



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

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS
(HANSARD)**

36 Elizabeth II

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Speaker*



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Tuesday, 26 May, 1987.

Time — 1:30 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 . . .

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS AND TABLING OF REPORTS

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of the Environment.

HON. G. LECUYER: Madame la présidente, je voudrais déposer le rapport annuelle, pour l'année 1985-86 pour le Ministère de l'environnement et la sécurité et the l'hygiène du travail.

(English translation of above.)

HON. G. LECUYER: Madam Speaker, I would like to table the 1985-86 Annual Report as the Minister of Environment and Workplace Safety and Health.

MADAM SPEAKER: Notices of Motion . . .

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

MR. J. MALOWAY introduced, by leave, Bill No. 30, An Act to amend An Act to Incorporate "Pine Ridge Golf Club"; Loi modifiant la Loi intitulée "An Act to Incorporate 'Pine Ridge Golf Club'."

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MADAM SPEAKER: Before moving to Oral Questions, may I direct the attention of honourable members to the gallery, where we have 11 students from Grade 9 from the River West Park School. The students are under the direction of Ms. Colleen Wilson, and the school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Charleswood.

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

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Burrows.

MR. C. SANTOS: May I beg leave to present the report of the Committee on Supply?

MADAM SPEAKER: Does the honourable member have leave of the House to revert to Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees? (Agreed)

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

MR. C. SANTOS: Thank you, 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 Honourable Member for Inkster, that the report of the committee be received.

MOTION presented and carried.

ORAL QUESTIONS

Workers Compensation Board - removal of chairman

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. G. FILMON: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Crown Investments.

Last evening, in consideration of the Estimates of his department, in committee, the Minister indicated that any CEO in charge of a Crown corporation that lost upwards of \$50 million should be canned. Madam Speaker, the Minister was referring, at that time, to the CEO of the CBC, Mr. Pierre Juneau, who he referred to as a Liberal, who the federal Conservatives didn't even have the courage to fire because the Crown corporation had lost \$52 million.

Madam Speaker, in view of that comment by the super Minister of Crown Investments, I wonder if the Minister would now then be recommending to the Premier that he immediately remove the chairperson of the Workers Compensation Board, who has presided over the accumulation of an \$84 million deficit in the running of that corporation over the past three years.

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Crown Investments.

HON. G. DOER: Madam Speaker, it did indeed say that with Crowns, including the federal Crowns, when the members opposite were pursuing the MTS situation, that there were analogies to be made between the situation at the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation which lost \$52 million; yet no one was held accountable for that loss.

Madam Speaker, I believe that accountability should be a key with Crown corporations, and I believe that the situation where MTS, and the individuals involved in MTS, were held accountable is in stark contrast to the millions of dollars lost at CBC, the \$208 million lost at the holding company of the federal Crown corporation, the \$1.4 billion lost at Canadair, etc., etc.

MR. G. FILMON: Madam Speaker, that's precisely what we're talking about. Who is being held accountable for the \$84 million deficit at the Workers Compensation Board, if not the CEO?

MPIC - removal of chairman

MR. G. FILMON: Madam Speaker, my further question to the Minister is: In view of his very strongly-held feelings about a CEO losing over \$50 million, being removed, canned immediately by the government, will he then have the courage to recommend to his Premier the removal of the chairman of MPIC, who has lost \$58 million in this past year of operation at MPIC?

HON. G. DOER: Madam Speaker, again we have a situation where the members opposite are protecting their spineless federal counterparts, that couldn't hold anybody in the CBC accountable. Madam Speaker . . .

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MADAM SPEAKER: Order please.

May I remind all members that question period is not a time for debate.

HON. G. DOER: Madam Speaker, we had a situation where we were able to compare the action that the government took with MTS - it was a very serious situation - and the action that wasn't taken by the Federal Government with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. So, Madam Speaker, when members opposite gave us lectures in Estimates last night on holding people accountable, in terms of Crown corporations, we only have to look at the example of their federal counterparts, in terms of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

Manitoba Hydro - name of successful sale

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. H. ENNS: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, it is now a little over a year ago - in fact, during an election campaign - that the First Minister and the Minister responsible for Manitoba Hydro told Manitobans that they had successfully concluded three additional long-term energy sales. Madam Speaker, it was a Throne Speech, also of a little over a year ago, that made the flat statement that indeed they had successfully concluded three additional long-term energy sales.

My question to the Minister responsible for Manitoba Hydro is: Can he name one of those sales today that has been successfully concluded?

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Energy and Mines.

HON. W. PARASIUK: Madam Speaker, I'm pleased to indicate, as I indicated earlier in the House, that one of the sales was in fact concluded. It went before the National Energy Board and I believe it's been dealt with by the National Energy Board.

There are two others that are still being negotiated, and I have indicated previously in the House that those negotiations were taking longer, for a particular set of reasons, relating to the utilities, determining what the transmission arrangements would be south of the border. Those negotiations are still proceeding, and I know that the Member for Lakeside certainly would

hope, as I do, that those negotiations are successfully concluded.

I believe, Madam Speaker, that there is an excellent chance that that will happen.

Manitoba Hydro - future monitoring of sales

MR. H. ENNS: Madam Speaker, I direct this question to the Minister responsible for Crown corporations.

Madam Speaker, Manitobans now, right now, are spending in the range of \$70 million a month, all borrowed money; we're spending \$70 million a month now on hydro development. We heard from the Minister of Energy that we have concluded no additional major sales, as yet. I ask the Minister responsible for Manitoba Hydro, as a Crown corporation, who has been charged to carry out a very specific mandate by his Premier, to make sure that individual Ministers or individual corporations don't run away at taxpayers' expense, and then come to this Chamber with horrendous losses to report.

Is the Minister in charge of Manitoba Hydro, through Crown corporations, going to be monitoring any future expansion plans of Manitoba Hydro before additional sales are met and concluded?

HON. W. PARASIUK: Madam Speaker, as Minister responsible for Manitoba Hydro, I'm very pleased to answer that question because that question was full of so many inaccuracies it would be a disservice to the people of Manitoba to have that type of question on the record.

To begin with, the Limestone development is being built to meet Manitoba's needs. It is being built in such a way to ensure that we ameliorate that development impact on Manitoba through a firm power sale, Madam Speaker, of 500 megawatts to Northern States Power, which the Conservatives opposed. That 500 megawatt sale, which is concluded, went before the National Energy Board for 11 days of hearings. The Conservatives opposed it at that time; it was assessed for over three months and the National Energy Board confirmed everything that Manitoba Hydro said, saying it was a good deal for Manitoba, a good deal for Canada. The Conservatives were wrong then, Madam Speaker, and they are wrong today.

MR. H. ENNS: Madam Speaker, I want to make it very clear. I'm directing this question to the super Minister, the Minister responsible for Crown corporations.

MADAM SPEAKER: Order please.

May I remind honourable members that we address each other by our proper titles.

The Honourable Member for Lakeside with a question.

MR. H. ENNS: Madam Speaker, on a point of order.

I'm always prepared to accept your advice, but certainly when one reads the First Minister's glowing four-page press release that set up that Ministry, that set up the Member for Concordia in that particular role where he's in charge of MPIC, of Manitoba Hydro, Manitoba Telephones and 18 other Crown corporations,

then, Madam Speaker, I'm sure you would have the generosity within your heart to understand why we tend to refer to that as in some additional superlative way, super Minister, super something-or-other.

MADAM SPEAKER: Even in my most generous moments, the honourable member does not have a point of order.

Manitoba Hydro - department involvement in decisions re future expansion

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. H. ENNS: Madam Speaker, to the Minister responsible for some 18 Crown corporations, including Manitoba Hydro, who has been charged with specific responsibilities that include monitoring the kind of 9 percent and 10 percent hydro rate increases that the Minister directly responsible for Manitoba Hydro has already imposed on the Manitoba Hydro users, can he assure me that his department is involved in the day-to-day decision-making process with respect to any future expansion of Manitoba Hydro resources.

HON. W. PARASIUK: Madam Speaker, I have no problem deferring to one who can fly and walk on water, and we have incredible faith in people like that. But, clearly, the tradition and custom in the Legislature is for people who are responsible for the Crown corporations to report to the Legislature and deal with questions that are raised. Madam Speaker, the normal course is for these questions to be raised in the Legislative Committee, and I think we had three or four sessions of Legislative Committee where all these matters were raised by the Member for Lakeside. All of his comments, all of his questions were answered. They were answered in-depth, Madam Speaker, and we have the humorous situation now of the Member for Lakeside forgetting all the time of the Legislative Committee that he took and disregarding those answers completely.

The point is that we have a process whereby Manitoba Hydro staff, on a technical perspective assess this, they come to conclusions and make recommendations to the board, and the board makes recommendations to Cabinet with respect to power sales; and those, in fact, have been done and they have been done consistently over the years, at least under the New Democratic regime, Madam Speaker. I'm not sure about the Conservatives because they didn't know what they were doing at that time, but I can guarantee to the people of Manitoba that all the procedures have been followed clearly and accurately and the best staff we had was when an independent body of the Federal Government, appointed by Liberals, reappointed or kept by Conservatives, confirm everything that Manitoba Hydro had predicted.

Multicultural Task Force - purpose of

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Springfield.

MR. G. ROCH: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Yesterday when Oral Questions expired the Minister of Culture, Heritage and Recreation was giving - well, gave me, once again, a non-answer to a question which I posed.

Madam Speaker, my question to the Minister of Culture, Heritage and Recreation is, given the fact that on page 56 of the Supplementary Information it states: "The Manitoba Intercultural Council is an advisory and consultative body established to provide information and advice to the government on all matters relating to ethnocultural development in Manitoba."

Why then is the Minister wasting \$75,000 of the taxpayers' money on a task force when she already has such a group in place to perform that function?

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Culture, Heritage and Recreation.

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Yes, yesterday I said I was surprised at the member's question. I shouldn't have said I was surprised knowing the record of members opposite when it comes to minority groups in our society.- (Interjection)-

Madam Speaker . . .

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Springfield.

MR. G. ROCH: Madam Speaker, on a point of order.

I take exception to the what the Minister has just said. She is casting aspersions on members of this side. She is trying to claim that only they have any kind of authority over the minority groups, that kind of aspersions; I don't like it, I want her to withdraw those remarks.

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: Madam Speaker, I certainly wasn't casting any aspersions on members opposite. I was responding clearly to the fact that the Member for Springfield has called this important initiative on the part of the Government of Manitoba a waste of money.

I would think that's a comment on members opposite. I'm not reflecting on their personal integrity. I'm reflecting on the policies of members opposite.

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister, answer to the question.

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

It's obvious that members opposite have a different idea about this policy area and put a different level of importance on the whole question of multiculturalism.

We have felt it is such an important area that it requires an independent task force to review all aspects . . . - (Interjection)-

Madam Speaker, the Member for Springfield has suggested that this task force is a New Democratic committee. I am sure that all members of that task force are recognized, at least in all aspects of our society on the part of members opposite, of being a committee of incredible integrity and expertise in the area of multiculturalism.

Madam Speaker, because of the importance we attached to the area we felt that an independent review of all aspects of multiculturalism should be carried out. Madam Speaker, this is in full recognition of the expertise that the Manitoba Intercultural Council also brings to the process, and it's for that reason that Manitoba Intercultural Council is represented on the task force, and it is for that reason that the Council will have an opportunity to have input throughout the process of consultations and upon receipt of recommendations of the task force.

I would think, Madam Speaker, that if this government carried out a review . . .

MADAM SPEAKER: Order please.

May I remind the Minister that answers to questions should be brief.

The Honourable Member for Springfield.

MR. G. ROCH: Madam Speaker, the fact is that this task force is a duplication of the parameters that the Manitoba Intercultural Council already has in place.

I would suggest that the Minister has no faith in the Manitoba Intercultural Council . . .

MADAM SPEAKER: Does the honourable member have a question?

MR. G. ROCH: Yes, I do, Madam Speaker.

Does the Minister not have faith in the Manitoba Intercultural Council and her own staff to deliver what this task force is supposed to be doing?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: Madam Speaker, I hate to even stoop so low as to answer a question like that.-(Interjection)-

Madam Speaker, the very nature of this task force, Madam Speaker, suggests that we have full faith in the importance of the Manitoba Intercultural Council.

In fact, Madam Speaker, the Manitoba Intercultural Council was one of the big forces behind the idea of a complete review of our policies on multiculturalism. Madam Speaker, I think that's an indication that the Manitoba Intercultural Council has complete faith in this government and in our commitment to a truly multicultural society.

Waterfowl season - announcement of

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Emerson.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Natural Resources.

In December of 1984, the waterfowl season for 1985 was announced and very late last summer, the season for last year was announced, causing untold thousands of dollars of losses to lodge owners because of lack of bookings.

Can the Minister of Natural Resources indicate when he will be announcing the waterfowl season for the upcoming year?

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Natural Resources.

HON. L. HARAPIAK: Madam Speaker, the question of waterfowl seasons, of course, has two dimensions to it, the date and the bag limits. The bag limits are established once the pond surveys are done, involving the Canadian Wildlife Federation and provincial agencies, including Ducks Unlimited.

But as far as the dates of the season, we will look at determining these at an earlier time than we did last year, in order to facilitate those who are taking bookings.

Competition Assistance Grants Program - expansion of

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Emerson.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: Madam Speaker, I have another question to the Minister of Finance.

On May 8 of this year, the Minister of Finance announced a new program and it indicates that, in order to protect Manitoba businesses from unfair competition, our government is prepared to establish the Competition Assistance Grants Program to service stations along our U.S. border.

Can the Minister indicate whether this program has been initiated, and whether he was prepared to expand it, to include other businesses along border towns that are suffering the same discrimination, in terms of high taxes and unfair cost competition with the people across the line?

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Finance.

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

The program that I had announced at that time was one that was to deal with the problem of merchants in the retail gas industry along the Manitoba-U.S. border, who are faced with the situation because of the differential in prices and are losing business.

The main difference in the price, as the member is aware, is the markup by the oil companies, between the price that they charge their retailers in Manitoba, as against the price that they ship the same gas down to the U.S.; about 40 percent of the differential is through oil company markups.

