State a summary and a proposal as to how long it might take for certain translation to be accomplished. I'm wondering if that information could be made available to the House.

HON. R. PENNER: Mr. Speaker, I'll take that as notice. I'm not sure that the premise is correct in terms of the kind of information which it is suggested was submitted; it may well be, and certainly whatever was submitted at that time. Well, I'll take it as notice and, again, in due course, if that kind of information, which is essentially in any event the information I supplied this House in answer to a question from the Member for Elmwood in mid-April, but that type of information updated is in Hansard. But if there is any additional information, it will be tabled.

MR. G. FILMON: My understanding further, Mr. Speaker, and I could be wrong, I wonder if the Attorney-General could indicate whether or not his deputy is currently, or about to be, appearing at the Supreme Court for certain information. If so, I wonder if the Attorney-General could give us an indication as to what information is being sought.

HON. R. PENNER: Mr. Speaker, just very briefly, there has been no precedent as to how one even begins coming to the Supreme Court, as in the fullness of time, that we must, with respect to the issue that still remains, namely, the length of time that we will be requesting from the Supreme Court in order to complete the job which has to be done, following from the judgment of the Supreme Court. So that there are some preliminary

talks with the Registrar of the Supreme Court in terms of whether or not the first application, just to set a date, is made to the registrar or to a judge of the court. It is at that level, just at the moment it is very exploratory in terms of some understanding of the procedure, but it has not gone any further than that.

Vicon - location of assembly plant

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek.

MR. F. JOHNSTON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

My question is to the Minister of Industry and Technology. I wonder if the Minister can now inform the House as to whether Vicon Corporation, that the government has supplied up to \$1 million to, have made a decision as to where they will locate in the province.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Culture.

HON. E. KOSTYRA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

No, I can't inform the member as to whether or not Vicon has made a decision. I know they have been looking at a number of locations throughout Manitoba, but the last word I had they had not made a decision on a specific location.

MR. F. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, the Minister was kind enough to answer questions in committee on the subject, and I would follow up with basically the same question to him now. Has the government, since that time, been involved with Vicon regarding any discussions as to where they may locate; and has the government, in the past week or so, been involved in suggesting where Vicon should locate?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: In terms of the last question, I can't respond in terms of the last week. I know that staff have been making them aware of different locations throughout the province where they might locate. I know they looked at one specific location that we referenced to them. However, in the interim, that location, or that specific building, was taken by someone else in the Community of Morris in southern Manitoba. But I am not aware of any other specific locations or any action within the last week with respect to the department. I know that on an ongoing basis they have been providing them with information on available sites in Winnipeg and outside of Winnipeg.

Safety procedure re students

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Elmwood.

MR. R. DOERN: Thank you.

I direct a question to the Acting Minister of Education and ask the Minister, in regard to the tragic death of a 17-year old Miles Macdonell Collegiate student, will the government be undertaking a full and complete investigation of safety procedures and the program itself, whereby junior and senior high students are working in industrial settings outside our schools?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister for the Environment.

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

Although the question was asked of the Acting Minister, the Minister not being here, the question does have implications for Workplace Safety and Health and, on those grounds, perhaps I can answer to the member that, indeed, we would like to see every avenue pursued so that from this matter we can learn as to the causes and responsibilities in regard to this matter. Indeed, that is what is going to be happening so that we can determine what has happened and make sure that kind of tragic incident does not happen again.

MR. R. DOERN: Mr. Speaker, in that investigation, in terms of the educational ramifications and the specific tragedy that has occurred, would the Minister also ensure that employers are not using minors as a source of cheap labour, and that no normal safety or workplace procedures are being violated in that program?

HON. G. LECUYER: Indeed, Mr. Speaker, we would want and hope that the investigation will give us the answers to that type of question, as well. It follows, as well, I believe that there is indeed merit for the program that we have put in place in regard to the implementation of workplace safety and health joint committees, indeed, including in the school workplace. It does point to the need - I'm not, for one, going to say that it would have avoided this particular accident, a tragic accident - but there is indeed need in the school setup that students be made aware of proper workplace safety procedures, and that is being implemented and has been since the adoption of the act in 1983. But it does indeed indicate there is need to prepare our young people to work in industrial and other types of settings once they complete their education. Here we have an incident where students have not completed their education, are employed over a summer period, and face a tragic end. I do believe it is high time that all of these types of incidents stop in our society.

Cream shippers - emergency plans for surpluses

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. H. ENNS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a member of a rural and farm constituency, I, and many other members on this side at least, are getting a growing number of calls from our constituents about the plight of the dairy farmer, the cream shippers who are having to dump their cream on the ground, Mr. Speaker, or feed it to alternative livestock. Mr. Speaker, today is June 24th, they will not be able to ship their cream to the dairies until August the 1st. Is this Minister, is this government doing anything — (Interjection) — I'm directing it to the Acting Minister of Agriculture. Oh, I see the Minister of Agriculture. Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Agriculture so seldom graces this Chamber that I was momentarily . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

MR. H. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, I withdraw that.

MR. SPEAKER: If the honourable member has a question, would he please place it.

MR. H. ENNS: I'm pleased that the Minister of Agriculture is here to answer that question but my question is very serious. We have over a month before the dairies will be able to take the cream, is there not any emergency plan being considered by the government whereby this nutritious food, cream, can be used; we have many organizations that provide food services, can't something be done?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

HON. B. URUSKI: Mr. Speaker, I thank the honourable member. I'm pleased that he missed me, I want to tell him that Friday I was down with the flu and unfortunately, today, the fan belts that go around Fraserwood (sic) and I was a bit late in terms of coming into the city — (Interjection) — The car's fan belt.

Mr. Speaker, the question of cream quotas, certainly in the last several years, has been one that has plagued the Milk Producers Marketing Board who have the clear authority in terms of managing the cream pool. It's primarily because they have not seen fit to sit down with producers over the last number of years and to plan out the production of cream in the province that this dilemma has come upon us.

In 1981, Mr. Speaker, when those gentlemen were in government, we reached the total production in Manitoba, the lowest at any time in the last decade in terms of production. Only in the last several years has production increased to the point in which the cream block has been filled. It is a problem in terms of overproduction. The board has allowed the interchanging of quota within the block, not within producers but within the block, to allow producers to continue shipping. That's one that they will have assess from month to month. It's our hope that they will be able to meet that growing demand and production and handle any excess production there is from within the block. But should they not be able to do that, Sir, the rest of the industry will be faced, due to the Canadian agreement, with overproduction penalties. Most producers who overproduce in a supply-managed commodity will be faced with overproduction penalties.

MR. H. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the difficulty that the system is in and I understand the system, but we have a problem. My question to the Minister is: has the department any idea how many gallons of cream that will be wasted or not used for consumption from now to August 1st? Do we have some idea how large the problem is?

HON. B. URUSKI: Mr. Speaker, I hope that members opposite will make sure that they use a lot of cream in their coffee, drink a lot of milk. Mr. Speaker, we hope that in terms of the working of the block, the cream block, that the Milk Marketing Board will be able to allow all farmers who have not filled their quota, who are in the overproduction base, to be able to fill it. Mr. Speaker, it is totally within the operations of the Milk Marketing Board that this occurs.

I know the honourable members, over the last number of months, have attempted to raise this issue of the operation of supply-managed commodities as

something of a failure by members on this side. Mr. Speaker, one can't have it both ways in terms of the production of agricultural products. You either have a guarantee of income and then make sure that you don't oversupply the market. With that guarantee, then the system will work, Mr. Speaker, but you can't have a guarantee and then produce more than the market can hold, because then the whole system falls apart. If that's what the honourable members are advocating, that the system break down, Mr. Speaker, we don't stand for that kind of support for the agricultural industry. We want farmers with decent incomes, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. May I remind all visitors that flash cameras are not permitted in the gallery.
The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. H. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, you know, the Minister can't have it both ways either. He can't, on the one hand, chastise us for having low production years, and him having increase production. What's the point in increasing production if we're dumping the cream on the ground or following suggestions, as made from the other side, to turn it into wine, or to fill our bathtubs with it, as was made. Mr. Speaker, we have a problem on our hands and I'm hoping that the cream that's being used at this reception is a cream and not a vegetable product. I'll check it later on when I'm having coffee with the seniors.

But surely, Mr. Speaker, I happen to know from a colleague's recent trip to Ethiopia that we see Saskatchewan and Alberta prominently displayed with their food products, can't we do something with thousands of gallons of milk . . .

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER: Order please, order please. Order please.

If the honourable member has a question seeking information, would he place it?

Oral Questions.

The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

HON. B. URUSKI: The honourable member raised what we're going to do with the millions of gallons of cream. Mr. Speaker, up to this point, we have attempted to make sure that the Milk Marketing Board lived up to their managing of the supply management system, Mr. Speaker, and that's what we were attempting to do by the very process.

But, Mr. Speaker, the honourable member, while he wants to grandstand and try — (Interjection) — Mr. Speaker, we understand it's a serious problem. Every time that there is an overproduction of any product under a supply-managed commodity, it is a problem. You can't run a system by allowing an open flow into the quota system as much as producers want to produce. That's going to destroy the system, Mr. Speaker, and that's the kind of operation and the kind of argument that we've had from the Member for Emerson, and the Member for Arthur, and now the Member for Lakeside, Mr. Speaker. What they would like to do is have producers agitated so much with the system that it will break down and then, Mr. Speaker . . .

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

Grasshopper infestation - proposed control program

MR. SPEAKER: Order please, order please. Order please.

The Honourable Member for Arthur.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This follows on a question on Friday by my colleague from Turtle Mountain to the Minister of Highways and Transportation. I would ask the Minister of Agriculture if he would inform the Minister of Highways and Transportation that we do have a massive grasshopper infestation in southwestern and southern Manitoba, so that he can provide a program to spray the public highways and roadways, Mr. Speaker. Will the Minister of Agriculture inform the Minister of Highways so he's aware of what is going on in the province?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

HON. B. URUSKI: Mr. Speaker, this government recognizes that the problem with grasshoppers is urgent, yes.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Your Minister of Highways didn't, Mr. Speaker.

HON. B. URUSKI: Mr. Speaker, I need not inform any of my colleagues of the severity of the problem, we're all very well aware of it. That kind of a question, Mr. Speaker, does not deserve an answer at all because I want to give the answer to the honourable member that our program that we began as late as last fall, in consultation with the municipalities to set up the co-ordinating mechanism to fight the grasshopper infestation that we foresaw this coming year, the plan has been put into place with the municipalities and the financial support that we provide municipalities, providing for the costs of the chemicals that they spray on public land, Crown lands and roadways. That's the kind of support we are providing in this province, and will continue to do so.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Speaker, I would again ask the Minister of Agriculture if he will please answer and then inform his colleague, the Minister of Highways and Transportation, who said on Friday morning that, if there was a massive problem, they would consider introducing a program. Mr. Speaker, I again ask the Minister of Agriculture, will he promote and encourage the Minister of Highways to spray grasshoppers on public roadways which is their responsibility?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Highways.

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Speaker, we have outlined in this House on several occasions the policy in place that the Department of Agriculture pays for the chemicals; the municipalities are responsible for the application of that chemical on the rights-of-way of public lands in every municipality.

We do this with the Department of Agriculture officials, and at this time the officials have estimated the cost

of this to be about \$3,000 to \$5,000 for the application of chemicals on provincial trunk highway rights-of-way. That, to me, does not indicate a provincial emergency where we have to introduce some different measures than have been in place in the past. If those costs were tremendously higher than that, then I would refer it to the staff . . . We do not see that kind of . . . at the present time. If those figures are revised and there is a massive amount of expenditure by the municipalities, then that would be a different story. Right now, the fact that we have about \$3,000 to \$5,000, you spread that over a number of municipalities, that to me is not a massive problem, and I have said clearly that's the estimated cost for application on provincial trunk highway rights-of-way for many years . . .

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Speaker, I ask the Minister of Highways if he is not aware of the fact that last year the Province of Manitoba provided some \$78,000 to \$80,000 to spray municipal roadways to assist them. Mr. Speaker, I think the amount of the cost of application far exceeds the \$3,000 to \$4,000 that the Minister of Highways just referred to.

In view of the fact, Mr. Speaker, that it has been identified by the Department of Agriculture that grasshoppers are two-and-a-half times as bad as they were last year, and the cost to municipalities are continuing to skyrocket, Mr. Speaker, will the Minister of Highways and Transportation reconsider his decision not to assist the people of southwestern and southern Manitoba and spray provincial highway allowances, which is in fact his responsibility; will he carry that program out?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Speaker, there is the same program, the same policy is in place that has been in place for a number of years, and that is that the Department of Highways has not been in the business of the controlling insects on the rights-of-way. That is something that we have not yet put forward any changes in because we have yet to make changes in that particular program. I mentioned that if there was a massive outbreak, in terms of the application on rights-of-way that we'll look under a different program, and we would be prepared to do that.

The information I have at the present time is that the cost is nominal at the present time for the additional application that is required on the rights-of-way on provincial trunk highways; \$3,000 to \$5,000 is the estimate that I have at the present time, Mr. Speaker, and that does not warrant a special program to be put in place. It is the same program that was put in place, the same policy that was in place when the Member for Arthur was then the Minister of Agriculture, in fact we've even gone further with it in terms of supplying all the chemicals.

MPIC - garages, Autopac repairs

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Pembina.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

My question is for the Minister responsible for Autopac. Has the Minister had an opportunity to more fully investigate the file on the windshield deductibility with my constituent's garage in Carman, Manitoba?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Housing.

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: Yes, Mr. Speaker. As of last Friday, I was informed by the department that they were not aware that there had been any commitment from the firm in Carman to abide by the policies of the corporation.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the garage is adhering to the policy by collecting the deductible from the customer, will the Minister not intervene and stop robbing the garage in Carman of the \$50 deductible when they collected it from the customer?

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: Mr. Speaker, this seems to be about the third or fourth time the very same question has been asked and I will provide the same answer; that is, until such time as the corporation is provided with the written commitment from the firm that they are willing to abide by the policies, or by the rules that other similar businesses are required to abide by, then the firm will continue to have part of a deduction made from its payment, until such time as there is a commitment that they will abide by the rules that other firms are.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Speaker, would the commitment, assuming it is given by the garage in Carman, will the Minister then require the corporation to retroactively reimburse my garage for all the money that is withheld?

MR. SPEAKER: The question is hypothetical. Would the honourable member wish to rephrase the question.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Speaker, the Minister answers that a certain circumstance has to be followed.

I wish to ask the Minister, will he order Autopac to pay retroactively for all of the claims, in full, and pay the withheld money to my garage?

MR. SPEAKER: That is the same question; it is still hypothetical.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

HON. H. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, if I could, with permission of members of the House, I would like to make a non-political introduction.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to just draw the attention of honourable members to the presence of Mr. Stanley Knowles in the Speaker's Gallery. I am sure, on behalf of all members, we welcome Mr. Knowles here today.

ORDERS OF THE DAY COMMITTEE CHANGES

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Emerson.

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

I have an appointment to the Statutory Regulations and Orders Committee: Birt, the Member for Fort Garry, there was a vacancy on that committee.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Riel.

MRS. D. DODICK: Mr. Speaker, I have a committee change in Economic Development: Churchill for The Pas, and St. Johns for Burrows; and on Statutory Regulations, we have Wolsley for Kildonan. I thought that would be filling a vacancy.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Government House Leader.

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

I understand that in Estimates we are beginning Community Services today in Room 255, in the committee room section; and continuing with Education. It is my intention to move that motion, Sir. I would ask first if there is leave to dispense with Private Members' Hour.

MR. SPEAKER: Is there leave to dispense with Private Members' Hour today? I believe leave has been granted; — (Interjection) — it has not been granted.

The Honourable Government House Leader.

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

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

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

CONCURRENT COMMITTEES OF SUPPLY SUPPLY - COMMUNITY SERVICES

MR. CHAIRMAN, C. Santos: This section of the Committee of Supply shall be dealing with the Estimates of the Department of Community Services. We shall begin with an opening statement from the Honourable Minister responsible for the department.

The Honourable Minister.

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Chairperson, I'm pleased to present the 1985-86 Estimates of Manitoba Community Services.

The total Estimates of my department are \$164,487,300, an increase of about 5.7 percent over 1984-85.

My department has come through an eventful but successful year, with many goals achieved and substantial progress accomplished in other fields. The key to these achievements has been the commitment of my staff and the interest and dedication of thousands of Manitobans whose active participation in our program operations has made them work successfully in the community.

We continue to emphasize community-based services and the need for community participation, both in the

development of social service policy and in actual service operation.

Virtually none of the program branches of Manitoba Community Services is without its community of interest and close ties to the community at large through a thriving network of dedicated volunteers and community assistance.

In fact, two major departmental initiatives of the past year, the reorganization of Child and Family Services and the Welcome Home Program would have been impossible, even unthinkable, without the participation of the community from the beginning.

We have achieved a successful working partnership between government and the wide and diverse Manitoba community. Our goal for 1985-86 will be to enhance this relationship in all our programs.

In Child and Family Services, we are gratified by the accomplishments of the multifaceted reorganization of Child and Family Services that has taken place over the past year or so.

The transformation of service structure in Winnipeg into six new regional and community-based agencies has been completed and the agencies are now operating. I am happy to report that community interest remains very high, as shown by participation in the annual meetings that have just been held, and the competition for seats on the boards of directors.

We are confident that the new agencies will offer and operate more effective, community-based, prevention-oriented services than was possible under the old structure.

The new Child and Family Services Act, now being considered by this House, will provide the necessary legislative and philosophical backing for our Child and Family Services as well as strengthening family life in Manitoba.

The third significant aspect of service reorganization is the long overdue development of reserve-based Native agencies, as well as agencies serving registered Indians, non-status Indians and Metis living in Winnipeg.

Generally speaking, the agencies have developed more rapidly and comprehensively than we had dared to hope.

