

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Tuesday, 26 August, 1986.

Time — 2:00 p.m.

OPENING PRAYER by Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER, Hon. M. Phillips: Presenting Petitions . . . Reading and Receiving Petitions . . .

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Burrows.

MR. C. SANTOS: Madam Speaker, the Committee of Supply has adopted certain resolutions, directs me to report the same and asks leave to sit again.

I move, seconded by the Member for Thompson, that the Report of the Committee be received.

MOTION presented and carried.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS AND TABLING OF REPORTS

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Madam Speaker, I'd like to table the Annual Report of the Alcoholism Foundation of Manitoba for the year 1985-86.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Where's the department one, Larry?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: I think I'll wait after the Session.

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

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MADAM SPEAKER: Before proceeding to Oral Questions, I'd like to direct the attention of honourable members to the lobe on my right where we have visiting with us the Honourable Rod Murphy, Member of Parliament for Churchill.

On behalf of all the members, we welcome you to the Legislature this afternoon.

ORAL QUESTIONS

MTS - Public Utilities and Natural Resources committee meetings

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. G. FILMON: Thank you, Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for the Manitoba Telephone System.

I wonder if he can inform members of the House as to when the Committee on Public Utilities and Natural Resources will next meet for examination of the report of MTS-MTX.

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister responsible for MTS.

HON. A. MACKLING: Madam Speaker, our House Leader looks after the arrangements for the calling of committees, I'll defer the question to him.

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Government House Leader.

HON. J. COWAN: Yes, Madam Speaker, it is our intention to call that committee to meet on Thursday, September 4, either at 10:00 a.m. or 8:00 p.m., whichever is more appropriate for the Opposition.

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. G. FILMON: Madam Speaker, my further question to the Minister responsible for the Manitoba Telephone System is: in view of the fact that the Opposition has expressed the willingness to meet either this evening or Thursday morning or Thursday evening, next Tuesday morning, next Tuesday evening, why is he unable to meet in committee with respect to the report of MTS-MTX before next Thursday, September 4?

HON. J. COWAN: Madam Speaker, just . . .

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MADAM SPEAKER: Order please, order please. The Honourable Government House Leader.

HON. J. COWAN: Madam Speaker, just as when members opposite had difficulties with days that we had suggested for meetings, and that has happened on several occasions — (Interjection) — Well, the member opposite says "twice", or "once." Once, well, I — (Interjection) —

MADAM SPEAKER: Order please, order please. The Honourable Leader of the Opposition asked a question; the Honourable Government Leader is endeavouring to answer the question.

HON. J. COWAN: We try to set our schedule of the committee hearings so as to accommodate them, and it was two times, not once, as the Leader of the Opposition says from his seat. He is wrong, once again. It was on one occasion when the Member for Pembina had to take care of some private business and we held back the meeting in order to accommodate his need to take care of that business, and I think it was an important bit of business that he was doing and I think

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it was right to hold back that meeting in order to accommodate his schedule.

There was another occasion when we offered the meeting in this House on a Friday afternoon and the Leader of the Opposition said no. They have an aversion to having . . .

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MADAM SPEAKER: Order please, order please.

MR. G. FILMON: On a point of order, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition on a point of order.

MR. G. FILMON: On a point of order, the Government House Leader is wrong again, as he usually is. I did not refuse a meeting on the Friday afternoon.

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MADAM SPEAKER: Order please, order please. Order please.

As the Honourable Leader of the Opposition well knows, a dispute over the facts is not a point of order.

The Honourable Government House Leader.

HON. J. COWAN: Perhaps I went too far in my assumption that the Leader of the Opposition actually leads that group across the Chamber. It is becoming more and more obvious every day that that has never been the case and is not the case at present. However, out of deference to his position, one would continue to make that assumption until their leadership contest is over. But as a matter of fact, his caucus, upon direction of someone - I would hope it were him, but if it was not him - said that they would not meet on a Friday afternoon when we offered the meeting on a Friday afternoon. It appears to me that they have an aversion to meeting on Friday afternoons, for whatever reason.

However, Madam Speaker, we have indicated in the past, that to the extent possible, we will attempt to arrange and schedule meetings so as to accommodate all the members. We've been able to do that successfully in the past. As it is now, we, as government members, have business that must be taken care of. There are issues of importance to Manitobans that go beyond MTX and MTS. It's an important issue, but there are other issues which this government has a responsibility to deal with on an ongoing basis that means we will not be able to jump to their beck and call every time they stand up, wail and beat their chests and request a meeting.

In this particular instance, Thursday, September 4, is the date which we feel will accommodate the needs of members on this side. If it does not accommodate the schedules of members opposite, let them speak, but it can't be before that particular date at this time.

MADAM SPEAKER: I remind honourable members that answers to questions should be brief.

The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. G. FILMON: Madam Speaker, my further question to the Minister responsible for the Telephone System

is: does his schedule and the information that he has available to him permit him to meet in committee with MTS at the Public Utilities and Natural Resources Committee prior to a week from Thursday, September 4?

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister responsible for MTS.

HON. A. MACKLING: Madam Speaker, I've indicated to our House Leader that this Minister will try to accommodate the House in any arrangements, but I appreciate the fact that the House Leader has to look at the entire work of the House, the obligations of this government to proceed with legislation and the commitments of this House in accordance with a reasonable schedule.

MR. G. FILMON: Madam Speaker, I wonder if the Minister responsible for the Telephone System can indicate whether or not staff of MTS-MTX are available and prepared to meet in Committee of Public Utilities and Natural Resources on their Annual Report prior to next Thursday, September 4.

HON. A. MACKLING: Madam Speaker, I think the question is really not all that relevant. I have indicated to staff that when I indicate that the committee is going to meet, they are expected to be there.

MR. G. FILMON: Madam Speaker, I wonder if the Government House Leader could indicate to us which members of his government are not available to meet prior to September 4, Thursday, in committee on MTS-MTX.

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Government House Leader.

HON. J. COWAN: No, Madam Speaker, and just as we don't ask them who wants their Friday afternoons off from their side, so we can't conduct business of this House on a Friday afternoon, we don't expect them to provide that information to us, and we don't expect to be asked to provide to them information as to which members of a committee - and there are a number of members - can meet at a specific time and can't meet at a specific time.

I have indicated that Thursday, September 4, is the earliest possible occasion on which I am prepared to recommend a meeting of that particular committee. There is nothing to hide; there is nothing to cover up. It is a matter of scheduling the business of this House so important issues like The Family Farm Protection Act, The Trade Practices Inquiry, jobs, economic development in this province — (Interjection) —

MADAM SPEAKER: Order.

HON. J. COWAN: . . . and those other issues which are important to Manitobans can be dealt with by the government. We intend to continue dealing with them in a businesslike fashion. We have done so in the past and we will do so in the future, notwithstanding what they suggest might be an appropriate date for any one committee.

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MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. G. FILMON: My further question to the Government House Leader is: in view of the fact that there are only seven members of the government on that Committee of Public Utilities and Natural Resources, why is the government unable to put together seven members to sit on either this Thursday morning or evening, next Tuesday morning or evening, prior to next Thursday when he has now scheduled the meeting?

HON. J. COWAN: It's interesting for members opposite to suggest so consistently that because we are having a committee meeting not to their particular liking in respect to the scheduling there is a coverup going on. I only have to remind them, Madam Speaker, that when they were government and we asked for committee meetings to discuss matters, they refused entirely to have those committee meetings.

They shut down committee meetings where the public were trying to attend to make representations. They adjourned and completed the work of committees when members of the Opposition, at that time members of this party, were not present; so they have a despicable record in respect to attempting to arrange committee hearings so as to accommodate not only members of this House, but the general public.

I would suggest to you that given the actions to date, and even the action of the scheduling of the committee meeting at present, we have gone out of our way on every occasion to accommodate the needs of members opposite and the needs of the public in making representation to committees. We will continue to do so, but it is we who have to determine what business is of such importance that we have to arrange our schedules around it so as to meet the needs of this province.

I would suggest to members opposite that perhaps they should start thinking about some of those other issues, the jobs, the economy, The Trade Practices Inquiry Act, The Family Farm Protection Act to protect the farmers who are now involved in a harvest, and let us get down to the business of this province and the business of this House.

MTS - Sheik Al Bassam visit to Winnipeg

MR. G. FILMON: My question to the Minister responsible for the Telephone System is: did he meet with Sheik Al Bassam when he was in Winnipeg last fall, the fall of 1985, on a visit here? Did he meet with the sheik at that time?

MR. D. ORCHARD: Do you remember, Al?

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister responsible for MTS.

HON. A. MACKLING: Madam Speaker, if there was a courtesy call, I spent a few minutes in my office and I met the gentleman involved.

MR. G. FILMON: I wonder, Madam Speaker, my question to the Minister of Finance, did he as well meet

with the sheik when he was here last fall on that so-called courtesy visit.

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Finance.

HON. E. KOSTYRA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. No.

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. G. FILMON: Madam Speaker, my further question to the Minister responsible for the Telephone System is: did any other member of the government meet with the sheik when he was here on that visit last fall?

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister responsible for MTS.

HON. A. MACKLING: Madam Speaker, I do not recall. There was no other Minister. The Saudi Arabian individual involved called into my office, was introduced to me by the staff of the Telephone System.

MR. G. FILMON: Madam Speaker, my further question to the Minister responsible for the Telephone System: did the vice-chairman of the board meet with the sheik when he was here, that being a government appointee to the Board of Manitoba Telephone System, did that person meet with the sheik when he was here?

HON. A. MACKLING: Madam Speaker, I'm sure there were a number of people from the Manitoba Telephone System had met with Sheik Al Bassam. I don't recall who all were present in my office. I believe that they were members of the Telephone System, staff of the Telephone System. I'm sure Mr. Gordon Holland was there, probably a number of the vice-presidents; I don't recall exactly.

MR. G. FILMON: Madam Speaker, my further question to the Minister is: does he recall if the then Member for Wolseley was present at that meeting or any other meeting with the sheik on his visit here to Manitoba last fall?

HON. A. MACKLING: Madam Speaker, I should recall that because I think the Honourable Member for Wolseley would make any meeting warmer and more attractive, but I don't recall that with precision.

MR. G. FILMON: Madam Speaker, I wonder if the Minister could indicate whether or not, during the course of the visit with the sheik, either with himself or with senior officials of the Telephone System, the sheik expressed any concerns about business difficulties that the Saudi Arabian companies that MTX is involved with were participating in, did he express any concern about business difficulties at that time of the visit?

HON. A. MACKLING: Madam Speaker, I don't recall the conversation. I know that it was a courtesy call. I didn't spend very long and I don't believe that there was an agenda or discussion of any items. It was a courtesy visit on his part. I was pleased to meet the

gentleman and that was the extent of the meeting, as I recall.

MR. G. FILMON: Madam Speaker, my further question to the Minister responsible.

If the sheik did not offer any comments about business difficulties to the Minister himself, did senior members of the board or of staff of MTS, MTX, SADL, who met with the sheik on his visit here, give him a report as to any of the difficulties that they may be encountering in the business that they were engaged in, in Saudi Arabia?

HON. A. MACKLING: Madam Speaker, I assume that Sheik Al Bassam had meetings with staff of MTS and MTX and discussions about the operations. I wasn't present at those meetings. His visit to me was a courtesy visit and I enjoyed meeting him.

**MTS - accusations in affidavit
of Shelbert J. Payne, Florida**

MR. G. FILMON: Madam Speaker, I am going to table a copy of an affidavit which is signed by Shelbert John Payne, an affidavit that I have just received today, that was sworn on August 25 in Florida, with various comments in it for the information of the Minister responsible, the Premier and the government, with respect to further concerns and further information about the operations of MTX and its related companies in Saudi Arabia.

I will quote one particular statement and I might indicate, Madam Speaker, that I have sent a copy of that affidavit to the RCMP today to ensure that they have that information to pursue. I quote one particular statement, Madam Speaker. It says: "I had previously been informed by Mike Aysan that he would arrange to obtain proper work visas for the Saudi joint venture. To the best of my knowledge, the subsequent employment visa indicated that I was an employee of General Bahrrin Concrete (GBC Inc.)."

Does the Minister have any knowledge of this kind of false information contained on visa applications for staff who were being sent to work for the company in Saudi Arabia?

HON. A. MACKLING: Madam Speaker, I'm happy to hear that the Leader of the Opposition has sent a copy of that affidavit, which I haven't seen, to the RCMP. I know that I have forwarded an affidavit received from an existing employee to the RCMP, and another memorandum I received to the RCMP.

I believe that the RCMP are the best way to determine whether there are irregularities or wrongdoings. I know that they are in the field and doing a job and that's how it should be.

MR. G. FILMON: Madam Speaker, if I may quote further from the document, it says: "With the severity of the IBM Series/1 failure in mind, Mike Aysan approved a decision to obtain an operating system through non-commercial channels. . . . Leroux Pitts then bootlegged a copy of their operating system and provided it to Datacom. I do verify believe this action was in violation of the United States copyright laws."

Does the Minister responsible have any knowledge of that particular matter having been transacted by the MTX affiliate company overseas in Saudi Arabia?

HON. A. MACKLING: Madam Speaker, I know and can appreciate that there may be instances where there will be some corroboration of statements made in the Ferguson affidavit and I think that's what the Honourable Opposition Leader is alluding to in this present affidavit - I haven't seen it. — (Interjection) — I would defer to the RCMP rather than the Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek. I think that the RCMP will probe every allegation, every issue, and come up with recommendations if there are to be charges laid, and we will accept those recommendations and act on them.

MR. G. FILMON: Madam Speaker, my question to the Minister responsible is: was he informed of bootlegging of IBM software, contrary to U.S. copyright laws, being engaged in by Datacom in its overseas operations in Saudi Arabia?

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

HON. R. PENNER: The Minister is being asked to comment on allegations which (a) he doesn't have; and (b) which at this moment are merely hearsay and are being presented to the House as if they were, in fact, proven. Madam Speaker, I don't think that is something which falls within the ministerial competence of the Minister to comment on allegations which remain in the realm of hearsay, that so and so was informed by so and so that something is alleged to have happened. In fact, this is precisely the kind of thing which ought to be avoided in any respective House. — (Interjection) — Yes, I think that it is out of order to inquire of a Minister with respect to allegations which remain in the realm of allegations.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Don't ask about the truth then, Rollie, eh.