MR. C. MANNESS: What about the tax?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: The Member for Morris asks: "What about the tax?" Yes, the next biggest item in that markup is the Federal Government's tax; the difference between the tax of the Federal Government in Canada and the federal taxes in the U.S.

The smallest part of the differential is the Provincial Government fuel taxes; that is the difference between the tax that we charge in Manitoba and state taxes. What I had suggested to the companies and to the Federal Government was a cooperative range between the Federal Government, who is responsible for about 40 percent, the oil companies and the Provincial Government; where we would share the cost of that differential.

To date, I have no reply from the Federal Minister of Finance nor the Manitoba members of Parliament.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: To the same Minister, Madam Speaker. First of all, I wonder if he could indicate whether he's then planning to drop that program; and if he's planning to continue with that program, whether he will consider expanding it to include other businesses that are suffering the same kind of discriminatory price variations between Manitoba and the States that is happening with the service station industry.

HON. E. KOSTYRA: Madam Speaker, again, the position of the government, with respect to the competition assistance, is that we are prepared to play our role and to deal with our part of the problem. To date, I have had a response from the oil companies indicating that they are studying the matter. Regrettably, I have had no acknowledgement, no response from the Federal Government in regard to their participation in such a program.

Churchill teachers' housing - re-evaluation of policy

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for River Heights.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Housing.

On three occasions since December of 1986 I have asked this Minister to re-evaluate her disastrous housing policy with regard to teachers being evicted from housing in Churchill, specifically built for those teachers. Now it has come to light, Madam Speaker, that we have 12 of 20 teachers - representing 185 years of teaching experience - resigning from teaching positions in the Town of Churchill.

Will the Minister responsible for Housing rectify her errors and change her policy, in order to ensure the young people of Churchill an enriched environment within their education setting, only provided by experienced teachers?

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Housing.

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, I think it's clear that this government has done everything that could possibly be done to help provide decent and affordable housing to the teachers of that community and also to other residents of that community.

It's a situation where, when there was no alternative housing, we agreed to make the housing from the Manitoba Housing Corporation available to the teachers. We have now reached the point where the housing needs of other residents in the community, for whom those housing units were originally built, and where the need is greater and where there is no alternative housing for them; it is necessary that we make that housing available now for other residents of the community.

I believe, Madam Speaker, that there are a number of teachers who are leaving at the end of the term, but who were leaving prior to any decision related to housing. In other words, those teachers' contracts are up, Madam Speaker, and they had already made

decisions to leave, and the school board is going to have to find replacements, as is often the case in northern and remote communities, that it is not related to the decision to evict.

Churchill Housing Authority - complaints re income levels

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: Madam Speaker, a supplementary question to the same Minister.

Will the Minister investigate residents' complaints that individuals with incomes far above the level of low income, are, in fact, slated to move into the apartments vacated by the teachers?

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Madam Speaker, I think that I've made it clear, when I've answered in the House previously, that it is our intention to make the housing units available to those people who qualify under the existing criteria and who have no other options for decent housing.

If the member has any specific information about any individual or any particular case that she thinks is being allowed inappropriately to stay in that accommodation, I would be delighted to look into it.

Churchill Housing Authority - provision of waiting list

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: A final supplementary to the same Minister.

Will the Minister provide to this House the waiting list for two, three and four-bedroom apartment units in the Churchill Housing Authority, as residents and a member of the Churchill Housing Authority tell me no such list exists?

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Madam Speaker, I think it's important to recognize the role that is played by the Housing Authorities, not only in Churchill but in all other communities where they exist. That is a role that we have endorsed and supported and that is where members of the community, who are appointed and named to that board and who have the responsibility for carrying out decisions, are the ones who make decisions about accommodation and we do not interfere with that.

Condominium corporations - reserve funds

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. C. BIRT: Thank you, Madam Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Housing.

Given that currently condominium corporations are not required to institute a reserve fund that the unit owners must contribute to; and given the fact that condominium corporations can at least total \$1 million or more; and given the fact that the government seems to want to increase or create a reserve fund; is it the government's policy to create a reserve fund of 5 percent per replacement value for corporations, thereby

increasing the amount of common-element fees that unit owners will have to pay to the corporation and, in some cases, doubling that amount per month?

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Housing.

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Madam Speaker, I'm going to take that question as notice, so I can make sure I'm providing full information, after I've had a chance to investigate the matter.

Condominium legislation - cooling-off period

MR. C. BIRT: Madam Speaker, a supplementary question to the same Minister.

Currently there is one 48-hour cooling-off period in the legislation governing condominium corporations. Is it the government's policy now to provide two cooling-off periods, of 48 hours each, when an individual buys a unit in the condominium?

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Madam Speaker, I believe that it is our intention just to provide one 48-hour cooling-off period after the individual, who is buying the unit, has signed the contract to buy the condominium; and that allows them 48 hours in which to review all the fine print and fully understand all the implications of condominium ownership, which often goes far beyond the buying of a single-family unit.

Condominium legislation - amendments to act

MR. C. BIRT: A final supplementary question to the same Minister.

Is it the intention of this Minister to make amendments to the current act that was introduced to the Legislature last week, because staff members have advised certain representatives of the Condo Corporation, a group in Manitoba, that certain amendments will be made to the present bill?

If that is the case, will the Minister please advise this House what amendments they're contemplating, before we complete second debate on the bill; so we can know how to handle the issues that the Minister will put forward as it relates to the revised Condominium Act?

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Madam Speaker, there are some amendments that are presently being contemplated and I believe that all of those amendments would fall into the category of minor amendment changes, not significant policy changes, but deal with perhaps the writing of particular clauses as they relate to some other clauses that existed in the act, and making sure that they conform.

However, if when I review them, it appears that there are any that are not in that category, that are in the policy area, which I don't believe there are presently, I will certainly inform the members opposite right away.

MR. C. BIRT: Madam Speaker, a final supplementary question arising out of something that the Minister has

just said in her answer, that the indications by her staff to representatives of the Condominium Association of Manitoba that there would be some substantial changes to the legislation, not minor technical.

Therefore, I think it's imperative that we have this information in the House prior to our debating this matter, and if it is, would she at least advise us what those particular changes will be, whether they be substantial or minor, before we can debate the bill on Second Reading?

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Yes, I think it sounds quite reasonable too, Madam Speaker.

I have been made aware of some changes that are in the process of being made that I would put in the category of minor and technical changes.

There has been a meeting with that organization, with members of my staff and I have not yet been apprised of the discussions that were held in that meeting. If in the course of the next couple of days, when I'm informed of the results of the meeting, I find out that there is some requirement to make major changes or anything that would become a policy change, I will notify the members opposite as soon as I have determined that.

AIDS - screening of prisoners

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for River East.

MRS. B. MITCHELSON: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Health.

Yesterday in question period the Minister for Community Services and Corrections indicated that in consultation with the Department of Health, they have developed a policy for screening of target and risk groups in our penal institutions.

Can the Minister of Health indicate to me, who the target and risk groups are in these penal institutions?

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Madam Speaker, yesterday while announcing our policy on AIDS I made it quite clear that it was an interdepartmental committee of all the departments, and the departments were asked to bring in any concern, or anything dealing with their department. For instance, a question was asked yesterday in the House, the prisoners and so on, to this committee, to the Department of Health, to see what would be done on this.

It is the responsibility of that department to bring that to the attention of the committee.

AIDS - screening guidelines

MRS. B. MITCHELSON: Madam Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Health, given the fact that the Minister of Community Services did say that those in target and risk groups are currently being screened in the penal institutions, who sets the guidelines for these policies; and is there not consultation; and is the Department of Health not ultimately responsible for that decision-making?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Madam Speaker, I'll repeat that there is an interdepartmental committee, all the departments involved, and they are to bring this to the attention of this committee, chaired by Health, and then the decisions will be made.

A MEMBER: We don't even know what the . . .

MADAM SPEAKER: Order please.

AIDS - screening protection of hospital staff and patients

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for River East has the floor.

MRS. B. MITCHELSON: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Given the fact that there's a policy in place in the penal institutions and they've decided to isolate suspected AIDS carriers and subject them to mandatory screening, will the Minister of Health consider affording the same protection, Madam Speaker, to the staff and the patients of our hospitals, as they are providing to the prisoners in our penal institutions?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Madam Speaker, I also announced yesterday that I had requested the department to get in touch with the hospital immediately to make sure that there's a proper policy, and that that policy would be adhered to, to protect the staff of the hospital. I made that announcement yesterday.

Manfor - additional information

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Riel.

MR. G. DUCHARME: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is to the Minister responsible for Manfor.

I advised the Minister at the recent hearings that receiving a glossy report only three days before the committee hearing was insufficient time to try to decipher what this government has done in the last year three years. I was informed by the Minister at the time that the one-line type of reporting was sufficient information. The mention of competition information, etc. was very important.

My question to the Minister, Madam Speaker, is: Could the Minister explain what additional information he receives, and what procedures he uses before signing his name to such a document?

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister responsible for Manfor.

HON. J. STORIE: Yes, Madam Speaker. The member did raise those questions or similar questions in the committee.

I believe that the chairman of the board of directors indicated to the member that the form of the annual report this year, the financial statement, was consistent with corporate reports, similar corporations in the forest products industry and other industries that I am familiar with, certainly the mining industry. As well, Madam Speaker, I pointed out to the member, as did the

chairman of the board, that this format was approved by the Provincial Auditor. I assume that the member opposite has no quarrel with the Provincial Auditor's decision. I think it reflects the financial situation of Manfor. The members had the right and the duty to ask any questions they felt were necessary, Madam Speaker. I believe that they asked those questions and they were answered.

Manfor - discrepancy of figures

MR. G. DUCHARME: Madam Speaker, I did ask the Minister what information he does before he signs the report. However, on page 24 of the 1983 report, note No. 9 - it's a new question to the Minister. It explains that Manfor was relieved of \$51 million. That was by the Order-in-Council dated November 30, 1983 - 1296. Yet the note of the glossy report of 1986, it takes into account the Manfor recovery of the \$3 million. When explaining that in the 1986 information, item No. 7 mentions Order-in-Council 1296 as of April 30.

Madam Speaker, my question to the Minister. In that particular report, it states 59 million. Could the Minister please tell the House what has happened to the additional \$8 million?

HON. J. STORIE: Madam Speaker, the short answer to that question is that in 1986, Manfor reported a cash profit of \$2.6 million.

MR. G. DUCHARME: Madam Speaker, a new question to clarify what I asked.

I asked in regard to section 7, that it mentions \$59 million. Could the Minister explain to me why there's a difference of \$8 million from those two or three reports? That's all I've asked.

HON. J. STORIE: Madam Speaker, I don't know if the member wants to get into a detailed discussion of accounting principles. The answer is quite simple, Madam Speaker. It is the treatment of previous losses of Manfor. The \$56 million that the member referred to were losses that incurred by Manfor since inception; and the \$3 million that was referred to were recoveries that came about as a result of the ongoing legal dispute that was carried on and the settlement that related to that. Madam Speaker, essentially the difference in those figures is the accounting principles that are used in tracking both the previous losses and the current revenues that flow because of the legal decisions.

Madam Speaker, the Provincial Auditor has indicated that the financial reports are as they should be, and the notes that are attached to that report clearly identify any changes that have resulted from year to year, that it's clearly standard procedure.

Manfor - specific Order-in-Council

MR. G. DUCHARME: To the same Minister, will the Minister also tell us what particular Order-in-Council he's referring to on November 30, 1985, dealing with the same item, item No. 7 that mentions the \$59 million?

HON. J. STORIE: I'm not sure, Madam Speaker, if the member is tying that question to his first question. I

assume that it has to do with a Cabinet decision to restructure the financial situation at Manfor. The Provincial Auditor was apprised of the intentions that Manfor had, and approved of the transfers that occurred in one accounting system to another; and, Madam Speaker, I'm not sure what the member's point is. The Provincial Auditor has approved the financial statement.

MR. G. DUCHARME: A final supplementary.

What I'd like to ask the Minister is: Was there an Order-in-Council dated November 30, 1985?

HON. J. STORIE: Madam Speaker, I assume that there was. There was also a financial report tabled in this House for the year 1986. The committee had an opportunity to review that statement with the Manfor officials, including the chairman of the board and the chief executive officer, Madam Speaker, and they indicated that thus far, in 1987, they had a net profit of \$1.6 million.

The Water Resources Act - effects of

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Gladstone.

MRS. C. OLESON: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Natural Resources.

I'd like to know what information the Minister's Office has sent out to the municipalities of the province, to explain the effects of The Water Resources Act and the regulations which were recently published?

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Natural Resources.

HON. L. HARAPIAK: Madam Speaker, we are indeed anxious to have the information go out to the municipalities. Indeed, last night I was requested to attend a meeting in Morris and it's unfortunate that arrangements were not agreed to, to have me attend. So on the one hand, members opposite seem to suggest that we are not doing sufficient work to communicate with the municipalities; on the other, where there are opportunities to communicate, they would be part of denying us that process.

We have submitted information, Madam Speaker, and I will be prepared to table with the members opposite, the material that had been sent to the municipalities.

MADAM SPEAKER: The time for Oral Questions has expired.

ORDERS OF THE DAY HOUSE BUSINESS

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Government House Leader.

HON. J. COWAN: Madam Speaker, I believe there is a disposition to forego Private Members' Hour today, by leave.

MADAM SPEAKER: Is that agreed? (Agreed)

The Honourable Government House Leader.

HON. J. COWAN: Also, Madam Speaker, it's on a matter of House Business, I'll be calling, in agreement with the Opposition members, the Committee of Public Utilities and Natural Resources for Thursday at 10:00 a.m., this Thursday, the 28th, to continue its review of the Manitoba Telephone System Annual Report.

I therefore move, Madam Speaker, seconded by the Minister of Labour, 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 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 Lac du Bonnet in the Chair for the Department of Municipal Affairs.

CONCURRENT COMMITTEES OF SUPPLY SUPPLY - MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

MR. CHAIRMAN, C. Baker: Committee, come to order. The Honourable Member for Gladstone.