The Child Day Care Program continues to be an outstanding Manitoba success story. We firmly believe our province has the finest day care program in Canada.

We plan to open 450 new funded spaces in the coming year, to meet areas of greatest need. These will add to the more than 13,000 spaces now available to Manitoba parents.

Manitoba is committed to strengthening community-based, non-profit day care, which makes possible active parental participation in the determination of environment and programs offered by local day care centres. We will continue to press for federal action toward a national day care act for all of Canada. We have offered both the draft act and the benefit of our 11 years of experience to facilitate development of a comprehensive national program.

One of our most important prevention-oriented services is family conciliation, now part of the enlarged Family Dispute Services Branch. Family conciliation tries to ensure that in the event of parental separation children will have as much access as possible to the non-custodial parent, through agreement of both parents. Honourable members will appreciate that this

service will greatly reduce trauma for children caught in the disputes between their parents during separation.

Child and Family Service agencies have reported for some years that a major category of their clients consists of families who split up without adequately dealing with custody and access. Family conciliation has succeeded in reducing the adversarial nature of many marital separations in Manitoba.

With the establishment of the new responsibility centre for family disputes we will start planning for extension of services across the province and to ensure that program standards are established and monitored. We will also ensure that services are culturally appropriate for Native and immigrant families.

Services to battered women have advanced significantly in the past year. The outstanding achievement has been greatly improved access to local and regionally based crisis services for women throughout Manitoba and the establishment in my department of funding procedures for regionally-based non-residential crisis services.

The main goal of our programs remains equity and equal access to services such as shelters, counselling and safe homes. We now have a full-time extremely knowledgeable co-ordinator of Wife Abuse Services and my department's regional staff have established close ties with local women's groups and crisis services.

Finally, in this division I will briefly mention the new Special Children's Services Branch which is concerned with mentally handicapped children as part of the Welcome Home Program. Special Children's Services is a long-range program to develop high quality, efficient services for mentally handicapped children at home or in institutions. We aim to increase the community's ability to care for all its children and increase family access to children who must live in institutions.

The first years of program will be spent developing regional demonstration projects of enriched community-based services for mentally handicapped children. This will be followed by implementation involving staff in Mental Retardation, Child and Family Services and Day Care.

The Welcome Home Program is moving forward well. As honourable members know, this will result in the transfer of about 220 residents at institutions for the mentally handicapped, to a variety of community settings over a three-year period. The transfers are being implemented by community-based regional Implementation teams in all parts of Manitoba.

In 1985-86 we hope to transfer about 80 persons to their families or to other local community residences. Actual arrangements are being prepared by the Implementation teams. In a number of communities there will also be new and expanded services for the mentally handicapped.

In addition, about 80 persons already in the community, but identified as being "at risk" for Institutional placement, will receive enhanced services to prevent their institutionalization. Welcome Home will also result in enriched services for the remaining residents of our institutions through a higher staff-to-resident ratio.

We are proud of the strong community interest and participation in Welcome Home. This is shown by the fact that about 500 persons from the community are members of the regional implementation teams' responsible for the success of the program to date.

In all, there will be an increase of \$3.5 million for 1985-86 in funds allocated to Welcome Home and residential and day programs for the mentally handicapped.

The closure of the School of Psychiatric Nursing at the Manitoba Developmental Centre is part of this process. We decided that maintaining three small schools of psychiatric nursing was neither efficient nor desirable. Consequently, we are consolidating our psychiatric nursing training programs in Brandon and Selkirk, but we will continue to work with Manitoba Health and the Registered Psychiatric Nurses Association of Manitoba to achieve the best possible result.

I want to stress that training facilities will not disappear from Manitoba Developmental Centre, as training at Portage will continue to be an important part of the practicum for all the students at Brandon and Selkirk. As well, there will probably be a longer practicum for all these students at the Developmental Centre which will enhance the skills of all the trainees.

In adult corrections, we continue to enjoy high interest in our community programs for inmates of correctional institutions.

At Brandon, we have one of the highest proportions of inmates working in the community of any institution in North America, with 70 percent to 75 percent of sentenced inmates participating in some form of community work.

At Headingley, about half the sentenced inmates are taking part in a growing variety of community-based programs, such as assistance to non-profit community organizations and community clubs.

In the current fiscal year, adult corrections staff will undertake several reviews in response to actual and anticipated pressures on our correctional system.

In anticipation of possible federal legislation to increase penalties for impaired drivers, we are working to identify appropriate alternative measures to prevent overcrowding and further straining of correctional resources.

We are examining the needs of special offender groups such as sexual and spousal abusers when they are sentenced to terms in correctional centres.

We are also examining the special cultural and spiritual needs of Native inmates and looking for ways to counter the disproportionately high percentage of Natives in Manitoba correctional institutions.

We will be placing more emphasis on community participation in both the adult and youth justice systems. We will seek support from individuals and agencies and will work to maintain a close working relationship with agencies.

Our Fine Option Program, which operates in many communities and reserves throughout the province, will be expanded from its present concentration on adults to include young offenders. This expansion is a consequence of the proclamation last year of The Young Offenders Act, which prescribes a much higher limit on fines of \$1,000, higher than the \$25 under the now-repealed Juvenile Delinquents Act. As a result, we foresee much greater use of this alternative measure as Manitoba adapts to YOA.

For youth corrections, implementing The Young Offenders Act has been its most challenging task in the 15 months that YOA has been in force. In

conjunction with the Attorney-General's Department, federal departments, police, school divisions and a number of agencies and community groups, we have put in place or modified a wide variety of programs and procedures.

We also initiated and co-ordinated a comprehensive information and orientation program for agencies, government departments, law enforcement bodies and community groups. This program included 14 issues of a newsletter, the YQA info-line, and more than 100 orientation sessions given to various groups.

The programs and policies of Manitoba Community Services are an important part of this government's commitment to social equality for all Manitobans. However, they should also be seen as a means of achieving economic equality. As Minister responsible for the Status of Women, I want to emphasize that achieving social and economic equality are synonymous. The two goals are inseparable.

The Manitoba Government is taking and will continue to take a comprehensive approach to bring about economic and social equality for women. Our goals and programs are aimed at women in the paid labour force and at those women whose contributions to the economy and society are channelled through the home and the community.

Our commitments have been reflected in a number of accomplishments and projects still in progress.

We are facilitating the entry, or re-entry, of women into the labour force and retraining or upgrading programs through improvements to our day care program.

We have instituted affirmative action programs. One at the Limestone project involves scholarship programs to encourage women to enter technology and engineering studies, special efforts by Manitoba Hydro to recruit female candidates for training programs, and a long-term goal of 50 percent female participation in both construction jobs and permanent positions at the completed project.

Another is pay equity legislation with respect to Provincial Government employees.

The Women's Directorate has undergone a change of name and an increase in its capabilities and responsibilities.

The directorate will ensure that government policies reflect the needs of the women of Manitoba. It will act as a resource and advisory body to departments and agencies in the government on the implications for women of their programs and proposals.

We are convinced that the policies and proposals I have outlined for Manitoba Community Services and the Women's Directorate combine a responsible and practical approach with fairness and compassion in application.

They will generate major benefits for all Manitobans through the assistance given and the opportunities offered.

My department and this government as a whole will continue to exercise leadership in seeking to achieve these ends, and in offering examples and assistance for other governments in Canada.

Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Madam Minister.

In accordance with customary practice, we shall now hear from the leading critic of the opposition party, who shall, if he so wishes, present a reply to the Minister's opening statement.

The Member for Rhineland.

MR. A. BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Minister for her opening statement, and I must say that she has identified many, which we see as the problem areas on this side and which maybe, I suppose, from the Minister's point of view and from her department's point of view, they see this as great steps having been taken forward in many of these areas. The Minister and I maybe should get together and go to see the same optician because we seem to be seeing this particular department through two different pairs of glasses.

I would just like to again thank the Minister for her comments and say that we have done a rather complete review of this particular department starting from the 1982 Estimates up till the present time. I would just like to say that considerable research has been done by P.C. research into this department, going as far back as a careful examination of performance from the 1981-82 Estimates to the 1985-86 Estimates.

We find that this government's statements do not coincide with the facts. This government, during the last provincial election, said that they would reinstate Health and Social Services care in Manitoba. After careful examination of performance of this department from 1981-82 to 1985-86, we find that services have fallen behind in excess of 17 percent.

How honest is a government and a Minister when they state that the reconstruction of the Children's Aid Society from the old to the new system would not incur significant cost?

To date, that increase in cost, we are told, is in excess of \$2.5 million; \$2.5 million, Mr. Chairman, for this Minister to build a political empire for the NDP party and \$2.5 million less to provide care for children. Where are their priorities?

Obviously, this Minister is more interested in politicizing this department, because all top positions have been filled by appointment, than in providing care.

The problem is, Mr. Chairman, that this increased cost of restructuring will be with us every year. Will we provide better care or service? The answer to date is no. We have created more problems than we have solved, and there is no indication that the area of Family Services is anywhere near operating in as efficient a manner as under the old system.

Does this department treat people with equality? Is treating people with equality not a responsibility of government?

The government has granted itself and its various institutions at the Manitoba Development Centre, Seven Oaks Centre for Youth, the correctional centres, cost-of-living increases for food, clothing and so on, yet it has not granted similar increases to private sector agencies which deliver residential services. For example: St. Amant, the child welfare institutions, group homes, mentally retarded residences, these areas have not received that increase.

The government has made available preventive services grants to child welfare agencies, and these

grants are available to city agencies only. The rural agencies, the Children's Aid Society of Central, Western and Eastern Manitoba, nor the Interlake, Parklands, Norman or Thompson regions, have not received these grants.

In the case of the foster parents in St. James, who were under attack from Native agencies, each of the parties counsel was paid for by the government except the foster parents who incurred expenses of many thousands of dollars which they paid out of their own pockets, and for what purpose, Mr. Chairman? - just because they happen to have shown love and care for this particular foster child.

Private day care versus not for profit day care is an issue based on ideology and not on service. All organizations have to meet the same set of standards, therefore quality of service issues are the same whether private or not for profit. Yet, funding discriminates against the private day care and, indeed, this government is making it extremely difficult for private agencies to remain in business, and why? - because of political hangups of this government.

Mr. Chairman, in the period between 1981-82 and the 1985-86 Estimates, government expenditures has grown 52 percent. It is not possible to determine the overall expenditure level in Community Services due to the splitting up of the department into two departments: Community Services and Employment and Economic Security.

Direct Line Services that remain intact in the budget between 1981-82 and 1985-86, the level of growth and expenditure is in the order of 35 percent. When the government states we have sustained these services during this recession, we wonder about the truth of that statement.

There has been a considerable cut in direct services to people, considerable resources have been moved from direct services to people to services supporting government.

For example, in 1981-82, ministerial support and senior management of the department cost a total of \$229,000.00. In 1985-86, the combined cost of the ministerial support of the now two departments - Community Services and Employment and Economic Security - it takes two departments now to do the work of what was previously done by one department, is \$603,400, an increase of 163 percent.

In the area of program review and evaluation, the increase during the same period of time and taking into account again two departments versus one department, the increase was \$341,000 in 1981-82; and the cost at the present time, in 1985-86 budget, is \$932,000 - an increase of 173 percent.

In Communications, 1981-82, no expenditure; in 1985-86, of the two departments \$338,400 can be identified, and we know there is more.

In a couple of other areas, for example, in Community Social Services, the increase in administration is 122 percent; and in the Child and Family Services administration an increase of at least 240 percent. This, Mr. Chairman, is a tremendous increase in administration, and it's a story that ought to be told to the people of this province.

Mr. Chairman, the Minister recently announced the approval of construction of a new Remand Centre, yet there is no money appropriation. It appears as if the

Minister is trying to deceive the public into believing that something is going to happen in Corrections.

The Minister had some studies done on Headingley and other studies relating problems within Corrections, and it will be interesting to see whether any action has been taken as a result of these studies.

Mr. Chairman, we look forward to the examination of these Estimates. I don't know if I will be present all the time during these Estimates, but there are other people who will be standing by if I won't be here. They will identified to the Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Chair thanks the Member for Rhineland.

At this point in time, the Chairperson invites the members of the departmental staff to kindly take their respective places.

Deferring budget Item No. 1, relating to the Minister's Salary, which this committee shall consider as the last item for our consideration and deliberation, we shall begin with consideration of budget Item No. 1.(b)(1) Administration and Finance, Executive Support, Salaries; 1.(b)(2) Other Expenditures - the Member for Rhineland.

MR. A. BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I could just have a minute to get myself organized.

On Page 28 of this year's Appropriation, I understand that the total increase is 5.7 percent as opposed to the year ending March 31, 1985. Just as a comment, Mr. Chairman, the two-year increase in Administration and Finance is 29.1 percent in this particular department. We took a look at this; so just again to show you how Administration and Finance is increasing relative to other increases. Okay, I was speaking on the current operating expenditures.

I would like to ask some questions, if I could, on the reconciliation statement.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Rhineland, what is the question?

MR. A. BROWN: Thank you. On the reconciliation statement, I had some questions. For instance, what function was transferred from Finance that cost \$33,300.00?

HON. M. SMITH: We've added an internal audit position to the Finance Department to assist us with program and financial evaluation. It's been a position and a function that has been recommended by Treasury to enable us to further develop our planning systems so that we can ensure that money spent is, in fact, achieving the purpose for which it was spent and that we can improve our systems for monitoring expenditure.

MR. A. BROWN: My next question would be the transfer made from Health that cost 17,800.00. Also, the other question would be: what function was transferred from Labour that cost 419,700.00?

HON. M. SMITH: As you know, we work in a regional setting with Health. In this case, it was an adjustment where a health worker was deemed to be doing more of a community service function. So it was just an adjustment.

The transfer over from Labour is to cover the cost of the directorate and the Advisory Council, Status of Women. As you recall, mid-year I assumed the responsibility for Status of Women at the death of the Honourable Mary Beth Dolin. She had that figure under the Labour Department before, so now it's been transferred for administrative purposes to come under Community Services. It's the block of funding that was available under the Status of Women.

MR. A. BROWN: Education, \$442,600, we have information that amount relates to the transfer of educational funding for institutional education programs from Community Services to Education. This raises a couple of questions. Has this funding been provided to those institutions through the Department of Education? In other words, has the replacement funding been provided, or have institutions suffered a net loss?

HON. M. SMITH: We have transferred over monies that we were spending on education to the Department of Education, and they are allocating the monies according to their program for special needs education. So the dispersal of those funds is more appropriately put to the other Minister.

With regard to the Department of Health, when the two departments were split some of the functions weren't fully rationalized. We were managing some wheelchair repairs for physically disabled people. It seemed more appropriate to shift that over to Health, because they dispense the wheelchairs and it seemed better for them to manage that aspect of the service.

MR. A. BROWN: My second question would be: does this transfer affect all institutions or just private institutions? For example, does the transfer affect the Manitoba Youth Centre, Agassiz and so on?

HON. M. SMITH: No, in the correctional field, we're dealing with secure custody situations. We've kept the education under our jurisdiction.

MR. A. BROWN: You say you cut the educational . . .

HON. M. SMITH: No, we've kept it.

MR. A. BROWN: Kept, oh.

My next question is under Health. What is the 464,500 referred to there? What is being transferred to Health?

HON. M. SMITH: The wheelchair repair. It was under the Society for Crippled Children grants that we give for service. It was normally money we gave them, and then they provided the repair. What's happened now is that we've transferred that money over to Health, and the Society will deal directly with Health in securing that money and running the program. But there is no real program change. It's just an administrative clarity. They have the rest of the wheelchair program. We only have a small part of it.

MR. A. BROWN: Would that total be for wheelchair repair? It seems like a lot of money for wheelchair repair in one particular year when we're spending almost half a million dollars.

HON. M. SMITH: It's for replacement and repair, but one thing you do discover when you get into these programs is that they really are quite costly.

MR. A. BROWN: Okay, so then we're talking about different - does the Minister mean that there would be replacement and addition of new wheelchairs wherever they are needed? If this is the case, I know that this is a question that usually throws the administration into a bit of a frenzy when you ask how many wheelchairs we are operating at the present time. But I wonder if the department would have that figure.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The member asked how many wheelchairs.

HON. M. SMITH: I can obtain that information.

MR. A. BROWN: I would appreciate that information. Then I would like to know how many motorized wheelchairs we are operating.

HON. M. SMITH: How many what?

MR. A. BROWN: Motorized wheelchairs we have at the present time.

Mr. Chairman, I wonder if there have been any changes in the - I am talking about 1.(b) now, Executive Support.

Do you want to approve the other?

MR. CHAIRMAN: We are on 1.(b)(1) Executive Support: Salaries; 1.(b)(2) Other Expenditures. Are we ready to pass this item?

MR. A. BROWN: Okay. I just got the organizational structure here. Have there been any changes in the salaries at all in any of these positions over the past year?

HON. M. SMITH: We haven't quite completed it, but we are in the process of putting the Adult Correctional Program into two streams. We are keeping adult and juvenile together, but we are dividing, for administrative purposes, into community corrections and institutional base corrections. We had looked last year at focusing on the adult and juvenile split, but this year we have found it better to organize in terms of the community service delivery side and the institutional service delivery.

MR. A. BROWN: So do I understand that split already has been made?

HON. M. SMITH: It's in process.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 1.(b)(1)—pass; 1.(b)(2)—pass.
1.(c)(1) Research and Planning: Salaries; 1.(c)(2) Other Expenditures - the Member for Rhineland.

MR. A. BROWN: I wonder if the Minister could give us an indication of where they are going at the present time as far as Research and Planning is concerned.

HON. M. SMITH: Well, we are charging our Research and Planning group to help us to know where to go.

Basically, they provide a general service that helps to analyze current program gaps, overlaps, problem areas, and to help work with the planners in each division, what the different options are and the costs, the aspects relating to them, so that we can make the most informed judgments.