MADAM SPEAKER: Order please, order please. Order please.

The Honourable Opposition House Leader.

MR. G. MERCIER: Madam Speaker, on this point of order, it would appear that the government's attempts to cover up this whole incident in operation of MTS and MTX has now gone about as far as it could possibly go. They have refused a judicial inquiry; they've refused the committee to meet. Now, they don't want the Minister to answer a question in the House.

The Leader of the Opposition is simply asking whether the Minister responsible for MTS-MTX was informed of certain facts. Surely to goodness, that is within the rules of procedure and allowed. Surely, we won't be stopped from obtaining this information.

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Government House Leader.

HON. J. COWAN: On a point of order, the Opposition House Leader in his comments stated that we refused

to have the committee meet. That, in fact, is a misrepresentation of the case . . .

MADAM SPEAKER: Order please. We can't have two points of order on the floor at the same time. I assumed the Honourable Government House Leader was speaking on the first point of order as to whether the question put by the Honourable Leader of the Opposition was in order. Comments to points of order are supposed to be strictly to that particular point.

In terms of the point of order, Beauchesne Citation 362: "It is not good parliamentary practice to communicate written allegations to the House, and then to ask Ministers either to confirm or deny them." I think that the . . .

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MADAM SPEAKER: Order please, order please.

I think that is the particular point that the Honourable Attorney-General was referring to. However, the question, as I remember it, that the Honourable Leader of the Opposition put was: did the Minister know about those particular allegations? I think, to be fair, under the circumstances, when the affidavit was just tabled, that it would be reasonable to give all members an opportunity to read the document that the Honourable Leader of the Opposition tabled. I'm sure that most members have not had that opportunity.

As far as I'm concerned, the way the Leader of the Opposition worded the question, it is in order, but I do caution him about that particular Citation and the fact members have not had an opportunity to peruse the tabled document. If he could be a bit more judicial in his questions it would help.

The Honourable Government House Leader.

HON. J. COWAN: On a point of order, arising out of the comments of the Opposition House Leader, he clearly stated that the government refused to call the committee, when very specifically we indicated that we would be calling the committee on a specific date. We cannot any longer allow misrepresentations of that sort to go unchallenged as they have attempted to do in the past. The record should be clear that the committee will be called at the . . .

MADAM SPEAKER: Order please, order please.

I have on many occasions cautioned honourable members that a dispute over the facts is not a point of order. For the second time this morning, one from each side, I would like to caution members, again, of that rule that they know full well, and hope that they would all follow the rules as carefully as they should.

The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. G. FILMON: Madam Speaker, I again quote from a statement of the sworn affidavit, in which it is said: "In the presence of Chafe Abou Richeh, Mike Aysan instructed me 'to build into the cost of each project sufficient margin to enable us to pay our respects.' This 'appreciation fee' was hidden in the ambiguous areas of a bid such as training, service contracts, freight and handling."

Does the Minister responsible for the Manitoba Telephone System have any knowledge as to any of

these items that have been apparently part of the operations of our subsidiary company overseas in Saudi Arabia?

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister responsible for MTS.

HON. A. MACKLING: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

As I indicated in answer to an earlier question, I'm very pleased that the Honourable Leader of the Opposition has forwarded this affidavit. — (Interjection) — Well, I am genuinely pleased that at last the Leader of the Opposition has recognized that the proper authority to investigate allegations is the RCMP. Madam Speaker, when this Minister received serious allegations of wrongdoing, not within days, but within one hour I had that material in the hands of the RCMP.

Madam Speaker, I've received further information which I don't discuss in the House or the media. I have referred it to the RCMP and the management audit, and they will do a job.

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MADAM SPEAKER: Order please, order please.

HON. A. MACKLING: They will do a job in investigating every specific in any allegation or suggestion of wrongdoing. The management audit will show us where there is any management weakness or deficiency, and we will act on it.

MADAM SPEAKER: Order please, order please.
The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. G. FILMON: Madam Speaker, I have always stated that we will cooperate with the RCMP in . . .

MADAM SPEAKER: With a question.

MR. G. FILMON: . . . every respect, but they will not be able to . . .

MADAM SPEAKER: With a question!

MR. G. FILMON: . . . investigate all of the problems with MTX. We've said so before and the Minister knows that. You could drive a truck through the gap that he's left in the investigation.

MADAM SPEAKER: Order please. Could the Honourable Leader of the Opposition please come to order.

Question period is not a time for debate either by those members who are on their feet or members from their seats shouting back and forth across the floor.

Now, the Honourable Leader of the Opposition has the floor to ask a question.

MR. G. FILMON: I quote once more, Madam Speaker, for the Minister responsible for the Telephone System:

"In September of 1983, due to all conditions, situations and circumstances herein deposed by me, I decided that it would be in my own best interests to sever all ties and affiliations with Datacom and Mike

Aysan. I decided to fly to Canada at my own expense to discuss my resignation with Maurice Provencher. We discussed matters related to the conditions and circumstances affecting the welfare of Datacom. Mr. Provencher's response was one of total indifference. He said to me, 'The situation is under control and we are making necessary adjustments.' When questioned further, he could not indicate what those adjustments were. I offered my resignation. It was accepted."

Did the Minister responsible, at any time, have any knowledge of any of these items, given that it is apparent that senior officials of MTS-MTX were informed of many of the concerns contained in this affidavit?

HON. A. MACKLING: Madam Speaker, I remember one of the first instructions I was given in law school, and that was the lawyer himself who has a problem should get another lawyer to look at it. If he doesn't, he's got a fool for a lawyer.

Madam Speaker, I've learned many, many years ago that I am not the most competent detective. I am not . . . well, the honourable gentlemen laugh. I'm being quite serious. Madam Speaker, I know from my experience in the law, and as a former Attorney-General, that the RCMP in Manitoba and in Canada are beyond question in their expertise in being able to determine public wrongdoing. Madam Speaker, they have a team of experts, acknowledged in Canada, throughout North America, throughout the world, in respect to the area commonly known as contractual fraud or misdoing.

Madam Speaker, there can be no finer investigative force to have turned this matter to. I am satisfied, and now at last the Leader of the Opposition has recognized that the proper way in which these concerns can be investigated thoroughly and reported is through the RCMP.

MTS - judicial inquiry re MTX

MR. G. FILMON: Madam Speaker, my further question to the Minister responsible for the Telephone System is: in view of the fact that on Tuesday, August 12 in this House, in response to a question about the one kickback that was identified by Mr. Provencher that morning in committee, the Minister said, and I quote, "I was advised that the individual involved was a citizen of Saudi Arabia, that disciplinary action had been taken against that individual; he was no longer employed. He had never been, as I understood it, in the employ of the joint venture. He'd been a full-time employee of an affiliated company. As such, there was no action that we could have taken in Canada in respect to a criminal investigation on that matter. Therefore, I believe there was no basis for a criminal investigation here, Madam Speaker."

In view of the fact that that's what he said about the alleged kickback at that time, the established kickback that had been admitted to, how does he feel that the RCMP will get at it now when it fits all of the criteria that he, as a former Attorney-General, said could not be examined, could not be a matter for Canadian criminal investigations?

HON. A. MACKLING: Madam Speaker, the Honourable Leader of the Opposition in his question gives

substantial proof to the current concerns we must have, that it should be people who are knowledgeable who deal with these questions, not the Leader of the Opposition; because, Madam Speaker, the sworn testimony of Mr. Provencher was that this incident referred to involved a Saudi Arabian citizen working for a Saudi Arabian company, an offence occurred and that man was subject to Saudi Arabian law.

The allegations in the affidavit make specific allegations about Manitoba citizens; they make allegations that are actionable in this province, in this country, and they are matters within our jurisdiction, and any lawyer, even a student at law, would tell the Leader of the Opposition there is a big distinction between those things.

In respect to the criminal investigation, the RCMP, through Interpol, has ability to investigate matters in Saudi Arabia. The management audit that we have commissioned have offices in Saudi Arabia and are well positioned to investigate all of those administrative matters. A judicial inquiry would have no status in Saudi Arabia. So when the members of the Opposition cry for public inquiry, a judicial inquiry, they want a political circus.

The duty on this Minister, the duty on this government is to act decisively in respect to the allegations of public wrongdoing, act decisively in connection with concerns about management, and we have done that.

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. G. FILMON: Madam Speaker, my question for the Premier is: given the response of the Minister responsible for the Telephone System, was the Freedman Inquiry a political circus?

MADAM SPEAKER: Order please. That question seeks an opinion.

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

HON. H. PAWLEY: Madam Speaker, the question demonstrates very well the ignorance of the Leader of the Opposition. Madam Speaker, I shudder . . .

MADAM SPEAKER: Order please, order please.

If I was correct in hearing, the Honourable Leader of the Opposition's question was asking whether a certain inquiry was a political circus. To me, that is asking for the Premier's opinion. The question is out of order unless the Honourable Leader of the Opposition would like to rephrase it.

MR. G. FILMON: Madam Speaker, my further question to the Premier, or my new question to the Premier.

Given that every day that we sit in this House, that every day that the committee sits in investigation of MTS-MTX, more information comes out; despite the limited resources of research of the Opposition, more information comes out about the wrongdoing, about the shoddy business practices, about cover-ups with respect to the operations of MTX in Saudi Arabia; in view of the fact that community groups, employees of the Telephone System and MTX have continuously said

that there must be a public inquiry with powers of subpoena to call witnesses under oath so that indeed we can get to the bottom of all this; in view of the fact that every day more information comes forward of a damaging nature to this government and MTX, will he finally call a full public inquiry so that we can get to the bottom of all this and get the truth?

MADAM SPEAKER: Order please, order please. Order please.

The Honourable First Minister.

HON. H. PAWLEY: Madam Speaker, two weeks ago, I indicated very clearly that I had confidence in the RCMP. I do not have confidence in bar room or committee room lawyers. In fact, the Leader of the Opposition and the Member for Pembina remind me of a children's cartoon that is taking place now that is known to many Manitobans involving one Sherlock Holmes and Great Mouse.

Madam Speaker, the criminal justice system has not come to the stage, as described by the Leader of the Opposition, the Member for Pembina - Madam Speaker, we, in this country, have the democratic traditions of a criminal justice system and a police force that have the ability to investigate and to bring in a full report, and if necessary, for charges to be laid. Madam Speaker, I shudder . . .

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Shame, shame!

HON. H. PAWLEY: I shudder, Madam Speaker, honourable members call, "shame." Honourable members obviously do not have confidence in the RCMP. Madam Speaker, let me assure you that Manitobans have confidence and the government has confidence in the RCMP.

Madam Speaker, honourable members are demonstrating their desire to politically posture this issue rather than to get to the truth through the RCMP.

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MADAM SPEAKER: Order please, order please.
The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. G. FILMON: Madam Speaker, for the Premier, if he's so interested in getting at the truth, why is he afraid of a full public inquiry? Is he afraid that it's going to show that the Minister responsible for the Telephone System had some role to play in this whole fiasco? Is he afraid . . .

MADAM SPEAKER: Order please. That question is not in order, asking a Minister why he's afraid.

MR. G. FILMON: Madam Speaker, my question to the Premier: in view of the great protestation that he's made, is he afraid that this will bring out damaging information about the responsibility of his government, the Minister responsible for the Telephone System, or the former Minister, the Member for Brandon East? Is he afraid that something might come out that's damaging to him? Or the Member for Dauphin, the former Minister responsible for the Telephone System . . .

MADAM SPEAKER: Order please, order please.

On many counts, the honourable member's question is out of order.

MR. G. FILMON: Madam Speaker, is that the reason why he won't call a full public inquiry, because the truth will be damaging to his government and every former Minister who was responsible for the Telephone System knew about it?

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

HON. H. PAWLEY: Madam Speaker, this government has demonstrated the courage to deal with this issue because within one-half hour of the Ferguson affidavit being filed in committee, it is our understanding that this Minister responsible for the Telephone System handed that affidavit to the RCMP, and through the Attorney-General, asked for a complete and full investigation by the RCMP. It was this government that ordered the management audit review by Coopers and Lybrand in order to ensure we get to the truth of this matter.

Madam Speaker, it is honourable members across the way that would drag this matter through months and months and months, possibly a year, through an inquiry, inability to deal with the management issues, ineffectiveness with dealing with the criminal allegations.

Madam Speaker, I ask who is politically posturing; who is taking advantage of this matter, politically, and who has the courage? Which side, Madam Speaker, has the courage to take the measures that are necessary? Madam Speaker, it has been this side, in calling the RCMP and the management audit to deal with this matter.

MADAM SPEAKER: The time for Oral Questions has expired.

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MADAM SPEAKER: Order please, order please.
The Honourable Member for Pembina.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Madam Speaker, I move, seconded by the Leader of the Opposition, that the ordinary business of the House be set aside to discuss a matter of urgent public importance; namely, the cover-up by the government in failing to call immediately, the Committee of Public Utilities and Natural Resources to continue to review MTS and MTX operations.

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MADAM SPEAKER: Order please, order please.
The Honourable Member for Pembina has five minutes to make his case for . . .
The Honourable Opposition House Leader.

MR. G. MERCIER: Yes, Madam Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

Madam Speaker, this motion is being brought under Rule 27 which requires the Speaker to rule on whether or not the motion is in order and of urgent public importance. Madam Speaker, the record clearly shows

that you served as the vice-chairman of the Manitoba Telephone System under the previous government, during the period in time which the members of the Opposition have asked for a judicial inquiry and committee meetings to be held immediately with respect to this matter.

In order, Madam Speaker, for the House to continue to have confidence in your impartiality, which is a necessary attribute of any Speaker, may I respectfully ask you to consider withdrawing from hearing of this matter and considering whether this matter is within the rules?

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Government House Leader on the point of order.

HON. J. COWAN: Yes, it is a most uncommon and unusual request that the Opposition House Leader makes in regard to your participation in respect to this motion.

I would suggest there's probably no better time, Madam Speaker, than now, to remind members of what the "Principles of Parliamentary Law," as outlined in Beauchesne, say about the Speaker, and it is of such importance to the principles of parliamentary law that it is the first item, the absolute first item in Beauchesne in any addition.