MRS. C. OLESON: My questions are with regard to policing in incorporated villages, particularly the incorporated village of Treherne. They have come to that state where, because of their numbers, they are being charged for RCMP services. The magic number, I believe, is 750 and they have reached a number of 762.

I will just quote to the Minister some of the costs that are going to be incurred because of that. In 1987, it will take 13.4 mills to be added, which will mean for an assessed property of \$10,000, the police levy will be \$134.00. In 1988, the cost will go to 24.2 mills, so in that year, the same assessment brings the levy to \$242, and it goes on from there. Now, this is a major expense and a major addition to the mill rate of a small village.

I'm wondering if the Minister can foresee any solution to this. Is there not a little leniency in the numbers? This is 12 people. In our towns in rural Manitoba, we would like to encourage people to come and live there, but when we get to the point we have to stand out in the highway and stop them because of these costs, it's more than ridiculous.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: I believe there are two communities that are in that bind this year, Treherne and Hamiota. Certainly the concerns that the member has expressed and the views have been expressed I believe in the House or in the media are something that I'm somewhat sympathetic with, and this would be another item on our agenda for the advisory committee to hear their views as to how we deal with this issue. I can appreciate that, when you're suddenly faced with those kind of mill rate increases, it is a shock and there ought to be some way, and I hope that there

will be some recommendation, that we can find the funds to in one manner or another phase in that increase so it doesn't come as one big bump.

MRS. C. OLESON: Is the Minister saying that at exactly the number of 750, that's when this clicks in, there isn't a leeway at all?

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: Unfortunately there isn't. Somewhere along the way the line has to be drawn and it might well be that perhaps more fair would be to have a buffer zone of 50 either way, of that 750 mark, and phase in the increases. I don't know if that has been looked at in the past but certainly I'll be awaiting the benefit of the advice of the advisory committee.

MRS. C. OLESON: Mr. Chairman, well, not only of course has the local paper picked it up, but I had a letter from a pensioner who points out the expenses of paying for all the things in a community: skating rinks, curling rinks, swimming pools and golf courses and everything, and then to have this. They're constantly being asked to donate either through taxes or by other means to the upkeep of the village. It is already expensive without adding this extra burden.

So, I hope the Minister looks at it in the very near future to see that there can be more equity put into the system because some areas, of course, due to the fact of whether they're incorporated or not, there are so many variables that go into it and are not getting taxed this way and the people who are see it as a very unfair tax.

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: I thank the member for her views.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Arthur.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Well, Mr. Chairman, seeing that we're back on the subject, I think there are four communities that are affected in the way in which my colleague brings up. Sioux Valley, Treherne, Hamiota, Gods Lake, I believe are the four communities that are affected if the report that I have is accurate.

My only concern, Mr. Chairman, is that: No. 1 - Is he sure the numbers are accurate? No. 2 - Are we in the position now of saying that the people of Manitoba have to suffer because of this government's inability to manage the public affairs by the removal of RCMP services?

I realise that this is under formula, but I want to go back on the subject I was on last night.

I raised the issue about the RCMP removal from Deloraine and Reston and the agreement to which they've entered into. I've been phoned this morning by some people from Reston, extremely concerned that the RCMP has no job description who is going there. He doesn't know whether he's working out of Virden or whether he's supposed to work out of Reston. The whole thing is in disarray.

Mr. Chairman, what we need from the government is to say, yes, RCMP is a priority. We're not going to let an increase in population by 12 people foist onto the local taxpayers a cost that they're unable to pay.

So, if they're unable to pay it, do they lose the RCMP, or is the government not going to turn it over to the Advisory Committee? Will the Minister of Municipal Affairs say, yes, it is my priority to make sure RCMP coverage is provided for the communities in Manitoba, rural and urban? That's the kind of policy statement I would like him to make.

You know, they play this game of trying to say: How would you spend your money? How would you save money? Well, I can tell you there are many examples, Mr. Chairman, of how we would do it and how we did do it when we were in office and we're quite prepared to go back in and demonstrate how responsibly it can be done again. One of the things, Mr. Chairman, will not be to remove the essential service such as RCMP. I think that it's a matter of going out and negotiating with those communities before decisions are made by the hierarchy of this incompetent government.

Mr. Chairman, I know my colleagues have got, possibly, some more questions dealing with the policing, but I want to spend a few minutes more on the whole area of grants and that problem that we're faced with with depopulation.

Has the Minister today come up with any alternative policy proposals or programs in which over the longer term will alleviate some of the cost increases on municipalities that are losing population. Has he got any programs or policies that he didn't have last night that he could help us with and enunciate this afternoon?

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: Let me just address some the questions that have been raised in some sort of order, as they were raised. First of all, the figures that we use are, I believe, preliminary figures as provided by Stats Canada. The reason I had indicated that I was only aware of two municipalities where there was an increase in population which would require the local residents picking up the police costs is that in fact only Hamiota and Treherne are responsibilities of the Department of Municipal Affairs. The other two would probably be Northern Affairs and Sioux Valley might be under the federal jurisdiction. So I was quite correct when I said "only two".

The questions that the Member for Arthur is raising; the Attorney-General has just completed his Estimates. I would hope that a lot of those questions would have been answered at that time. If the Member for Arthur didn't have the opportunity to discuss the agreements between Ottawa and Manitoba and those two levels of government in the individual towns, then I would suggest that it might still be quite proper to raise those questions in question period. Certainly, I don't have all the details as to how the agreements were arrived at, how the costs are split.

However, I do know, and this does come within my responsibilities, that a number of years ago through a committee formed by the former Minister of Municipal Affairs, a formula was adopted by which those communities that were paying more than the provincial average for policing costs are being provided some assistance. We went through that last night and that is certainly something that ought to be reviewed again, I would think as the costs are increasing and as we are approaching the ten-year contract with Ottawa at which time the costs for the province will be 70 percent

or 76 percent, whatever it may be. It would be quite appropriate over the next number of years to review that whole formula to see if there is a fair way of distributing those costs.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, I am saying to the Minister, through you to the Minister of Municipal Affairs, he has the responsibility for certain areas in the Provincial Government. Yes - Police Service Grants, all the area of support to the municipalities, comes in that area.

Yes, I did ask questions of the Attorney-General. His department should know a lot more about it than he does. He, Mr. Chairman, should know specifically the agreement that was entered into by Deloraine, and by Winchester, and by Brenda. If he doesn't, then I would advise that he does get ahold of it, Mr. Chairman.

I would advise that he look into, and I still will not tolerate, a double taxation on those two municipalities. He hasn't given me a clear answer as to whether or not they're going to be exempt from the half mill provincial tax for RCMP or police protection. He hasn't given those towns of 750 or more, any assurance that he's going to deal with it in an effective way.

I would expect a positive answer from him that he's not going to see untoward costs incurred by those residents, to the point, Mr. Chairman, where they may be threatened to lose their RCMP. Does he want to let it go to that stage, if the local people cannot handle the costs? What is he prepared to do? Is he prepared to put some money on the table? Or, is he going to come back and say, "Well, we have to save money; it's a cost-saving measure."

Mr. Chairman, police protection - and I say this with the greatest of respect for the Minister of Municipal Affairs - it is his responsibility as a Cabinet Minister to see that the property of people, the lives of people, are protected by police services. Mr. Chairman, that's what this is that we're debating. I would hope he would take ahold of it. In fact, Mr. Chairman, he has got the town in his riding that is losing police protection. He has not stood up in defence of that community. I'm astounded, Mr. Chairman, that he would be pushed around by the Attorney-General.

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: By the RCMP.

MR. J. DOWNEY: There he goes, he says "by the RCMP"

Mr. Chairman, I can tell you that during our term of office, I'm sure recommendations came from the RCMP as to what towns should not have it and shouldn't have it. . . .

A MEMBER: Did you cut any Northern . . .

MR. J. DOWNEY: No, there weren't any RCMP stations or positions cut in any communities during our term of office, Mr. Chairman. But there are major cuts during this term of office and one of them is in the Minister's own riding and he should be embarrassed by it. In fact, Mr. Chairman, it will probably make sure that he won't get back after the next election.

Mr. Chairman, I can tell you that the RCMP removal in Winnipeg Beach had not taken place prior to the

last election. In fact, it was kept under wraps until after the last election. That's right. Like many other things, they didn't come clean with the taxpayers as the Premier of the province went around promising that 50 percent of bridges and firehalls and infrastructure would be picked up by the province. Now they're saying they're waiting on the Federal Government to make a decision.

There was a commitment by the Premier of this province and it hasn't been lived up to and I'll bet that it won't be lived up to - for political purposes.

Mr. Chairman, my colleague has a question or two dealing with this section and all I want the Minister to know is that he'd better get ahold of what's happening within his jurisdiction. The support for municipal councils when it comes to policing, the support for municipal councils when it comes to the reduction or the loss of, or the gaining of population in towns when it comes to the removal of support through the grant system, he has to carry some responsibility for. After all, he is the Minister responsible for municipal corporations, in case he's not aware of it.

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: I'd like to respond to a few of the comments.

First of all, with respect to the agreement between the RCMP and the municipalities of Winchester and Brenda, I can't comment on that agreement because I'm told there is no agreement. It won't be signed until September of this year and I'm not a clairvoyant who can tell the Member for Arthur what is in some document that will be considered in about two or three months time.

With respect to the policing costs and, specifically, with respect to Winnipeg Beach, I know the member would like to leave us with the impression that he's very responsible, getting value for dollars and so on. But I want to assure the member that I sat in a meeting with the Attorney-General with one of the highest-ranking officers from the RCMP in Manitoba, with the Mayor and a delegation . . .

MR. J. DOWNEY: I sat in a meeting with the highest officer of the RCMP, Mr. Chairman.

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: Mr. Chairperson, I'm being interrupted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: . . . interrupt the member.
Mr. Minister.

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: When the RCMP clearly shows us that 80 percent of their work is done in two months of the year and they can propose a way that the residents of the area can get equal or better protection, better services than they're having at the present time at a lesser cost, then I think the Member for Arthur is being somewhat irresponsible by not considering the situation as pointed out to us by the RCMP, who are not political incidentally.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, the Minister of Municipal Affairs is here to represent his constituency, not to be bulldozed around or bullied around by his colleagues. He's here to protect that constituency which he represents. As a Cabinet Minister, he should be doing so and, as an MLA, he should be doing so.

If he accepted the argument from the RCMP that its a cost-saving measure, then he got sold a bag of bolts. If he listened to what the Department of the Attorney-General told him as far as cost-saving, he got sold the same story that can't be substantiated. There isn't a nickel of cost-saving for the RCMP moves that have taken place. It is just, in fact, a reorganization of the RCMP staffing.

In fact, he doesn't even know, Mr. Chairman. His colleague told us there was a slight reduction in RCMP staff. He indicated last night there was an increase.

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: Might have been.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Might have been. Well, he couched his words.

Mr. Chairman, the point is that there would have had to be a massive reduction in RCMP numbers of staff officers to reduce and to have any cost saving. There had to be a major removal of officers, and there wasn't.

The agreement which the Minister refers to between Ottawa and the province has an escalator in it which will at some point, by 1990, 1991, cost the province 64 percent of - that's the top rate of which they'll have to pay.- (Interjection)- No, it's 64 percent. I've got a copy of the agreement which I can give the Minister. It's too bad he hadn't taken time to spend a little bit of time and protect his constituency.

Mr. Chairman, the point I want to conclude on this is that he has a responsibility not only for his constituency, but for the constituency in which I represent supporting municipal councils. I will not tolerate two municipal councils in my constituency having to be double-taxed. I am sure the Chairman as former Reeve of his municipality wouldn't tolerate his constituents being double-taxed for RCMP protection.

I can tell the Minister of Municipal Affairs as well, as I understand it, the agreement is signed or awfully close to being signed. It comes into effect the first part of September, but the signing of the agreement has actually taken place or very close to it.

His own Deputy told him last night that they were part of and had been part of the negotiations. So, Mr. Chairman, if the Minister isn't prepared to take a more serious look at it than that, then he'll have to suffer the consequences when he faces his electorate in his own riding.

Mr. Chairman, things are happening out in the country. The Minister maybe should just take a little bit of a look once in awhile and see what's happening out there as far as the area in which he is supposed to represent and, as well, the municipal corporate bodies.

Mr. Chairman, I have no further questions dealing with this section, although my colleague has, I believe.

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: Again, before your colleague starts asking some questions, I will stand by the figures that I provided yesterday. My understanding is that the provincial cost of RCMP services will increase to in the neighbourhood of 70 percent by 1990; it may be 64 percent at the present time. I believe it's increasing at 2 percent per annum and has about three more years before the maximum is reached and will have to be renegotiated by that time.

Insofar as to what the cost is of maintaining a specific detachment, if I am not to believe the RCMP figures,

if I am not to believe the figures provided by the Attorney-General's office, I really find it difficult to accept the fact that I am to believe the figures as developed by the Member for Arthur. I guess I would have to question where that expertise comes from that isn't found in those other two areas.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Emerson.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: Mr. Chairman, I want to raise an issue with the Minister of Municipal Affairs, and this is related to the Bible colleges. Under the "Grants in Lieu," I think that's probably where this category, if we want to be technical about where it should be dealt.

Mr. Chairman, I brought in a Private Member's bill, Bill No. 17, which was introduced and has had two debates going on it, at which time - I don't know how much attention was paid by the Minister or by his colleagues at the time when I introduced it, exactly what has happened.

But I want to indicate once more that, in a letter that was written by the then Minister of Municipal Affairs, Mr. Anstett, on May 29, 1985 - no, it was written later - where the Minister writes: "The proposed amendment will extend the same privilege of exemption from both school and municipal taxes currently afforded to public and private schools and/or universities, to church colleges meeting this classified criteria. The details of this amendment are presently being worked out by my staff, in conjunction with the Department of Education, so that implementation can occur at the earliest possible date." That was the letter that was sent to Mr. Hightower of the Nazarene Bible College.