Basically, they are a support service to the Deputy Minister and the department's Executive Management Committee. So they provide the policy analysis. They co-ordinate policy research, and they promote orderly liaison with other government agencies. They have particular responsibility for planning, co-ordinating and monitoring our annual and multi-year planning cycles. Then they will also help with specific planning processes.

MR. A. BROWN: There are a number of areas which I would like to discuss over here, because this is your Planning and Research Department. Maybe we should start with the Child Abuse Program.

Can the Minister tell me whether any changes are anticipated in policy in the Child Abuse Program coming up? Are we going to be continuing in the same way? Because I understand that there is some difficulty coming forward and being enunciated by people who have not received the type of follow-up that they would have liked to have received after the abuse had been identified. I would like to see what the Minister has to say about that.

HON. M. SMITH: It's true that the planning group assists us with identifying issues such as that, and giving us some planned approach to meeting the need. I think the specifics with regard to something like child abuse is better dealt with under Child and Family Services.

But what planning helps us to do is, instead of just encouraging a rather ad hoc response or a temptation to try to throw a lot of money - and as you know, money is not that readily obtainable these days - but building up expensive ad hoc systems to deal with the problem, they help us to identify what the different elements of a program are, such as educating the public, working with other professional groups and community people to assist with identification and reporting, protocols, and so on, and then helping with dealing, first of all, with the Crisis Services, then planning the follow-up.

As with any emerging social problem, we start off behind the eight ball, because the problem is always very much larger than our ability to deal with it. Step 1 has always to be to make the public aware that the problem is there, so that we can get their support in dealing with it. Then we gradually move into altering our system so that it can meet with it. In a time when money was easy to get for any department, I suppose we could have built up a mammoth structure to deal with a specific like child abuse. But I think, having resisted that temptation and trying to go the more solid and community-integrated approach, that we are going to have longer-term benefits because we are working on the preventive as well as the crisis and the longer-term follow-up.

I would be the first to say though that, with programs such as this, the program doesn't catch up to meet all the need immediately. There is required a developmental time. There aren't even people out there trained to know how to deal with it. So you have to

deal with training your staff and building in the community networking system.

But I would prefer to go into greater detail on that program when we hit the Child and Family Services.

MR. A. BROWN: I suppose the Minister would then like to discuss all these issues not under planning policy and program in instances such as spouse abuse and child and family services and all, when we get to those departments.

HON. M. SMITH: I could add just a few more items, so that you understand the role of the Research and Planning. They are very heavily involved with, as I mentioned before, dealing with other government departments at the provincial level, but they are also very heavily engaged when we're dealing with federal-provincial relations, giving us background papers, monitoring the potential changes there and helping us identify what initiatives we wish to take in our federal-provincial relationships. That means also keeping in touch with other Provincial Governments, and monitoring what is going on in other provinces.

Internally, they have also been helping us to develop information systems within government, so that we are in a better position to know the scope of the problems.

One of the real difficulties in Community Services is that there is a lot of need out there, but there has never been an orderly or a consistent capacity in government to know the extent of the need or be able even to do more than just list the different services. You have to develop the service further. You have to get much more analytical in order to know the best way to allocate scarce resources. So it is in helping us to make those kinds of judgments that the Research and Planning group really provide an invaluable service to us.

MR. A. BROWN: My question then is that there is a substantial increase in salaries in the amount of \$58,700.00. It is a 13.1 percent increase. What was this increase?

HON. M. SMITH: There has actually been one increase in staff, a specialist to deal with federal-provincial negotiations on tripartite agreements for Native Child Welfare. The other increase is just the normal incremental salary cost.

MR. A. BROWN: In Other Expenditures, we have an increase of 42.8 percent. Can the Minister explain that increase?

HON. M. SMITH: It is basically, when this group was put together, there wasn't much operating money, particularly with the federal-provincial activity that has been going on. We felt we should budget a bit for travel and for general operating. But as you can see, the resources to the group are mainly in salaries, mainly people costs.

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

1.(d)(1) Communications: Salaries; 1.(d)(2) Other Expenditures - the Member for Rhineland.

MR. A. BROWN: I would just like to make a comment on the previous area on programming and Research

and Planning. The increase over a two-year period now has been 28.6 percent. I think, Mr. Chairman, that it is rather important that we take a look back every once in a while and see which direction we are heading because, if we take a look at them on a year-by-year basis, sometimes these increases seem minimal. Yet, when you take them over a four-year period of time, you come in with huge, huge increases.

(d)(1) . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister wants to comment and reply.

HON. M. SMITH: I think again, when evaluating the growth in Research and Planning, one should look at the fact that the budget of the department is in the \$160-plus million range. I think any complex operation, such as we have where we are working with funding a lot of agencies to do things; we are doing direct service; we have rising expectations, limited resources; a changing federal-provincial climate that, if we don't put some money into analysis and up-front planning, we may find ourselves penny-wise and pound-foolish. I find this particular function of great assistance to me in helping to sift through the various problems and chart the wisest public course.

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

MR. A. BROWN: Mr. Chairman, I was just asked a question of where was the Wife Abuse Program going to come in. I believe that would be under Status of Women. Is that correct?

HON. M. SMITH: No, it comes under Family Disputes. It's a subdivision of Child and Family Services, 4.(e) on Page 32.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are we able to pass 1.(d)(1), 1.(d)(2)?

MR. A. BROWN: No.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Rhineland.

MR. A. BROWN: We are in Communications. We are now seeing a two-year increase of 321 percent. Mr. Chairman, this is of great concern to us. We have expressed this in the House a number of times, that we are really concerned about Communications and what this government and every department is doing in Communications. I would like to hear how this department can possibly justify such an enormous increase when field services available to people are either not being increased significantly or, in some cases, even cut back. To me, it seems that there must be other ways of getting the story across than spending so much of our budget on Communications. So I would like to hear the Minister justify that type of expenditure.

We are short of money in the province. We have been running deficit after deficit. Yet, in this particular area of Communications, there seems to be no end to the type of expenditure that we are willing to make. I would like to hear some comments from the Minister justifying that type of expenditure by her department.

HON. M. SMITH: Again, I think the proportion is low, even though the year-over-year may look relatively high.

We are dealing in a field of Community Service where, as government, we play a certain role in terms of planning and policy direction, but a great deal of our work is done with volunteer groups, with community groups. Also we need to reach to the very people who need the service. We can't presume in this day and age that just offering good things is enough, if the very people in need don't have any way of understanding the service is there or how to access it.

The actual increase in expenditure is accounted for by two newsletters that went out to interpret what we're doing and how and why, the Community Options - we have copies available for you - and another program for half that amount to recruit volunteers.

As we said, one way we are able to provide the quality of service we do throughout the department is that we - and I'll be referring to it quite consistently as we go through - enrich our service a very great deal by recruiting volunteers and involving them. It stretches the public dollar. It also produces a better quality of service, because local people are involved in building some of those relationships and networks that have a preventive and developmental role. We employ a lot of volunteer drivers, helpers and so on. We must recruit them and keep that information flow up. So I really don't find the total amount at all disproportionate.

MR. A. BROWN: Mr. Chairman, if this was the funds and we possibly would not be all that much concerned, but we know very well that this is not the total amount. We know, for instance, and I'm certain that amount is not included in this figure, is that, when the Minister announced the Wife Abuse Program, she was going to spend, I believe, \$300,000 on that particular program and \$100,000 of that monies was going to be spent on communication so that we know that there is much much more money spent on communication.

A person must wonder why are we spending all that money just to get the story across of all the things that we are hoping to do at some particular point in time? It doesn't make sense. Some of these programs, if they were really effective like in the case of the wife abuse, for instance, I would assume that problems were being identified, then the Minister found that she was out of money. She had absolutely no money to cope with the situation. So there is very little sense in advertising that type of program and spending so much money in this particular area.

HON. M. SMITH: The bulk of the communication money is not spent telling people what we've done, but informing the people who need the service and indeed recruiting the very people who help to deliver the service. You cannot operate a community-based service without having a good information-sharing service. When we get to issues like the wife abuse, it was 100,000 that was put in, but there is nine or 10 times that amount for the development of the program.

It was not put out to say aren't we great; we're doing a lot. It was put out because, in our analysis of the problem and in our phased approach to trying to resolve it, making the public aware of the myths surrounding wife abuse, the fact it's a community problem, that it

cannot be tolerated, drawing on the resources of the broader, healthy community as it were to support the individuals as well as through public programs - we need both - we really couldn't have developed the program without that. It's an essential part of the program development. It is a public education tool. I think, as we go through the programming, we can discuss how we've used communications as an essential tool in reaching people.

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

MR. A. BROWN: Mr. Chairman, I note that none of this money is recoverable from Canada. That means that it's not cost-shared. This makes it just that much more worse that it's 100 cent dollars that we're talking about over here. The Federal Government is not going to participate in the type of communication. If the communication were of the type where it would be informing the public of programs, more than likely this particular item would qualify for some participation by the Federal Government. But in this particular instance, there is absolutely nothing coming forward from the Federal Government. It is 100 percent, 100 cent dollars that the Department of Corrections and Community Services is spending on communications.

HON. M. SMITH: In fact, we did get some cost recovery on some areas in day care and corrections. In other areas - and let's take the wife abuse area - at meetings of federal-provincial social service Ministers, we have all been encouraging one another and the Federal Government has certainly been encouraging the provinces to share their materials in wife abuse. The attitude and response to the problems that have been developing right across the country has certainly put the public outreach and public education as top priority.

So again, if there is no federal sharing, I would think that the answer would be to lean on the Federal Government to take a better share in dealing with this very important social issue. It costs us 100 times as much if we wait and have everyone imprisoned or suffering poor health. It's better that we get in at the beginning of a problem and try to prevent it and deal with it in the earlier stages.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Portage.

MR. L. HYDE: Mr. Chairman, I was wondering if the Minister could inform me just as to when or whether or maybe we have passed the department that I would have liked to have discussed, the Big Brothers and Sisters. Could she inform me where we could discuss that, please?

HON. M. SMITH: It's under Section 4.(b).

MR. CHAIRMAN: It would be under 4.(b), Child and Family Support.

MR. L. HYDE: Oh yes, okay. Thank you very much.

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

MR. A. BROWN: I wonder if the Minister would be able to give us some comment on the functions of this particular department.

HON. M. SMITH: There are two major components. There are accounting services and budgetary and cost-sharing services. Accounting services prepare and process all the program and operating expenditure billings for the department, ensure a timely and orderly flow of transaction vouchers to the Department of Finance for payment; receive and control revenue and trust monies. Primary functions are voucher processing accounts payable, maintenance of clients' trust accounts and revenue accounting and accounts receivable.

On the budgetary and cost-sharing services, they coordinate, monitor and provide a comprehensive budget support service to all divisions, plus the administration of the Canada Assistance Plan and the new Young Offenders Act Agreement, other cost-sharing agreements between the province and the Federal Government.

Primary functions of this component are: assisting in preparing annual Budget Estimates, monitoring and analyzing expenditures and revenues, preparation of claims under Canada Assistance Plan, The Young Offenders Act and vocational rehabilitation of disabled persons' agreements, assessment and justification of existing departmental programs with respect to cost-sharing implications, and maintenance of departmental expenditure coding manual.

MR. A. BROWN: I notice that, under Salaries, there is a 12.1 percent increase. Can the Minister explain that increase? Was there any change in staff?

HON. M. SMITH: No, there is the same staff complement. The increment pattern hits a little differently in each group, depending on whether people are relatively new employees or have been there a long time and are no longer getting into their maximum. We also found that the internal audit, there's a little bit more money in that function. It is a full year's salary this year. Last year, it was a partial.

MR. A. BROWN: Is the Minister then saying that, by and large, there was an increase of close to 12 percent or so in salaries? That seems like a rather large increase if we're going to go by the guidelines which was the 2 percent or whatever increase that was going to be paid to civil servants.

HON. M. SMITH: There is nothing other than what would be accounted for by increments and the full year's salary of the Internal Auditor.

We can get the detail. There was also a person transferred in. We have two positions in the Internal Audit, and one of the people transferred in for part of the year. He came in at a slightly higher rate than was budgeted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 1.(e)(1)—pass; 1.(e)(2)—pass.
1.(f)(1) Administrative Services: Salaries; 1.(f)(2) Other Expenditures - the Member for Rhineland.

MR. A. BROWN: In this particular area, I notice that three vehicles come under this area. How many units do we have at the present time?

HON. M. SMITH: 260.

MR. A. BROWN: That is for the entire department, including Corrections and Family Services?

HON. M. SMITH: Yes.

MR. A. BROWN: I believe that this particular area is also responsible for the office space rentals for Child and Family Services. Would you like to discuss that under this particular item, or should we discuss that under Child and Family Services?

HON. M. SMITH: You would find the departmental staff covered here, but the new agencies would be covered under the Child and Family Service budgets.

MR. A. BROWN: So any questions that we would want to ask as far as rental for a space and so on, should be asked under Child and Family Services, the number of locations in each area, that type of information?

HON. M. SMITH: Any relating to the new agencies, yes.

MR. A. BROWN: How many computers do we have? I believe computers come under this, under data processing and so on. How many computers do we have?

HON. M. SMITH: There are 22 established computer systems.

MR. A. BROWN: I beg your pardon?

HON. M. SMITH: 22. That's the systems which will be co-ordinated under a master, because we tie into the main frame and have a few minor systems as well. I can get more detail. But basically the number, 22, refers to the number of systems that we're managing, two minis and six micros.

MR. A. BROWN: I notice that we have a 10.4 percent increase in Salaries over here. Has there been change in staff? Did everyone in this particular area get a 10 percent increase in wages?

HON. M. SMITH: No, other than the increment situation, regular increases, there is no change in staff or classification as far as I know. One person was reclassified. That impacts on the total, but everyone else was under the general pattern.

MR. A. BROWN: Generally speaking then, staff received a 10 percent increase in salary?

HON. M. SMITH: No. It was a very low percent, but there is the increment pattern which does affect each group a little differently. Again, if you want the detail, I can obtain it, but there was nothing extraordinary done in this area other than the one reclassification, the normal increments.

MR. A. BROWN: I would appreciate that information, Mr. Chairman. If I could have the breakdown between

the increment increase and the salary increase, I would appreciate that information. I'm willing to wait a couple minutes if that is what is required.

HON. M. SMITH: I have the detail here. On quick perusal, there was reclassification of the people who were training to work on the computers, because the nature of their work shifted somewhat. There's a few of them getting very small increases, one or two \$5,000 or \$6,000 and that's the accumulative - it gives that total - but there was nothing over the usual MGEA increase.

We were apparently underpaying relative to other departments and the review regularized the situation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 1.f)(2)—pass.

1.(g)(1) Personnel Salaries; 1.(g)(2) Other Expenditures - The Member for Rhineland.

MR. A. BROWN: Mr. Chairman, I would like to know a little bit more about the training programs, and who does the evaluation. Maybe the Minister could give us some kind of a rundown on this particular item before I start asking questions.

HON. M. SMITH: Just for clarification, did the member mean who did the evaluation of the training programs, or who identified the training needs of the staff?

MR. A. BROWN: What kind of training programs do we have; who does the evaluation of staff; who does the selection of staff? I wonder if the Minister could give me a rundown of what is happening. I have a number of questions really that I would like to ask and they might be answered if the Minister were to give us a statement; if not, I can . . .

HON. M. SMITH: The practice of the department in hiring is to work with the civil service guidelines. The management supervisor that you've seen, the organizational structure and people are responsible for evaluating the work of people who are accountable to them.

We've been developing performance management and appraisal systems in Affirmative Action Programs within identifying training needs. There's also an employer orientation process in place. We are spending more time on the staff training and development, because the needs of a lot of the programs are changing quickly and we need to be sure that staff are given an opportunity to keep their skills and knowledge up to date and ready to tackle in some cases, issues that weren't necessarily even known about or talked about when they had their initial training. So there's quite a systematic approach developing for this. There's quite a bit to be done as yet, but we've considered it a valuable initiative.

MR. A. BROWN: The Minister says that they're going by the Civil Service guidelines. Does the Civil Service Commission, do they get involved at all when you're hiring new personnel or in your personnel procedures; or who makes the decision; who does the recruiting; who makes the selection?

As a matter of fact, I would like to know, you must have some kind of a board, I would think. Who sits on

this board; how many are from the Civil Service Commission; where are these people from on that board?

HON. M. SMITH: The senior personnel are hired with Civil Service Boards and there's usually a minimum of three people on a board - a Civil Service appointee, a department appointee and one other person with relevant expertise usually to advise on the candidates. The junior position, the responsibility is delegated to managers within the department and there's a bit of a hierarchy here; the more senior the position, the more requirement there is for Civil Service boarding. We publicly advertise positions and go through the selection process within the department. It's only at the senior level where we work with Civil Service board.

MR. A. BROWN: I understand that this would be mainly for the senior people within the department, however when it comes to the evaluation of staff and so on, I would presume that this would be the evaluation and classifications of all staff and this would be done by your senior people. This evaluation would be done by the Deputy Minister's Office in other words.

HON. M. SMITH: We have over a 1,000 direct employees and another 1,000 that we indirectly impact in our department and it would be impossible to centralize all that evaluation in the Deputy Minister's Office. There's a little bit of a pyramid; I guess you could say, a structure, whereby supervisors at each level are responsible for evaluating the performance of the people who work under them, and then they in turn, are responsible to the person who they report to - they would report on the performance of their staff.

So the Deputy Minister would really only be directly involved in supervising senior management; but we are developing this performance management and appraisal system so that in a sense we're increasingly using common procedures to train people in better skills in personnel management. It has always been one of the more difficult areas, I guess, in management, but a very important element.

MR. A. BROWN: I see that you have a training program here of staff resources. I would like to ask the Minister if training, especially in the Child and Family Services Department, is that done by this particular item or is that type of training, again, done by Child and Family Services because we have many changes in Child and Family Services where previous people who had certain expertise in certain areas are now working in a sort of general way? There must be quite a retraining program happening at Child and Family Services. Is that involved in this particular item?