What is said in that case and I'll read it in full, it's not all that long: "The principles that lie at the basis of English parliamentary law, have always been kept steadily in view by the Canadian Parliament; these are: To protect a minority and restrain the improvidence or tyranny of a majority; to secure the transaction of public business in an orderly manner; to enable every Member to express his opinions within limits necessary to preserve decorum and prevent an unnecessary waste of time; to give abundant opportunity for the consideration of every measure, and to prevent any legislative action being taken upon sudden impulse."

Those are important words that guide your office and guide our respect for your office, and that respect, Madam Speaker, in the opinion of at least members on this side, and I believe, at least some members on the Opposition side; that respect has been well earned by your adherence to your duties under Beauchesne and under the principles and traditions of parliamentary principles and actions.

We will abide on this side, by no comments disrespectful or questioning of your ability to perform your job with fairness and impartiality. That has never been proven to be the case and I would suggest, Madam Speaker, that you have every right, and more than that, you have an undeniable, inalienable responsibility to rule on that matter, as Speaker, because we have given you not only the responsibility, but the faith and the confidence and you have not, on one occasion, ever broken that faith with any member of this House.

MR. G. MERCIER: Just a further brief comment . . .

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Opposition House Leader, a point of order is supposedly on a particular procedural item.

MR. G. MERCIER: Yes. Madam Speaker, the matter under consideration is whether or not there should be

immediate committee hearings to review the operations of MTS and MTX, during a period of time in which you were wholly or partly vice-chairman of the Board of the Manitoba Telephone System.

I'm simply pointing out to you and to members of the House, that if you, pursuant to Rule 27 under which this motion was brought, were to find the motion not in order - it may appear to some that you've found that way, because you may have wished to keep a review of those proceedings from the public. I would therefore suggest that it may very well be in order for you to withdraw from considering this matter.

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Government House Leader.

HON. J. COWAN: Madam Speaker, the Opposition House Leader full well knows that Speakers on many occasions are asked to rule on matters in which they may have had some participation in, previous to them being appointed to Speaker. I know not of any other request in this House, and I would suggest one would have to search far and wide to find similar requests in other Houses where the impartiality and the fairness and the unbiased nature of the Speaker has been so questioned.

The Opposition House Leader was very cute in the way in which he posed the question rather than a reflection, unlike some of his caucus who from their seat say things that are more blatant, or outside of this House suggest that you do not have their confidence and their faith. If, in fact, you do not have their confidence and faith, there are parliamentary measures for them to take to display that. We are prepared to deal with those sorts of measures.

But it cannot be allowed for the Opposition House Leader, who should know better, to stand on his feet and by innuendo reflect on the dignity of the Chair, and more importantly than that, the way in which you have carried out your responsibility to this House.

MADAM SPEAKER: Order please.

The Honourable Member for St. Norbert does not have a point of order. He has expressed an opinion which does come dangerously close to a reflection on the Chair, regardless of who occupies the Chair.

May I remind the honourable member that such an objection was not raised when we had another matter relating to the same topic, nor was it raised when this Speaker ruled in favour of a matter dealing with the department that the Honourable Member for St. Norbert brought to the House, a matter of urgent public importance, when this Speaker in a former life had been a legislative assistant to that particular Minister.

I would hope that the honourable member would take due caution in making such innuendos and coming so dangerously close to a reflection on the impartiality of the Chair.

MADAM SPEAKER: I will now give, according to the rules, Rule 27(2), the Honourable Member for Pembina five minutes to state his case for the urgency of his motion.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Madam Speaker, I think it doesn't even need five minutes to determine the urgency of

having the Public Utilities and Natural Resources Committee meet this Thursday, rather than a week from this Thursday, to discuss more of the MTS-MTX affair in Saudi Arabia.

Madam Speaker, I don't have to point out to you because you have presided over question period, wherein after every single Public Utilities hearing, wherein we have had MTS officials before that hearing and where we are posing questions to them that should be posed by the Minister responsible for the Manitoba Telephone System and aren't, that we get new revelations of wrongdoing in the operations of MTX and MTS. Those revelations are becoming evermore damaging to this government and showing it for the incompetent group of cover-up artists that they truly are.

Now, Madam Speaker, they are deliberately withholding our opportunity to question MTS and MTX officials for 10 full days. When I offered to him on Friday in question period, the opportunity that we would be available this morning, Tuesday, 10:00 a.m. for a committee hearing, this evening at 8:00 p.m. for a committee meeting, this coming Thursday at 10:00 a.m. and again at 8:00 p.m.; the government has refused that offer through the weak excuse that their government Ministers won't be available to be here for the meeting if it's called this week. There are no pairs, Madam Speaker. No Ministers are to be away that were on that committee because there's no pairs. We have pulled the pairing system away from this government because we can't trust them to tell the truth to the people of Manitoba on the MTS and MTX affair.

Madam Speaker, there is no reason why any member of government would not be available this morning, this afternoon, Thursday morning, Thursday afternoon for a hearing, other than the fact that they hope to be able to sweep this whole matter under the table, prevent us from doing our rightful and honourable job of discovering the truth in the whole MTS-MTX affair in Saudi Arabia.

This government is now clearly operating a cover-up of the greatest proportion to protect Cabinet Ministers, I submit, Madam Speaker, who had prior knowledge of the whole MTS and MTX affair. They are covering up the Ministerial responsibility now because clearly we have MTS-MTX officials who have not been forthright in their answers or in the operation of their duties, responsible in those two Crown corporations.

Now the only reason this government refuses the Public Utilities and Natural Resources Committee sitting, and are putting it off for 10 full days, is to further cover up the truth and prevent members of the media from sitting in an open forum where they can report on the answers and the confusion and the distancing of reports between Ministers and senior MTS-MTX officials. That is all done in public. They want to have their behind-the-scenes secret - no press, no public involved - cover-up inquiry into MTS and MTX operations. That's what they want, Madam Speaker. They don't want the truth to come out; they don't want the public to know; they don't want members of the Opposition to pose the questions and, above all, they do not want the media there to report to the people of Manitoba how incompetent this government is, how they are covering up the MTX and MTS scandal in Saudi Arabia.

Madam Speaker, there is no greater matter of urgency than to get the truth out to the people of Manitoba and to call the committee meetings immediately. Immediately, Madam Speaker. Time cannot be wasted while the government attempts to cover up their ineptitude and their bungling of this whole affair. The meetings are needed immediately, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Government House Leader has five minutes.

HON. J. COWAN: Madam Speaker, the Member for Pembina failed dismally in suggesting - and this is what he was supposed to have done in his five minutes according to the rules of Beauchesne - that this matter is of such public urgent importance that we should set aside the ordinary Business of the House, as well as continue with the debate on this matter today.

Madam Speaker, we have very clearly indicated that there will be another committee meeting. In the past, whether it was we who were members of the government, or they who were members of the government, it was a matter to schedule those meetings as much as possible in cooperation each with the other, knowing that there would be occasions where that scheduling could not be accommodated in that fashion.

When we suggested that there be a meeting at a specific time, the Opposition House Leader rose in his place and made an impassioned speech that we should not have that meeting because the Member for Pembina would not be able to be present because of pressing private business. We accepted that.

When we suggested that there be a meeting of the committee on Friday afternoon last, the members opposite rose in their place and said no, they were not prepared to have a meeting on Friday. And they've indicated they're not prepared to have meetings on Friday afternoon at all, not that that is the matter before us. But I think it shows very clearly they believe that they have the right to determine when the meetings should be held and that is not the case. But let them not attempt to misrepresent the actual fact when it is stated that there will be a meeting held on a specific date, and well within a suitable time frame for anyone in this House, and that that meeting will be empowered to carry on the type of business which meetings previously have been empowered to carry on. So the record should be quite clear in that respect.

They may wish the meeting this afternoon, or the meeting this evening, or any afternoon or evening, but it is up to the Government House Leader to determine when that meeting should be held to accommodate not only the interest and - I'll be kind - the desire of the Opposition to hold that meeting, but also to accommodate the need of a government to carry on business to deal with the more pressing issues of the day. And that is what we are intending to do by the scheduling of that meeting.

There will be a committee meeting. Members opposite will have their opportunity to ask their questions and obtain their answers. But we have business that is equally important and, in many instances, more important, that must be carried out on behalf of the people of the province and that is a responsibility that we will not abdicate to meet their desires for a specific time.

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The member opposite in his comments of course, Madam Speaker, had also a responsibility to show that there was no other opportunity for that matter to be discussed during the normal House business. As you are aware, Madam Speaker, we are going into Estimates following your calling of Orders of the Day. There is an opportunity for members opposite to rise on a grievance and to make the comments and the statements which they wish to make in respect to this matter, and they have done that. They have used that vehicle to make their point known so, obviously, they agree that it is an effective way - either that or they're wasting their time - an effective way of making their concerns known to the general public.

So I would suggest to them that not only is there another opportunity for them to make those comments known but it is an opportunity which they are well versed in and one which they have sought to use on many occasions.

Madam Speaker, firstly, this matter is not of such public urgency that we need set aside the Business of the House. There are more important matters that need be discussed; jobs; the economy; The Family Farm Protection Act; The Trade Practices Inquiry Act; the conflict of interest; those are issues which we believe must be discussed. Beyond that, Madam Speaker, if they insist that to them this issue is the most pressing and the most important issue of the day, they have their grievance available to them to make those comments known.

MADAM SPEAKER: On the motion of the Honourable Member for Pembina, there are several conditions that have to be met to find the motion in order.

One, that the Speaker receives the required notice. I have received the proper required notice.

The second one is, that no other reasonable opportunity to raise the matter is available.

I have looked at the Order Paper and the reasonable opportunities that will be presenting themselves to the House; one, of course, is the grievance procedure; another is at the consideration of the Executive Council Estimates, is another opportunity that members would have to raise this matter and that, on the list of Estimates, is coming very shortly.

Also apparently, imminent are the debates on several Supply bills, both Second, Third Reading, and Committee of the Whole and, of course, as announced in the House this morning verbally, a scheduled meeting for the said Committee on Public Utilities and Natural Resources coming up next week.

In view of the other immediate opportunities for debate which I have just identified, I find that although the member's motion addresses a matter of undoubted importance, it does not satisfy the conditions of a matter of urgent public importance under the rules and practices of this House.

The Honourable Opposition House Leader.

MR. G. MERCIER: Madam Speaker, with all due respect, I would challenge your ruling.

MADAM SPEAKER: The ruling of the Chair has been challenged. All those in favour of sustaining the ruling of the Chair say aye; all those opposed say nay. In my opinion, the ayes have it.

The Honourable Opposition House Leader.

MR. G. MERCIER: Yeas and nays, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Call in the members.

The question before the House is shall the ruling of the Chair be sustained. All those in favour, please rise.

A STANDING VOTE was taken, the result being as follows:

YEAS

Ashton, Baker, Bucklaschuk, Cowan, Desjardins, Doer, Dolin, Evans, Harapiak (The Pas), Harapiak (Swan River), Harper, Hemphill, Kostyra, Lecuyer, Mackling, Maloway, Parasiuk, Pawley, Penner, Plohman, Santos, Schroeder, Scott, Smith (Ellice), Smith (Osborne), Storie, Walding, Wasylcya-Leis.

NAYS

Birt, Blake, Brown, Carstairs, Connery, Cummings, Derkach, Downey, Driedger, Ducharme, Enns, Ernst, Filmon, Findlay, Hammond, Johnston, Kovnats, Manness, McCrae, Mercier, Mitchelson, Nordman, Oleson, Orchard, Pankratz, Rocan, Roch.

MR. CLERK, W. Remnant: Yeas, 28; Nays, 27.

MADAM SPEAKER: The motion is carried and the ruling of this Chair is sustained.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Government House Leader.

HON. J. COWAN: Madam Speaker, I move, seconded by the Minister of Health, that Madam 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.

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Opposition House Leader.

MR. G. MERCIER: Madam Speaker, I would indicate to the Government House Leader, on House Business, we're prepared to waive Private Member's Hour today.

MATTER OF GRIEVANCE

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Madam Speaker, I would like to take part in this debate because I think I have an important grievance, and I am speaking for the people of Manitoba also.

I think that we've been very patient and we've tried to cooperate with the Opposition as much as possible. I can say I've never seen an Opposition as arrogant as the members of the front benches this year.

Madam Speaker, when are they going to learn that they were elected in Opposition and elected in Opposition four times out of the last elections? They have been the self-styled defenders of democracy; they're going to defend democracy and let the people choose who they want to rule and to manage this province. But they won't accept that. Democracy is good when you have the power; when it is not, you have to protect the people against themselves.

I've never seen anybody, during a question period, they've tried to use the rules to their advantage. Madam Speaker, these great managers, can they see how long they would last in the public sector, running a corporation, for instance, wasting time, \$75,000 a day that we're spending here, to act like a bunch of kids? The youngsters coming here are ashamed and the teachers take them out. These are the people talking about inept government, inept big government, and they are saying every day, you have to do this, you have to decide for the board of the hospitals; you have to decide, don't rely on anybody else.

Then when we try to go and do work with the department, they keep us here and that's supposed to be very funny. And the frustrated lawyer out there who tries to conduct the question period . . . — (inaudible)—

MADAM SPEAKER: Order please.

A MEMBER: You don't care about \$20 million, do you? It's not our job to protect the public, right?

MADAM SPEAKER: Order please.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: We don't care about \$20 million. Can anybody on that side tell us that the RCMP are not qualified to have a proper investigation? Come on, let's have it. You don't believe in the RCMP; they are not that capable of doing the work. And then what about the management firm that we hired? And the questions, you know, you bring in something, that is fair rule, you can ask any question. You know, a frustrated lawyer, that's what he is out there.

The point is, Madam Speaker, that you remember not long ago there was a fellow named Wilson who was investigated and he was charged. And who inquired, who found the information but the RCMP? Did we ask you: were you there when they were bugging the line; were you at the other end of the phone; were you at the meetings with them? No, we let the RCMP do their work. When we were in Opposition, did we interfere? Not at all. We stayed out because we had confidence in the RCMP. — (Interjection) — We did not; that is not true. That is not correct; you know that's not correct.

The point is we never interfered with that at all, and that's why we have a police force, and especially a police force as renowned as the RCMP that we have in this country. It is one of the best police forces in the world.