Subsequent to further communication that took place, the Minister finally writes: "I can confirm that initial steps were taken to prepare an amendment to The Municipal Assessment Act, as noted in my predecessor's letter and, despite initial favourable reaction to the provision of tax exemptions, consideration of further detail has resulted in a negative decision."

What I want to ask the Minister is what happened from the time that the letter was written to Mr. Hightower to the time that he responded to my request as to what was happening. Why was there a change in direction in terms of a commitment that was made to the Bible colleges.

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: I was just reviewing this letter to the Member for Emerson. The member is quite correct that there had been a letter from my predecessor indicating, I suppose in principle, support for the idea of an exemption for the colleges in question. Frankly, one of the reasons that it was our decision not to move at this time is that, as we all know, we are in a process of assessment reform, and it was hoped that this would occur in some sort of a systematic way.

One of the problems - and I know the member has Bill 17 at the present time - with that bill is it doesn't go far enough. I don't know if we can amend a bill, but I will let the Member for Emerson know that, in spirit, I support the intent of that bill. However, there are other, many, equally worthy institutions that are, at the present time, asking for similar exemptions.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: Mr. Chairman, to the Minister, I am dumbfounded by the kind of statement that he's

just made. He says he supports this bill and it doesn't go far enough. Then why would he not have initiated some new amendment to The Municipal Act to accommodate?

This is a hurt that's taking place right now and has taken place for a long time. If the Minister is indicating that he's supporting it in principle, and that he knows that an injustice is being done, then certainly why wouldn't he support this bill at the present time? We know there's still two or three years before the major assessment review is going to take place and things fall into place. They need the relief now.

This injustice has been there for a long time. Other colleges have received it. St. John's College, St. Paul's College, St. Boniface College, St. Andrew's College - all these colleges have that benefit. Why cannot we approve this bill? Why cannot we proceed with it and give them the benefit of it now?

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: Well, I'm surprised that the member is dumbfounded.

I said that I felt that part of the problem with that bill is that it doesn't go far enough. Those other institutions that I'm referring to are hurting equally as much as the colleges.

A MEMBER: Name them, name them.

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: As a class? As a class? Day care centres. Day care centres are paying municipal and school taxes in many situations. Now I don't know how we could just say "okay, we're going to give that exemption at the present time to one group of institutions - the colleges - but you poor folks in the day cares from Morris," - not Morris, I'm sorry - "from Carman and from a number of rural communities, from within the city," saying "sorry folks, you're going to have to wait until 1990." I think that, hopefully, there can be found within the very near future some way of addressing both of those concerns.

Incidentally, the other problem is that my understanding of the resolution, and I don't know if I have it here - yes, I do - it calls for an exemption. Certainly, I've been receiving correspondence from individuals who are supportive of this resolution . . . "Why aren't you treating the colleges in the same way you treat St. John's or St. Paul's or whatever?"

The fact, as the member knows, the Province of Manitoba, through our department, I believe, provides for grants in lieu of taxes to the city, to the municipal jurisdictions. This bill would require an expenditure of probably in excess of \$200,000 unless we wanted to exempt them without any compensation for the City of Winnipeg or the R.M. of De Salaberry or whatever.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: Mr. Chairman, I have difficulty how the Minister is trying to rationalize his position. He compares the Bible colleges with day care centres and says we've got to treat everybody fair . . .

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: They are equally worthy institutions.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: . . . until we come up with something. You know, we waited many years for the

reassessment or for the proper review to be done of the assessment system. What the Minister is telling me, that yes, it is unfair what is happening to these colleges, but we will leave it that way because I don't know how to deal with it any further because there's other people unhappy as well.

What we're asking for is fairness for these colleges as well as these other colleges. In the private members' bill it does not say anything about grants in lieu of taxes. It just asks for exemption from taxation at this stage of the game. I know full well the implications of that to the R.M. of De Salaberry or to the City of Winnipeg. They will, between the four of them, or between the two jurisdictions, lose \$212,000 in taxes. I'm well aware of that.

I am not asking for grants in lieu of taxes because it could not be brought forward. That is why I ask, in the name of fairness, for this Minister to allow that bill to go through rather than have these colleges pay their taxes for another three years.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister of Education.

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, I think the Member for Emerson is pleading a case that, obviously, members on this side have some sympathy with. The fact is that I have met with representatives of the colleges in question as well, and they are in difficult circumstances.

I think the analogy that the Minister of Municipal Affairs makes with day care centres is one that holds water. I think that the analogy that the Bible colleges make with St. John's College or St. Andrew's doesn't hold water. Those are public institutions and have been, for a considerable length of time, funded by the public and it's simply something that has been done with other public educational institutions over a long period of time.

We're being asked, and the Member for Emerson is asking us, to really impose a cost-measure on a municipality. If we were doing this for foisting off costs onto the municipality by acts of the Legislature to the R.M. of - I don't know what the Member for Arthur's R.M. is in Melita - but the municipalities in the Member for Arthur's area, the Member for Emerson and his colleagues would be hitting the roof. They'd say "You can't just turn around and unilaterally, by an act of the Legislature, have the municipalities paying this kind of money. They can't afford to forego that kind of taxes." They're talking out of both sides of their mouth, Mr. Chairperson.

The fact of the matter is that the municipalities can make a decision to relieve the colleges of their obligations. I haven't seen the Member for Emerson going before the council of the R.M. of De Salaberry or the Member for Arthur or any of his colleagues before the City Council of Winnipeg demanding some relief. That's where the relief can be given.

And if you are so concerned, as you pretend to be, then let's see you take the initiative and go with the colleges and go before the municipalities and make that plea because they have the power to give relief. They don't need any further authorization by the Department of Municipal Affairs. They don't need a change in legislation. And if you are really concerned, let's see your support where your support belongs.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: Mr. Chairman, I'm glad that the Minister of Education spoke up because he is the other side of the dirty coin that is opposing this unfairness. He is not treating this issue fairly because the previous Minister of Education, along with the Minister of Municipal Affairs, both gave their commitment to this thing, and this Minister here and that Minister there are the ones that are reneging on it.

I'm asking - I've asked in fairness when I pleaded my case with that bill when I presented the bill - I'm asking again. You people talk of fairness, you want fairness, the government to deal fairly - everybody agrees it is not fair - and you're throwing up road blocks, you come up with day care centres, you come up with all kinds of other issues. That is not the point.

You have indicated in the House that you want to deal fairly with the people of Manitoba. These people have not been dealt with fairly for many, many years. You use other provinces, for an example, Saskatchewan and Alberta, and with many cases what has happened there. In this particular case, compare what other provinces do - Manitoba is the only province which does not exempt, to some degree or totally, Bible colleges.

So if you want to talk about fairness, what you're telling me right now, this Minister of Education and Minister of Municipal Affairs, that we're going to put this unfairness on hold for another three years. All you have to do is support that bill. If the Minister had had any guts he would have brought an amendment forward to The Municipal Act himself to deal with this unfair situation.

The Minister of Education tells me, if I feel so sincere about it, to go and deal with the municipality or with the City of Winnipeg. They have made their case already; they have made their case. You're hiding behind this issue. You do not want to deal with it. - (Interjection) - Well, it's a serious issue, the Member for Lakeside. I finally flushed out the two culprits who are stalling this unfairness and who are dealing with the Bible colleges, I finally flushed them out.

It's the Minister of Education and the Minister of Municipal Affairs who are not allowing this bill to proceed and stopped the amendment which the government should have brought in, in fairness.

Is the government prepared to allow this unfair situation to continue for another three years? That's all I'm asking. We can go through all the details about how they have - I shouldn't get that excited, I stumble over my words. But the colleges that are referred to, the St. John's College, St. Paul's College, they are religious colleges. They also have certain subjects that are university-related. - (Interjection) - Identical, identical. Well, so are these.

My son just graduated with a degree in Theology from CMBC and he took courses that are related to university and he has credits there right now. So let's not use that; let's be honest and fair about this situation. I basically want to ask you, the Minister of Education and Minister of Municipal Affairs, are you going to allow another three years of unfairness, for the Bible colleges?

A MEMBER: They will. They will.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: Would the Minister of Municipal Affairs be prepared to answer that? He's indicated that

it isn't going far enough. Then let's do this as an interim measure.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister of Education.

HON. J. STORIE: I recognize that the Minister of Municipal Affairs may have his own feelings about the necessity or the appropriateness of changing the legislation, but the case that the Member for Emerson makes is clearly not analogous between the Bible colleges and the other colleges, which have been affiliated with the University of Manitoba for a long time.

I do recognize that the University of Manitoba recognizes some of the courses that are offered through some of the colleges. However, Mr. Chairperson, the point that he is making is another one and I suppose is a question of whether in fact those institutions are prepared to become affiliated in more ways than simply a parallel, in terms of some of the courses they're offering and whether they're prepared to become in fact public institutions. I understood from those institutions that's not their intent. But the member ignores the point that the municipalities are the jurisdiction, which has the authority to relieve these colleges of their obligations. The member has chosen for, I think, essentially political reasons, to jump over that step because he and perhaps some of his colleagues are reluctant to approach the jurisdiction that has responsibility because there are significant financial implications.

I recognize that the colleges have approached the municipality. I'm asking the Member for Emerson if he has lent his weight or if his caucus has lent their weight to any of those proposals, whether they have stood up and said to the municipalities, yes, we believe this is of significant enough value to the municipality and to the colleges that we're prepared to take a stand on it.

He has chosen instead to highlight it as a political issue, jump over the jurisdiction that has the responsibility and has the authority to implement a resolution and turn it into a political football. I don't think that's good politics and I don't think that's good for the institutions that he supposedly represents.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: The Minister responsible for Education is way off track. If he would look back to when I introduced this subject of the Bible colleges for the first time, which was a long time ago, when the then-Minister of Municipal Affairs, Mr. Adam from Ste. Rose, was involved; and Vic Schroeder, who was then the Minister of Finance, was involved; a long time back when they made a commitment already that they would try and deal with it in a broader scope. I've used that in my speeches.

The Minister of Education, now I know where the problem is. It is not with the Minister of Municipal Affairs, it is with the Minister of Education that is basically stopping this thing; and the Minister of Municipal Affairs, in spite of what he believes, doesn't have the guts to take and go forward with it. That's where we're at right now.

This individual that's sitting right opposite here, the Minister of Education, is the one's that responsible for it. I want to take time, Mr. Chairman, to illustrate when

he says that I'm playing politics with it, why don't we put our caucus support behind this thing and go and raise the issue somewhere else.

This issue was raised as not a political issue, it was raised in 1983 when I introduced a Private Member's bill just for the Winnipeg Bible College. At that time, a commitment was made that there would be something done about it, that's in '83. Nothing was done. The commitment again by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and the Minister of Education in '85 proceeded with - now I know that it is the Minister of Education that has stopped this government amendment coming forward, and is the one that is stopping the support for Bill No. 17. This Minister can take that responsibility. He says I'm playing politics with it. What are you playing then? Because you're not being fair. You're a Minister that has responsibility to treat the people in Manitoba fairly and you are the one that is scuttling the whole thing. You talk of fairness; your credibility in my eyes has gone down. Don't accuse me of playing politics with an issue of this nature. It's a very personal, sincere matter with me and I don't take that from you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Lakeside.

MR. H. ENNS: Mr. Chairman, I don't want to particularly interrupt the important discussion with respect to some relief for worthwhile educational facilities in our province.

But I would ask the Minister to take to heart the comments of my colleague, the Member for Emerson, and perhaps even more importantly the promises made by colleagues who are currently sitting in his Cabinet.

I refer to the current Minister of Industry and Small Business and Technology, Mr. Schroeder, who's on record in written form, in letter form; a former Minister of Education, Ms. Maureen Hemphill, who is also on record; indicating a commitment to resolving the issue. So I believe my colleague, the Member for Emerson, has an understandably legitimate grievance when he raises it with you, who we would look to as being the lead Minister in terms of bringing about a change that has been requested for a period of years now by these colleges.

But, Mr. Chairman, from Bible colleges to the quarrying of limestone rock - let me change the subject to a particular problem that I have, which I am sure the Minister is aware of and the department is aware of - that is the difficulties, the unique situation that the Rural Municipality of Rockwood faces with their expanding and fairly substantial quarrying operations just north of the community of Stonewall.

I would believe that the department, the Minister, has been approached and is in possession of a brief with respect to their concerns. Before the Minister delights in reminding me that it was a Conservative administration that I was part of, that removed the quarry and gravel from The Mineral Act - (Interjection) - I believe it was probably.

A MEMBER: I wasn't going to do that then.

MR. H. ENNS: Well, I just anticipate, knowing how we like to remind ourselves from time to time of perhaps mistakes made in the past. Although, I'm not suggesting that was necessarily a mistake; it was always a grey

area where the gravel pouring was a mining operation, and we faced a great deal of pressure at that time to make the change and the change was made.

However, I do believe that Rockwood has a unique case. I'm aware that the department has responded to these requests to indicate that other municipalities that have, perhaps, a great deal of oil activity have to put up with that disturbance of their land base, or gravel pits, etc.; but I suggest to you Mr. Chairman - and you know enough of the operation, you drive through that part of the country - it is unique. Governments and the department ought to be able to be flexible enough to recognize the uniqueness.

In the case of these other activities, the disturbance to the land base is minimal. It is certainly minimal compared to the situation that the R.M. of Rockwood faces when they are going to be left with massive holes in the ground - and they are big holes in the ground. There is now a very substantial level of pouring going on; upwards of 400-450 trucks a day are operating out of those quarries. I personally have had the opportunity of visiting them on site.

I would like to invite the Minister, perhaps along with his colleague, the Minister of Natural Resources, to meet with the R.M. of Rockwood and to discuss the issue with them.

If we were still involved, if the quarrying operation was considered a mineral, I would be making an appeal under The Mines Act whereby we have set up a fund to help communities when an ore body runs out. There's a particular name - the Minimal Reserve Fund, I believe it's called - that will be helpful and is helpful right now in communities such as Lynn Lake or Leaf Rapids where mineral activity is winding down, where the community requires transitional assistance.