HON. M. HEMPHILL: No, that training responsibility would show up in the Child and Family Service area at the local level and the directorate level. There are quite a few training events, on-the-job training, short courses and so on, that are available. I think you're getting some of the concern about whether all the specialists are generalists and are we going to fire in the other direction?

I think when we get to that section we can talk a bit about the mix of specialists and generalists who are

required, but that is probably in the past. We have leaned a little too much to the specialist. There is a buildup now on the generalist side - but everyone acknowledges we do need a mix, and it is just coming down on the appropriate mix for the service delivery system.

But, again, we are asking people to focus on the broader family issues and not always see a person in isolation so that sometimes a person who only dealt with adoption before might now have to move a bit into some of the family support services.

So, in some cases, it is going to take some ongoing training. It is partly because the service mode is shifting that people's jobs are changing, but we still recognize the need for some specialties. We are very conscious of the need to offer people appropriate upgrading and training.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Fort Garry.

MR. C. BIRT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a couple of questions dealing with this particular area.

The first question I would ask the Minister is: in the year of the Estimates we are dealing with, has anything been added to or expanded to this particular aspect of your budget that was different from last year? Has it taken on any new functions, new responsibilities, that sort of thing?

HON. M. HEMPHILL: There was a transfer over of the payroll unit from Financial Services. That is a group of five positions. There has been some redeployment within. For example, we had a work-share agreement last year with the Civil Service Commission. That has terminated, and now Corrections personnel activities have gone back to that division. That led to one additional recruitment classification position, and there was another position for staff training and development.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, looking at last year's Estimates, it would appear that the estimated expenditure for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1985, was some \$285,200 of which \$253,100 was Salaries, yet you show the expenditures as of March 31st of this year, of 1985, as \$433,600.00. It is not quite a doubling of it, but could the Minister explain why there is such a large increase?

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Yes, the practice in the Finance Department is that, when there is a transfer of a function from one area to another, they adjust the last year's vote accordingly, so that, in a sense, they make the appropriate adjustment so that what you get before you is a comparison of the functions and not necessarily how they were grouped administratively. So in fact, the shift has been primarily because of that payroll unit plus a bit of other reallocation, but the total complement of staff has remained unchanged for the personnel function. You'll find that the bottom line will add up from last year to this year, but there's some reallocation within the functions. But that's carried out consistently throughout all the government budgeting.

MR. C. BIRT: So as I understand it, there have been five positions transferred from another department in to your department, this payroll — (Interjection) —

HON. M. SMITH: No, from the payroll unit under Financial Services.

MR. C. BIRT: Within your department.

HON. M. SMITH: Yes, within - it used to be in another section; it was in 1.(e).

MR. C. BIRT: And secondly, you made reference to a work sharing agreement and then you mentioned corrections - what I'm trying to determine is that five positions seems like an awful lot to have a quarter of a million dollars added to your payroll budget and I'm just trying to get a better breakdown as to where it's coming from. But with the termination of job sharing, there should have been some savings, it seems to me.

HON. M. SMITH: The Civil Service Commission was doing some of the personnel work for the department and that has ceased. So in a sense, they've taken the block of money and staff that were performing that function for us and put it back into our area.

MR. C. BIRT: So there was a readjusting of some financial people within your department, but there was also some additional work being transferred to you that had previously been carried out by the Civil Service Commission. If that's correct, could you elaborate what the commission used to do and now this particular unit is carrying?

HON. M. SMITH: Yes, remembering that the Civil Service budget would have been adjusted as well, so it would show out there. Well, personnel activities again, would be recruitment, selection, classification, training.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, why would the transferring of certain Civil Service Commission responsibility come to the department? Is there a change in policy and is this being reflected in each of the departments? Is certain stuff being transferred over to each of the line departments?

HON. M. SMITH: I guess people who have had a longer history with the allocation of tasks, the departments might give us the full interpretation; but as I understand it, larger departments have their own personnel capacity and Corrections used to exist apart from Community Services, and Community Services used to be with Health and somewhere in the sorting out, the personnel function for Corrections had stayed with the Civil Service Commission. They now thought it was timely that, given the size of our operation and our ability or whatever, that it was more appropriate to devolve it into our department.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, could the Minister provide if not a specific figure, maybe at least an approximation, of how much of this additional money from last year's Estimates is really going to the extra training that the Minister's just referred to; you know, the 50 percent of the increase over last year, or is it 20 percent?

HON. M. SMITH: We actually have one person doing the staff training that wasn't doing it last year and there's an increase of \$10,000 for employer . . .

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, that reference to the \$10,000, is that the explained increase on the next line? It goes from a 32 to the 42; that's the extra?

HON. M. SMITH: Yes.

MR. C. BIRT: If I understand it correctly, that it's primarily just a transferring of administration from one line of your budget to another line? In fact, you're not really getting that much more in the way of training personnel - I don't mean to minimize that one person that's been added in - but if that quarter of million or whatever that's been transferred into this area of the budget, most of it's going on this Administrative financial detail.

HON. M. SMITH: That's right.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, I have further questions, but it's almost 4:30. Could we call it 4:30; it might be a good time to break off.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is that agreeable to every member of the Committee? (Agreed) So be it.

The time being now 4:30 p.m., we are interrupting this proceedings of this Committee for Private Members' Hour. The members of the Committee shall return to the committee room on or before 8:00 p.m.

SUPPLY - EDUCATION

MR. CHAIRMAN, P. EYLER: Committee, come to order. We are considering the Estimates of Education, Item 4.(c) Native Education - the Member for Morris.

MR. C. MANNES: Mr. Chairman, I'm wondering if the Minister could provide for us a detail of any new programs that may have been implemented within the public school system within this area over the past year.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister of Education.

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Mr. Chairman, if I was to explain, I think the major activities of the Native Education Branch for the coming year, we would largely be describing a continuance of initiatives that we took last year where the major thrust is still in the very important areas of Native language development. We have expansion in quite a large number of schools across the province and the numbers of languages that we are teaching.

I would say that one of our major thrusts and focuses is the English language program that we announced through the government support program last year where we have \$1.2 million for the development of English language programs for Native and immigrant students. That is a major thrust that was undertaken.

We have also this year moved into a co-ordinated program with the community where we have the Native community very interested and very concerned and wanting to take a fair amount of both responsibility and participation in the development of Native language. To that end, we have a group set up that is using the

elders of the Native language community. This group will be working co-operatively with the Native education branch for the training of professionals, training of teachers, the development of language materials, the development of additional resource materials to go along with that. I think it's probably quite unique in the country in terms of a co-operative program between the community elders and the Native Education Branch.

We have a course - it isn't in the public school system - in the University of Manitoba where we are teaching the Native language methods. The course is being taught to help teachers understand teaching methods. I would say that the English language, Native language, the inner city team that we set up the other day will be focusing on all inner city issues. Certainly the urban Native students are one of the issues that are facing us. So those are, I think, the main summary of the issues.

MR. C. MANNES: The Minister talks about Native language programs. Could the Minister tell me whether there is one specific language, or is there more than one Native language that is being developed in a curriculum form? What specific, basic courses are being developed in Native language areas?

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Mr. Chairman, we're continuing with the programs that I announced last year and some expansion. We are now developing language programs in Cree, Ojibway, Dakota, Sioux and island Lake dialect. We have gone from 1981-82 where we had 22 schools that had the Native language instruction - 11 were provincial, 5 federal and 7 under local control - to 1984-85 where we have 35 schools, 13 provincial, 2 federal and 18 under local control.

MR. C. MANNES: Mr. Chairman, the Minister may wish to defer my next question to what she may consider a more appropriate section. I have before me though, dated April 25th, a News Service release entitled, "Special Engineering Studies for Native Students Planned." I'm wondering if the Minister could tell us, first of all, whether she wants to answer questions with respect to this at this time or in Section 5.

HON. M. HEMPHILL: I would prefer to discuss this area under the University Programs, if that's all right.

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

4.(d) Manitoba School for the Deaf: (1) Salaries - the Member for Niakwa.

MR. A. KOVNATS: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

I just have a couple of questions. I know the Honourable Minister has reminded me that I have spoken on this subject before, and I had a note that was sent to me that I wanted to speak on from one of my friends. But I think that the important part about this particular subject - you know, I compare it with the French language issue where we feel that we know that people who speak French have the right to speak French in the Legislature and in the courts and, more important, they have the right to be understood in the Legislature and in the courts.

I bring this in not because it's a legal aspect, but because of a moral aspect, people who cannot speak

in any language because of their deafness and being mute. I think that it comes under this particular section. You know, they have the right to be educated so that they can communicate, but they also have the right to be understood. That's what I wanted to get across to the Minister. People like myself and others like myself - and they could be from any political party, I'm not trying to say that it's just the Conservatives. The Liberals and the NDP all have a special feeling.

Why do we not have a program to allow people to communicate with these people who have the hearing problem and the speech problem so that they can communicate? They have the right to come down to the Legislature. They have the right to go down into the courts, and they do have the right to have somebody translate for them in the courts. Why do we not have any money set aside so that we can teach people so that these people can have the right to be able to communicate?

The Minister has advised in the past that there is no money available. Well, I see monies being spent, and I don't want this stuff, you know, you can't have it both ways. Don't give me that you can't have it both ways, cut down on the deficit. You say to cut down the deficit and here I am, suggesting that we spend more money. There is so much money being wasted in different things that I would hope that the Minister could look at the whole program and come up with some additional funds so people like myself can enter into one of these schools and take the training program at no cost to myself.

I want to do a public service, and I don't think that it should cost me anything to perform this public service. I'm not looking for anybody to say thank you, but I don't want it to have to cost me any money. Can the Minister advise me whether my thinking is right, wrong, indifferent, because I have started on the course? I was going to communicate in sign language, American signing, which I can. I can give you my name, which is A-B-E, and I can carry on in - oh, there's somebody there who does understand, so I better not play any games. A-B-E, okay.

So I do have some background, and there are a lot of us who do have some background, but we'd like to improve this background. Can the Minister advise if there are any monies available so that people like myself can improve my signing and be able to communicate with these people who have every bit as much right to communicate as anybody else in the Province of Manitoba?

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Mr. Chairman, I thank the member for his continued interest in this area. I know that both he and I feel quite strongly about the usefulness of the language and have both been interested in studying it. I think he has found time. If I understand, he's in a program now, and I am still hoping to get into one.

There are some possibilities this year that were not there perhaps last year. That was because of a major thrust that we're undertaking in post-secondary education where we are quite willing to develop programs in communities and through the colleges that are of interest to adults and senior citizens. Some of these are being delivered by school boards, and some of them are being delivered by the colleges, and some of them are being taught actually in community agencies.

The only requirement really is that there is enough indication of interest. So I would say that the courses, of course, are available now. I don't like to ask, but what did you pay? About \$36 for your course, was it?

MR. A. KOVNATS: I can't remember, plus my book.

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Plus the book. So that it is available for people like himself and myself who are willing and interested in taking the course. I think his interest in having it available to people who might be interested but who couldn't afford the money or didn't think that they should have to pay for it because the benefit would be for broader communication and understanding by the deaf community with the non-deaf community which is what he's really getting it.

I would suggest that other than those courses that people can tap into through the School for the Deaf and the Kiwanis Centre where their programs are run, there are also some courses, I think, available out in the rural areas for some kids who might be in a class with deaf children. There are some opportunities for that.

But I do think that we could make some opportunities available for adults through our Adult and Continuing Education if there was an interest. Certainly if we found that anybody who really needed it couldn't afford it, we would probably make it available through the Manitoba School for the Deaf at no cost.

But that doesn't address the problem which he is getting at, which is just general population and general public having access to programs at no cost, so there can be better communications between the deaf and the non-deaf community. I would say that if there is interest - and we might even put it out as one of the subjects for people to sign up, to indicate an interest. If there is an interest out there, I think we could easily handle it through our Adult and Continuing Education Program.

MR. A. KOVNATS: The Honourable Minister, she used the words, "if there was an interest," well, I can assure the Honourable Minister that there is an interest, and there is great pride and satisfaction.

I was sitting on the bus the other day - my car had broken down which it is prone to do on occasion - and a couple of students got on the bus and they were signing to each other. I jumped right in with great, great difficulty, but it gave me great pride because I could just see everybody on the bus looking at Abe Kavnats communicating with these people. It wasn't a good communication, but I felt so proud.

I think that the cost factor really isn't that significant. I don't think that I wouldn't take the course because of the cost factor, and I don't think anybody would not take the course because of the cost factor. The cost factor is just a responsibility that I think that the Department of Education, because they are good corporate citizens, should pay for. It's not a big factor. I think the Honourable Minister could walk pretty tall, walking down the street and saying, well, you know, I set that program in motion because I felt good about it. Let her take the credit for it. That would suit me just fine, because there would be other people who communicate.

You know, I started off earlier about how I was suggesting that people who speak the French language have a right to communicate and be understood. If you look at the signing, it incorporates all languages. It's not just French and English and Chinese and Jewish and Ukrainian and German. The signing, it's not a matter of the letters, the figures.

There is a chap right here in the building who works for the Province of Manitoba - I think he's part of the cleaning staff - who is completely deaf and he can make some sounds. But I get to him. Each day, when I see him walking down the corridors pushing his cart, I look at him and I say hello to him. I ask him if he's working. He says, yes, he is. He is working. He's working real hard, and we get this kind of a communication. He tells me that the words for man, in English, it's man; and, in French, it's homme; but in sign language it's all one term, as you tip your hat. The same thing for madame or lady, it's the straps from those old bonnets that come down the side. This is the figure for that. For mouse, you know, it's different in English or French, but the sign is the same universally.

So there is something that you can combine, a better understanding of people. People who cannot speak the same language or speak different languages can communicate together under one language, and it's called American signing or sign language. The word for mouse where they just tap the sharp nose to indicate mouse; the word for rat, it's the letter "R," the same type of a signal.

I think I have given you just about all I know in sign language.

A MEMBER: Good course, Abe.

MR. A. KOVNATS: Oh, no, no. You've got your cows and your horses and you can communicate, but it's such a wonderful language. I would like to see everybody share in it; that's part of the reason. I have a special feeling for these people, but it's also that I think it could do so much to have people understanding one another. That is my suggestion to the Minister. I really don't want any credit for it. Just let the Minister take some money out of some department and spread the good word; that's all I ask.

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Perhaps we can call it the "Abe Kavnats Sign Language Program" or something like that.

No, I think he makes a good suggestion. I am simply going to end by saying that I will be directing our post-secondary, educational programs to get out some information that promotes a program like that. We'll see what interest there is in the community. I am quite sure that we can find money under that appropriation if there is demonstrated interest in it, the universal signing.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 4.(d)(1) - the Member for Morris.

MR. C. MANNES: Mr. Chairman, the Minister in Estimates last year indicated that the department was putting into place a new psychologist, to use her words, "to round out the team so that we now have a full complement that can assess the deaf children across

the province." That person has been in place for a whole year now. Can the Minister tell me whether all deaf children in Manitoba, students, whether they have all been assessed over the past year?

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Mr. Chairman, to date, with just one provincial psychologist, clearly at this point it's unlikely that all the deaf children would be seen by her. But there is a team in place that does assessments and indicates which of the children need assessment, and those would be the ones that she would be working on initially.

Now I think when she gets through those, what you might call the high-need students first, that have been identified specifically as needing this, that it probably would be integrated into the team assessment approach for all students, but initially she will be working through the high-need students that have been identified through the assessment program.

MR. C. MANNES: Can the Minister indicate whether the staff complement has changed at all within this branch?

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Mr. Chairman, we have one more off-campus teacher for the junior high. A number of the programs are now being taught not just at the School for the Deaf, but in our off-campus we have residential programs and off-campus programs, and we have one additional junior high teacher for the increase in junior high population.

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

4.(e) Child Care and Development: (1) Salaries - the Member for Morris.

MR. C. MANNES: Could the Minister tell me specifically what other appropriations are included within this, I will call it a branch, outside of those that we have considered already within the major area of public school support, Item No. 3, which also did have some major spending directed towards the support of children in need?

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Yes, Mr. Chairman, this department actually covers all of the special needs area except the grants; like when we were under the funding, we dealt with the funding in special needs. This is the branch that delivers the program. So all of the programs related to clinical support services, the clinicians that we have that are available to school divisions, the diagnostic support centre, the early identification program that we introduced last year, is funded through the grant program but the program is delivered through this program section.

And our services for our multihandicapped, the programs we were talking about going into for multihandicapped children, is being delivered through here.

We have a pilot project that we are instituting this year, which is a special program for severely hyperactive children, where we are working with the parents and the MACLD organization to try and identify a program for those children; and our programs for visually and hearing impaired children, the ones that we are

developing for the blind and hearing handicapped - hearing impaired - I think I have listed, and the low incidence and the high incidence programs are funded through the government support program, but the work with the people in the field to deliver the programs is delivered through Child Care and Development Services Branch.

MR. C. MANNES: I am still having some difficulty distinguishing the difference. The Minister says that the grants are in support of the program. To me the grants are directed towards those professionals, or those clinicians, or those people who are offering the service out in the field.

Is the Minister saying that this appropriation is to those individuals not in the field, but who are devising the programs? I am having difficulty discerning the difference.

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Well, if I can try and make it fairly easily, on the financing side, all that they are really involved with is the formulas for calculation of support for the students under the various programs - what is high incidence, what is low incidence, what is special need category - and it is simply a funding as it covers all the grants in the education system; and all they do is determine the criteria and what money they are entitled to, and the money goes out to school divisions for those programs.

But the program development and support services side for child care and development is the one that works with school divisions in developing the programs. You've got two parts of it. You have the grant that is going out and then you have the programs that the grant relates to, that the grant pays for and programmed to that child care services, develops, works with the people in the field, and monitors and oversees, and in some cases delivers the special needs programs.