The point is that this group out there, for instance, today, when somebody tries to speak, you all yell in unison because you don't want people to hear. We have tried; we haven't been perfect - far from it. It is very difficult to play the same game with two different sets of rules and we have tried as much as possible.

I have a sore back from being yanked by this guy out there every time I want to open my mouth because we've tried to be quiet. But what have we had? I mean the young members that come in were ashamed the first few days. Now some of them are practically as bad as Don - excuse me - as the members on the front seats.

We're supposed to be interested in the affairs of the people of Manitoba and we're spending that kind of money for what? It is quite obvious; you don't have to be here very long to know that you think that you've got an issue. You think that you have an issue and you want to parade it in front of the public as long as you want. If you are interested — (Interjection) — Afraid of what? You don't think the RCMP — (Interjection) — oh, the RCMP will cover the truth. Well, Madam Speaker, let us make that clear that there's insinuation that the RCMP will cover the truth.

MADAM SPEAKER: Order please.

May I remind the honourable member to address his comments through the Chair?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: I beg your pardon?

MADAM SPEAKER: May I remind the honourable member to address his comments through the Chair?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I certainly will.

The situation, as I said, Madam Speaker, we've been here to do a job, to show, and who has been elected to govern? Maybe these members don't like it, Madam Speaker, but there has been, in the last four years also, it was the same thing. I mean they said this is what we're going to have. We'll stand on our record, we know that this is going to be a good investigation, but they've made up their mind this is what they want and they're going to waste time and so on because they insist that's the way it's going to do it, but it is not up to them to decide, unfortunately.

It is our responsibility and we'll stand by it. It is not your duty of wasting time. It is not their duty, Madam Speaker, to waste time. And they can protest; they can say we think this is the best way to go. We don't happen to think that it is the best way to go.

They want to imply motives, and they've been doing that - they've tried some fancy words like "camel-gate," and cover-up and all that to try to coin a phrase that something was happening. You can't get anywhere. — (Interjection) — I think they're talking about Arabian Nights or something and so on. Madam Speaker, why doesn't the Opposition smarten up, be an Opposition, but when something is being done, something is decided, that's the way.

You know where it talked about — (Interjection) — I've never seen an Opposition in all the time I've been here, that will refuse to pair when members on this side representing the government are working for the government. They want us to know everything that is happening in our departments. Well, how in the hell can we do that when we're standing here for six months a year, Madam Speaker? That is not possible.

All of a sudden, they say well we're going to keep you here and all of a sudden we might have a fast vote

and then it's going to be decided you've lost the confidence of the public. Mind you, they can go for a week; they can have five members missing for whatever reasons - I'm not going to go into that; that is their problem. For instance, one week, as an example, we can have a member that's sick; all of a sudden, fine, we shouldn't govern anymore. That's the way.

Can you just imagine a private corporation being run like that? Can you imagine that? The way it is, do you think they would last very long? In fact, do you think if the general public knew what was happening, if they knew where we're going - and this is with all due respect certainly, Madam Speaker, not aimed at you, you have nothing to do with it, but I think our rules are so far backward, I think it's about time we looked at that.

As I said, if you happen to catch somebody who's not here at the time, will find the government, you're talking about the government's fault. I think this is absolutely wrong.

This Opposition, once and for all, are they for big government or aren't they? Are you for big government — (Interjection) — What was that?

A MEMBER: Do you join with your colleagues in allowing yourself to be misled?

HON. J. DESJARDINS: Well, misled by what? — (Interjection) — Misled by you, yes. No, I'm not going to join anybody in being misled by you people, not at all.

My dear friend, who is here for the first year, he'll have to remember that when there is an election in a democracy, that if a government is elected, they are elected to rule and give the leadership, not to get on their knees and back down in front of any Opposition who figures well if you don't want to play that way, I'll take my bat and ball and go home. That's exactly what you're doing. You're acting like a bunch of kids. — (Interjection) — One at a time.

Madam Speaker, it is so ridiculous to say we're trying to hide things. What can we hide when the RCMP are charged with doing the work, doing an investigation; what is it we can hide? I can't hear everybody . . .

Yes, the people at the RCMP will find out an awful lot more than we would, or an awful lot more than a judicial inquiry would - that's for sure - and it'd be impartial. There won't be any cover-up; there won't be any temptation to cover up, and I dare say there won't be any accusation of any cover-up, Madam Speaker.

The point is that if we are interested, as we say we are from all sides, in the business of the people of Manitoba, if we want to protect them, and the Opposition has a responsibility. Mind you, the way they use their responsibility at this time of making accusations, or abuse I should say, of naming civil servants, of declaring them guilty before they were judged, or before anything was proven - and I'm not talking only about this, and so on, not outside of the hall, but here. Maybe they should repeat some of the things they say here with a protection; maybe they should go out there in the hall and make the accusations about the civil servants that they make. It would be interesting to see what would happen.

This is cowardly to come here and hide behind the chance that we have of not being responsible just for

our actions and make accusations on people when they haven't got a chance to defend themselves.

You're not embarrassing us at all. You think you're embarrassing us. Do you think the Minister knows everything that was happening in Saudi Arabia? Is he supposed to know that? You're yelling - you're very charitable - you're yelling at him, cover-up and so on, and he should resign. I dare say there's not one person in this House who can run a department with the staff we have, and as I say, in the private sector, would you be held here for six, walking around in the halls - just in case there's a snap vote - would you be in here all this time and run your department? Do you think it is easy to do that? Then you want to hold the Minister responsible for everything. No boards; that is the group who are saying get the government out of people's affairs. That's what we hear.

It's so difficult to judge what you really want. Get the government out of people's affairs and then the government should do this; the government should do that. Why don't you know what the staff is doing; why don't you know what it's doing? That's what we get.

Then, we get, you're spending too much money; you're spending way too much money. We haven't got the money. It is a deficit. The deficit is the important thing. Why don't we get more beds? Why don't you give us money although we're overspending in this hospital and so on? That's allright. In anybody else's hospital that's fine, be tough, but not in our area at all; not in our constituencies.

What is it that you want? You're talking about me changing parties - at least I do it openly - you change every day. You have a leader that's been saying me-too, and he feels that's why he lost the election, because there's too much me-too, me-tooism, and so on. That is the situation we have.

So, Madam Speaker, why doesn't the Opposition oppose, yes, in a responsible way? Just imagine you're all on the board of directors of a large corporation, a multi-billion-dollar corporation, and can you just imagine out there that all of a sudden somebody will make a report and you'll all start yelling at the same time? Can you see that? You're all businessmen you tell us, you can run a business. Can you see that? Can you see out there if the majority . . . ? Because you remember this democracy we're here to defend - of people who have been elected with a mandate to govern, say we find that the best way to investigate that is through the best police force in the world, and then say, no, we don't want that, so therefore we're going to pout. We're going to take our bat and ball and go home; we're going to ring the bell for a few days, or we're just going to keep on coming every day and so on: we won't let you do it. That is obstruction and that is exactly what this Opposition is guilty of doing, Madam Speaker.

Now, Madam Speaker, we've made a decision, and we are going to stay with that decision. Fine, if there's any actual compromise or something that can be discussed with the House Leader, we're always ready to listen to you, but we have put this in the hands of Coopers and Lybrand and also with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. As far as we're concerned, any information that you have as good citizens and as good members of the Opposition, if you don't trust us, give it directly to the RCMP and there will be an investigation and the public will be satisfied.

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Madam Speaker, this is what we suggest that you do. Let's have this cooperation if you're not only paying lip service. If you're really interested, all we hear from the other side is the truth; tell us more about the truth, don't hide the truth. We're not hiding anything, and with your cooperation, we can get at the truth a lot faster than with a judicial inquiry.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: The motion before the House is that Madam 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, moved by the Honourable Government House Leader, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Health.

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 Burrows in the Chair for the Department of Culture, Heritage and Recreation; and the Honourable Member for Kildonan in the Chair for the Department of Government Services.

CONCURRENT COMMITTEES OF SUPPLY SUPPLY - GOVERNMENT SERVICES

MR. CHAIRMAN, M. Dolin: The committee will come to order.

We are on Page 81, Resolution 77, dealing with Item 3.(f) Telecommunications - the Member for Turtle Mountain.

MR. D. ROCAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

In the supplement, on Page 53, it's got: "Telecommunications: Assembles, compiles and revises the interdepartmental telephone directory."

I wonder if the Minister could tell us the cost of printing, and how often is this directory revised.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, this is done whenever there are significant changes that it's believed that it is required to make some changes such as major Cabinet shuffles or government changes or that kind of stuff. It is printed by the Queen's Printer, so the costs are theirs.

MR. D. ROCAN: On the same page, we've got: "Government switchboards handled approximately 1 million calls, 30,000 receptions and 10,000 messages per annum." Ten thousand messages for whom?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, this usually involves the switchboards at the provincial buildings throughout the province. The member is aware of provincial buildings, such as in Brandon or Dauphin or Beausejour, Thompson, The Pas. There's a switchboard operator who takes messages or relays messages to appropriate personnel in the department if they are not there, or handles the calls as required.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Ste. Rose.

MR. G. CUMMINGS: Following on that, last night, the Minister stated that the phone system and the switchboard located in the Norquay Building was totally automated, but on the 800 number, the in-WATS line, we get an operator. Where is that switchboard located?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, I believe the member was asking where the operator or switchboards for in-WATS lines are located. That is at the Norquay Building, that's what I indicated, and the automatic switch for the computerized service is with MTS.

MR. G. CUMMINGS: I'm not trying to split hairs here, Mr. Minister, but I'm trying to understand how the system works. In the question that my colleague asked, you indicated that the operators would be taking messages. On this in-WATS line, does it also take messages?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, I don't believe, at least I'm advised that the in-WATS operators do not take messages. They forward the calls. Messages would have to be taken by staff at the destination of the call. The messages for the operators that we talked about earlier are for mostly the rural provincial buildings where they do not have in-WATS, except now I think in Brandon. Partially, in Brandon, yes this past year.

MR. G. CUMMINGS: Is there any record of the amount of use that the 800 number is given? The reason I ask the question, Mr. Chairman, is that other than the fact that it's published for everyone to see, it is also, in my mind, not used as heavily as it might be, and I wondered what the actual usage is.

HON. J. PLOHMAN: The toll-free service cost \$73,200 per year for the government as a whole.

MR. D. ROCAN: On that out-WATS line that we have here in the building, do we negotiate a set fee with MTS on - what does it cost us for an out-WATS line for a year out of the building here?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: I have figures for the approximate cost of MLAs' in-WATS, but not out-WATS, the out calls. I don't know if we have that information readily compiled at this time. The in-WATS is approximately 25 percent of the total in-WATS service, so about \$25,000 estimation for the cost of the in-WATS service for MLAs' incoming calls.

MR. D. ROCAN: On the out-WATS line, do we not have a set fee, for whatever it is, probably province-wide here; could the Minister not tell us what the set fee is for that WATS line?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: I didn't get that, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think he was asking, was there a set fee?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: For what?

MR. CHAIRMAN: For the out-WATS line.

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HON. J. PLOHMAN: No, it's just the cost of providing the service. I don't know what the member means by a set fee.

MR. D. ROCAN: Well, in the rural areas, we can get an out-WATS line for either 50 miles and then there's a set rate for that 50 miles, or we can go 100 miles or we can take it up to 150 miles - the number of calls is irrelevant. We can just phone as often as we want on a set fee, I believe, something like \$98 or whatever for 100 miles.

I'm just wondering, if under Telecommunications here, they've come up with some kind of negotiations with MTS to . . .

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, the rate that has been negotiated with MTS is based on volume plus distance.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (f)(1)—pass; (f)(2)—pass; (f)(3)—pass.
(g) Postal Services - the Member for Ste. Rose.

MR. G. CUMMINGS: Mr. Chairman, I understand there has been a new innovation in the in-house postal services whereby there is a coding of the mail as it goes out of the offices. Now the question arises, the staff are being told that it is a temporary situation and yet they are being advised if they want to go ahead and get envelopes with a code already stamped on them, put in place, that they might as well go ahead and do it.

Does that mean the decision has been made that this will be a normal procedure from now on?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, that is an effort to determine the amount of volumes of mail coming from each office so each can be assessed, allocated the appropriate costs. There has been no sourcing of the mail before. So this is a trial to determine and that's why it's called temporary - a trial to determine how much mail is coming out of each caucus office, Ministerial offices and then the amount can be charged back to each of those appropriations. It's an effort to move towards a fully charge-back, fully recoverable system for mail and therefore responsibility by the individual departments and users.

MR. G. CUMMINGS: Has there been some dramatic change or increase in areas that were above and beyond what the normal expectations are that precipitated this move? There are two principles involved here, the same as the in-WATS line and the other is the government's ability to be able to put material at a reasonable bulk cost in the hands of the people. Is there some concern that certain MLAs or one caucus or the other is abusing the system?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Not specifically, Mr. Chairman. My understanding is that we have not documented the amount and volume of mail that has come out; so it would be difficult to put in a charge-back system without having that experience and that history to base it on. That's the reason for it. Of course, it tends to make the, as I said earlier, the users more responsible for what they are doing, for the service they are taking.

It's something, in terms of in terms of caucus offices, that I believe the Legislative Assembly Management Commission will have to deal with at some point, because with word processors, the volumes of mail can go up substantially and it may be something that the commission will want to deal with at some point just to whether there should be a capping of the dollars available for mailing because, really, the sky's the limit there in terms of the ability to churn the mail out.

It's just an effort to ensure that the individual departments are aware of the amount of mail they're using and take some responsibility for the decisions that they make with regard to mailings.

MR. G. CUMMINGS: I guess, again, it leads me to the question of access by caucuses to the public. Is there any reason or any great concern about caucuses exceeding their budgets for mail services at this point? I understand that we are presently given a budget which is an estimated cost. Is it the plan of Government Services, if they're in excess, to bill that additional cost back to the caucus, whichever caucus, government or otherwise?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, clearly, then, there are no limitations on the volume of mail that can be sent out by any given area at this particular time because the individual mailings are not tabulated from a particular area and charged back. It is paid for from a central appropriation in Government Services and the budget is set every year on the basis of what happened the previous year and on any anticipated increase, a trend, so to speak.