In searching around for a possible area that could be explored, it's that kind of a situation that I would ask the Minister to take a hard look at - whether or not a relatively modest royalty tax could not be applied to the quarrying operations in Stonewall, in the R.M. of Rockwood, and that monies could be set aside in trust for the future redevelopment, landscaping or whatever, of these unsightly holes in the ground that the operation will leave the municipality with. Concurrently, a portion of the monies could assist the municipality in meeting really an unfair burden of cost, particularly on the municipal road system, while this pouring operation is taking place.

Mr. Chairman, it seems to me a reasonably straightforward situation. I'm not asking this department or this government to put up additional funds. I know funds are hard to come by in this day and age for all governments. There seems to me to be a reasonable case to be made to impose a reasonable royalty on the operators. It's difficult to ask the municipality to do that. They would probably have difficulty with jurisdiction as well in terms of the classification of the operation. I don't know. I'm simply asking the Minister to, along with me and the R.M. of Rockwood, explore ways of trying to resolve that issue for the R.M. of Rockwood.

The last and final thing that we have to remember is that in this case it's not as though an oil well runs dry and the oil rig is removed off the property as they do in certain areas and all you have left is a 4 inch, 5 inch hole in the ground that is capped. Here you are

literally seeing sections of land that have been scooped out to the depth of 40-50 feet that will fill up with water and that's what is left of the operation.

Let's be very candid about it. This is being done on private land. The corporations that own the land are paying their fair share of municipal taxes. The municipality can no doubt be advised, and no doubt is taxing to the best of their ability, or what they believe is the competitive tax rate, but when this land has been quarried out, these owners will simply walk away from it. With the last truck of quarry rock that they pull out of the pit, they will drop off at the municipal office with the title to the land and hand the title back to the municipality, saying "It's all yours."

I think it's prudent that some forward thinking and action takes place on our part to assist the R.M. of Rockwood which, after all, is relatively small. We're talking about an R.M. with an average population base of whatever it is, 2,800 to 3,000 people. They are recognizing the problem and they are asking us to try to help them with it.

We're talking about something that may not be applicable for another 25 or 30 or 40 years in some instances, but a request has come forward from the councillors, from the reeve of the R.M. of Rockwood. I've met with them, as I indicated earlier. I invite the Minister to take a second look at the situation and see if we can't help the R.M. of Rockwood resolve this issue.

I commend and compliment the councillors of Rockwood in recognizing that there will be a problem that perhaps they won't have to face, but future councillors will face. They are enjoying the revenues from the taxation at the current time, although it's at a considerable cost to them in the maintenance of municipal roads and other difficulties that they have to put up with, but they are cognizant of the fact that it does provide an economic base in the area, it does provide employment.

I'm not suggesting any curtailment of that, but they are, I think, progressive enough to look into the future and hope that some monies are set aside from this profitable operation so that future councils can sit down and begin some reclamation work when the quarrying is done and to be of some assistance in the additional costs, particularly in the transportation area.

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: Just before I respond to the remarks of the Member for Lakeside, and it's unfortunate that our colleague from Emerson is gone - I just wanted to assure him that I accept the sincerity of his feelings on the issue of some form of tax relief for the four or five colleges that have been referenced in Bill 17.

I would hope, however, that the member would also recognize that while colleges are exempt from school taxes, there are other institutions - and I made reference to day cares - there are probably others who are even burdened with that form of tax. As a matter of fact, in the City of Winnipeg, you will find that institutions of learning, I suppose - day cares - may be taxed in one of five different ways. Some pay municipal school taxes, some pay commercial taxes, some pay municipal taxes only, some don't pay anything, and I think it's equally unfair to subject that particular group of publicly

owned - or they serve the public - facilities to the taxes they are bearing.

There is a problem of simply imposing something on the municipalities. The Member for Emerson has acknowledged that the loss in revenue to the municipal bodies would be \$212,000 this year. I don't know how comfortable he would feel simply saying to the R.M. of De Salaberry today, "Sorry folks, you had \$40,000 of taxes you were counting on, but you ain't getting it." I don't know; I think there has to be some way in which we can provide these municipal bodies with sufficient lead time so they're not faced with that kind of a crisis.

As I indicated, I'm certainly not unsympathetic to the intent of the bill. It is a matter of trying to resolve a number of problems.

Another one that I should mention is that broadening the list of exemptions, and whether it be to include the Bible colleges and day cares and whatever other institutions, in fact would be in conflict with the Weir Committee recommendations. I've consistently said we are moving toward full implementation within a matter of two or three years. It would certainly be my preference to have as few exemptions as possible and allowing the local municipal bodies the greatest flexibility possible to exempt those institutions that they felt worthy of exemption.

On the other hand, I know that the colleges, and one or two in particular, are having a very difficult financial time and I can understand why there is the support, presumably, from all members opposite, certainly from a number of members, if not all, on this side, and certainly from the public; and I certainly have been receiving a considerable number of letters and we will be responding.

On the matter of the R.M. of Rockwood, I want to thank the Member for Lakeside for his remarks. Yes, I'm aware of that study; I've had it for quite a number of months. I have had a number of discussions with the council. I've been called out on a Sunday afternoon to take a look at their flooding problems and I think that we do have to take a very serious look at that particular situation. It is somewhat unique. I don't know; it's either unique or it isn't, but it is certainly different from many other situations.

I did meet with the council a matter of two or three weeks ago on a different issue, but the matter of the quarries was raised and I did commit myself to the council to take a look at that later on this summer and give it some very serious thought with a real serious effort to try and deal with the problems.

The most immediate problem is, while the Member for Lakeside has raised the question of what will be there 20 years or 30 years down the road, and there'll be big deep holes, I admit, but even more immediate is the problem of maintaining roads, keeping that dust down, and trying to avoid accidents and bearing the cost of constantly repairing those roads. That, I think, is an issue that has to be dealt with.

The noise issue, of course that hopefully will be dealt with by the Clean Environment Commission that held hearings last week; but, yes, the particular report that the member was holding up, that will be given some very thorough review and I would welcome any form of advice that the Member for Lakeside has to offer.

MR. H. ENNS: I appreciate the Minister's comments.

I would ask the Minister to perhaps have staff take a look at whether or not a relatively minor amendment to The Mineral Reserve Act could be made which would simply designate that as a mining operation. And, as such, under that act, aside from the royalties accruing to the province, the Department of Finance, there is under Regulations a specific sum that is set aside for the express purposes of The Mineral Reserves Act which is to help reclaim. It's very broad in that instance, but I'd ask staff to look at The Mineral Reserves Act, whether or not that may not be an appropriate vehicle to use.

Let me indicate to the Minister that I would be pleased to support him and to encourage my caucus to support the Minister should he deem that would be an appropriate avenue or any other avenue.

I simply indicate to him that it seems to me that many problems that governments' and Ministers' staff face are not all that tangible or that approachable. You know, you can walk up to this problem and see a big hole. You can see that it's going to be a problem 10 years from now, and what do you do with it? What they are asking, really, is a relatively modest royalty of a few cents a tonne of quarry set aside now which would, in my judgment, provide the answer.

I appreciate the Minister's and the department's response.

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: We'll take that advice under review.

MR. H. ENNS: Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Arthur.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, just to conclude the discussion on this matter - and I do support my colleague in his endeavour to try and get something resolved to support the municipal councils - I believe it impacts on any municipality when we see a resource industry other than the traditional types move in and cause havoc with the roads. It's not unlike what happens in the oil fields, although the oil fields, I believe, the municipalities have an opportunity, or do, in fact, have a tax assessment on each oil site. There is a revenue comes back from them.

If one were to try and resolve it, it would appear as if the purchaser of the product probably, the beneficiaries of it, would have some responsibility in supporting the municipality in the upkeep of the roads. However, I appreciate the Minister's willingness, as the Member for the Lakeside, to look at it.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to deal with the Education Tax Program that has been recently introduced in the Budget by the Minister of Agriculture, and ask the Minister of Municipal Affairs: Does it fall within his jurisdiction to administer the program, or how is it going to be dealt with by government? Will it be a grant under this section? Will that be how it happens, a grant from the Municipal Department, or how do they plan on dealing with it? What's the proposal to put this program in place?

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: The Education Assistance Program - the Highways Department or lead department

on this is Agriculture. Well, I believe all three departments have been involved - Municipal Affairs, Finance and Agriculture - in the meeting with municipal or the organizations, I believe. It's just Agriculture and Municipal Affairs that have met with the municipal bodies. It will be administered basically through the Department of Agriculture.

MR. J. DOWNEY: "Basically administered through the Department of Agriculture" - you mean to say that the Department of Agriculture will be issuing cheques? There must be an explanation as to how the program will work.

As well, I know that feedback from some of the municipal corporations to me have indicated somewhat confusion in the way in which the whole program is being handled and the fact that there's lax detail. I would ask the Minister as well if he has any comments to make as to who qualifies. Does he not think that every taxpayer who is owner of farm land should qualify or does he just think it's the operator, as indicated by the Minister of Agriculture?

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: The details of the delivery or implementation of the program hopefully will be announced within the next week or two. There has been consultation and I'm pleased that we have the cooperation of the Union of Manitoba Municipalities, in having their municipal offices assist with the delivery of the assistance to the owner-operators of property within the municipality.

For those who are not owner-operators - there may well be other ones that will be administered directly through the municipal offices, but for the other categories, there will be a central administration to handle what I suspect would be seen as somewhat more complex cases. But to a large extent, the municipal offices will be providing the benefits to the owner-operators. It will not necessarily be a cheque; it may well be that if the program can get on the road soon enough, that the municipal bodies will be able to process the applications, forward them to the Department of Agriculture or Finance, whichever one it may be, and have a credit applied against the taxes owing, so that there will not necessarily be cheques going directly from the Department of Agriculture to the farmer.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, again we've got another bunch of red tape and unnecessary activity being imposed upon the farm community in Manitoba to get what is rightfully theirs, and that is a benefit as far as the relief of education taxes.

Can you just imagine, Mr. Chairman, the municipal corporations now have been given the responsibility to make an assessment as to whether or not the person is actually the owner-operator, whether he's farming it, whether he or she isn't. Mr. Chairman, wouldn't it be a lot easier to rightfully give all property owners the relief of education taxes under the program? The cost of the administration, the policing, the snooping, all of this unnecessary red tape and carry-on is just what drives people around the bend, Mr. Chairman.

I would think that everybody who owns property and pays taxes needs the tax relief. I don't feel that they should have to be owner-operators. I think that there

are people renting their land out who should qualify as well. They're certainly feeling the burden of taxation, the bite, and in 99.9 percent of the cases they have been farmers at one time in their life, unable to sell it because of the tough economic conditions in our society under a New Democratic Party in the Province of Manitoba.

Why wouldn't he give the relief to everyone straight through, everyone who has an education bill on their tax bill, a \$500 relief, make it somewhat simple, rather than to try and split hairs and determine? There's going to be cases where they can't determine whether or not the person's an owner-operator, whether he's renting or she's renting her land to somebody else or whether they're not.

It puts the onus on municipal corporations; sometimes it may put them in a little bit of an embarrassing situation. For all the savings, and if it's just for strictly a - I don't know what reason that they would not want to have a landowner, if he or she wasn't farming it, not to get that benefit. Can the Minister of Municipal Affairs tell me why he wouldn't want them to get the benefit from the tax relief on education costs, whether they're operating it or whether they're not? What's the reason?

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: Perhaps before responding to that, I'll just make some reference to a province that indiscriminately made loans available to farmers whether they needed them or not in an attempt to get re-elected and are finding themselves, having made those loans now, with having to write off \$300 million or being advised by the Auditor to write off \$300 million, being put into a position where they have to bring about the most vicious cuts any government has had to do in the recent history -(Interjection)- That's Saskatchewan.

You see, we believe that money, which is difficult to come by for provinces, for municipalities, or for any other level of government, you use it where it serves the best purpose. And it is the existing farmers who are facing the crisis, not the person that is a landowner. It is the operator who is facing a situation where, if something can't be done with his input costs, he will no longer be in business.

The land will still be there. It is this government's philosophy, priority, and we certainly will differ as to who's entitled to the \$12 million. It has been our position that it is the operator who should be the beneficiary of those funds. I want to assure the member that staff from the different departments have been working very hard over the past number of weeks to try to come up with as simple a means as possible for the owner-operators to claim the benefits that are available.

We haven't even gone political like the Federal Government has and said, if you want application forms, go to the constituency offices. We didn't do that kind of thing; we didn't have about four or five sources. Hopefully, there will be a simple form that the municipal staff can assist in completing, if need be. Hopefully, there will be no requirement for any kind of snooping or invasion of privacy. Hopefully, it will be straightforward, which will result in an expeditious turnaround so that the monies get back into the municipal coffers or back to the farmers who have paid their taxes; and where it is a little more complex, let

provincial staff do that. But I'm sure the member would be equally critical if there was a brigade of civil servants being required to administer these applications.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, I can again recommend a very simplistic way of handling it. He's got two lines on his tax form that is sent out to all the landowners. It's General, Municipal Taxes and School Taxes. Each person qualifies up to a maximum of \$500 deduction on education tax. Is that correct?

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: The total benefits under the Property Tax Rebates and the Pensioners' School Tax Assistance and this fund that was announced this spring will probably be about \$1,000.00.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, the point is that all he has to do is to say that where a person qualifies up to \$500 relief on education tax, put it on there, or reduce it from his education taxes, instead of going around trying to determine who should and who shouldn't get it, owner-operators. I can tell you, Mr. Chairman, I know quite a few people who are former farmers who have retired, depending on the rent from their land - a lot of it's third crop share - they need the \$500 relief as much as the owner-operator does. They're depending on it, Mr. Chairman. They get caught with the increased taxation that's imposed on them by this government in every other form, whether it's the increased sales tax, whether it's the 2 percent on their income, Mr. Chairman. They're in as much need as anyone else. He can't say that it's only the owner-operator that needs the relief. Anyone who is owning that land, who has farmed it, Mr. Chairman, and 99 percent of the property is owned by former farmers who are depending on that for a form of income, need the relief.