Some of them are delivered by the school division, and we work with them; some of them are initiated and delivered by us; and some of them are co-operative programs. I mentioned the one on the hyperactive children; that's a program between the Department of Education and MACLD and the parents as a co-operative program.

The early identification program is one that we announced last year and we have worked out what they will do with the funding. See, they get the money, and then the question is what are they going to do with it. So we work with school divisions after they have been provided the grant to help them understand or make decisions on how to spend the funding for early identification; in some cases preparation of materials, and in some cases it's training of teachers, and in some cases it's diagnosis of an assessment of children.

The clinicians that we have, some of them are field placed where the school division has them as employees, and some of them are still being made available through the Department of Education so that they actually are employed by the Department of Education and made available to the field. So I think probably maybe that explains the difference.

MR. C. MANNES: Well, I suppose it does in part. I will use two examples and the Minister can tell me

whether I understand her answer or not. For instance, a special co-ordinator for a school division would be supported, I take it, by the basic grant structure that comes down, but an individual who would come into our school division, or any school division, and assess the capabilities of a pre-schooler for instance, might be then somebody who was supported by the Department of Education? Would that be a fair example?

HON. M. HEMPHILL: If I can give you some things under each category, under Grants, you would have clinicians and co-ordinators; high incidence support and low incidence support is simply grants. Under the branch, we also have clinicians, as I mentioned before; we have consultants; we have vision and hearing impaired services. Special materials services comes under this branch, and we are producing braille and materials; in fact, I believe we are one of the leading provinces in the country in the production of braille, audio books and large print books for the visually impaired and blind. Then some of the other programs that I mentioned, like early identification and hyperactive children and the one for the multihandicapped children, is managed under the Department of Education.

MR. C. MANNES: The Minister talks about the numbers or, at least, I would like to ask specifically how many people are then included under this branch.

HON. M. HEMPHILL: If you include the clinicians that are actually working in the field but are employed through us, it would be 150 in this branch - 15 - I'm sorry - 15.

MR. C. MANNES: Mr. Chairman, the Minister uses the word "clinicians." I have had a lot of correspondence over the past year from the southeast area, and I think there is a better term with respect to the under support of the number of clinicians that they feel that they could eligibly have.

I ask the Minister why in fact that particular area of the province does not have the full complement of clinicians as guaranteed.

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Mr. Chairman, first of all the school division is entitled to a grant for a clinician staff year in that area, and I think they know that.

The difference is or the problem is, that when we have the clinicians employed by the Department of Education, we pay their full salary; and when the school division does the hiring, they get a grant and the grant may not always cover the full salary of the clinician. So definitely you can understand that school divisions would prefer to have their clinician services coming from the Department of Education.

However, we are not increasing our clinician numbers in the branch. We are, in fact, and have been for a year or so, looking at the possibility of moving them over into the field since the main reason for taking them on was not that we wanted to continue to provide these services but it was for northern, remote and rural areas who maybe didn't have the professional staff or didn't feel they had the ability right then to take on a highly trained specialist of that kind, and they

preferred it to be done through the department. So it was to make sure that the clinician services were available sort of throughout the province and that they had sort of resources to turn to that the department took it on.

What they did was give them the choice. They said you can hire yourself, or you can have the clinician services through the Department of Education. That option is still there; they can hire themselves, but we have no increased staff years and we are not increasing the clinician numbers that we are making available through the Department of Education because we want to move away from that.

We are going to very slowly over the period of the next few years, have the school divisions take over the responsibility for the clinician services so that the Department of Education isn't involved in that. It will take a period of time, and we are not pushing them, but we don't want to add to the numbers that we presently have. So they are not precluded and they can get the grant if they want to hire. I understand why they prefer the department to offer the services, but as I said it's an area that we are getting out of, not that we are going into.

We did suggest to Dr. Nicholls and to school divisions that when we made the transition and the changeover, we would have to deal with the issue of the difference in funding between the grant that goes out to school divisions and the fund level that is covered by the Department of Education when they have the person on staff because we can't expect school divisions to take it over if they are going to be in a disadvantaged position.

MR. C. MANNES: Well, Mr. Chairman, the letter in front of me dated March 29, 1985, under the letterhead of the Hanover School Division, a letter directed to Mr. John Dyck indicates that the formula put in place by somebody, by some program, guaranteed support or guaranteed 19 eligible units within that whole region of school divisions, and up to this point - pardon me, 13 - I stand corrected; it's 13 - and yet to this point there are 11 with two remaining positions not yet filled.

Now the Minister can tell me that this whole program was brought in at one time in the Department of Education, in the fostering of the program, undertook to support clinician positions out in the field. But the point is, Mr. Chairman, how now, firstly, is this particular area going to receive its remaining clinicians which by this letter, at least, indicates they have been shortened by the number of two, and; on a more general question, will the grants that will be forthcoming, or the new system that the Minister envisages whereby school divisions now are going to have to be responsible for the support of the clinicians, how is the support of that going to be forthcoming from government? Will it be totally supported or will it be up to the school divisions again to share in some share of the total cost in support of the clinicians in place?

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Basically it's the answer that I gave before; the number 19 isn't quite accurate because it includes clinicians and special education people. So the shortage is not quite as large as was suggested. We are one clinician short, and the difference in the

grant is \$31,000 and the actual cost could be closer to 40. So that's the difference in what the school division would be. It could be anywhere between the 31 and close to 40, depending on the credentials of the person, I suppose, that they hire.

What I have said is so that the region hasn't wanted to take the options that other school divisions have taken, there are a number of school divisions who are providing the clinician services by getting the grant and hiring their own person. The southeast region has indicated that they really want clinician services but they have not been prepared to use the option that was open to them, and that was to hire their own and receive the grant.

What I have said is that when we make the transition and we move the people that are now clinicians under the Department of Education into the field, that the question of the disparity or the grant will have to be addressed, and we are in the process of looking at that. To date, we haven't insisted that any of the clinicians move over with any of the school divisions taking the loss. We've said we have to work out the funding first before we can accept school divisions to take it up.

So what I am saying is, that out of all the services across the province, some are delivered through the clinicians employed by the department, and a number of them are delivered through the school divisions except taking the grant and hiding their own clinicians.

In this case, the southeast region does not have the option of having the services provided by the department because we don't have a staff year or a clinician available in our clinician complement. So the only choice available to them is to take the option where they get the grant and then, if we decide to move them over, and there is some accommodation with funding, it would be available to them as it would be to all other school boards in the province.

MR. C. MANNES: Well, Mr. Chairman, the Minister is a little bit vague there. Is she saying that because the southeast region is on a different system that, in fact, they are short of a clinician person and are they the only region within the province, because of the fact that they are on the grant system, that is short?

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Mr. Chairman, I was getting part of an answer that I wanted to expand to give to the member, and I didn't quite hear the exact question. He didn't speak quite as long on this one as he has on others; I thought I had more time. What was the question?

MR. C. MANNES: Mr. Chairman, the question was so short I forgot it myself.

A MEMBER: Pass.

MR. C. MANNES: Well, I just remembered it.

HON. M. HEMPHILL: He just remembered it - oh, good.

MR. C. MANNES: Mr. Chairman, I'm wondering, is this the only school division, the only school district, the only region within the province, that is under the

grant funding formula system in support of clinicians. I think that was basically my main question - oh, yes, and I wanted to know if there are any other regions throughout the province that were short of clinician services compared to the eligible number that they are led to believe that they were going to have support for?

HON. M. HEMPHILL: No, Mr. Chairman. I think, where we have staff in the field, that is the only region and, as I said before, we are short one.

The Interlake region was also short, but they exercised the option that was available to them. The region took the option of getting the grant of \$31,000 and hiring their own person.

So what you have here is a situation where they had an option. They didn't like it as much as another option that wasn't available to them and have chosen not to exercise their option and to have the services at all. But that option that Interlake region took is still available to the western region.

MR. C. MANNES: I think the Minister meant the southeastern region.

But, again, Mr. Chairman, the Minister indicated it was only the southeastern region - or I would ask her, is the southeastern region being served in any of its clinician positions by people who are staff of the department, or are all the existing numbers within the southeast region supported by way of the \$31,000 grant?

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

MR. C. MANNES: So what the Minister seems to be saying then, that I believe there are at present - at least by this letter - 11 clinicians in that region. For every one of those who have requested or have qualifications that demand salaries beyond 31,000, the school division within that region has to pick up the additional wage beyond \$31,000.00. Furthermore, this is the only region then within Manitoba, in all its clinician services are paying dollars in excess of the \$31,000 grant offered by the department.

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Mr. Chairman, it isn't only the matter of the one school division which says they are not covered with clinician services and that wants to be added on to the departmental roster, if you will, because presently there are a quite a number of areas that have chosen the other route. If you, just because they have chosen not to exercise that option, made available the additional \$10,000 or made an additional person available, you would have to then look at all the other rural areas and the Northern areas and the one I have just mentioned, that have covered it in the other way.

So we know there is a problem because there isn't an equity between the two programs, those that are offered by the Department of Education and those they apply for. But there are a number of other divisions, the remote and rural divisions, in the same situation where they have opted to take the grant and to provide their own services until we sort out how to handle the transitions and move them over into school divisions,

and how to handle the disparity in the funding. That will be the only option that is available to them. But I continue to say, others have exercised it like the Interlake, and there is a Northern region that exercised it too. So they have chosen to provide their clinician services through the exercising of taking a grant of \$31,000.00.

MR. C. MANNES: What the Minister has not made clear, Mr. Chairman, is whether they have exercised that right in other regions on the - and I'll use the word "marginal" position, the one at the top, as compared to the southeast region where - by the Minister's earlier answer at least - had indicated that all the clinician positions, in fact, were supportable by grant, that there was nobody from the department who was made available in any of the 13 or 11 positions to serve it. So I guess we're arguing degree in some respects, and maybe this region then feels that it never did have an opportunity on any of the 11 base positions which they now have in place, to qualify, or to have the Department of Education provide full funding regardless of what the salaried rate was.

HON. M. HEMPHILL: I suppose, Mr. Chairman, that this offer has been available for some time and that boards chose to exercise that sooner, and a number of them have been providing clinician services for some time.

Would it be fair to say that this region came in late in the day in terms of making a decision to provide these services and at that time other divisions had had their programs in place for a number of years. When they came in was after the program had been in place for some time and we were on the brink of changing it over and moving it back to the school divisions. The only option that was left to them was the option of taking the grant. But a majority of the school divisions have hired their own clinicians, and I guess all clinicians are departmental staff.

MR. C. MANNES: Can she give us any indication as to what level of support the department will provide, by way of grant in the future, if in fact all the clinician positions will become the responsibility of the school divisions rather than the Department of Education?

HON. M. HEMPHILL: That is exactly the question that I had asked Dr. Nicholls to address. I said that the initial thing that must be addressed, prior to moving them over, has to be addressing the question of funding, and I am awaiting information and a recommendation from him on what the salary levels are, what range they are, what the differential is. I've given average figures. The grant is 31, but the cost could go as high as 40; it could be considerably lower. So we need that information before we can make that decision.

MR. C. MANNES: Can the Minister foresee whether there will be any increased expenditures by school divisions because of the transfer of these positions from the department to school divisions?

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Mr. Chairman, I think that is something we will have to sort out, because what I said

was that I can understand that school divisions would not want to take it over if there was going to be increased cost to them. So I think that is a basic thing that has to be dealt with before we go to them and say we want to take them over. Some of them might be prepared to take them over today and quite capable and able of taking them over, but wouldn't want to do it because of the additional financial cost. So, dealing with that is one of our top priorities.

MR. C. MANNES: Mr. Chairman, there is another sizeable expenditure under this appropriation. I'm wondering if the Minister would care to tell us specifically what the sum of \$1.376 million is - to what end is that directed?

HON. M. HEMPHILL: We're just having a bit of difficulty trying to identify which figure it is that he's asking about. Could he point it out to us again?

MR. C. MANNES: Mr. Chairman, I sort of jumped a little bit ahead. I'm under (e)(2).

HON. M. HEMPHILL: The amount under Other Expenditures.

Mr. Chairman, just a very broad answer, and it may not be sufficient detail, but under this appropriation we have \$3,709,300 in Salaries and the \$1,376,800 is in support Operating Expenditures in support for the programs that are undertaken: the cost of materials, the cost of braille. For instance, when we're developing our Braille Program, it carries all of the costs of developing the Braille Program.

Some of the other expenditures would be related to travel for the staff who are going out and servicing rural and northern communities. So we can get him a detailed breakdown of that, if he likes, but in general, it's operating support for the salaries and the people who are providing services.

MR. C. MANNES: Mr. Chairman, I just pointed out a high number, and I was curious as to whether it included any salaries at all or whether it was, as the Minister indicates, transportation costs associated with servicing rural areas. I can't foresee or for the life of me understand how the material component of that would be of significant value unless the Minister has figures that would prove otherwise, which she may wish to share with me.

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Mr. Chairman, I can give some of the largest areas.

Under Administration of a Central Office - where we monitor and control a direct service budget of \$7.7 million plus rent, totalling 2.8 million, and personnel matters involving 134 SYs. Other expenditures would come to about \$58,000.00.

Co-ordination of Regions - the regional co-ordinator - supervise the delivery of regional clinician core support services in rural and Northern Manitoba; provide consultation and special needs programming; negotiate, review and recommend special needs fundings and program requests and organize regional professional development programs of school divisions and parents - that is \$420,000.00.

Our Consultants for the Visually Impaired - provide direct, tutorial and consultative services to the blind and visually impaired students attending community schools, and it covers two blind students attending W. Ross MacDonald School in Brantford, Ontario. We provide grants to two school divisions who support the direct employment of personnel who provide educational programming for blind children at \$388,000 - oh, the 338 covers other things like a grant to Winnipeg School Division to employ a full-time speech pathologist who has served deaf, hearing impaired children attending the Grosvenor School. It includes deaf, blind children in a residential total stimulation program at W. Ross MacDonald School in Brantford.

So, in some cases, the provision of programs to students where we have no program or where there are not enough students for the program to be delivered through a classroom in a school division, but where they are delivered through other institutions, the funding comes through this appropriation.

Special Equipment Services - for severely handicapped children that are required for them to be able to receive an education is \$65,000.00.

We've got \$106,000 under Diagnostic Support Services where the major diagnosis is done for severely learning impaired children and children with severe hyperactivity.

Special Materials Services - I mentioned before, includes large print braille and autotape material are produced for visually, physically and learning handicapped children, and that is \$242,000.00.

And \$95,000 in Professional Development across the province for special needs programming with teachers out in the field.

That comes to about \$1.3 million. Those are the largest pieces of the 1.3 million.

MR. C. MANNES: Mr. Chairman, I'll just offer a comment. I'm wondering why such a large portion of it is included under Other Expenditures and not Salaries. There seems to be a very large salary component, and I realize that some of the very specialized programs, of course, are included within that.

My only other comment is that the Minister made reference to a portion of costs being in support of Regional Services, and I'm wondering why it isn't caught in Section H to a larger degree. I only offer those comments, Mr. Chairman. The Minister may or may not wish to respond.

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Mr. Chairman, I understand there could be some confusion. It is not part of our Regional Services Branch; it simply happens to be the title they have given to the delivery of programs through this section. Regional Clinician Support Services and Co-ordination of Regions, but not the Regional Services Program in the Department.

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

4.(f) Instructional Media Services: 1. Salaries - the Member for Morris.

MR. C. MANNES: Mr. Chairman, I'm wondering if the Minister can just allow me one question back in Section (d) for the Deaf, and it has to do with, I guess,

a competition, Western Canada Tournament for the Deaf, June 16-23 in Saskatoon. Can the Minister indicate whether the Province of Manitoba is contributing to this competition at all?

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Mr. Chairman, the students have raised the funds themselves and we are not contributing, is my understanding.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Niakwa.

MR. A. KOVNATS: I would like to ask the Minister, how did the students raise the funds? It is not a question that I would just throw out lightly because, you know my interests, and I was just considering if there was anything I can do to contribute to something like that. Why aren't we, as members of the Province of Manitoba, made aware of these functions through some way because as I have complained before, the government uses so much money and advertises so many different things, why don't we use some of that money to do something constructive?

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Well, Mr. Chairman, I'm sure if we ever started providing information and communicating about all the activities that are fund-raising activities that are going on in the schools throughout the Province of Manitoba, all of which are being used to fund very good things, this one and many others, I think that we wouldn't have a chance to talk about much else. Usually the information is communicated by the people raising the funds to the target population that they are trying to reach.

MR. C. MANNES: Mr. Chairman, I believe we are now on (f)(1). Can the Minister tell me what change occurred, I believe there was some staff person or staff people who were removed out of this Instructional Media Services area? At the time I recall Mr. Gary Doer, who was very upset with the Minister and the Government of the Day, because of the manner in which positions here were removed and taken to the Premier's office. Can the Minister tell me whether my recollections are correct?

HON. M. HEMPHILL: No, Mr. Chairman. The recollections are proper in terms of something, a change being made in this branch, dealing with the Media Production Section of this branch. He is also correct when he suggests that Gary Doer made some comment on the branch on the changes. But I do not think they were related to how the changes were handled and they certainly weren't related to the suggestion that these people were going to be moved and become staff out of the Premier's office, because that is not the case.

We had to make some very tough decisions in our Estimates' process, as did everybody, and one of them is that we were going to reduce our Media Services Branch and we required eight redeployments from the Instructional Media Services as a result of the changes that we put in place last year.

Now, all eight employees - first of all, there are not going to be any layoffs and I think that the first thing we're trying to do is see if these people can be used

for more than just the Department of Education - the media production was doing very good work and I was one of the ones who was often commenting on the quality of production that they were producing.