MR. G. CUMMINGS: My question then follows that this still leaves some concern in my mind that no matter which party is sitting in Opposition, all of their mail will be funnelled through their caucus cost; whereas the governing political group will have access, not only to caucus mailing costs, but department mailing costs, and as soon as there become any attempt to cap these things, you're going to limit the ability of the Opposition, no matter who is there, to communicate as effectively.

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, I don't think that's the case necessarily at all. The fact is that there are fewer caucus members in the government caucus because of the fact that Ministers have access to the ministerial offices. There are fewer caucus offices requiring service directly through the caucus office than there are in Opposition, so usually these services are allocated on the basis of numbers of caucus members that are being served.

This would be a matter that would be discussed and worked out I think through the very democratic system that has been put in place, the Legislative Assembly Management Committee, which allows representation from - and the Member for Ste. Rose should be aware - from the Opposition, whereas with the old Board of Internal Economy that used to operate, there wasn't that kind of representation.

So we have a much improved situation put in by this government during their first term, to ensure that members of the Opposition have direct input into those decisions that affect them; and that, of course, is not under Government Services.

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MR. D. ROCAN: I see under Postage where we have almost \$4 million and we're led to believe in the Supplement - like will each department have in their budget next year - a certain amount for postage, so that \$4 million, will that no longer appear under Government Services?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Yes, Mr. Chairman, once this system has been put in place for a fully recoverable postal system, there will be a budget allocated in each department, in each area. There will also be a budget in this area and then it will be fully recovered, so that it will be a fully recoverable budget allocation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Niakwa.

MR. A. KOVNATS: Just one question, Mr. Chairman. The increase over last year is over \$200,000; is that due to an increase in the cost of postage or is it due to an increase for some other reason? Did postage go up 2 cents or so in the last year that the cost to government is \$200,000 more than it was a year ago?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, the note says that there was a 6.5 percent increase in June of 1985 and that wasn't in the old budget of 1985-86. It happened during the fiscal year, so that is reflected in the new budget for this year.

MR. A. KOVNATS: If that's the answer, I'll be satisfied.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (g)(1) to (g)(4) were each read and passed.

Resolution No. 77: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$2,604,200 for Government Services, Supply and Services, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1987—pass.

I'll move on to Resolution 78, Item 4. (a) Executive Administration - the Member for Ste. Rose.

MR. G. CUMMINGS: Just a minute, Mr. Chairman. Pass (a)(1) and (2).

MR. CHAIRMAN: 4. (a)(1)—pass . . . The Member for Turtle Mountain.

MR. D. ROCAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Okay. "Provides planning of the space requirements for departments and agencies." The Deputy Minister right now of Government Services, he moved out of Room 143 of the Leg. to make room for the Deputy Minister of Culture, Heritage and Recreation.

My question is: where did the Deputy Minister move to and at what cost?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, this question was dealt with on Thursday evening in the committee. We discussed specifically that the Deputy Minister had moved into existing space that was unused at the time on a temporary basis until renovations were completed in this building, to allow for his presence back in this building.

The Deputy Minister of Government Services was being very cooperative in designating himself as the person to move out as opposed to antagonizing another

Deputy Minister, so he was being very unselfish about it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 4. (a)(1)—pass? No. The Member for Turtle Mountain.

MR. D. ROCAN: While he's being unselfish then, why does the Minister here now have two offices, one for the Highways and one for the Government Services? Could he not combine the two together?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, this was also asked by the member. I would think that if he's interested in taking as much time as possible on these Estimates that he would at least go on to new questions.

We had discussed this on Thursday night as well, that this is considered as a temporary arrangement and there may very well be a Ministerial — (Interjection) — well the Member for Roblin-Russell wasn't here, and we covered this ground - the Member for Turtle Mountain did ask that specific question - that this was a temporary arrangement.

It's certainly too small an area where the secretarial support is for Government Services at this time, for the Deputy Minister.

A MEMBER: The Member for Roblin-Russell didn't ask the question. Maybe you'd learn who the members are.

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

Moving on to 4.(b) Design - the Member for Ste. Rose.

MR. G. CUMMINGS: Under Technical Services that are listed here, 22 staff years, what qualifications have those people?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: In the technical area, Mr. Chairman, the technical people are architects, engineers, interior designers and technicians.

MR. G. CUMMINGS: I notice, in the managerial professional, there are 12. What are the professional people that are employed there?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, you can see that there's a reduction of one there. They are architects and engineers, the senior people who are also managing the respective areas.

MR. G. CUMMINGS: This is a pet peeve of mine, Mr. Chairman, and concerns the services provided by architects and architectural firms. These people who are employed by the department, do they actually do on-site supervision of the construction?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: I think, as we touched on this as well last Thursday, that there is on-site supervision that is done by the Project Management. It would be the next section, Project Management section, as opposed to the Design section.

MR. G. CUMMINGS: What is the responsibility of the architects, structural engineers and mechanical

engineers who are employed in this department? Do they spend their entire year on design of the projects that Government Services is involved in?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, I'm advised that the people in Project Management are exclusively involved in site inspection, but there are some of the people in here, the senior people, who are also involved in site inspection, but they are primarily involved in the designing and engineering services for small renovation jobs that the government requires.

I believe that the breakdown is some 80 percent or 85 percent of the architectural requirements of the department are assigned out to the private sector. About 15 percent to 20 percent only is in - or are those changed, those numbers? That is rather a large proportion in Government Services is assigned to the private sector.

In the Highways Department, for example, that number is almost the reverse, where a lot of the work is done in-house. It's traditional and historical that the expertise has been developed within the department and it has never been really changed. In the Government Services Department, there has been a conscious effort over the years to move more towards the private sector for architectural and engineering services.

MR. G. CUMMINGS: Then, is it fair to conclude that while the architectural services are tendered out to a large extent that the on-site supervision is still largely handled by staff who work for Government Services even though the paperwork and the design would have been done by a private firm on tender?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, my understanding would be there would be kind of a dual role in that regard. Our staff would be there to ensure from a more direct way that the government interests are protected, but obviously the consultants, the architects who have been assigned to these major jobs would also do some of that as part of their fee.

MR. G. CUMMINGS: I think the Minister is anticipating my next question. If that's the arrangement that we have whereby a fair bit of the on-site inspection is done by staff architects, does Government Services receive a preferential rate on some of these tenders?

It would be my understanding that most of them would be on a percentage of cost, private costs, where an architect is engaged outside of the firm that is having the property constructed. I stand to be corrected, but it would probably run in the 7 percent range.

Do we have a preferential rate where we have these kinds of arrangements?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: My understanding is that our arrangements with the architectural firms are at a lower percentage than the architectural association recommends, so that we are getting a lower percentage on that basis.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Lakeside.

MR. H. ENNS: Mr. Chairman, it may not be the entirely appropriate section of the Estimates, but there's a

matter of concern. We are currently passing through the House a piece of legislation that establishes Manitoba Properties Incorporated to get into the construction business from a major contractor for government purposes, I presume.

It's always been my understanding that this department and this specific branch has been the general contractor for government purposes, looking after the environments of government, generally, on all departments. We use this department, I think correctly, either to acquire land, farm out projects, as we've just discussed with my colleague, the Member for Ste. Rose, architectural assignments and so forth.

My question to the Minister and to this department: First of all, to what extent have there been any discussions with the branch with respect to what the intention is of Manitoba Properties Incorporated, whose legislation we are amending, to enable them to become contractors and to build?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, we dealt with this issue under Leased Properties, which is the proper place to discuss MPI, but I will just say that the member's colleague for Morris asked these questions with regard to MPI getting into the funding of new construction. It should be differentiated between development agency and contracting as opposed to funding.

MPI will only be providing the loan authority through MPI for funding, but this department will continue, as it has in the past, to be the managers of the projects.

MR. H. ENNS: I appreciate the Minister's response. One of the difficulties in running two concurrent committees, one can't always be where one's interests lie, and I apologize for taking up the committee's time. I'll read the record of the day.

MR. D. ROCAN: Under Signage, we have 660 new projects. What are these? Are we making signs now for the Highways Department or what are these signs?

MR. A. KOVNATIS: By the way, the washrooms, the signs are only in English, not in English and French.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We'll put you on the list.

HON. J. PLOHMAN: These are all signs, directional signs, in buildings. These do not involve the Highways Department. They're primarily signs for buildings, designating washrooms and public areas and so on, and no smoking or whatever the case may be.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 4.(b)(1)—pass; (b)(2)—pass.
4.(c) Project Management - the Member for Ste. Rose.

MR. G. CUMMINGS: Again, I guess, I would like some explanation of the qualifications of the staff that are employed here in the managerial-professional area. We see 17, which is an increase. The Minister pointed out a decrease of one in the other department.

Is there not a great deal of overlap between the two sections here? I understand it's laid out this way to give a better view of how the responsibilities are divided up.

I'm asking, does this department - out of sheer necessity - must overlap a great deal with Design, as well, or am I misunderstanding?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, I guess the breakdown could be that the Design area spends most of their time on small projects, as I indicated earlier, where they are actually involved, the professionals, in the design work for small projects; whereas the larger projects are usually assigned to the private sector. This area would be involved with the management of those larger projects, as well as the budgeting and contracting operations.

In terms of staff, we're dealing with Planners, Director of Project Management, a Director there; Space and Planning Consultants, about five of those; Administrative Secretary. Senior Management and the Planning Consultants are part of this group.

MR. G. CUMMINGS: Looking at the requests for service initiated and actioned, a very substantial number at 1,295. Again, I ask the Minister, if a department brings in a request for construction or renovation, is this a fully cost-back department, except for the staff which is being covered here? When it comes to service in this area, it's costing us \$1 million, approximately. Are all other charges fully costed back? I assume they are, but are any of the costs of salary here costed back?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, neither for this, Design, nor the Project Management sections, is the staff time or any of the costs, costs of staff time, or staff salaries, assigned back to the projects. They are allocated in here and not charged back.

MR. G. CUMMINGS: The question that follows that is, where there is this large number of requests that have been initiated, does the architect, if you will, or the professional person who goes out to look at these requested projects, do they have any control on advising whether or not client departments should look otherwise or forget it, or is it totally within the purview of the requesting department?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, the department personnel in this section do advise other client departments and get into quite detailed discussions with them as to the requests that they are making for modifications to their space, or additional space requirements. They do ensure, to the extent possible, that the most economic decisions are made based on standards that are set. They do an analysis of the request to ensure that it meets the standards that are set out.

As well, there is a new function that is being set up this year and that is why there's an additional four SY's, that is going to undertake a more long-range planning process to work with client departments on their long-range space requirements to ensure there, again, that there is long-term planning for their programs, and that this isn't done in a haphazard fashion as it has been done, to a certain extent in the past, because there hasn't been that service to the extent that it's necessary within the Government Services Department to work with those client departments.

We believe that is going to result in significant savings to government over a period of time and that there will be a better planning function for space requirements.

MR. G. CUMMINGS: I'd like to very clearly state for the record that it's kind of funny, in my mind, where we are checking out the phone costs, the mailing costs, and all of these other costs, that we're trying very hard to designate them as fully charged back to user departments, and here we're looking at, under Design, \$1.495 million; \$1.02 million in Project Management in salaries and services, none of which is charged back to the clients.

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, I understand that where we have gone to a fully charged-back system, for example, in government vehicles, as we are intending to do in postal services, the analysis has shown that the administrative costs of doing that will be less than the savings that will be incurred as a result of that action.

However, in this particular area, up to this point in time and on the basis of the information that the staff has available, and they are reviewing that in further detail insofar as what other jurisdictions are doing; but insofar as the information they have at the present time, it would seem to indicate that the administrative costs of putting in place that kind of system would be less, the administrative costs would be greater than the savings realized in demands for space and so on by client departments.

So, because of that analysis, they haven't recommended that change. It doesn't mean that in the future it won't be considered further and I think there again the Planning Branch may be able to define that in more detail for future discussion at Treasury Board insofar as Estimates are concerned.

MR. G. CUMMINGS: I guess I find that rather hard to accept, but I don't think I'm well enough armed to get into a disagreement with the Minister at this particular stage. It certainly seems unusual that the cost of charge-back in that area, considering that it's strictly salary, would be difficult to keep track of.

Unless there are further questions, I'm prepared to pass that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (c)(1)—pass; (c)(2)—pass.
(d) Land Acquisition - the Member for Ste. Rose.

MR. G. CUMMINGS: Can the Minister give us a breakdown of the qualifications, again, of the technical and professional people who are employed here? I noticed a very high administrative support staffing level also. My concern centres around what are the qualifications of people who are in fact going out and precipitating purchases and, in some cases, where agreement cannot be made, I'm assuming that this branch is charged with making a satisfactory report that would eventually lead to expropriation hearings or straight expropriation. So it needs be that their reports to the department be accurate. What are their qualifications in order to do this?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: I just want to say that most of the people in this area are accredited appraisers in the Appraisal Institute of Canada; they have their accreditation. They also have a senior designation with the International Right-of-Way Association. The

Appraisal Institute of Canada requirements are such that it would stress their skills on the appraisal side, and the Right-of-Way Association emphasizes the negotiating side. So they do have both of those kinds of qualifications. That's the technical people.

I understand that there was even an award given by the International Right-of-Way Association to the department for their training that they have undertaken with their staff.

MR. G. CUMMINGS: The question follows: why is there more administrative support than there are technical people in this area? Are there some more highly qualified people listed under Administrative Support or what is the reason for that large number of people? I'm assuming that there would be a fair amount of clerical involved there.

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, the section heads are all administrative officer classifications, para-legal type of qualifications in those areas and they are under the administrative support classification, as opposed to managerial-professional. As well, there is a high clerical component, as the member stated earlier, in this area.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Springfield.

MR. G. ROCH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I was wondering, how does one go about getting information in regard to land acquisitions, like in the case of expropriations.

HON. J. PLOHMAN: I would appreciate if the member could be more specific about what kind of information he would be seeking.

We have the Director of Land Acquisition here. I'm sure if he was called on a particular project, or if the member advised me of it, we could get this status and the information. I believe we are doing that. I recall a recent letter that I believe I sent to the Member for Springfield in response to a question to give him the status of the acquisition and expropriation procedures for a particular project.