I'll bet you that he spends more time and more money than what he'll save in trying to pick out those few people who he or his government don't think should get it.

Mr. Chairman, I don't think it would be a bad gesture to those people who are trying to maintain their farms, whether they're keeping them for their sons or daughters, renting it to someone else, or whatever, I would bet you that if he gave \$500 relief to every individual that he wouldn't be going too far wrong. And I can tell you, Mr. Chairman, the Minister can look for some criticism over the coming weeks and months from us, because they aren't handling this properly. Again, they're playing political games with it and not really getting out and meaningfully helping the people.

He can make all kinds of references to Saskatchewan if he likes. If you're going to, Mr. Chairman, put money some place, some place that you're not going to get it back, you'd be far better to put it in the hands of the farmers of Manitoba than the sheiks of Saudi Arabia. That's really where it boils down to. You'd be far better to leave it in the hands of the farmers in Manitoba than the sheiks' pockets of Saudi Arabia. That's really where it boils down to. Now he may want to prefer the sheiks of Saudi Arabia; I prefer the farmers of Manitoba, Mr. Chairman, or the small business people of Manitoba, the people that generate the income that this Minister squanders and wastes in his ill-conceived administration's approach to general policy.

Mr. Chairman, I just would have thought the Minister would have said, yes, the Minister of Agriculture's approach is insane, absolutely impossible to administer and our department have recommended a straight, where they qualify, \$500 off and everybody gets it. That, Mr. Chairman, I don't mind leaving on the record and I'll make sure the Minister hears about it throughout the coming weeks.

Mr. Chairman, lines (f) and (g) on the portion of which we're debating right here, the Police Services grant is down from \$662,200 to \$548,200; General Support grants they have increased, but the other one is reduced. Explain the differences in these two figures, if he could, please. Why a reduction in the one and

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: Yes, if I may, I would like to refer the member to pages 71 and 72 of the Supplementary Information for Legislative Review. You'll note that in 1985 the grants were \$636,000, as part of the Police Services grants program. There was a phase-out period for one year and that cost them \$114,000 last year. So the Police Services grants for this year will be down in the low \$500's, \$543,000 I believe, \$548,200.00. So the difference is because of the phase-out not being there this year.

MR. J. DOWNEY: But there's less money going into Police Services grants.

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: Yes.

MR. J. DOWNEY: How does that impact on the actual support to municipalities, or what the municipalities have to put into it themselves?

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: As the member knows, the assistance is to those municipalities where their costs are in excess of the provincial average. I believe the provincial average last year was 17.3 mills, so those municipalities that had a higher police cost than that were provided a grant up to a maximum of \$100,000.00. As the average goes up then the amount of assistance to this program will in fact decrease.

This is something that will have to be looked at. One would refer this eventually to the Advisory Committee, because there's the other issue of Treherne and Hamiota's part of the same issue.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for La Verendrye.

MR. H. PANKRATZ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

My question to the Minister is, this half mill that is being applied to all the municipalities, what amount of money does that generate?

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: About \$400,000.00.

MR. H. PANKRATZ: Mr. Minister, are you then indicating that you're paying out more than what you're receiving through that grant structure? Is that correct?

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: That is correct. Last year the province paid out approximately \$200,000 more than it took in on that tax.

MR. H. PANKRATZ: Before this half mill was applied to the municipalities, what was the amount of money that, like just the previous year because this is the second year I believe that the half mill is being applied. Am I correct?

The year before that, what was the amount of money that the province paid out in grant at that stage?

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: I'm advised that before the half mill was imposed on municipal bodies that the provincial contributions were about \$167 - \$187,000.00.

MR. H. PANKRATZ: I'd just like to make one comment to the Minister. He was talking before in respect to easing the tax burden on colleges and religious institutions, that he didn't want to tamper with the assessment problem and so forth in that matter, but to apply a half mill right across the board in the whole Province of Manitoba in all the municipalities. That wasn't tampering with it? Do you not consider that as being tampering with the assessment problem as well?

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: The half mill imposition was not an initiative of the department or the Minister per se. My understanding is, that there was a committee which had representation from the municipal organizations which in fact had recommended a one mill tax. But I do recall at that time, understanding the difficulties that rural Manitoba was undergoing that it was decided that we would only go with half a mill. But it was not unilaterally imposed on the municipal bodies by the government or the ministry.

MR. H. PANKRATZ: Well, my last and final question basically is, the Minister indicated before that with having discussed this with the top personnel person, I believe, from the RCMP in respect to cutting out some of the services in three communities which were mentioned before, and he made the comment that they were going to give a better service.

And my question I would like to pose to the Minister is, how can you with removing staff, even though you're going to implement better equipment but still with removing staff, provide better service?

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: I could say that with respect to the Winnipeg Beach detachment, where a number of officers were being transferred to the neighbouring detachment, and not requiring an officer to be there in an administrative capacity, the message from the RCMP office was that in fact there would be more - in a sense the officers would be doing more policing than they are doing at the present time, and less sitting behind a desk and doing administrative work.

So with a larger detachment and with a greater flexibility for different schedules, and so on, the impression was very clearly left that the police services would be equal or better than they are at the present time.

MR. H. PANKRATZ: To the Minister, in some of these communities like my colleague has raised in his constituency, they will get every bit as many police hours as they've had before within that community as now, since moving the office. Am I correct?

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: I don't know what the specific arrangement has been in the Deloraine area, but I am quite aware of what had been proposed for Winnipeg Beach-Gimli.

MR. H. PANKRATZ: Okay, I'm through.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Roblin-Russell.

MR. L. DERKACH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I'd just like to make a comment and a question perhaps with regard to the education tax on farm land that is going to be initiated to help, as the Minister indicated, farmer operators.

But I would like to make the Minister aware that it's not just the farmer-operators who are being affected by the incredible taxes on farm land to support education because, as we know now, there are some new ways in which leases are arranged between the farmer and perhaps the owner of a piece of property. That arrangement may be whereby the costs of operation are paid, first of all, and then after all costs of operation, including taxes, are paid, the profit is divided between the operator and the landowner.

In addition, many of the landowners have decreased their expectations of the operator of the farm land because of the fact that there is a depressed economic situation in the rural areas.

So the benefit that is going to be reflected in this grant, or this subsidy, should not just go to the farmer operators but also should go to all the owners of farm land property.

And it amazes me somewhat to see again another program that the government has initiated which is going to be bungled up by the bureaucracy of this government, just as the Buy-Down Program for MACC, just as the FarmStart Program was which no one is using at the present time, and all of these programs seem to be designed not to give proper assistance to the people who need it, but instead try to give the impression that there is some assistance coming and then in the end it dwindles down to nothing.

If we talk to farmers through the rural area, you will find that this in fact is the case. Here again we have another program, this Education Tax Rebate Program, which the government made a big hoopla about in its announcement in the Throne Speech, which is starting to take a changed form altogether, where municipalities are now going to have to administer. Again, it takes the onus off the government, and now not every farmer or every owner of farm land is going to qualify, now we are going to select them. All of a sudden the government wants to be the policeman, the administrator and the judge of who's going to get it and who's not going to get it.

I think it's extremely unfair in a program that was supposed to be designed to help all owners of property who are paying an unfair share of education tax in this province.

I'd like to hear the Minister's response to why he feels that those owners of property who are not necessarily farming it should be deprived of that benefit.

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: As the member knows, there is a commitment of about \$12 million to help offset the education taxes on farm land.

It would not be that difficult to provide benefits to both owner-operators and owners. The trouble is you would then defuse that so that the people who we feel have the greatest need at the present time would get the maximum benefit available.

I've said that clearly we disagree. You feel that it should be to the owners; we have said it's the actual people involved in farming, whether it be owner-operators or owners who should be beneficiary of this \$12 million.

I presume there's nothing to prevent a sharing between the owner and the operator, if they're two different people. I mean they've probably been able to come to some sort of agreement, as the Member of Roblin-Russell has indicated, as to how they arrive at some sort of a lease, so they should be able to arrive at some way of sharing this benefit.

But I guess the main thing is that this \$12 million, in addition to the other property rebate programs and pensioners' school tax assistance programs and other programs, in fact, offsets about 50 percent of the education cost on farm land, which was one of your commitments, I believe, during the campaign which is certainly our commitment.

Now eventually, as we move to Assessment Reform, as we make decisions as to whether or not farm buildings are to be assessed and taxed, as we make decisions as to whether farm residents are to be taxed, it is certainly my hope that we will move to removing and maintaining less than the 50 percent education costs, move as far away as we can of education taxes on farm land, but that takes time. I keep stressing over and over again, Assessment Reform, and I'm sure the members believe this, too, is a very complex issue - hundreds of millions of bits of information to put in place before we can even determine what direction we should be moving. That will take another two, three years. This is an interim measure, whether it's here for one year, or two years, or three years, but eventually it would be my hope that we can remove as much of the education tax from farm land as possible, so that it's one less issue that our farmers have to worry about or deal with.

MR. L. DERKACH: Well, I think the initiative was welcome, at least the intent of the initiative was welcome, by all farmers in the province.

But I want to make the Minister aware that there could be vast changes in the agreements that there are between owner-operators and owners of farm property because I could very easily become an operator of farm land if, instead of making a lease agreement with the person who operates my land, I all of a sudden will that it's okay, the arrangement that you and I have now is one of where you will custom-work my property, I am now the owner-operator of this land. There are going to be all kinds of manipulations just to be able to get that maximum \$500 of tax that this government is committing. I'm sure that it's going to be a nightmare to administer and the Minister should be aware of that.

I would have to agree with my colleague from Arthur, who states why don't we use the simplest form possible in going to the tax statement that comes to the farmer, or to the owner of that property, and so be it. I mean

maybe it'll decrease the benefit to the owner-operators, but I think let's look at the fairness of it. And the people who own the land are also taking a dive in this kind of an economy because they have reduced their expectations from the landowners or the operators, who are growing the crops on the farm land, so they deserve a break just as well as the guy who's operating the farm land.

I would encourage the Minister, if he has any input into this matter, to take a very serious look at the whole aspect and the results of that before they implement it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Arthur.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, I think probably we can move on to the next section, the Municipal Assessments.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. 3.(a) to 3.(g), inclusive, were each read and passed.

Resolution No. 111: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$30,455,800 for Municipal Affairs, Municipal Advisory and Financial Services, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1988—pass.

We now begin with 4.(a) Municipal Assessments, Salaries - the Member for Arthur.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, could the Minister give us an update as to the assessment across the province? I understand there was a completion of rural assessment in 1985. Just give me an update as to the current status of assessment across the province.

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: I don't even know what kind of specific information the member wishes to have, but I'm advised that all property, whether it be land or buildings or farm residences, has been assessed and is on the rolls. The priority of the branch has been to move towards the market value assessment and, therefore, information is being updated as much as is possible.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, a lot of the land that's particularly in the western regions - I know they'd probably do it by region - a lot of the properties were assessed at a time when land values were somewhat higher than they are today, which has had a fairly major impact on the taxes which are being paid by a lot of landowners and property owners.

I'm wondering, in view of the fact the department has moved to market values and that the market in a lot of cases, particularly dealing with agricultural land, has decreased substantially - I know in some areas from 25 percent lower than it was probably in 1981 to the current values or being 25 percent lower now than it was in 1981 and substantially more than that in some particular communities - is there a move now to balance that out or to reestimate or revalue the lands based on the market value and lowering the assessments of those properties?

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: The assessment values at the present time reflect 20 percent of 1975 market

value. When the assessment rolls are updated over the next year or two, hopefully completed by '89, by '90 for sure, they will reflect 100 percent of 1984 values.

I understand exactly what the member is saying, is that those who have been assessed when land prices were high are now sitting with a high assessment, which does not necessarily reflect what the land is worth today. When assessment reform is implemented, the cycle will certainly hopefully not be as long as it is at the present time. We may have - what? - a two or three-year update, so there is certainly some benefit to assessment reform.

The other thing is though that where you have, let's say, a municipality - I'm going from the top of head, but I think I'm right - where the land value may have decreased, an assessment value would be lower today than it was in 1981. The costs for the operation of municipalities nonetheless have a certain level, and therefore the mill rate would be higher with a lower assessment, so it balances off.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, D. Scott: The Member for Arthur.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, as I heard the Minister, he said 1990 we would see the assessment process. We'll be using 100 percent of market value. Is that correct?

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: 1984 market value.

MR. J. DOWNEY: 1984 market value. So that, in fact, it should reflect then the lower market values of property as it relates to the marketplace and farm economy. Is that correct?

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: That would be correct.

MR. J. DOWNEY: He indicates all buildings as well. When will the Minister be moving to implement taxation on farm buildings and outbuildings?

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: It is a matter that is going to be undergoing some thorough review this fall. We will very seriously take a look at the advisability of taxing farm residences with a view to, at the same time, decreasing taxes on farm land.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Well I'm encouraged, Mr. Chairman, to hear the decrease on farm land. Is he talking about further decreases, other than those being talked about on education taxes? Is that what he's referring to? Is he referring to the education tax removal, or is he talking about further tax removal on farm lands?

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: As I indicated, this whole matter is going to be under review this fall. It's complex, and we will have to establish what the impacts might be in terms of education taxes and municipal taxes. On the basis of the information that will be made available to us, we will decide whether or not it is advisable to begin further implementation of the Weir Commission recommendations in 1988 or 1989 or right until 1990.

MR. J. DOWNEY: So in other words, he talks about a major review. He's talking about a review by his

department or by some other formalized group, such as the Weir Commission, or what is he talking about when he talks about a major review?

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: I am specifically referring to the matter of farm residences and farm buildings. That was the question that was asked. The review will be taken primarily by the Department of Municipal Affairs, by Mr. Brown's department, but it will be done interdepartmentally so that the Department of Finance will be able to contribute, the Department of Agriculture will have a view on this issue. On the basis of the outcome of that study, we will then decide whether or not we will move further next year.

MR. J. DOWNEY: What's the Minister moving on and why has he now decided that it would be this fall? Is that for preparation of Estimates, for government taxation purposes, or what has motivated him to make the move, say, this fall?