It's a film production capacity in the Department of Education and they did produce some good films. Some of them received international awards that were used as supplementary material to our curriculum. However, we decided that it was a luxury, a luxury that we couldn't afford to continue in terms of the cost of continuing immediate production, the Production Branch, that was doing film videotapes and kits just for the Department of Education. So we have informed all the individuals. The first thing we're trying to do is see if that skill and expertise can be made available to the government as a whole instead of just the Department of Education because there is a lot of highly-skilled expertise there.

Secondly, we have made a commitment that there will be no layoffs, as we've done with every other redeployment and changes in the department and in post-secondary education, and we're continuing to keep some capacity. We haven't dropped it completely. It was a .5 million budget and I think in these days that we all admit that .5 million to continue that, to produce films and materials as good as they are, is maybe something we have to look seriously at. But we have kept \$200,000 in, so we haven't reduced the budget in total and we have kept some staff. I think two staff are there.

We manage the productions, we've always used scriptwriters and outside producers and we've now kept a producer and a secretary and we have media specialists in another branch. So we will still be able to either do some of the work ourselves; we have always used outside resources in the development of these materials and that is still available; and there are other materials that are available through TV Ontario, Access Alberta and the National Film Board that we will be tapping into. So I would say that the major changes, we won't be producing quite as much by ourselves.

MR. C. MANNES: Early on in the Estimates, the Minister indicated that the department and the government in attempting to reach out to a large cross-section of Manitobans to more adequately present education in all its lights, an attempt to reach that goal was done by way of a TV program series aired on CKY-TV on Sunday afternoons, covering 18 or 20 topics. Can the Minister tell me whether the production of this material occurred under the auspices of this particular branch?

HON. M. HEMPHILL: No, Mr. Chairman, the work that they were doing was preparing materials, either film or videotape or kits for classrooms, for teachers and for schools. The television program we had was the Public Education Television program that was largely managed through the Communications Branch in co-operation with the television station.

MR. C. MANNES: I thank the Minister for that clarification. I would ask her though whether this cut in budget had any impact or has had any impact at all on radio programming? I don't know today what the status is with respect to the department and its

programming on radio - and maybe I'm certainly outdating myself as a young student - I remember those programs developed on radio, has that been long gone? If it hasn't can the Minister tell me whether there has been any impact on that line of programming because of this?

HON. M. HEMPHILL: No impact on programming, Mr. Chairman, as a result of the changes in the Media Production Branch largely because, although it sounds like a good idea and has been just not long gone, we do not do radio productions in the department right now.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 1.(f)(1)—pass; 1.(f)(2)—pass.
1.(g) Correspondence Branch: (1) Salaries - the Member for Morris.

MR. C. MANNES: Mr. Chairman, I noticed by the Annual Report, Page 89 and 90, that correspondence school statistics continue to increase. I think the Minister made reference to this in her opening remarks. This may be, or it is as a result of or in a large part, older people wishing to upgrade their academic standing and in other cases where programs are not offered within schools in certain school divisions.

I'm wondering if the Minister can give me accurate statistics as to what percent of the increase is due to individuals, parents, not wanting their children taught by either certain teachers, not wanting their children involved or taught certain material within the schools, that they would object to. Does the Minister have any statistics with respect to those types of reasons for students preferring to take correspondence courses rather than be taught in a classroom setting?

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Mr. Chairman, I don't have those figures with me. I'm not sure if we have access to that kind of information although I could try and get it. What I do know is that most of the students, I would think if that is the case that it would be very rare, the reason that most of the numbers of students are taking programs are the reasons they've always taken correspondence programs and that's the inability to have access to the programs being taught in other ways, and it usually relates to the number of students in a class and not having a teacher that can handle that course directly, so they often teach in conjunction with correspondence programs.

I think that out of 3,658 students and on home study, 2,003, which includes adults, most of them are taking correspondence courses because that is the only way that they can take the courses. They usually live in remote areas and small schools in the country where the options in the courses are not available.

MR. C. MANNES: Mr. Chairman, the Minister last year indicated that demand would probably level off; she saw that occurring. She has access to 1985 statistics. I would assume this is enrolment for '83-84 and I imagine that her department would have access to '84-85. I'm wondering whether the trend of increasing rates are still being maintained through this past year.

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I do have those figures; '84-84 was 5,385 students and '84-85 is

5,661 students, so there is some increase but it's not a tremendous increase - 250 students.

MR. C. MANNES: Mr. Chairman, as I look through the tables at the back of the Annual Report and I come to the table entitled "Enrolment in Correspondence Courses, Grades 9 to 12, by subject, for the school year '83-84," I see a high number for Grade 12, for instance, Mathematics 300, Physics 300. I also see in Grade 11 a significant number in some 200 courses in level - oh, I'm sorry, yes, Level 2, in Mathematics again, I ask the Minister whether there are some schools that are not teaching Grade 12 Mathematics, the 300 course?

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Well, Mr. Chairman, it would be hard to say. We have a lot of small schools in the province and it's hard to know what number of students in any of the small schools would even be on that program or would require 300, but I think that the increase indicates a couple of things. One is that we've added some new courses in Maths in some of those subjects and we have a number of small high schools, because of the change in student population, who are not able to offer the courses any other way than through correspondence. But there should not be any situation where a student wants a program and would not have access to the program if through no other way than through the correspondence program, because of course that's what it's there for.

Also, we have quite a number of adults who are trying to complete Grade 12 Maths. They may be going to take the GED Program or they may be finishing their high school program themselves, so that Maths 300, it could be a reasonable number of adults who are trying to complete Grade 12 standing.

MR. C. MANNES: Mr. Chairman, I can see reason for there being high numbers in courses such as - I'm trying to line up the numbers with the column way over on the left; Anthropology, Accounting 302, Canadian Law 302, and Economics 301. I can see the reason for that but I'm surprised to see that there are, for instance, 200 students taking Physics 300 through correspondence. I cannot perceive that within their school setting. Or using another number English 300, there are 180 taking that outside the classroom. I used Mathematics 300, 417, and I accept the Minister's explanation in part, but there seems to be a significant number within the basic core curriculum courses which you would think would be offered within the schools openly.

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Well, generally I think they are, Mr. Chairman. I think we have to differentiate between a student taking a correspondence course completely on their own and taking a correspondence course that is managed, overseen and actually taught through teachers. In other words, most of these courses are being used by teachers to teach the courses to students where they combine the correspondence course and some direct teaching times with the student, and it could be for a wide variety of reasons - the numbers of students in grades and classes that the teachers have to cover in small schools - so that the numbers,

although they might appear to be large, are not students that are all taking Physics and Maths and English 300 all by themselves, in most cases, they would be students that would be taking them in the school, through and under the sponsorship and direction and even teaching of teachers. Most of our courses in our schools are handled that way.

MR. C. MANNES: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the Minister who supervises the exams of those students taking correspondence courses; and in situations where individuals may have been caught cheating, what is the policy in place?

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Mr. Chairman, the test would be administered by the teachers in the school division, and if anybody was caught cheating I would imagine that they would be under the same control, or the same consequences as would any student in that school. In other words, policies that would apply there would be the policies that the school division has for dealing with matters like that and wouldn't be laid on particularly by the department or by the correspondence branch, they're under the responsibility of the teacher.

MR. C. MANNES: Well, is the Minister absolutely certain of this, is she absolutely certain that in all cases where an individual has been caught. This might be a situation where if it's a student of that school, that's fine, but there might be other people who are not students of the school who have come in just for supervision, for the sake of supervision during the time of an examination. Would the rules of that school division apply? Or do the rules of the department apply?

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Well, Mr. Chairman, to our knowledge we've given the correct information. The question of how they handle, I suppose he's saying, how do they handle adults if they're coming in and taking the course and being supervised by teachers in the school? I am not sure, we'll have to get that information for the Member for Morris.

MR. C. MANNES: Well, the general question of cheating on exams within the public school system, does the department have a policy at all, or is it left totally to the discretion of the school division and the school in question?

HON. M. HEMPHILL: I think that's fully to the discretion of the school board, Mr. Chairman, that those activities, the testing and all things related to it are clearly under The Public Schools Act, the responsibility of the school division.

MR. C. MANNES: The Minister undertook to find out specifically what the policy is with respect to a correspondence course. I'm wondering if she could respond to me by this evening, or something; depending on the result of that answer, hopefully, she'll allow me to pose some further questions.

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Yes, certainly I think we can have the information by then. I would say, if the question is coming up because the Member for Morris has a

specific situation or has some knowledge or information that would be helpful to us to look into it, I'd appreciate having it; if it's a general question we'll try to get a general answer?

MR. CHAIRMAN: 4.(g)(1)—pass; 4.(g)(2)—pass; 4.(h) Regional Services: (1) Salaries - the Member for Morris.

MR. C. MANNES: Mr. Chairman, there's been a fall in the salary level here. Can the Minister tell us why? Has there been a decrease in the number of field staff people?

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Largely it's because I think we're hiring at a lower classification, that's the main reason.

MR. C. MANNES: The Minister says, hiring in a lower classification. Can the Minister spell out the details associated with the classifications in place? What type of person is required to fill these positions?

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Mr. Chairman, in this case if the Regional Services Branch, although we have some people on staff, this is the branch that we often largely use to pull in experts or people from the fields and second them. We second them for a period of time in areas that are top priority that we're working on, and the few examples I can give are computer programming and education, which we undertook in a very serious way last year; and this year we're going into multigraded classrooms and looking at that as an issue, so it depends on where. One of the things that would be affected is if we found teachers who were being seconded and we second them into computer education, and now we have seconded them in the multigraded area. We pick people in the field who are highly credible and highly capable in those areas, but they could be salaried at a number of classifications in the division.

We might have a fairly young teacher who is very knowledgeable and credible in the field and we'd pay the school division the salaries of the teachers at the level that they are entitled to.

So if you have an older experienced teacher you're seconding you're paying at the top level of classification; if you're seconding a new or a middle teacher, you're paying at middle to lower level classification. And we happen to have them, I suppose, you could say lucky in one way that we've been able to get excellent people at lower classifications.

MR. C. MANNES: Well, I understand the Minister's argument, Mr. Chairman. When the Minister makes reference to multigrade classrooms, is she talking about a new area of development; or is she making reference to those situations where, by sheer lack of numbers and rooms and facilities, that in fact the inevitable being that more than one grade will be sitting together in one room - there are many schools and many situations where we have multigrade classrooms. What is the study and what is the Minister attempting to do?

HON. M. HEMPHILL: I suppose, Mr. Chairman, we're attempting to deal with an issue that's been out there in the field - and it isn't a new one - but it's one where

people who are coping with it are finding that they need more help. And I guess what we're doing, you might have Grades 4 to 6 in one class; you might have Grades 1 to 2 in one class; and the teachers in those classes are saying to us that the curriculum that has been designed has been designed just to teach one class of students in one grade, and that they're often coping with a number of curriculums in a number of classes. And what we will be attempting to do is give special focus on the implementation of Language Arts, which is often crossing over into several grades; and helping teachers largely with curriculum development and curriculum adaptation, I guess would be more in keeping, not curriculum development but curriculum adaptation for multigraded classrooms.

This has been identified. I think when we got the Regional Services Branch into being we went across the province with a needs survey and went to all the school divisions and at schools and said, what are your greatest needs and what are the issues that you need resources from the department that you're not presently getting? And computer education was one of the ones that was identified as a top priority and multigraded classrooms and curriculum was, I think, very high on the list and that's why we've chosen to move into this kind of support.

MR. C. MANNES: Mr. Chairman, Order-in-Council No. 677, headed "Education" rescinds the appointment of David G. Marshall as director and indicates the appointment of Jeremiah B. MacNeil to the position of director. Can the Minister tell us why that rescinding an appointment; and why the appointment of a new person was required?

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Mr. Chairman, unfortunately, we are losing Dave Marshall. He was an excellent person in starting out in what was a brand new branch and I think has concentrated largely on communication and working with the field and establishing a good relationship and a good network and providing very good resources to them.

So we are very sorry to have him leave and it's for, I suppose, what might be described, as bigger and greater personal opportunities in his career, and the replacement is simply that. We're replacing the director. We have a branch and we have a program and we need a program director, so the O/C is to replace the director who is leaving.

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

Resolution No. 50 - Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$15,630,000 for Education, Program Development Support Services, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1986—pass.

Item 5. Post-Secondary, Adult and Continuing Education (a) Division Administration: (1) Salaries - the Member for Morris.

MR. C. MANNES: Mr. Chairman, I ask the Minister what salaries are included under Appropriation 5.(a)(1)?

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Mr. Chairman, this is salaries for our central administration for the post-secondary

branch. The Student Aid Branch, it includes salaries for staffing Student Aid Branch, Post-Secondary Career Development Branch administers innovative programs. It provides administration of Interprovincial Training Agreements and Private Trade Schools Act.

MR. C. MANNES: Does this include the salary of the Assistant Deputy Minister in charge?

MR. CHAIRMAN: 5.(a)(1) - the Member for Morris.

MR. C. MANNES: Well, Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask a few more questions with respect to - the Minister has made reference to it other years - the change in the whole PACE makeup. Has there been a desire to concentrate the activities of this main division under one roof at all?

HON. M. HEMPHILL: I think that was one of the reasons, Mr. Chairman, at the time that we undertook to bring it all under Post-Secondary Adult and Continuing Education. We had post-secondary programs under a number of branches. We had adult education being delivered under another branch; and I think one of the primary purposes was to bring all of adult and post-secondary education under one administration for a number of reasons, better delivery of programs, better accountability, improved opportunity to tie into our economic priorities; and better management in administration. Basically it was to bring it together for those reasons.

MR. C. MANNES: Could the Minister tell me now how many people are involved in the programming and the program implementation under this whole division, outside of the community colleges, how many people are involved, outside of the people who are instructing in community colleges and who are within the administration on campus sites at the community colleges. How many people are involved in this whole area?

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Mr. Chairman, if we include student aid, it would be about 100.

MR. C. MANNES: Pass this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 5.(a)(1)—pass; 5.(a)(2)—pass; 5.(b) Programming Branch: (1) Salaries - the Member for Morris.

MR. C. MANNES: Mr. Chairman, can the Minister tell me what the purpose and the intent of the Programming Branch is?

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Yes, Mr. Chairman. The Programming Branch provides policy development and planning support for our PACE Program. It provides leadership in the implementation of new initiatives in the PACE Program design, delivery and evaluation; coordinates systemwide staff development programs; and it co-ordinates information to help us in our planning; and it negotiates and monitors programs that relate to the federal purchase of trainees.

MR. C. MANNES: Can the Minister give me a list of those people who are involved in the programming area within this branch?

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Mr. Chairman, we have four full-time staff positions and three secondments from colleges. So that's seven positions.

MR. C. MANNES: Who are the people?

HON. M. HEMPHILL: You want the people? If I can read the writing, J. Stalker, J. Greenaway, Ona MacDermott, Lois Britton, and the three from the colleges are Bob Barr, Jan Fraser and Jim Vincent.

MR. C. MANNES: Mr. Chairman, I don't know if this is the proper time, but I would like to ask a number of questions with respect to the government's wish that the community colleges and maybe, more specifically, the Red River Community College host a senior citizens day, December 6th. I wonder if the Minister could tell me whether this is the appropriate time.

HON. M. HEMPHILL: It could be now or it could be under Red River. We cover each of the colleges in a separate appropriation. That was a Red River activity. I'm not hung up on it. It was actually something that took place at all of our colleges. If he wishes to question now, I think that's fine.

MR. C. MANNES: Mr. Chairman, I do. Mr. Chairman, I have a letter sent to me by - not a letter, a memo indicating that the Student Association at Red River Community College was extremely upset with the Minister announcing a December 6th Senior Citizens Day without consulting staff or students. Could the Minister indicate whether the college was consulted at all before that announcement was made?

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Mr. Chairman, there was a problem with communication there. We had been talking about having and hosting a senior day for some time in my office and with staff. I was under the impression that the appropriate consultation had taken place with the Students' Association. I think what happened is that there was a mixup in terms of when the news release went out and when I believed the students had been involved in the activity.

So what we did as soon as we found out that we had the problem - and I must say on behalf of the students, first of all, that they weren't a bit opposed to the program. They thought it was a super idea. The case has been proven by the success of it. I think 1,500 senior citizens coming to Red River was beyond our wildest expectations. So they weren't concerned at all. They thought it was a super idea, but they did think that we should be discussing it with them, and that we should have decided on the date in concert with them because they had a program of their own under way. And we quite agree.

It was a mixup in timing. When I made the announcement, I believed everybody had been both involved and consulted. As soon as we found out that was not the case, I called a meeting with the students and we delayed the date that had been set. We jointly in a joint meeting sat down and decided on a new date and what the role and activities of the students and the Student Association would be. The students were very positive, very supportive and very co-operative and a great help in handling 1,500 seniors on that day.

MR. C. MANNES: Mr. Chairman, the Association's memo that went to their own newspaper, also their own media list, to Mr. Ray Newman, Mr. Cy Howard, our leader, Mr. Filmon, and a Special Assistant, I believe, to the Minister, to an individual called Larry Giesbrecht indicated that some prominent person in the Department of Education had asked the Student Association to dedicate the seniors' banquet for 1985 to those seniors from the Minister of Education's constituency. Can the Minister tell me who that senior person was within her department?

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Mr. Chairman, to my knowledge, that did not happen. I know of no senior person in my department who made that suggestion to the students.

MR. C. MANNES: Mr. Chairman, this is damning type of material. I dare say, if I were in the Minister's position, I would want to seek out the source of what she would consider an obvious inaccuracy, an obvious error. Did the Minister attempt to seek that out, or did she just allow it to be said without challenging it at all?

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Mr. Chairman, we did not let it go. We also thought that it was serious, and we did a full check. I've given him the answer, that nobody, senior staff in my department made the suggestion that - there was a dinner that they were putting on - be put on for people in my constituency.