MR. G. ROCH: Well, actually what I wanted to know is: is it possible to get all the copies of the documentation that has gone back and forth between probably the owners in question and the department?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Normally I think, Mr. Chairman, that would be confidential information between the two individuals. If the individual landowner wanted to ask his MLA to do something for him, or intervene, or whatever the case may be, certainly he would give permission, or else provide the member with the documentation since he would have copies of it.

MR. G. ROCH: If, for example, the people feel they have been wrong or they are not satisfied with the way things have happened, what route do they have to appeal, apart from the courts.

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Apart from the courts, it's a pretty good appeal system, but they do have opportunity for

inquiry if the inquiry has not been waived by Order-in-Council. Inquiries are usually waived when there are routine additions to right-of-way requirements; for example, on existing alignments where there is no other alternative, where there is not a new route taking place, but just simply the existing route is being widened. Under those circumstances, it seems rather redundant to have a public inquiry to justify the standards that have been established and have been in place for many years in Manitoba with regard to the construction requirements for right-of-way.

So, if there is a piece of construction taking place - I'm just saying, from a Highways point of view, or if it be a development like the North Portage Development - there would be opportunities on many of these situations for the individual to register his objection within 30 days of receiving notice of expropriation. If he registered his objection or her objection, then he would be eligible for an inquiry. An inquiry officer would be designated, assigned, and the hearing would be held and the person would be able to present his case at that particular time.

Then, following the decision on the amount of compensation - the Land Value Appraisal Commission has set the value - they could appeal that decision to the courts, and their legal expenses would be paid if the award by the courts was 10 percent higher than was assessed by the Land Value Appraisal Commission.

MR. G. ROCH: I'm referring specifically to PR 206. I don't know if you're familiar with that little portion which was rerouted. Apparently, there was a petition presented originally to have that rerouting and I would assume that the petition is public information. I was wondering, is it possible to obtain a copy of that petition, if in fact there is such a petition.

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Well, Mr. Chairman, I don't recall a petition but if the member wanted to check with me in the Highways office, we could determine if there was. I believe there was agreement on that for the new route from most of the landowners - if not all of the landowners - if I recall that project correctly. On that basis, then after initial contacts with the landowners, there was no need to have any further inquiry because everyone agreed with the project.

MR. G. ROCH: Mr. Chairman, there was general agreement with most of the landowners except possibly one or two. I guess the difference there would be that some seemed to feel that what they were led to believe and what happened was not exactly the same thing. But apart from those landowners there, there are some other ones in the area which questioned the need for having rerouted, especially those people who are unable to get subdivisions because they're in a classified agricultural area. But there we took a chunk of prime agricultural land to put that road through. Some of those people are just wondering, who are the people who petitioned for that. Who and where are they from? Are they from the area? I don't know. I'll attempt to find out.

I thank you for the letter you sent me in response to my original letter, but what I'm really getting at is to see more details of what happened to bring about

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that rerouting. I was just wondering how to go about obtaining that information.

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, the Planning of the Department of Highways would be involved in that kind of a decision. It would usually come about as a result of not only the professional people in the department making a decision to solve certain problems that exist in terms of traffic patterns and hazards that exist, as well as taking into consideration the wishes of the local councils usually would be asked to pass a resolution. If there was a recommended alternative or recommended solution by the department, we would usually ask the councils to support that. If they objected, then to work with them to make some changes so that there would be a common agreement with the proposal.

So it would have come about as probably an essential planning improvement work that would have been undertaken by the department to improve the problems in that area; and there would have been representation made by the MLA at that time and by the councils.

MR. G. ROCH: One final question then, to refer back to awhile ago, if I wanted more specific details on individuals who were not necessarily of a confidential nature, would it be possible then to get together and see if the documentation can be made available?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: What we could do is, Mr. Chairman, the member could set up a meeting with myself and the Deputy Minister, and we could review the circumstances that led to the solution, to the design. We could answer any questions at that particular time.

MR. G. ROCH: Thank you, Mr. Minister.

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

Resolution 78: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$2,851,300 for Government Services, Project Services, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1987—pass.

Now move to Resolution 79, Item 5., Land Value Appraisal Commission - the Member for Turtle Mountain.

MR. D. ROCAN: Mr. Chairman, the Land Value Appraisal Commission, could the Minister tell us who are the members on that commission, and what is their remuneration?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, the members of the Land Value Appraisal Commission, the Chairman, Cameron Harvey, appointed in December of 1976, has been in place for 10 years, Cameron Harvey. He has a great deal of expertise now and experience in that area, a law professor as well.

In addition to that, we have the Vice-Chairperson, Grace Kast, and then four other members, William Milner, Omer Lamoureux, Earl Sterling, and John Ateah and they were all appointed in July of 1982.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 5.(a)—pass; 5.(b)—pass; 5.(c)—pass.

Resolution 79: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$61,900 for

Government Services, Land Value Appraisal Commission, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1987—pass.

Now move on to Resolution 80, Item 6. Emergency Measures Organization - the Member for Ste. Rose.

MR. G. CUMMINGS: First of all a general question, Mr. Chairman, while we have appropriations for Emergency Measures and Land Value Appraisal Commission, in the annual report also is listed the Manitoba Disaster Assistance Board. Do any funds for that Disaster Assistance Board show up in these appropriations, because I was unable to delineate it if they did?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, the only costs associated with this division in that area for the Disaster Assistance Board is the provision of a permanent secretary for the Disaster Assistance Board, who works half-time with the Disaster Assistance Board or thereabouts, depending on the demand, because of course members will realize that the workload would vary in that area according to the kinds of disasters that are encountered in any given year and any given time. The remainder of the time is spent supporting the Emergency Measures operation.

The other administrative costs of the board and all of the money that is paid out is done through Vote 18. I believe it would be discussed under Emergency Flood Control in the House.

MR. C. MANNESS: Well, Mr. Chairman, I think the Minister has just answered the question. I wanted to know, specifically, where funds directed toward any type of disaster problem, any disaster concern where it flowed, and he indicates that comes from that particular appropriation.

I believe though that I would just ask the Minister at this time whether or not officials in his departments are sending the word out to various communities throughout the province that have qualified at least for consideration under the program - under any one of the programs for relief - whether or not his officials are indicating to people that the reason that payments are late is as a result of the tardiness associated with - I use the word "tardiness" advisedly - whether or not his officials are saying that's because of the Opposition in the way they're handling the Estimates procedure?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, I certainly have not directed any of the staff to say that, nor have I been advised that they have said that.

MR. C. MANNESS: Mr. Chairman, we'll discuss this then in greater detail under the proper Estimate item in the House, because certainly that has come not only to myself a month and a half ago, but to other members of the Opposition. It's a pretty serious matter and one that we'd want to deal with in depth at a more proper time.

HON. J. PLOHMAN: I would appreciate hearing from the member on that at anytime, whether he wants to — (Interjection) — Well, no, if he feels that there's a

problem there and he wants to use the opportunity in the House and feels that that would be the most effective way to do it, fine; and he may want to see me about it as well; so if that is happening that we take appropriate actions then, of course, that would also be I think, productive.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 6.(a)—pass - the Member for Turtle Mountain.

MR. D. ROCAN: One comment under EMO, where it says: "Provides a prompt and coordinating emergency response on a 24-hour basis." I'd just like to take this time to compliment one Hank McLaughlin from Portage and a Bill Davidson from Brandon, and also the driver of the Command Centre, who worked through the best part of the night to help us in the Somerset, Swan Lake, Mariapolis areas, to coordinate emergency groups, whatever, like the Hydro and made sure we had water and whatever. I would just like to take a few minutes here and thank these guys.

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the Member for Turtle Mountain's words. I know the staff had indicated that he was directly involved, as I had indicated in the House, and they appreciated the concern and involvement of the member. So it certainly looks like a mutual admiration society at this time.

A MEMBER: A well-run department.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 6.(a)—pass; 6.(b)—pass.

Resolution 80: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty, a sum not exceeding \$686,400 for Government Services, Emergency Measures Organization, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1987—pass.

Moving to Resolution 81, Item 7, Expenditures Related to Capital - the Member for Ste. Rose.

MR. G. CUMMINGS: Mr. Chairman, there are only a couple of questions in this area, a very small staff complement. I think we've pretty well explored any questions that we have regarding Acquisition unless other members of the committee have questions. Pass, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 7.(a)—pass; 7.(b)—pass.

Resolution 81: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty, a sum not exceeding \$13,494,800 for Government Services, Expenditures Related to Capital, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1987—pass.

We now return to Item 1.(a) Minister's Salary. The staff can leave, thank you.

The Member for Ste. Rose.

MR. G. CUMMINGS: Mr. Chairman, first of all I want to make one positive comment and that is that the supplementary information that we've received, as I said at the start of the Estimates, was very useful and the department has in effect bared itself to scrutiny during the Estimates and the staff appears to be able to assist the Minister in a very capable manner.

I have some concerns that have come up during the course of the Estimates, one which we touched on briefly

this afternoon, where we're talking about charge backs to departments. It seems to me that we are gradually getting into a situation where some areas are charged back and some are not. I don't think I felt the reasons for charge back in some areas being more justified than others was in fact enough to justify the concern that was being expressed in certain of the charge backs whereby other major items were going by.

I also have to point out to the Minister, as he's well aware, as we're all aware in the House at the present time, that there's an issue before us that he has to bear responsibility for, not only as a Minister responsible for this department but as a member of the Cabinet and Executive Council, and that is the fact that we are failing at this point to be able to bring forward any agreement on having a judicial inquiry.

It seems to me that this Minister has been involved with the Executive Council all during the period of MTS and MTX's involvement in Saudi Arabia. That in fact, the approval for the beginning of the MTX involvement in Saudi Arabia has carried on under the auspices of the Cabinet, which the Minister was part of right from the start. So I would ask the Minister, why he has not taken his ministerial prerogative to prevail upon his colleagues so that the people of Manitoba can understand clearly what is going on with MTX.

I would appeal on the basis also that there are some people involved in MTS, a great many very good employees, who are feeling very badly that their Crown corporation is being dragged through the kind of concerns that are being placed forward right now and not being given the opportunity to have the air, once and for all, cleared.

To that end, Mr. Chairman, I move, seconded by the Member for Turtle Mountain, that,

WHEREAS this Minister is part of a Cabinet who refused to seek the truth of the MTS-MTX affair by avoiding a public inquiry, and

WHEREAS this Minister is formally responsible for MTS and has failed to seek the truth in the flogging incident as an example of what happened in Saudi Arabia, that the salary of this Minister be reduced to one Saudi rial, or the equivalent.

A MEMBER: And that's more than you're worth, Plohman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: As I'm sure the member is aware, that motion should be given in writing to the Clerk. Do you have a copy in writing, please?

It's been moved by the Member for Ste. Rose, seconded by the Member for Turtle Mountain, whereas this Minister is part of a Cabinet who refused to seek the truth in the MTS-MTX affair by avoiding a public inquiry and; whereas the Minister was formally responsible for the MTS and failed to seek the truth in the flogging incident in Saudi Arabia, that the salary of the Minister be reduced to one Saudi rial.

All those in favour signify by saying aye; contrary minded, nay.

I rule the nays have it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: A recorded vote has been required.

The committee is recessed and we will go into the House.

SUPPLY - CULTURE, HERITAGE AND RECREATION

MR. CHAIRMAN, C. Santos: Committee, please come to order. The Committee of Supply has been considering the Estimates of the Department of Culture, Heritage and Recreation.

We are now on Item No. 2.(a)(1) to 2.(c)(3) - the Member for Brandon West.

MR. J. McCRAE: Mr. Chairman, I have in my hand the document the Minister tabled listing grants paid under Appropriations and under Lotteries. Yesterday the Minister undertook to provide a statement similar to this, giving us the grants that she knew about that were approved, and I wonder if the Minister has those with her today.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Culture, Heritage and Recreation.

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: Sorry, I forgot to get the Member for Brandon West a copy of the Supplementary Information . . . — (inaudible)—

Anyway, I've got extra copies here that can be distributed to any other members who would like to see copies of it.

MR. J. McCRAE: She's provided my colleagues with copies; that's fine for the moment.

The questions that I had could have been asked without that, but I didn't know that had been made available, previous to now.

Mr. Chairman, I'm curious about the criteria that the department uses for its grants to the major cultural organizations. For example, the Manitoba Arts Council, which received in the year ended 1985, \$1.5 million; and I'd like to know from the Minister what the criteria are for that grant and what services the Manitoba Arts Council provides to the public.

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: As the information that I've just passed out to the members indicates, the annual operating grant from the department has increased to \$1,551,800, which is roughly a \$30,000 increase, and in percentage terms that's a 2 percent increase.

The Member for Brandon West also asked about the programs provided by the Manitoba Arts Council. I would refer him to the Annual Report for 1984-85 of the Manitoba Arts Council, which was tabled in the House, and which lists in great detail the kinds of programs and initiatives of the Manitoba Arts Council. It provides a very comprehensive service on behalf of arts and culture interests in the province and has a full range of programs, ranging from arts exposure programs, includes artists in the schools, artists in the communities, a creative arts program, which includes major arts grants, choreographers' grants, writers' grants, a composers' program, playwrights' program, visual arts grants, visual arts project grants, film video grants, film production grants and other short-term grants, as well as exhibitions.

It also has a student-aid program, a touring program, an arts development program, which includes some

new innovative programs that provide better access to the arts and culture activities of this province through programs entitled, "Access and Art Adventures," and also has a Public Readings by Manitoba Writers Program, as well as involvement in arts administration management development.

I think if the member refers to the Annual Report, he'll get a full sense of the kind of major activities and programs of the Arts Council and their valuable service to the Province of Manitoba.

MR. J. McCRAE: Mr. Chairman, the Minister referred to various kinds of grants. These are grants made by the Manitoba Arts Council and they are, I take it, for the most part to individuals to develop their artistic skills, or are these to various groups in the province?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: The answer is both, Mr. Chairperson. The Arts Council provides significant funding for organizations, professional groupings within the province and it also provides assistance to individual artists.

MR. J. McCRAE: Does the money granted by the Manitoba Arts Council find its way to the regional or local arts councils, or are the grants that the regional and local arts councils receive exclusively the grants from the government; and are there grants as well from the Manitoba Arts Council to those regional councils?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: Yes, the Manitoba Arts Council, through the Manitoba Arts Gaming Fund Commission, which is the body set up by the Arts Council to distribute their share of the Lotteries revenue, does provide funding to the Associated Manitoba Arts Festivals Incorporated and to the Manitoba Association of Community Arts Councils.