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: It is a complex issue and certainly to get the best idea of what the impacts will be will take considerable time. There's a tremendous amount of information has to be gathered and manipulated and reviewed and recommendations made to a number of Ministers, who will then make the appropriate decisions.

MR. J. DOWNEY: What forum or what public process does the Minister plan on using to inform the municipal councils and the Union of Municipalities of the decisions that have been made by his department and the outcome of the review and the implementation? Will there be a formalized exercise, a meeting, an implementation educational process, or what are his plans to update the people who are going to have the major impact on them, those people being representatives of taxpayers and taxpayers?

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: I don't foresee a situation where we're going to have the staff come up with recommendations and we adopt them without the active involvement of the municipal leadership. I'm making reference to, say, the Union of Manitoba Municipalities and the Manitoba Association of Urban Municipalities if they're affected. But basically, we were wanting to deal with the agricultural aspect, and were looking at them as a purely rural municipal issue.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, will the Minister give us a commitment that he will not impose a major shock of tax increases on an extremely depressed farm community by making major change that they can't handle? Will he give us that assurance at this committee that he will not do anything that will cause any major, abrupt increases to individuals and people who cannot handle it?

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: Well, that would be counter to the very purpose of the exercise. The purpose of the exercise is to find out if there are some ways that we can, even at this time, deal with some of the problems that rural Manitoba is facing that are within our control. Taxation is certainly one area that,

particularly this department, can provide some initiatives that will make the farm situation more bearable than it is today.

MR. J. DOWNEY: So as I take it then, he's talking about a general tax reform and implementation of policies and programs that will reduce the taxes on farm property and the farm community. Is that correct?

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: It would be my hope that the study that will be undertaken this fall will provide us with some means of bringing about a fair way of sharing taxes.

MR. J. DOWNEY: That, Mr. Chairman, was not the answer I was looking for. I thought he was going to say, some forms of tax relief. He talks about fairness, but will that in fact give some forms of tax relief? I'm sure the farm community are very supportive of fair taxation and they are, but what about tax relief, the question that I asked dealing with the reduction of taxes in some cases?

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: Well, it would certainly not be my intention to bring in some program that would bring in additional taxes, so the converse of that is that taxes would be fair and hopefully lower for the farm community.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, there was an issue which the Minister's had brought to his attention by the Premier - I think it's in the Premier's riding - dealing with an assessment of a property and of a house compared to the neighbour, and really the one question dealing with the activities of the assessors. Does the Minister support the assessors in their approach to going out and looking at property without properly notifying the residents or individuals who own that property? Would he not think that would be a fairer approach to the activities of his department, or does he think they should just be able to walk onto property and snoop around without prenotification or at least having that individual there?

How would he like his property dealt with when an individual came to make an assessment of it? Would he like to be there to discuss it with him, or would he like one of the Assessment Branch people to come snooping around his property without his knowledge or without him being there? What would he prefer?

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: I'm well aware of the situation. I guess my comment would be that the Member for Arthur has been in politics long enough to know that one doesn't believe everything one reads, and there are differing views of what the actual situation has been. This problem is, I believe, going before the Municipal Board, and I would hope that a resolution satisfactory to all parties can be achieved.

I'm aware of what the allegations are, that the municipal assessor allegedly scared - had viewed the property when there was no one around. I think that there had been efforts made to view the property when there was either the owner . . .

MR. J. DOWNEY: I ask the Minister: Is there a clear-cut policy as far as the approach of assessors to private

individuals and property? Do they not have a policy as to how they should approach it, or are they just allowed to run willy-nilly, to go into people's property, to snoop in windows, and do that type of thing? Or is there a policy that they should be accompanied by the owner, which I would think would only be a responsible, respectable thing to do in our society?

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: I'm advised that the assessor always tries to meet with the property owner at the first visit. Then to do that, then the assessor would try to make an appointment. Failure to do that, then the assessor would have to go out and do an eyeball appraisal or assessment of the property.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Well, Mr. Chairman, I would think that would be in the extreme case where they would have to go and do an eyeball assessment of the property without having permission, because it is actually - if they do enter a person's property without proper authority, I think that the individual who owns that property, they have certain rights, and I think there's an obligation by the Assessment Branch to make sure that those rights are in fact protected and appreciated.

I appreciate the fact the Minister is dealing with the situation. I know that the Premier has been pressing him to get on with it and do something - (Interjection) - Oh, and it is his constituent, so he does have a little more of a vested interest in dealing with it. Well, I would suggest that he press onward and get it resolved.

Mr. Chairman, I don't know whether my colleagues have any other questions dealing with the assessment. I just want to say that there may be an opportunity in the near future, or I would request as the Minister did previously this year, before implementation of any major changes with the assessment, that there be some form of opportunity to explain it either to members of the Legislature in combination with the other jurisdictions so that we have a good understanding of what's taking place.

Pass.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: 4.(b)—pass.

Resolution No. 112: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$4,773,500 for Municipal Affairs, Municipal Assessments, for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1988—pass.

Systems Services, Salaries 5.(a) - the Member for Arthur.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Pass.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Systems Services, 5.(b) Other Expenditures—pass.

Resolution No. 113: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$1,089,300 for Municipal Affairs, Systems Services, for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1988—pass.

Municipal Planning Services, 6.(a) Salaries.

The Member for Arthur.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, the whole area of municipal planning and the process of going through planning procedures now, not too long of definition, what would be the normal process now for going

through a planning process or development of a planning system? I know that your municipality is involved in planning schemes. For example, if somebody wanted to develop or build a building or a house in a newly subdivided property, what is the process? Or say a farmer who wants to build in an area that's under the planning district, what is the process that has to be followed?

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: Subdivision applications.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Yes.

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: With respect to a planning district, one would submit the application to the planning - we have a table here of the procedures. It has about 16 steps. I don't think the member would want me to go through these, but basically we can provide it for you.

The application would go to the planning district. Various departments would be invited to comment on the application, and they would provide recommendations to the planning district and to the council. If the application is approved, there is no problem. If the application is turned down, then the person has recourse to the Municipal Board. If the council turns it down, then there is no appeal.

I should indicate that we do have two additional staff with us we didn't have last night. We have Mr. John Whiting, the Director of Planning, and Mr. Dave Johns.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, you indicate that there's a right to appeal if the department turns it down or if who turns it down, but there isn't a right to appeal if a municipality turns it down.

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: If the planning district rejects the application, then there may be an appeal to the Municipal Board. I say, "may be," because where the planning districts have approving authority, there is no further appeal. If the department objects, then we can appeal.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Now, I'm not clear on that. Would the Minister go through it again? How does a person, if they are rejected, what is the appeal process if a developer is rejected?

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: Very simply put, if the local council rejects the application, there is no further appeal. If it's a planning district or the Provincial Government or department objects, then it can be appealed to the Municipal Board.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Can the Minister indicate how many have gone to the Municipal Board, how many appeals that they've had?

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: That information should be found in the Annual Report of 1986 of the Municipal Board. Maybe more simply put, page 36 of the Annual Report of the Department of Municipal Affairs has indicated that there were 100 subdivision applications rejected by local councils, 13 by approving authorities and three by the Municipal Board.

MR. J. DOWNEY: "Municipal interest in land use planning is indicated in a number of land use plans formally adopted each year. It is expected that over 200 major projects (Development plans and basic planning statements, zoning by-law preparation and amendments) will be in process or be completed by Planning Branch staff on behalf of the municipal councils." Is that normal or is that figure up or down, that 200 projects?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Which page were you referring to, the Member for Arthur?

MR. J. DOWNEY: On page 44.

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: I'm advised that the level of activity is slightly higher than normal.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Are there any changes planned to The Planning Act or to any of the major concerns coming out of the planning program, The Planning Act?

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: Not at the present time.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: 6.(a)—pass; 6.(b)—pass.
Resolution No. 114: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$2,828,100 for Municipal Affairs, Municipal Planning Services, for the year ending the 31st day of March, 1988—pass.

Next item, Item No. 7.(a) Provincial Planning: Salaries, 7.(b) Other Expenditures - the Member for Arthur.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, this deals with the Provincial Land Use Committee, the PLUC committee of Cabinet, as I understand it. What is the policy of government now as far as the sale of Crown lands is concerned? Is it that each department gets the first option to need it or to have use for it and then, if they don't have use for it, then it is sold? Is that the basic policy?

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: Yes, that is essentially the policy.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Has there been any change in that policy over the last few years?

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: No.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Have there been any problems with people wanting particular pieces of property and not able to get the department, any one of the departments, to agree to release it?

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: Where that type of a situation might develop where a person would want a particular parcel of Crown land and one of the government departments interested has expressed an interest in it owning that land, then there is an appeal that may be heard before PLUC itself.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, on the sale of Crown land, what is the policy as far as the establishing of

value is concerned? How is the value of property established?

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: My understanding is the Land Acquisition Branch is used to determine an appraised value for that property.

MR. J. DOWNEY: And basically, that's the value that is placed on the property for sale.

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: Generally speaking, it should represent it.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, there was one other area that I wanted to deal with back ways, and I want to just bring it forward right now. That is, when we asked the Minister a year ago - and it deals with how the department determines who has more off-farm income than they have farm income. There were some concerns brought forward a year ago. Again, I've had the concern brought to my attention. What currently is the policy as to whether or not you are taxed on your home, if you make more income off the farm than you do on the farm? Is there a current policy? Has there been any change made? What is the process of finding out who is making more money off the farm than they are on the farm, which is an invasion of privacy as far I'm concerned?

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: The policy, as far as I know, has probably not changed for the past 50 or 60 years. But I am very aware of the concern that municipal councillors have expressed, those who sit on boards of revisions, about their unease at having to go through this process, to get a property owner to declare whether or not he's making more or less off farm income than from the farm.

It is an issue that will be addressed with the implementation of assessment reform, if we decide to move in the area of full taxation of farm residences. That is something that will only be determined after we've had a very good opportunity to look at the information the department will be able to provide us, and consider it. But I appreciate that it's not something that councillors particularly look forward to.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Not only do they not look forward to it, I don't think that it's, in a lot of cases, the department's - I don't know under what authority they're doing their investigating or how they determine how an individual has more off farm income than they have farm income. Maybe the Minister could speculate. How does the department determine whether an individual is making more income off or on the farm? How do they get that information?

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: I presume it would be done a number of ways. But I can think of two, and that would be by reviewing one's income tax form, or by a declaration, filing a declaration.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Let me set up the example - here's farmer A, comfortably living out on the farm, farming their farm; because of some fortune they have income unbeknown to anybody else, possibly to the banker

which they deal with or their investment firm, but to no one else. All at once the department comes along and says, we're now going to do an assessment, or you're now going to have to pay tax on your house, because you're making more income off your farm. I say particularly, and we went through this debate two or three years ago, dealing with the oil business in Waskada, where some of the landowners received more income off their oil revenues than they did from their farm operations. There has to be an element of investigation or some forum to start the process. What triggers it?

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: The process would be a reassessment of the property. Now, I presume that councillors can raise it at boards of revision if the matter is being appealed. They can even draw it to the attention of the assessor, whether they feel that that particular individual should be taxable. We can get around that problem eventually, by implementation of a taxation system, whereby all residences become taxable, and there's an offset for those who are legitimate farmers, by lower taxes on the farm land.

MR. J. DOWNEY: So, Mr. Chairman, what the Minister is saying is that he sees a resolution to the problem, the difficulty with the tax change that will be implemented this fall?

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: Quote it carefully; I didn't say that the changes would be implemented this fall. I said that there would be a study undertaken, to determine the advisability of implementation before we get into full taxation reform.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Now, Mr. Chairman, we're seeing another study of the advisability of implementation of.

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: I guess the advisability is determined from the study. It's not a study to determine the advisability.

MR. J. DOWNEY: I see. I'm not sure, I'll have to read Hansard to see precisely what the Minister said. But I think he's pretty well got it so that anybody that tried to understand would be thoroughly confused.

Mr. Chairman, proceed to pass that section.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. 7.(a)—pass; 7.(b)—pass.

Resolution No. 115: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty, a sum not exceeding \$387,300 for Municipal Affairs, Provincial Planning, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1988—pass.

We are now on Section 8.—Surface Rights Board, 8.(a).

MR. J. DOWNEY: Just before I start that, I'd like to go back to a question dealing with the education tax on farm land, or the program that they're introducing to relieve some of the education taxes on farm land. Did the Minister indicate that the municipal corporations agreed to handle the program on behalf of the government?

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: I believe we have a letter from the President of the Union of Manitoba

Municipalities, indicating that their association has agreed to co-operate with the province in delivering that program.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Would the Minister be prepared to table that letter?

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: Yes, I'm quite prepared to table it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now we revert back to 8.(a).

MR. J. DOWNEY: Have they been offered, Mr. Chairman, any financial compensation for handling the program for the province.

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: No. I think the municipalities and the province are working co-operatively, to try to get assistance to the farming community as fast as possible. But we certainly have pointed out to the municipalities that if there is some way of expediting, of moving this processing along, then I suppose it would be to the advantage of municipalities to have their property taxes or their cash flow improved. So it would serve both the farmers and the municipal body as well.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, again the Minister is expecting the municipal corporations to pick up some costs that the province would normally have to pay. It's actually a transfer of responsibilities or financial services provided by the municipality from the province. You would have thought that in implementing the program, the province would have been able to carry the responsibility, both of the program and the administration of it.

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: The municipal associations have never raised the issue of compensation. They have expressed concern, and I think it's legitimate about the mechanics of delivering a program, but they have never, to the best of my knowledge, raised a question as to feeling that they're being taken advantage of. I think that they act in a very co-operative manner.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 7.(a)—pass; 7.(b)—pass.

Resolution No. 116: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty, a sum not exceeding \$139,700 . . .

MR. J. DOWNEY: No, Mr. Chairman, I thought we were on the . . . I want to deal with Surface Rights Board.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I'm sorry.

MR. J. DOWNEY: I'm sorry. We'd passed No. 7.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes. We had passed that and I'd read the resolution.

MR. J. DOWNEY: I'm sorry.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No problem.