MR. C. MANNES: Mr. Chairman, did the Minister demand a full public withdrawal or retraction of the statement that was made within this letter, which obviously is quite public? The Minister herself had a copy. It was sent to the media. Did the Minister demand that of the Students' Association? — (Interjection) — Mr. Chairman, the Minister's answer causes some curiosity to increase, because of what is being said by the students' union and again made very public. Mr. Chairman, people just don't put this to the record, because they've come up with a great idea to embarrass the Minister.

I don't know one of the students who are part of the association at Red River Community College, Mr. Chairman. I understand one of their names is a person called Sharon Anderson. But the point I'm trying to make, Mr. Chairman, is: why would somebody in the Students' Association make this claim against the Minister? The Minister claims that her department tried to find out the basis of the allegation but then, after coming to some conclusion that, in fact there was no truth or merit to it, let it die. I would ask the Minister how and why she would not again demand a public withdrawal of that type of information.

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Mr. Chairman, when I met with the students directly after this, we all agreed that the main concern for everybody was that we move towards a positive resolution of the problem so that the seniors who we were trying to make the program available for didn't lose out this tremendous opportunity.

In terms of the reaction with the students, it was not either a recriminatory meeting or a meeting where there were charges. It was a meeting where both sides agreed that there had been some misunderstanding in

communication on both sides in terms of the date that was set and my belief that the students were involved. When the students reacted, they are not unlike other young people or other people who get very upset. They were very upset at the time. They reacted very quickly. I think they felt after that there had been some overreaction on their part, and some perhaps not full checking out of all the details before they had reacted.

When we sat down and met with them and talked with them, we found out that it was a misunderstanding, and that there were no charges that either had to be laid or refuted. Our main concern was that we have a heck of an opening celebration and open house for the seniors of the province. That's what we did.

MR. C. MANNES: Mr. Chairman, I want to place on the record part of the memo, particularly in light of today, this very special day, when we have so many senior citizens who have attended the Legislature, because the people of the students' association who wrote this letter were so upset on November 15, 1984 that this is what they said in addressing the subject:

"We find it ironic that with so much talk of autonomy at the Minister's April 27th multimedia presentation at the college, her department could turn around six months later and designate December 6th as seniors' day at Red River Community College without so much as consulting students and faculty.

"Furthermore, we find it hard to believe that a government department whose mandate is education can find the funds to sponsor such an event when they have already drastically cut the education-oriented open house at Red River Community College due to budgetary restraints."

I will ask the Minister another question with that in due time, but to continue quoting the last three paragraphs, Mr. Chairman, of the memo, it says:

"If the Department of Education feels that they cannot sponsor an event as important as open house, we feel that we cannot participate in a public relations event that exploits students, faculty and seniors for the sake of buying votes.

"It is for these reasons the students of Red River Community College will not be volunteering their services for the proposed seniors' day on December 6th. However, for those of you who are sincerely interested in brightening the lives of our seniors, we ask that you help make our February banquet an even greater event, because we feel we owe it to our seniors to be treated openly and honestly and not as political pawns.

"The Students' Association extends its sympathy to those of you on this committee who have been pressed into service for this event. We realize that most of you cannot decline the department's invitation as easily or without repercussions as we can."

My direct question to the Minister, Mr. Chairman, by what method were the seniors invited to, first of all, the December 6th day that was announced publicly and, secondly, some date, I take it, in February? The Minister may want to tell me what date it was agreed upon finally by the students and the department. What method was used to invite seniors to be in attendance?

HON. M. HEMPHILL: First of all, the second date was on the 15th of February, which was the date that the

students chose because that's the date that they were having a dinner for seniors. I must say that, although in the letter initially - and I said this - the students overreacted and responded very quickly and I think, to some degree, were sorry after. They indicated they didn't know how we could have this program going on where there were some cuts in programs.

The fact is that the students and the Students' Association fully supported this and were delighted with how it happened and want to do it again next year, and are committed to doing it even bigger and better next year and would be terribly upset if we didn't decide to go along with it, because they thought it was a marvelous both publicity and communication and good feelings in the community opportunity for the college to open its doors to seniors.

There was another reason for doing that, as the Member for Morris probably knows. We have opened up our colleges. All our college courses are now available to seniors and at no cost. One of the reasons for this open house was to bring them through the college so they could see what courses were offered and what was available, and they would know what opportunities they would have.

In terms of how the decisions were made on inviting, we left it up to each college. There was a committee that was set up. It had staff and administration, and the students took a large role. They handled all of the organization at each of the three colleges, because this didn't just take place at Red River. It took place at Keewatin, and it took place at Assiniboine. The turnout was really good at each of them. Every college was delighted to have put on the program and to have opened their doors to seniors and felt it was a very successful day.

So I'm sure that they contacted senior citizen organizations and groups. As I say, 350 at KCC and 500 attended at Assiniboine College, and 1,500 at Red River. So I think that the invitations and the organization of busing and transportation and all of those things were handled by the individual colleges.

MR. C. MANNES: Can the Minister indicate what program Red River Community College in Winnipeg used in moving out the information that there would be such a seniors' day at that college?

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Mr. Chairman, I think they worked with all of the major senior citizens' organizations. Age and Opportunity Centre was very helpful in terms of getting information out to all of the people. I think they have six Age and Opportunity Centres, Creative Retirement, senior citizens' organizations. They sent letters to all the seniors organizations that we could identify, and they used radio - these were all community service too, I believe - advertisements and newspaper. So they used the media and they used direct letters to organizations.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. The hour is 4:30, time for Private Members' Hour. I am leaving the Chair, and will return at 8:00 p.m. tonight.

Call in the Speaker.

IN SESSION

PRIVATE MEMBERS' HOUR

HON. J. WALDING: Order, please. The time being 4:30, Private Members' Hour. The first item on the Order Paper for today is Proposed Resolutions.

RES. NO. 10 - WESTERN GRAIN TRANSPORTATION ACT

MR. SPEAKER: Resolution No. 10. The resolution is open.

The Honourable Member for Ste. Rose.

MR. P. ADAM: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I would move, seconded by the Member for Thompson, that:

WHEREAS 150,000 western Canadian farmers derive their income from the production of grain; and

WHEREAS western grain production and marketing is a major contributor to the national economy; and

WHEREAS CN rail attempted to introduce preferential rates on a few select non-board grains from three major shipping points based on volume considerations; and

WHEREAS the acceptance of this concept would establish a precedent encouraging discrimination against the majority of grain producers and delivery points; and

WHEREAS the extension of this discrimination would foster the attrition of the family farming unit, the abandonment of branch rail lines, the disruption of rural communities, the discouragement of grain production and exports and significantly increased road costs being incurred by the province and the municipalities; and

WHEREAS this would lay waste to the substantial investments made in the rehabilitation of branch lines and improvements to the country elevator system as a result of guaranteed rail service to the year 2,000; and

WHEREAS the Provinces of Manitoba and Saskatchewan joined with the wheat pools, producers, and community interest groups in opposing the introduction of the preferential rates being proposed by CN in public hearings before the Canadian Transport Commission; and

WHEREAS CN subsequently withdrew their application, but have made clear their intentions to pursue the introduction of discriminatory rates in the future.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this Legislative Assembly request the Government of Canada to amend the Western Grain Transportation Act to prevent the introduction of discriminatory grain rates whether it be by type of grain, location or volume, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that reductions in rates to encourage week-end loading or unloading of grain and the movement of grain in other than peak season periods be extended to all grain and all grain products and all shipping points.

MOTION presented.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Ste. Rose.

MR. A. ADAM: Mr. Speaker, I'm most pleased to have the opportunity to present this resolution for

consideration of members on both sides of the House. I would hope, Mr. Speaker, as well, that since the economic situation on the farming front would compel members opposite and all members on both sides of this House to lend support to this resolution, Mr. Speaker. I would hope that due to the fact that there are many members on the opposite side, the opposition, who represent farm constituencies, I'm sure that they are as concerned with to the welfare of their constituents and their farm people, as we are on this side of the House.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to say in the beginning that we and this government are not opposed to lower freight rates to grain farmers, we are not opposed to the lowering of rates, the record is clear, Mr. Speaker. The record is clear of members on this side of the Assembly, the record is clear on our position, a position that we took when there was question as to whether the Crow rate would be discontinued. We wanted to preserve those lower rates for western grain farmers and we fought tooth and nail to try and preserve a confederation bargain. And we raised concerns at that particular time when we had the Crow debate, Mr. Speaker, we raised the concern of variable rates. We predicted at that time, that this would be the first step, abandoning of the Crow bargain, the next step would be to introduce variable rates into the province, into western grain producing provinces.

Mr. Speaker, history will prove that we were correct. History will prove us correct. We indicated the implications that the abandonment of the Crow rate would have on the farm community, not only on the farm community because, Mr. Speaker, you must remember that our business community depends on the viability and the buoyant economy on the farm sector. You can go anywhere in rural Manitoba and practically all the central and southern part of the three prairie provinces, the business community's dependent on agriculture for its viability, our the small communities. There's no question about that. I don't think that any member in the House would argue that point.

So our record is clear and when we said that what would happen after the Crow was abandoned, the next step would be the introduction of variable rates and, Mr. Speaker, just recently now we have seen and it has been demonstrated, that there are those and the railways and others, will be applying pressure for that to happen. Well, Mr. Speaker, we are opposed to the way that the railways were trying to introduce the incentive rates in a discriminatory manner where it would benefit a few major points on the rail system to the discrimination of other producers on other lines, on branch lines, etc.

So our record is very clear, that we oppose the implementation of variable rates unless they have a province-wide application. We are not opposed, Mr. Speaker, to section 45, subsection 2, of the Grain Transportation Act, which allows for the application of a lower rate to encourage weekend loading and unloading of rail cars or transportation of grain by rail during off-peak season. Well, Mr. Speaker, I believe that this makes sense. It seems to me that that is the way we should be proceeding.

If we want to improve our efficiency, a cost efficiency, I think that we should be looking at weekend loadings and off-peak seasons. We don't object to reducing the

rates at those particular times to encourage farmers to take advantage and I think this also would benefit the railway companies as well. But what we do object, is that it be applied in a discriminatory manner, such as have been attempted by the CN and they are opposed to the fact that the lower rates offered, apply only to farmers delivering at certain points.

We don't think that this makes sense because those farmers who live on branch lines would then be having higher costs and I am sure we would find, Mr. Speaker, that the larger producers, with larger trucks, would possibly take advantage of these incentive rates and would haul; they have the bigger units, they would haul at longer distances to take advantage of these incentives. What you would see happen, Mr. Speaker, and we've raised this time and time again, is that volumes at certain elevator points would drop, once you have the larger farmers moving to mainlines or incentive elevator delivery points, you would have the smaller farmers left to patronize the elevator on many of these rural points and on branch lines.

So what would follow, Mr. Speaker, is that as soon as this would happen, either the elevator or the railway would say well, there's no reason for us to maintain this elevator, because the volume is lacking. Our volume has dropped 100,000 bushels this year, or 150,000 bushels this year. So we have to consider abandoning that; we can no longer keep the cost of an elevator agent and staff to handle the grain; we can no longer afford to keep that elevator open. The same thing would happen on the other side. If the elevator didn't come to that conclusion, we'd have the railway companies saying, well, you know we've had a drop at elevator Point C or Point A, a very substantial drop, and it just doesn't make economic sense to keep going in to that point to pick up grain. The volume is just not there. So they would be applying to the Transport Commission to abandon another branch line, Mr. Speaker.

That's exactly what's going to happen, that's exactly what we predicted when we had the Crow debate, and what would follow that, Mr. Speaker? Once the elevator is closed or the rail bed is gone, first thing you know, the farmer has to travel longer distances to major points, whether he's just a small operator with a one ton truck or a two ton truck or a three ton truck, he has to travel further distances to deliver his grain at higher costs. Mr. Speaker, when he gets there, what he will find is probably a line-up of trucks. He will find a line-up of trucks waiting to unload, and he is there. What will happen, Mr. Speaker, he will have to leave at maybe 2 o'clock in the morning in order to try and get in the line-up, not too far to back in, but trying to get up to the front so that he doesn't stay there. It is happening now, Mr. Speaker. We have seen it happen.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The Honourable Member for Arthur on a point of order.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Yes, I wonder if the member would submit to a question.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Ste. Rose.

MR. A. ADAM: Mr. Speaker, if I have time when I have concluded my remarks, I will answer the question.

Mr. Speaker, this is exactly - we have already seen that happen and it will be exacerbating. So what we will be doing is adding additional costs to producers where these branch lines will be abandoned, where these elevators will no longer be in place. And what we will be doing, Mr. Speaker, once these big trucks start moving to other areas, you will see some of your small communities start to wither on the vine. You will start to see a deterioration.

So who is going to suffer, Mr. Speaker? Not only the farmers, but also the business people who serve the farmers in those communities. In some cases, these farmers may be going to larger communities, they may do their shopping there. While they are waiting to unload in the elevator - he's got three or four hours to wait, Mr. Speaker, before his turn comes - he will have all kinds of time to go downtown and bring his wife's shopping list and buy away from his own community. So there are all kinds of things that can happen to suggest to us that we should not move in this direction.

We have seen the arguments put forward that if we start moving in this direction so that we can have farmers going the longer distances at greater costs and unload at high throughput elevators, if that makes sense, Mr. Speaker, why don't we have just one centre in Manitoba and let everybody haul to one centre? Would anybody support that kind of a situation? I doubt it, I doubt it. If it makes sense to have three points in a province, why not have just one and let everybody haul from 200, 300 miles away? No one will argue that it is more efficient to move grain by rail than by truck. The cost of moving by truck is probably five, six, seven times greater than moving by rail. Nobody will argue that.

Mr. Speaker, that's not only the major consideration we have to consider when dealing with this resolution. But the fact is that if this progresses, and as it moves to a greater extent to what we have set as precedent, what will happen is that the transferring costs from the railways on to the provinces, on to the municipalities and on to the farmers and the businessmen, the local people - they will have to pay higher taxes, Mr. Speaker, to maintain our road grid system. The municipalities will be in the same position, and they don't have the tax dollars; neither does the province. We are under pressure now, Mr. Speaker, to keep our road system and to allocate funds for road maintenance.

We know that members opposite have asked - and it is one of their priorities, it is ours too - to have a good road system, and to spend more money on roads, Mr. Speaker. I want to tell you, Mr. Speaker, and members of this Assembly, that if this comes to pass, the costs will just mushroom out of sight to maintain our municipal roads and our provincial road system. At the present time, that would make it less responsibility for the Federal Government.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, that we must all get together, and I am anxious to hear members opposite, what their position will be - but we must all support this resolution, send this resolution to Ottawa and let our views be known. I would like to see an unanimous decision, Mr. Speaker, on this resolution.

Now we have a lot of support, Mr. Speaker. The Pools have joined us; the Pools have supported us in preventing this kind of variable rates.

A MEMBER: The Pools have joined you?

MR. A. ADAM: Yes, the three Prairie Pools, Mr. Speaker; not the Alberta Government, not the Palliser Wheat Growers or a few others, but the three Pools have supported us; and the Saskatchewan Government have supported us. They are opposed to this kind of a precedent setting condition, Mr. Speaker. Not only them, Mr. Speaker, but I believe the Union of Manitoba Municipalities are opposed to the variable rates as well.

I believe my time is up, Mr. Speaker. How many minutes have I got left?

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The honourable member's time has expired.

MR. A. ADAM: Well, Mr. Speaker, . . .

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Leave, leave.

MR. SPEAKER: Does the honourable member have leave? Order please. Does the honourable member have leave to proceed?

Leave has not been granted.

MR. A. ADAM: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I urge all members to support this resolution.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Pembina.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, when this resolution, if it comes to a vote in the House, I just want to indicate at the outset that I am not prepared to support the resolution as it's written because it contains a number of inaccuracies, a number of assumptions that are not correct, and demonstrates on behalf of the member who introduced it, a complete lack of understanding of train systems, of the economic system, and even flies in the face of what he has allowed Crown corporations within the Manitoba Government to do.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to read the last - "BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that reductions in rates to encourage week-end loading or unloading of grain and the movement of grain in other than peak season periods be extended to all grain points and all grain products and all shipping points."

Well, Mr. Speaker, you know, this government allows the Crown corporation, Manitoba Telephone System, to offer to the Manitoba telephone consumer the advantage of an off-hour rate which has lower long distance charges than is the regular tariff during the peak hours at which MTS offers long distance service. Now, Mr. Speaker, this resolution, as it is written here, would disallow that sort of thing to happen. It demonstrates that the member who introduced this does not understand the system.

Now, Mr. Speaker, there are a number of other things that lead one to the conclusion that the member who introduced it didn't know what he was talking about. But what we have as the context of this resolution, No. 1, is complete control of the system; it is a resolution which will prevent innovation in the grain transportation system; it is a resolution which will prevent the testing or the trying of any new ideas; and it is a resolution which belies the member's understanding of the grain handling system.

No. 1, the three points that the CN applied to offer this incentive rate out of . . . had a sufficient car spot to take in up to 20 or 30 cars. Now I ask the Member for Ste. Rose, in his constituency, how many sidings that are used by the grain elevators have a 20- or 30- or 40-car spot? His answer has to be, if he knows anything about the grain handling system in his own constituency, that probably none do.

A MEMBER: Maybe Neepawa.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Maybe Neepawa has, but I doubt it because the number of elevators are present there, so no point has sufficient spot as those three points did. Now, Mr. Speaker, that is why the last "FURTHER RESOLVED" does not have any application throughout the system. Unfortunate, but true.

Mr. Speaker, I want to point out to my honourable friend over there that during the Crow rate debate I suggested something that would require a little bit of innovation, a little bit of thinking on behalf of the grain companies, the grain transportation authority, something that I think, if given to the railroads, that they would probably agree with.