MR. J. McCRAE: No money is granted directly from the Manitoba Arts Council to, for example, the Brandon Allied Arts Council?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: The answer to that is no, but this department, if you read through the Estimate's grants list, you will notice that this department provides funding to organizations like the Brandon Allied Arts Council.

MR. J. McCRAE: Mr. Chairman, the Minister referred last night to a maximum grant to District and Regional and Local Arts Councils of \$20,000.00. Are those grants per capita grants? They are listed, Mr. Chairman, under the Lotteries Grants listing on Page 20, Community Cultural Council Grants.

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: I'm sorry, was the member's question . . . I'm sorry, I was looking for the information. Just clarify the question for me.

MR. J. McCRAE: The question, Mr. Chairman, follows on some comments made last night by the Minister in response to the Honourable Member for Gladstone. I believe she said last night to a maximum of \$20,000 these community cultural grants are granted.

I note, in looking through the list, for the Brandon Allied Arts Council there's a \$20,000 grant, and the

other councils have differing figures. I'm just asking, are those grants per capital grants up to a maximum of \$20,000.00?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: The operating grants provided for Community Cultural Councils are based on the following criteria, I guess, is the word. Eligible to receive an operating grant based on the greater amount of the 1983-84 operating grant awarded, or matched municipal contributions to a maximum of \$1 per capita. For Community Cultural Councils falling within Northern Affairs boundaries, and which serve a population of fewer than 5,000 people, municipal contributions will be matched on a 50-50 basis to a maximum of \$1.50 per capita.

MR. J. McCRAE: Mr. Chairman, that was a fairly lengthy answer with a lot of detail in it. Could I just ask, is the maximum \$20,000.00? Did the Minister say that in her answer?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, and I apologize to the member, the maximum currently is \$20,000.00.

MR. J. McCRAE: Mr. Chairman, also last evening the Minister stated her commitment and that of her government to fostering and promoting arts and cultural activities in our province. Notably missing from her comments was the word "fairness." Here, again, as the member representing part of the City of Brandon, I have to make the point that when we have a cap of \$20,000, it mitigates against the interests of communities like the City of Brandon. I don't know whether, if the grant for the City of Brandon was 38,000, which would approximate our population in the city, I don't know if the City Council would match that grant, that would be for someone else to decide. But when there is a cap of \$20,000, it mitigates against a city of the size of the City of Brandon, of 38,000.

For instance, if we look at the Dauphin Allied Arts Council, they received there \$12,971.00. I assume, from that number, that's approximately the population of the City of Dauphin and that the Dauphin Municipal Council, or town council, or city council, matches that grant.

In the City of Brandon, \$20,000 would not be fair under that formula and I'd ask for the Minister's response to that comment.

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: A couple of things need to be pointed out in response to that question. The first is that in addition to the operating grant to the Brandon Allied Arts Council, organizations in Brandon are eligible to apply for a number of other programs, including the Public Events Sponsorship Program, the Skills Transfer Program, and the Coordination Assistance Program.

I know for a fact, based on the letters and cheques that have gone out over the last couple of months, that organizations in Brandon have received considerable assistance from this department.

As well, it should be noted that the Manitoba Arts Council serves the province as a whole and serves Brandon very well in that regard.

MR. J. McCRAE: Mr. Chairman, the Minister says that under the other programs my community is served well.

Is the Minister saying by that that other communities in the province are not served well?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: Mr. Chairperson, I'm saying that the assistance and programs provided by this department, this government, are provided on a fair and equitable basis across Manitoba.

MR. J. McCRAE: Mr. Chairman, the Minister has told us that other groups in the community are eligible to apply under other programs and organizations in Brandon have received assistance. Is that not true, also, of other communities? Can groups and organizations in communities, other than the City of Brandon, not apply under certain other programs and receive grants under those other programs, too?

While I'm on my feet, I'll just also repeat my suggestion that a cap of \$20,000, when applied to a city the size of mine, is not fair, especially if all those programs the Minister mentioned are available to other communities as well. I'm saying that cap of \$20,000 does work against the interests of arts and culture in my city, and the Minister hasn't satisfied me yet and I'd like to have her do that for me.

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: Obviously many communities throughout Manitoba are making use of the programs that I've listed, such as the Public Events Sponsorship Program, and so on. I think if we looked at some totals or broke down funding going to arts and cultural organizations and initiatives throughout Manitoba, I think we would find that Brandon receives a fairly significant share of that funding.

I should also point out, as I made reference to last night, that I have made a commitment to review - I've done this publicly at the Canadian Conference of the Arts - said that we would review the criteria and the levels of funding to look at the question of fairness and to address the very kind of question the Member for Brandon West is raising.

MR. J. McCRAE: Mr. Chairman, we kind of hear from every Minister in this government that every program in existence is being monitored and is being evaluated. We spend millions of dollars, Mr. Chairman, evaluating and monitoring our programs. Maybe the Minister can tell me how long this formula has been in effect and, for my own convenience, if she could tell me what the grant will be for the City of Brandon in this fiscal year for the Allied Arts Council.

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: To answer the first part of the Member for Brandon West's question, this level of funding for the Community Cultural Councils Program has been in existence for three years. With respect to any anticipated increase for the Brandon Allied Arts Council, as I've said, we're reviewing the program to determine whether or not the levels should be increased. I can say to the Member for Brandon West that I'm certainly prepared to approve interim changes while looking at the long-term issue, and providing an increase to the Brandon Allied Arts Council. However, at this point, I couldn't say exactly how much.

MR. J. McCRAE: Mr. Chairman, I appreciate that answer of the Minister because I take it from the first

part of the answer, that for three years running the grant for Brandon will be \$20,000, and that's what it is again this year. So, it's seen no increase, while I suspect if the Minister looks back at - let's just take Dauphin or Flin Flon for examples - that number will have grown, I expect, with the populations of those communities if, indeed, those populations have grown to fit with the formula the Minister has outlined for us.

I think for at least three years, if this is the system that's been used, I'd say for three years the system has been unfair and impacting negatively on my community. I appreciate the positive undertaking by the Minister to look into correcting that situation, and I will be very pleased to hear an announcement about that hopefully in the very, very near future, because I can assure the Minister she'll be hearing from — (Interjection) — I'll be very displeased, Mr. Chairman, if I don't hear a positive response in the very, very near future, because if I don't, the Minister will face this type of question a year from now, if indeed she's still the Minister.

In making this point, Mr. Chairman, I don't wish at all — (Interjection) — to see a change like this have any negative impact on other communities. I see the Minister of Health at the back of the Chamber, Mr. Chairman, and I'm sure his response would be that here we are asking for money, but as I understand it, these are lotteries grants, and I put lotteries funds into a different category than I do tax dollars.

I'd like to ask the Minister about Page 22 of the same report - Provincial Recreation Agency Grants - and I see the Boy Scouts of Canada-Manitoba Council are getting \$5,427; the Girl Guides of Canada-Manitoba Council get \$509. Now coming from this Minister's department, at first blush, Mr. Chairman, that would be a shocking kind of revelation, and as a father of three or four Girl Guides - I can't remember how many of my kids were Guides right off the bat - but I must take exception to these kind of numbers which appear to be a very blatant kind of discrimination against the young girls and women of this province. I'm sure the Minister has a ready answer that I'm mistaken about this, and that there are other grants available for the Girl Guides, and I'm sure she'll be very anxious to tell us about that right away.

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: Mr. Chairperson, referring to the criteria we use for providing grants to provincial recreation organizations, I can go into some detail about how that program is administered, but I don't know if that will serve the purpose of the Member for Brandon West's question. I will simply point out that we recognize the inequity and we are moving closer to bridge that gap and can assure the member that the Girl Guides of Canada will be receiving a fairly major increase.

MR. J. McCRAE: Have the grants for these two groups been approved for this fiscal year?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: Mr. Chairperson, the answer is no.

MR. J. McCRAE: Mr. Chairman, for how long has this regime or this inequity against the young girls of our province been going on?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: Mr. Chairperson, I believe the gap has existed for a number of years and, in fact, we inherited this major inequity from the previous administration.

MR. J. McCRAE: My obvious question, Mr. Chairman, is what took this government so long to right that inequity? Really, we have a Minister, Mr. Chairman, in charge of the Status of Women and I guess there's a cut-off, because if you're a little girl, that doesn't count. I would think that should come to an end very soon. The Minister has given us that undertaking. I'm very glad. It was a shocking thing for me to see in this list, that something about little boys make them more special than little girls and I'm glad to see the Minister has finally recognized there's something wrong with that concept.

If I can have your indulgence for just one moment, Mr. Chairman. Yes, on Page 8 of the Minister's document Lotteries Grants Listing, again - the Brandon Allied Arts Council for \$3,610 - is that the Special Events Grants the Minister referred to earlier?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: Mr. Chairperson, the answer is yes.

MR. J. McCRAE: Mr. Chairman, while the Minister is looking into the other matter I raised with her earlier, I would appreciate it very much if she would also make a comparison in order to see that the Brandon Allied Arts Council's Grant for Special Events is treated in such a way that it would be fair for a city of the size of my city.

Mr. Chairman, while I'm on that point, it would be good for the Minister and other members of this government - notably the Minister of Health, but others as well - to remember the City of Brandon is a hub of the Southwestern Manitoba region, and many people from outside the City of Brandon come to our city to take part in the events scheduled by the Brandon Allied Arts Council and, in that sense, I think you have to go to Virden to find another Western Manitoba community that has an arts council. I believe if you think of the City of Brandon and its catchment area, which includes some 180, 150, 200,000 - depending on how you look at it - the funding for arts in Western Manitoba is, I would say, falling behind funding in other parts of the province.

I look on Page 13, Mr. Chairman, to the comité du centenaire Louis Riel, and in 1985, that group received a grant equalling the grant given to the Brandon Allied Arts Council of \$20,000.00. I'd like to ask the Minister about the comité du centenaire Louis Riel and what activities that is involved in and how long it's been in existence and whether it's still in existence. I take it centenaire stands for something that might have happened in one particular year and I'd like to know more about that.

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: Let me address the first part of the Member for Brandon West's question. I find it interesting that the Member for Brandon West is basically suggesting that we abandon our program guidelines and criteria and just offer these grants willy-nilly, the same thing that the Member for Morris was

suggesting was the wrong approach. He was raising the question last night of too much discretionary funding within this department. We have a program in place with firm guidelines and criteria that organizations must meet in order to be eligible for funding and those programs are well-known by communities throughout this province.

I will assist the Member for Brandon West by reviewing the criteria, the eligibility and the criteria for the Public Events Sponsorship Program. In terms of eligibility, rural and Northern Manitoba non-profit community based organizations sponsoring public arts, culture and heritage events are eligible. Applications must be submitted or sponsored by non-profit community based organizations. I can go on in terms of the specifics with respect to performing arts and public culture heritage exhibitions and public readings and lectures to give the Member for Brandon West a full understanding of this program if he wishes.

With respect to the \$20,000 grant awarded to the Comité du Centennial Louis Riel in 1985, that was for a very important event, the centennial around Louis Riel. I think at least members on this side of the House are proud of that historical moment and proud of the fact that we were able to assist in the celebration of this event.

MR. J. McCRAE: Mr. Chairman, the Minister has chosen to misunderstand my comments and I regret that. The Minister has said that I would take a willy-nilly approach to the funding of arts and cultural activities in our province. I think the Minister herself has to know that's an unfair characterization of my comments.

I was asking for fairness in funding and if we're going to get a similar kind of bang for the buck per Manitoban, then the Minister's duty will be to look at funding for the City of Brandon which she seems to have admitted earlier is inadequate and not fair. Now that she's done that, now she seems to be changing her mind and saying that the Member for Brandon West is making suggestions that we scrap funding criteria for all over the province and that we proceed in a willy-nilly way and just because the Member for Brandon West has asked for a little special consideration here, so-called, that this is the kind of approach that I'm suggesting. Not at all, Mr. Chairman, I'm suggesting a fair approach and I thought I had made the point with the Minister earlier judging by her comments in response.

But I guess I'll have to take another run at it because the Minister seems now to have taken leave of that position and reverted to the old position. But really, I impress on her my earlier comments strongly and ask her to take this representation as a sincere one. I have no wish to treat any other part of the province unfairly. I just ask that my part which has not been adequately represented for quite a long time now be treated fairly, vis-a-vis the rest of the province.

The Minister's comments about the Louis Riel group, there again, it was an unfair characterization of my question, which is all it was, a question. I asked the Minister specifically if that committee is still in existence and she didn't answer that question, Mr. Chairman.

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: It was hard to pick out that specific question in the long rambling preambles

to questions that the Member for Brandon West was providing.

I do not know whether the committee is still in effect. All I can say is that there has been no further request for funding to this department and we have not provided anything beyond the \$20,000 listed in the '85 grants list.

I should add to my answer by saying that at no point did I say that there was inadequate funding for Brandon. I said that we were looking at the adequacy of funding for the community cultural council's program in general which is a program that applies to all non-Winnipeg communities. I think that if the member has a concern, he refers to the Public Events Sponsorship Program and he knows that there are criteria that each application is assessed on the basis of that criteria, then the only way to deal with his concern if he has any is if he comes forward with applicants, people who have applied under this program and were denied.

MR. J. McCRAE: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister understands or realizes that the City of Brandon is the second largest city in this province. I didn't even want to ask whether she's been there, Mr. Chairman. Does the criteria, the granting criteria in the case of the City of Brandon, does that criteria recognize the uniqueness of the situation of the City of Brandon in this province: first, as the No. 2 city in the province; and No. 2, the hub of southwestern Manitoba?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: In addition to the fairly substantial funding that is provided to various arts and cultural organizations in Brandon, this government has recognized the size of Brandon and I thought it might be useful to point out that I have been to Brandon many times and I would hope that the Member for Brandon West, if he would like to see me there more often, will offer his warm hospitality.

In addition to all of this financial assistance in response to a request from the Brandon Allied Arts Council for assistance to deal with the broad question of whether or not the arts and cultural needs of Brandon are being met to their fullest, we have agreed to provide a grant of \$5,000 to the Brandon Allied Arts Council to work with the town council to assess the organizational needs in Brandon, the programming reach of current programs and long-term planning and goals. We are looking forward to some very useful input based on this grant, and looking forward to a major role being played by the City of Brandon.