Mr. Speaker, you know, the Minister of Agriculture, the man who has now allowed only 100 laying hens per farm, who has now allowed only about 150 broiling chickens to be grown on farms, who is causing cream to be poured on the ground, is sitting back saying unintelligent things, as usual, about the farm community. Mr. Speaker, the people have had enough of this Minister of Agriculture.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution, if adopted, prevents any change, any new idea from being tested in the system. I want to give you an example of an idea that should be tested in the system, that should be tested as soon as possible in the system. The proposal that I am going to make for my honourable friend, who may not understand the implications of it, is designed to assist branch lines, is designed to assist smaller elevators who have smaller sidings that can't spot the 20 and 30 and 40 cars that are required for the incentive rate; but what it will do is enhance the branch lines' ability to deliver grain economically but would be prevented with this resolution because the railroads could not offer to the 20 points along the Morris to Hartney line the kind of rate that would make it economical for the grain companies and the grain transportation authority to try it.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to point out to my honourable friend, who introduced this resolution, that there are approximately 20 elevators at 15 delivery points along the Morris to Hartney line. There is nothing to stop the Canadian Wheat Board, the Grain Transportation Authority and the elevator companies from saying that in week No. 36 of the shipping season that we are going to take out of those 20 points along the Morris to Hartney line, five carloads of feed barley, or No. 1 Glenlea wheat, or No. 1 Red Spring wheat, and we are going to take them out, we are going to drop the cars off on the Monday of shipping week No. 36, and we are going to pick them up Tuesday morning and we are going to make a return trip, five cars per point, 100 cars in total; you have a unit train of the same kind of grain going out that doesn't have to be humped

through the yard in Transcona, that can go directly down to the terminal position at Thunder Bay; and you have a unit train shipping off of a branch line, the very thing this member says is going to be abandoned with any kind of an incentive rate.

His resolution, Sir, prevents the CN or for that matter, the CP, from offering that kind of an incentive to the grain companies, the Grain Transportation Authority and the Canadian Wheat Board to try it to see whether the grain companies, with their farm customers, can co-ordinate such a shipment. They can even take that innovation one step further, Mr. Speaker, by having a direct hit at the other end, which they are capable of doing now at Thunder Bay. A direct hit of 100 cars coming off the Morris to Hartney branch line at about 3,500 bushels per car is 350,000 bushels of grain in a single hit off a branch line, using 20 different elevator points with an average hauling distance of about 6.5 miles per point for the average farmer that is delivering to them. Now what could be disadvantageous in a system like that?

But this resolution, if it's adopted, would prevent that. If this kind of Neanderthal thinking were to prevail in the transportation system, that wouldn't happen, and that is from a branch line where it is represented by four different elevator companies. Mr. Speaker, it is that kind of innovation alone which will save the branch lines, not the kind of reverse thinking that the member brought in in his resolution. That won't save the branch lines and that won't save the farm community, and it won't enhance our export market. It is only the opportunity for innovative thinking that will provide the railroads — (Interjection) — Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Agriculture doesn't understand this resolution. He says what prevents them from doing that now. They cannot, according to this resolution, offer an incentive rate, for just the system I talked about. This is a resolution that probably was caucused.

Mr. Speaker, so my honourable friends over there talk about another little thing. They say that in the fifth WHEREAS, "WHEREAS the extension of this discrimination . . ." - they call this discrimination - ". . . would foster the attrition of the family farming unit, the abandonment of branch lines, . . ." "According to this resolution, would disrupt rural communities, and here's a real lulu, Mr. Speaker - how is this ever written? - but at any rate, it would discourage grain production and exports, this would discourage grain production and exports. A system which would bring to bear the efficiencies of grain transportation hence would net the farmer back, presumably, a higher farm gate price, would allow us to deliver our grain to export position in a competitive market so that we could achieve sales. These things are going to discourage grain production and limit our exports?

What kind of perverse thinking has gone into this resolution? I don't think even the Member for Ste. Rose knew what he was bringing to this House when he brought this resolution, because those are simply not factual statements. They will will not happen.

Indeed, if this kind of system, and the kind of innovation that I mentioned earlier this afternoon, do not happen then you will indeed see the discouragement of grain production, because under the system we have today, basically the railroads could care less as to what their cost escalation is, because as long as they can

justify the cost increases, the farmer pays and the Federal Government picks up a small portion of increases.

Mr. Speaker, under the system that is there today, the railroads don't have to offer any innovations because their costs are covered. They are on a cost-plus system. So, Mr. Speaker, they can survive quite nicely on the branch lines. I mean, if they cost more money, they get reimbursed. They don't care.

So, Mr. Speaker, the ideal system in here would be one where we all sit down, and we don't put barriers in the way that this resolution would, but we sit down, and we have an understanding of where the costs are. We have an understanding of how those costs can be reduced. We have some co-operation between the Wheat Board, the GTA and the grain companies, because I'll guarantee you that one player in The Grain Transportation Act, mainly the farmer, is willing to try any sort of an innovative system that will save him money in his transportation costs.

Any member, like the Member for Ste. Rose, who stands up and says that is not true, is simply not understanding the farm community, because they have adopted efficiencies to lower their production costs more than any other industrial sector in the world, and that has allowed them to remain in the forefront of innovation in economics and productions, which has allowed us to enjoy the lowest-cost food in the world and the best food in the world too.

So, Mr. Speaker, I want to tell the Honourable Member for Ste. Rose, that I will not be supporting this resolution because it is not factual in its assumptions. It is not factual in its presentation of the preamble, and it is not consistent in its further resolved. It simply does not tell the facts of the grain transportation system.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the application by C.N., incidentally, was to do a trial to see whether it was economic for the railroads, because by and large, the railroads don't know exactly what their costs are going to be, in coming up with an incentive rate which will allow basically a unit trained loading to occur - not a 100-car unit train, but at least 20, 30, 40 cars minimum. They don't know, really, what their costs are going to be, but there have been some incredible demonstrations of efficiencies that can be achieved in the grain transportation system over the last five years.

The Member for Ste. Rose may not know of them, but I'll tell him of one. Was it not rapeseed? — (Interjection) — I defer to the housewives, canola it is. If they buy it, it is fine. But, Mr. Speaker, they took and they made a direct hit, what is called a direct hit of the canola shipment in Thunder Bay through a bulk handling terminal down there.

A MEMBER: Flax.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Was it flax? Yes, you're right. It was flax. We don't have to worry about whether it was rapeseed; it was flax.

A MEMBER: It was rapeseed on the west coast.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Yes, that's right.

Mr. Speaker, they took and they direct hit a boat with a shipment of flax, and they lowered the cost of delivering it to tidewater significantly.

Do you know who benefits from that? Believe it or not, even though members in the NDP do not necessarily agree, the farmer eventually benefits from that, because his net back is higher, his farm gate price is higher.

You know, Sir, they lowered the cost of transportation; and more importantly, they lowered the cost of terminal charges because there were none. They simply went into a direct loading belt, and the terminal charges were eliminated. There was a charge for the use of the terminal, which was significantly lower. — (Interjection) — Oh, but now the Member for Ste. Rose says there is nothing to stop them from doing it. Well, he is going to stop them from doing that because the very unit train that is needed to deliver those kinds of shipments, bear in mind that - I won't bear in mind because the Member for Ste. Rose won't understand - but bear in mind, Mr. Speaker, that the entire cost of the system now, after you have deducted the Federal Government's subsidy, are borne by the farmer.

Now we've got railroad as only one portion of the grain handling system. We've got our primary elevators, which collect the grain, that have a significant cost just simply for elevating the grain and putting it in a box car. I haven't heard members complain about that cost.

Then you go to the terminal end of it where for storage and elevating it out of a rail car and into a boat is a significant cost, and then you've got the seaway cost. The rail cost is only a small portion of getting that grain to market.

I don't see resolutions from my honourable friends over there condemning the seaway for raising its rates every year or the terminal elevators, which are owned by Manitoba Poole, UGG, Cargill, raising their terminal and then primary elevator charges. I don't see them complaining about that, but they do complain about C.N. offering - and it's a Crown corporation, this is what baffles me. You know, my honourable friends are so hung up on Crown corporations. Here is a Crown corporation that wants to operate efficiently and give the farmers a saving on that efficiency, and they don't want to do that.

Well, Mr. Speaker, as I said before, I cannot support this resolution because it prevents farmers from taking advantage of innovation in the grain handling system and in the railroad delivery system that we rely on to get our products to a competitive world market. Mr. Speaker, I will not support it.

I don't know what my colleagues will do, that is up to them, but I will not support this, because I believe that in the Morris to Hartney line where I haul my grain to, which is a branch line, that this resolution would prevent a unit train assembly of one grade of grain being done in co-operation with the foreplayers in the grain transportation and handling system, and would prevent myself and other farmers on the Morris to Hartney line from achieving any savings that would accrue from having a unit train leave off that branch line. Anything that prevents the branch lines from offering better service and lower cost to the farm community, I will not vote for it.

Members opposite will vote for it because they want to stifle the system, control it and prevent any innovation. That is why they bring in resolutions which will lead to perpetual cost increase to the farmers with no potential for saving due to any innovation that may

be introduced by the system, in general, aided and abetted by the railroads.

So, Mr. Speaker, I'm for innovation which lowers cost to myself and other farmers so that we can be more competitive in the international grain market and net back more for our grain at the farm gate. I won't vote for a resolution that prevents that as this resolution will.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question?

The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

HON. B. URUSKI: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to enter this debate and hear the Honourable Member for Pembina speak. I must say that, in recalling his remarks on the debate on the Crow rate debate that we had in this Assembly, he is consistent.

He talked about incentive rates then, and he is promoting consistently his idea. I guess the logical extension of those ideas, of course, would be to make sure that there are variable rates. I'm sure that, if there was a resolution in this House dealing with method of payment, he would get up and say that the payments should be made to individual members of the farm community regardless of where they farm so that there can be an expansion of the livestock industry.

Mr. Speaker, what is missed in this whole debate that I have heard the Honourable Member for Pembina speak about, dealing with the extension of variable rates to the entire system and incentive rates, one has to raise the major question today: why did we abandon the Crow rate? Mr. Speaker, why did we allow the Crow rate to be abandoned? Mr. Speaker, the Conservatives and the Liberals allowed that to happen.

Let's just recall, Sir, the major reasons and the major arguments that were supported by members opposite as to why the Crow rate should be changed mainly in the grain industry, that the railways needed that extra investment to improve the system, to make sure that grain flowed. You know, many in the farm community bought that argument. They did.

Mr. Speaker, in fact, during that debate, the railways put out large ads and large press releases indicating that they, if the Crow rate has changed, that they will spend \$16 billion over the next decade in upgrading the railway system. So they needed this change, and this needed this change here to upgrade the system.

Mr. Speaker, within two years, that investment has now gone from \$16 billion down to \$11 billion. We just dropped a third of that investment overnight, Mr. Speaker. We just lost \$5 billion, evaporated within a year and a half, Sir, just like that, and now we have to ask ourselves, why did we give up the Crow rate, for what reason? For what reason did we give up the Crow rate when the railways needed \$16 billion and they were prepared to invest it if the Crow would go?

Now, Mr. Speaker, it's not going in and the Crow is gone. At least we have members opposite, or at least one of the members opposite - it will certainly interesting to note how other members speak. The Member for Pembina at least was very consistent. He wants variable rates and incentive rates. He mentioned that before. Mr. Speaker, he made the comparison of the Manitoba Telephone System allowing time charges for reduction in rates, and he said, "If they could do it in that area,

why couldn't the railways give incentive rates for certain areas?"

Mr. Speaker, the Manitoba Telephone System offers those timesavings across the system; that is what the Member for Ste. Rose wants. Everybody will get the benefit.

Mr. Speaker, he would be another member, Sir, who would argue that we should allow CN and CP to compete for the telecommunication business in this country, Sir, give them the competition. — (Interjection) — I gave him credit for consistency, but, Mr. Speaker, if that's consistency, he can keep it, Sir. The Honourable Member for Pembina, his constituents certainly will know by their telephone rates if that change is made, that they can rely on the Honourable Member for Pembina in terms of where telephone rates go rurally, Sir.

He gave us the bright idea about why can't four or five elevator companies set up unit trains of single grain commodities on a single branch line in Hartney, same grade. Mr. Speaker, what is preventing the system from doing that now? What is preventing the system from doing it now? Mr. Speaker, the railways have the money.

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Speaker, he points to it and says this resolution. Mr. Speaker, either the member can't read or he really has flipped his lid. That may be what has happened, Sir, because there is nothing in the system that prevents the efficiency of the railroads operating as efficiently as possible. Mr. Speaker, that is why we have consistently said that the payments be made to the railways to make sure that if they don't perform, and I have to admit, they haven't performed - they haven't performed, Mr. Speaker, but at least we know that if the money is put into the most efficient transportation system, we will not have the added burden of costs on the farmers. I say on the farmers, because they haven't seen property taxes yet, Mr. Speaker, because when they have to start loading that grain on their trucks and branch lines are abandoned as a result of these incentive rates - let's look at the Interlake. The Honourable Member for Lakeside is sitting there. Let's look at the Interlake. What will be the natural outcome on the Inwood subdivision, Mr. Speaker? What will he say to the people along the Inwood subdivision? Well boys, you know, it was okay for 70 years, maybe 73 years, to have that line, but it's an inefficient line. Let's abandon it. We'll pay you to haul your grain 70 miles to Arborg, or better still, we'll put you on the road and take No. 7 and haul it all the way to Winnipeg or Elm Creek or wherever. Let's make it Elm Creek because it's on one of the major lines, and it's a big throughput elevator, and it's near Morris.

We're doing it now, I have to say. That's why our roads are falling apart. Now what will happen, Sir — (Interjection) — yeah, Mr. Speaker, the Member for Lakeside says, talk to your Minister of Highways. Mr. Speaker, we ain't seen nothing yet, speaking colloquially, in terms of the condition of our roads. Farmers will have to bear those increased costs, Mr. Speaker. They

will have to bear it eventually because, Mr. Speaker, trucking does not pay its full share of transportation costs. It does not. We subsidize the roads. We subsidize the gasoline in terms of allowing the tax back to the farmers. We have a lower insurance rate and a lower licence rate.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, if we were to say, as we have done to the railways, the user shall pay the full costs, can you imagine where road transportation costs would have to go? They would have to go like the Crow rate, quadruple in terms of the costs that would have to be borne by the user, Mr. Speaker. Then what will we hear?

But after we've thrown the baby out with the bath water, got rid of the branch lines because the railways don't want them - absolutely the railways don't want them. Why would they want a branch line system that they have, in many instances, abandoned 30 years ago? They have done it deliberately over the last 30 or 40 years.

You talk to any resident of any rural community. Is it more efficient to haul fuel by railway or by truck, Mr. Speaker? We used to have fuel - and I venture to say, any one of the members opposite would be able to make that recollection. No more. Why? Well, they don't perform, Mr. Speaker. I would take their railway licence away.

There can be good management, but what is being argued by the Member for Pembina, who is now speaking on behalf of the railways, and it is. Why is it the CNR? Because there's really no difference in terms of the railway management system. They are both geared to one thing, whether it's a Crown agency or it's a private corporation, Mr. Speaker. They are there to do one thing, to run a mainline system. That is in their interests.

MR. C. MANNES: Thank God they're there running a mainline system.

HON. B. URUSKI: Mr. Speaker, the Member for Morris says from his seat, thank God that they're there, running a mainline system. Mr. Speaker, he may want to support a railway system that runs only a mainline system. I'll let him speak for himself. I don't, Mr. Speaker, because this country, this province, primarily Manitoba and Saskatchewan, were developed as a result of the railways expanding beyond the mainline and making sure that those services were extended through the hinterlands, through all the regional areas of these two provinces.

That's why, Mr. Speaker, the Alberta Government argued in its brief to the Hall Commission on method of payment that we should pay directly to the farm community the Crow benefit. On what basis did they use the argument? They said that if you pay the Crow benefit directly to farmers, there will be as a natural

consequence greater branch line abandonment. Guess where? It has to be in Manitoba and in Saskatchewan, because the Alberta rail network has never expanded to the degree that it did in these two provinces. Being that there will be more branch line abandonment, there will be more money available for the farmers of our province. They are right. I have to admit that they are right. Right for the wrong reasons as far as we're concerned, but they're right in their analysis as to what will be the natural occurrence if we go with this resolution in terms of allowing some changes, as the Member for Pembina has said, vote against this resolution. Mr. Speaker, that is voting against the farmers and voting for the railway. It's clear that the Member for Pembina is now the apologist for the railway in this Legislature. He is now the spokesmen for the railway companies.

Mr. Speaker, he gave some ideas in his remarks, those great ideas of efficiency that he put forward. If those ideas are so great, why do we have to subsidize them? Why do we have to subsidize those ideas through the Crow rate. If the railways are so bent on running an efficient system, why aren't they moving ahead? It is in their interests to save the farmers money. Mr. Speaker, that has not been the history of railways in this country unfortunately, and they have not run an efficient system in terms of making sure that the transportation network is responsive to the needs of the community. They have not. They really have not responded.

Mr. Speaker, what the Member for Ste. Rose is proposing is that if there are benefits in efficiencies in the system, those benefits should be given to everyone using that system. Mr. Speaker, what is wrong with that proposal? What is wrong with that argument, Mr. Speaker? We do that all the time. The Minister of Municipal Affairs says, "Just like Manitoba Telephone System." Absolutely, Mr. Speaker. We do cross-subsidize in the Telephone System to make sure that we provide benefits to Northern Manitoba, to rural Manitoba and have the lowest rates possible anywhere in North America. We do that, and we don't apologize for that.

But, Mr. Speaker, what the railways want, they want the money and they want to abandon the branch lines. They want everything, Mr. Speaker. That is basically what the railways are after. They're after a mainline system. Mr. Speaker, let me say - I'll leave it, I'll say it next time.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. When this resolution is next before the House, the Honourable Minister will have five minutes remaining.

The time being 5:30, I am leaving the Chair, and the House will reconvene in committee at 8:00 p.m. this evening.