MR. J. McCRAE: Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member for Gladstone referred last evening, also, to the amount of time these arts groups have to devote to fund-raising activities which really don't have so much to do with the creative side.

In the case of the Brandon Allied Arts Council having moved into new quarters which are larger, which are very pleasant, and they're larger, but they're also very much more costly. The point the honourable member made is very well taken in the case of the Brandon Council; so much so that I wonder if they're able to devote as much of their time to the arts and cultural pursuits as they'd like to. But I'll leave that and just go on to two other brief points, Mr. Chairman.

On Page 18 of the list of Lotteries grants, I see for the year ended 1985, the Manitoba Islamic Association received \$1,790 from the Manitoba Lotteries Commission, I guess it is. I wonder whether that group has applied for a grant this year and if a grant has been approved, and if so, for how much.

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: Mr. Chairperson, I just wanted to indicate to the Member for Brandon West that it took me a moment to look for this detail. It's taking a little longer than usual because we're skipping all over the place rather than following appropriation by appropriation, so if he'll just hang on a minute.

The Manitoba Islamic Association received a grant under the Linguistic Support Grant Program, and there are specific criteria tied to that program. I understand that this association has applied and received funding for about three years, and it's my understanding that the applications for the current year are not yet out. So it's difficult to respond to the member's question.

MR. J. McCRAE: Well, I'm looking at a newspaper article, Mr. Chairman, back in November of 1985, where the Minister's predecessor said that the province may stop funding ethnic organizations which practise discrimination.

I wonder if one of the criteria for membership in these linguistic support groups, if these groups are open and these programs are open to all Manitobans regardless of their ethnicity.

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: It's the policy of the department to monitor all programming to all organizations and ensure that the membership of that organization is open to anyone from our society as a whole.

This particular program, which is the Linguistic Support Grant Program, is for language retention and development. It would be likely that the vast majority of those who benefit from a grant to an organization like the Manitoba Islamic Association are members of that community.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for River Heights.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

I'm not sure where we are in the Estimates, so I guess maybe it's just — (Interjection) — all right, we're still on the first three. All right.

If we can go into Grants Administration for a moment, when you distributed the sheet entitled, "Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Recreation - Lotteries/ Appropriation Expenditures," this one, it was indicated that in the Grants Administration section there seemed to be 1.5 staff years at \$40,000 which had been taken from lottery money. We dealt with this last night and I got myself thoroughly confused because I wanted to know where are those staff years accounted. I mean, are they accounted under Culture, Heritage and Recreation, or somehow under the Lotteries Commission?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: Just to make sure that we're referring to the most recent information, I tabled

the horizontal sheet entitled, "Lotteries/Appropriation Expenditures by Branch." That's the first horizontal 8 1/2 x 14 sheet in the package circulated today.

On that sheet, it indicates, under Grants Administration Staff Years, under the Lotteries column, 1.5 term positions. So those 1.5 term positions are paid for out of the lotteries portion of the Department of Culture, Heritage and Recreation.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: Thank you. That does clarify a great deal. But where are these people actually located? Are they located in the Culture, Heritage and Recreation Department or are they located with Lotteries?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: It's a very useful point to clarify because of this whole confusion with Lotteries funding and appropriation funding. These term positions, all of these SY's listed on all of this material are with the Department of Culture, Heritage and Recreation. The provision for funding the programs and the staff years are a result of the department's share of the Manitoba Gaming Fund, which is 33.5 percent of the Manitoba Gaming Fund, and allocated in this year to a total of \$8,815,900.00.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: It will be a quick count, Mr. Chairman, and I may have missed one. Then there are in fact 17 additional staff people in Culture, Heritage and Recreation other than what is provided for in the detailed Estimates of Culture, Heritage and Recreation?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: Mr. Chairperson, the answer is yes.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: I'd like to just go into a bit of a philosophical issue here rather than a specific issue on money, and it has to do with certainly sports activities, but also arts councils.

I am concerned that we build community schools and we don't seem to make any attempt to make those community schools the hub of the community not only in terms of education but also in terms of day care. I, quite frankly, thought the initiative of the government was correct; I just think it was unfortunate that the funding regulations were not clearly enough defined so that school boards did not have to shy away from them.

I think the same kinds of things have to be put into place for arts groups. I see, for example, no reason why we should be building an auditorium in a small community that is apart from the complex that is being built in the school. I think there has to be much more use of a school.

This concept, as we discovered in Education Estimates, that the Department of Education is paying \$25 a day grants so that the schools will be open to the community, I think is criminal. Then the school has been paid for by money from tax dollars in this province and it should be open at all hours of the day and night if there's community use for that particular place.

What kinds of unified activities are taking place between, for example, Culture, Heritage and Recreation and Sport and Education in order that in the future planning of these institutions all activities of the community are considered?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: The Member for River Heights raises a very useful suggestion and I can point

to several developments which indicate a commitment on our part to ensure that that kind of coordination takes place.

With respect to the past, the Recreation Community Facilities Program, through that program, we encouraged effective use of resources and facilities and encouraged communities to look at coordinated efforts. Those applications had to go through the municipal government, and in the case of a municipal government suggesting coordination between a school, for example, and a community club, then we encouraged that and it happened. The Minister of Health informs me that there's much greater cooperation now taking place between schools and sports activities.

The final point I'd like to make is that in conjunction with the new Community Capital Facilities Program that I referred to last night, we have made a commitment to ensure that there is coordination not only between the Culture, Heritage and Recreation - this is the department - but between Culture, Sport and other departments like Education.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Kirkfield Park.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The Minister had been questioned about the community arts councils, and when the Member for Gladstone was talking about long-term funding, the Minister indicated that no government could commit to long term.

I find that sort of strange because I think it was the department that encouraged the communities to form art councils, if I'm not mistaken, and I would hardly see that after encouraging them to form that they couldn't look forward to long-term planning.

Five years, 10 years shouldn't be unreasonable. When governments ask cities to make five-year commitments, five-year plans, surely, the department could do the same thing, and I'm certain they must be doing some long-term planning. So I'd like the Minister to reconsider that answer and indicate to these groups that there are long-term plans and that there will be continued funding.

I understand when certain policies change, but the basic funding for these groups surely shouldn't be up in the air. I was left with the impression, and I don't think the Minister wants to leave that on the table, that in any given year the funding of these groups is going to terminate.

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: I thank the member for the opportunity to clarify my statement of last night. By the very fact that operating grants are provided to community cultural councils is an indication of our commitment to long-term existence for such bodies. It's equally obvious that I get my authority, like my other colleagues on this side of the House get their authority, on a year-by-year basis through the Estimates process. I'm sure that the members opposite would be the first to holler if we were committing resources that had not been authorized through the Legislative Assembly.

However, as I said, we do encourage long-term planning. We've encouraged the councils to look at the future down the road and to look at other sources of funding. We have provided, as a signal of our

commitment, operating grants, not project grants on a one-time basis.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: I wonder if the Minister could indicate what new programs have been initiated and if there have been any changes to the criteria for any of the ongoing programs. I'm talking about the grants for Cultural Resources, I guess.

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: There are no new grant programs planned for this year, however we are continually monitoring and reviewing existing programs, and on the basis of that kind of review, making improvements on a regular basis. I can point to a couple of examples, one we just discussed, and that is the review of the criteria for the Community Cultural Council Grants Program.

We have also reviewed and increased the level of support for the Public Events Sponsorship Program and I am in the process of reviewing the actual criteria for that program with a view to making some changes in the near future.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Yes, I have a press release here about Expo 86 travel grants. Is this just a special grant because of Expo and has there been a change in giving grants to groups travelling out of province, such as bands and choirs?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: Mr. Chairperson, the Expo 86 Travel Assistance Program was a one-time only program to assist organizations, groups, individual artists, to be able to go to Expo and perform for the audiences who were the visitors of Expo and we're quite proud of that program and the feedback from the number of groups that actually went. You probably have that there.

At any rate, the significant number of groups who were able to go to Expo and display their talents and show that Manitoba has a very exciting and vibrant cultural community. But as I said, that was a one-time only commitment. There is no ongoing program to provide assistance to bands and other groups to assist with out-of-province travel.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Could the Minister indicate, Mr. Chairman, what the criteria was to receive a grant? I noticed that just looking at the differences given to say John Taylor Collegiate, \$4,500; and the Silver Heights Band Parents Association for one at \$2,500.00. What would be the difference in the grant?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: Mr. Chairperson, the formula for the provision of grants under the Expo 86 Travel Assistance Program was as follows: for individuals, 50 percent of travel cost to a maximum of \$500; for groups that had between three and five members, 50 percent of travel costs to a maximum of \$1,500; for groups with five to ten members, 50 percent of travel costs to a maximum of \$3,000; and for groups of 10 to 50 members, 50 percent of travel costs to a maximum of \$5,000.00.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: When the Minister had given the answer to the Member for Brandon when he asked

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about grants being given to groups that may have policies that do not have an open door, she indicated the policy was that groups had to be open before they received grants. Was that correct or did I hear her wrong on that?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: Mr. Chairperson, what I think I said, which was what I intended to say was, that the activity that has been undertaken by that organization and for which they are eligible to receive funding from a particular government program, must be open to all members of Manitoba as a society at large.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Mr. Chairman, to the Minister, would that include the capital grants for buildings and would they have to open their memberships, say people in the Intercultural Council, different groups, would they have to have their membership open?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: Mr. Chairperson, basically the department funds organizations whose constitutions state that membership is open to individuals within a specific ethnocultural group and anyone else who complies with the objectives of preserving, promoting or sharing of a specific culture.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Then the Minister is stating that the specific ethnic group or cultural group does not have to have an open membership, outside of its own group?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: I'm not quite sure on the member's question.

Basically, I'll repeat the two points I've made to this point. One is that we fund programs for organizations where the general public has access to those programs. We also monitor those organizations who receive funding to ensure that their membership is open to individuals within a specific ethnocultural group and anyone else who complies with the objectives of preserving, promoting or sharing of a specific culture.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Then the Minister has stated that it is open only to a culture. The reason I'm bringing this up is I have a copy of a press clipping here from the Winnipeg Sun last August. After the Minister had indicated there was a possibility that they may stop funding ethnic organizations which practise discrimination and the headline was - 'Ethnic Clubs Were Furious Over Open Door Proposal' - and it went on to state the different organizations. The Winnipeg Council of Treaty and Status Indians and the Manitoba Metis Federation were opposed to the proposal, and there were different other organizations that were. The German Society was one that was worried about the proposal, which makes me feel that they are closed memberships as far as the groups themselves are concerned.

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: Mr. Chairperson, I believe the issue that was raised in the article in the Sun that the member refers to, was a matter that related to the Manitoba Intercultural Council in terms of a particular organization that was presumably closed to members outside of that particular organization.

I could add a couple of things. One is that the issue doesn't really pertain to this department since, as I've said, we monitor the situation carefully to ensure that constitutions of these organizations state that anyone may be a member if they comply with the objectives of that organization. I know the Manitoba Intercultural Council is in the business of encouraging groups to develop active memberships in all of our ethnocultural communities, and is in the process of developing various levels of membership which would allow them to deal with the issue that the member raised.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: I am pleased, Mr. Chairman, to hear the Minister's answer on that. It's one of the things I find very difficult, when we have groups all owning their own buildings, to actively get to know people from other ethnic organizations - I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman, I can't hear myself think - it's one of the areas that has concerned me and I think other people for a long time, that it is very difficult to get to know members of different ethnic organizations because you don't find them in your community clubs the same way because they're all having their own buildings. I congratulate the Intercultural Council for wanting to have open memberships that might allow everyone to join.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are we ready to pass this item? The Member for Kirkfield Park.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: I haven't got the clipping here, but I was wondering if the Minister could tell me if the Winnipeg Folk Festival has approached the department for a grant to help with their deficit financing after their horrible year due to weather this year.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Kildonan.

MR. M. DOLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The section of the Committee of Supply meeting in Room 255 to consider the Estimates of the Department of Government Services, amendment was moved that the Minister's Salary in Budget Item Line 1.(a), be reduced to one rial. It was moved and seconded that,

WHEREAS the Minister is part of a Cabinet who refused to seek the truth about the MTS-MTX affair by avoiding a public inquiry; and

WHEREAS the Minister was formerly responsible for MTS and failed to seek the truth in the flogging incident in Saudi Arabia, the salary of the Minister be reduced to one Saudi rial.

A voice vote was taken and subsequently defeated. Members then requested that a formal vote be taken on the motion.

MR. CHAIRMAN: A formal vote is being requested. Please call in the members.

IN SESSION

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER, C. Santos: The motion before the committee, moved by the Member for Ste. Rose, seconded by the Member for Turtle Mountain, reads:

WHEREAS this Minister is part of a Cabinet who refuses to seek the truth in the MTS-MTX affair by avoiding a public inquiry, and;

WHEREAS this Minister was formally responsible for the MTS and failed to seek the truth in the flogging incident in Saudi Arabia;

THAT the salary of this Minister be reduced to one Saudi rial.

All those in favour of the motion, please rise; those who are opposed to the motion, please rise.

The rule in the House is that when there is a tie between the government and the Official Opposition, the tie can be broken by the vote of the Chair, but the Chair must exercise this high prerogative on a principle basis, and the principle on which the vote will be cast is to maintain the status quo in the House such that the issue will be left open for final future consideration.

We are now operating under the new rules, and the responsibility is now upon the Chair to cast a vote. Given that the election on March 18 last had given the mandate on the government to carry the mandate of

the electorate of this province to the full completion of its term, and given that we respect this procedure in our parliamentary democracy, I deem it my responsibility to bow to the wishes of the people and give the government the opportunity to carry on the responsibility to the fullest extent and thus maintain the tradition of Parliament and our democratic government.

As a servant of the Legislature, and servant of Parliament, the Chair will cast its vote with that party to whom the people had given the mandate to rule. Therefore, the vote will be those who are in favour of the motion will have 27 votes; those who are opposed to the motion will have 28 votes. The motion is then defeated.

The hour being 5:30, I am now leaving the Chair with the understanding that the committee shall return at 8:00 p.m.