MR. J. DOWNEY: I was moving too quickly. I want to spend a bit of time on the Surface Rights Board.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let the record show that we are reverting back to section 8.(a) Surface Rights Board, Salaries - the Member for Arthur.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, I'm surprised that the Minister isn't prepared to make some kind of statement or didn't include in his opening comments more elaboration of what is taking place with the Surface Rights Board.

I was at a meeting with the Minister in Virden as was my colleague, the Member for Virden, I believe it was in February of this year, of which I would consider the Minister to have had the wood laid on him pretty heavy for the government's non-action and non-support of the landowners in their attempts to try and get equality and be treated fairly by the oil industry. But apparently the Minister didn't listen.

I haven't heard any reports coming from the Minister; I haven't heard of any action coming from the Minister, other than a small change in the Surface Rights Board - that was maybe just prior to that. There hasn't been any major announcements or actions taken. In fact, when we left that meeting, the Minister asked what should be carried out and I indicated that he should gather a group of the Surface Rights Association, members of his staff, to draw up some regulations, to draw up some policies, which would enhance the surface rights' position in the oil fields rather than to continue on the way in which they were going. I just ask the Minister for his response: Has he done anything following on the resolutions that were presented to him at that meeting in Virden, or has he sat on it as he sat on many other things, Mr. Chairman?

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: With respect to the remarks of my critic, in fact, since that pleasant meeting at Virden, which I appreciate was my first opportunity to meet with the members of the association, I have received the same correspondence that the member has in front of him with their resolutions, and I'm pleased to advise that we'll be acting on a number of those within the next few days. It had been my hope that again, by the time when I anticipated our Estimates would be heard, that the revised Surface Rights Bill would have been before the Assembly. It should be before us within the next week or so at the outside.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, will the Minister be making a statement in the House dealing with this matter? Will he be making an official House statement as the Minister dealing with changes to the Surface Rights Board or to policies, regulations?

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: Yes, I certainly will have some remarks when the bill is up for Second Reading.

MR. J. DOWNEY: I understood he was making some changes; so it's changes to the Surface Rights Bill?

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: Both in restructuring, that is reordering it, so it becomes a more readable document, a more understandable document, and in terms of content. There will be some changes there.

MR. J. DOWNEY: It hasn't been tabled yet?

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: No, it hasn't been, within the next day or two.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Well, Mr. Chairman, I ask the Minister: Has he met with the Surface Rights Association people, or has his department met with them, to go over some of the changes that are being implemented into the legislation?

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: I've had the pleasure of meeting with the executive of the Surface Rights Board, surface rights landowners, a few weeks ago but just to discuss the proposed bill in its broadest terms. But the draft has not been made available to them; however, it'll be forwarded to the executive and to the operators as soon as it is distributed in the House.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Well, Mr. Chairman, I'm encouraged that the Minister has taken some action; however, I don't want to get overly anxious and feel too excited about it because the last time this government moved on Surface Rights legislation, I thought probably, following the Nugent Commission Report which was established by our administration meeting with and trying to put together some type of legislation that would benefit the landowners, and then when the incompetent New Democratic Party got in office, totally screwed it up by putting a piece of legislation in that acted to the detriment of the landowners. So, as I say, I will reserve my judgment, Mr. Chairman, as to what in fact is going to be introduced. I know there were some specific concerns as to the cleaning up of oil spills on oil well sites.

I know that there were some concerns, Mr. Chairman, about the rights of entry. I know that, Mr. Chairman, the board was not using some negotiated settlements between the operator and the landowner when it came to their job of imposing settlements on some of the contractual agreements that couldn't be agreed to between the operator and the surface rights owner; that the board for some reason felt they couldn't use the negotiated settlements on surface sites, which I think was totally an irresponsible way for the board to operate. Why couldn't they use some negotiated settlements as an example as to what the farmers and the oil companies were voluntarily preparing to pay for the use of property for the extraction of oil? Why wouldn't they be able to use that as an example when it came to an arbitrated settlement?

Mr. Chairman, there were many issues which the Minister, as I say, had laid on him pretty heavy at that meeting and I'm pleased to see that he's responded. However, as I say, I will still reserve my comments as to when I hear the Minister introduce it in the House and have a little more chance to go over it in detail.

I know that the Surface Rights Association that day decided to join the Keystone Agricultural Producers to get their support in further lobbying and pressing the government to act on their behalf. That may or may not have been what has encouraged the Minister to move, because of the larger support group, but whatever it is hopefully he's moving, and moving in the right direction. Because I do say, Mr. Chairman, there have been some major inequities. The surface rights

owners have been put through, I would say, a considerable amount of difficulty when it came to the protection of their rights, and the operators of oil wells coming in to extract the resource.

Mr. Chairman, I, as well, want to point out that the government was warned when there was an application brought forward to reduce the spacings from 40 to 20 acres by Chevron that a recent saltwater spill that took place several weeks ago happened because of the reduced spacings and they drilled into a saltwater situation and caused some major losses to farm property. There has to be a line of authority, Mr. Chairman, within the legislation that clearly protects the surface rights owners. If the former Minister of Natural Resources and the fired Minister of MTX and MTS were to pay a little bit more attention, he, as an environmentalist, might appreciate that it isn't very nice to have somebody going around spilling saltwater on your property, or oil, that would destroy the future ability of that land to produce a living for you.

Mr. Chairman, the former Minister of MTX may know more about sand than he does salt, I'm sure, because of his experience, or the bad experience, with the taxpayers' money in Saudi Arabia. So I will wait, Mr. Chairman, and anticipate some positive changes coming from the Minister.

Dealing with the amounts of money, it appears as if the cost of the Surface Rights Board hasn't changed a lot. It's fairly consistent with last year's expenditures. He doesn't see any expansion of the need or in use of the board under the legislation?

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: No, I would hope that the legislation would simply provide for fair treatment of all parties involved.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Okay, pass.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 8.(a)—pass; 8.(b)—pass.
The Member for La Verendrye.

MR. H. PANKRATZ: Mr. Chairman, I just have a few questions which I would wish the Minister would allow me to go back onto . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Can I get the resolution through, please?

Resolution No. 116: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$139,700 for Municipal Affairs, Surface Rights Board, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1988—pass.
The Member for La Verendrye.

MR. H. PANKRATZ: Mr. Chairman, would the Minister allow me to go back to Item No. 6. and maybe just pose a few questions in respect to Municipal Planning Services' tax rebate?

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: Yes.

MR. H. PANKRATZ: My one question that I'd have: What is the total amount of school tax at the present on agricultural land in the Province of Manitoba?

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: I'd guess that it would be slightly in excess of \$20 million.

MR. H. PANKRATZ: The present program is supposed to basically pay back on school tax \$12 million; am I correct?

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: The program announced this spring is a \$12 million Education Assistance Program.

MR. H. PANKRATZ: Mr. Chairman, to the Minister: What number of farmers do you expect will be receiving the \$500 maximum rebate - or I shouldn't say the maximum - for that matter, rebate?

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: I don't know the exact number. I do recall, I think, when the Department of Agriculture had a lease. It was 25,000 . . .

MR. H. PANKRATZ: My question to the Minister is: If there's going to be a surplus in that funding, is he going to expand on it? What I'm trying to get from the Minister; is he going to give \$12 million in school tax rebate back to agricultural land?

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: As I indicated previously, this program is really shared between three different departments: Municipal Affairs, Finance and Agriculture. So I can't say at this point what will be done with the surplus if there will be any. I mean our department's been involved as a liaison between other departments and the municipal organization. I don't recall there being any discussion of a potential surplus.

I suppose we'll have to deal with that when and if it should arise, but certainly it will take some time for all the monies to be claimed. The fact just because it's there this year doesn't necessarily mean that everybody's going to claim that by the end of October. It may well be that the province will have to consider a date six months down the road or a year down the road as the qualifying period for people to apply.

MR. H. PANKRATZ: Will the corporations just receive the one \$500 credit just like a private owner, or will they get special amounts for that?

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: Details of the program, such as those, will be announced by the Minister of Agriculture within the next week or 10 days. I don't feel comfortable responding to it because I don't know the answers. He does have the information.

MR. H. PANKRATZ: But if a farmer has in his personal name three or four properties paying, let's assume, \$2,000 or \$3,000 in school taxes, he will only qualify for the one \$500 exemption; am I correct?

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: That would be my understanding; but again, the specifics will be announced within a week to 10 days by the Minister of Agriculture.

MR. H. PANKRATZ: Then if the same farmer would rent additional land, will that land qualify separately or will it be part of the same operation and only qualify for the \$500.00?

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: I would not think so, but again, the Minister will have specifics. There are so

many different situations that one can imagine being out there, that certainly the three departments, I think, are working at putting together some position for the Minister to announce as to how each of these will be dealt with.

MR. H. PANKRATZ: One final question. Is it, though, your intention to pay out to agricultural land \$12 million in school tax?

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: That is the purpose of the allocation, certainly.

MR. H. PANKRATZ: Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Minnedosa.

MR. D. BLAKE: Yes, Mr. Chairman, one question.

I just wonder if the Minister might enlarge - I might have missed it when I was chatting with the Minister. The rationale behind the policy to pay the school tax rebate to the person farming the land and not to the owner who is paying the taxes, what was the rationale behind this?

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: We had a brief discussion on this earlier. I guess the response to that is that with the limited resources that are available to the province, the feeling was that those monies would be directed to those who most need that, and it is the person who is actively farming that was felt to be facing the greatest pressure from decreasing grain prices and increasing costs.

Consequently, it would be either the owner-operator or the operator that we feel should be targeted. Now there may well be some agreements that can be formed between the owner and the operator as to how they share - that's their business - but for delivery purposes, we would like to see it go to the person who is most directly involved in the business.

MR. D. BLAKE: Yes, there's two ways you go on that and I use my own case for example. For a number of years, I held a permit book and just hired all the farm work to be done and then I had all of the profit. Now, of course, I crop share it. Under the first system, I would be getting the rebate and under the system I'm under now, I won't be.

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: The Minister of Agriculture is dealing with these issues, and as I say, he will have something within the next week to 10 days.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We now move onto 9.(a)(1) Main Street Manitoba Program - the Member for Arthur.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, I note that the Minister still has some funds in here. Although he indicated that any new applications are not going to receive any support, these communities will receive every consideration under the new fund for rural development.

Can the Minister tell us how much money has the government spent on Main Street Manitoba? What's the total dollar figure that's been spent on the Main Street Manitoba Program?

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: Indeed, I'm very pleased to advise the Member for Arthur as to how much money was spent. If one refers to pages 74 and 75, one would see that there has been, while they're not totalled, I seem to recall a figure of about \$7.9 million of a provincial contribution, and the local municipalities and the business communities would have contributed another 4 million or 5 million, for about a \$12 million or \$14 million program which has done absolute wonders for some communities in rural Manitoba.

MR. J. DOWNEY: How many jobs are now in place because of that \$7.9 million expenditure?

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: Well, I suppose as many jobs as there are after a house is built.

A MEMBER: None.

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: If one can respond to that. I would imagine that in the kind of work that's involved, the construction industry, the repairing and so on, you are probably looking at about, at the time of the expenditures, 40-50 jobs per million. So you're looking at 400 or 500 person years of employment during the time of the program and has left behind a very valuable asset for the community.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, there probably isn't a better example of a more useless program than this government has put in the Main Street Manitoba Program and the expenditure of \$7.9 million. It has not given one long-term job to any person in the Province of Manitoba.

A MEMBER: Put it on the record.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Yes, I've put it on the record, and I'll use some examples.

I can tell you, Mr. Chairman, that I would far sooner see the town of Deloraine with an RCMP service paid for by the province than new bricks on their front street. I would far sooner see every other town that's losing RCMP support or hospital beds or those essential services than new bricks laying on their main street, Mr. Chairman, of \$7.9 million worth of taxpayers' money that has been wasted.

Oh yes, Mr. Chairman, we have some new fronts on buildings, and I compliment the business people for doing it. Would they not have done it, Mr. Chairman, if they had said, "Look, we will give you a bit of a tax reduction for improving your building." You know, why do we have to continue to falsely lead people by spending taxpayers' money?

There isn't one long-term benefit out of the Main Street Program, Mr. Chairman. In fact, I can point out concrete sidewalks that were torn up that would have lasted forever, and it's been replaced by some kind of a lock block that you'd sprain your ankle on today if you tried to walk over it.

Yes, Mr. Chairman, they replanted trees in some towns and they tore them out to replant this year. I support the mayors and reeves and those people who like to upgrade their towns. Mr. Chairman, they took the money because it was the only money that they were getting from the province to upgrade their towns.

I have to say I feel very strongly that the government would have been far better off to maintain hospital beds, to maintain senior citizens homes, personal care homes, to maintain RCMP support than they were to spend \$7.9 million on a Main Street Manitoba Program, Mr. Chairman.

Here's what the objective was: "It has accomplished what we hoped it would," the Minister said, "providing jobs and a better quality of life for rural Manitobans." How has it created a better way of life for people in rural Manitoba? The Minister tries to say it's created jobs. Mr. Chairman, there isn't one job related to that program today unless it's the finishing of a program.

How many communities? Forty-one communities got almost \$8 million. That's a substantial amount of money. That could have built a pretty nice extension to some of the lodges and senior citizens homes. It maybe could have kept some of the hospitals open. It maybe could have given some long-term job opportunities to young people.

A MEMBER: Maybe CAT scans.

MR. J. DOWNEY: That's right, it may have been able to put a CAT scan in Brandon a lot sooner than it has.

Yes, Mr. Chairman, I am terribly critical of the program because I think it's a prime example of taxpayers' money not being used to the best advantage. Yes, it helped to beautify some of those communities. Yes, it helped to improve the storefronts. But, Mr. Chairman, every time I walk into a store, I believe that I am charged enough that they should be able to maintain the business and the front of their store.

Yes, Mr. Chairman, I think they need support in certain areas. I think they need support in reducing their hydro rates. I think they need support in reducing the payroll tax that some of them pay. I think they'd have been far happier without the payroll tax than they would have been with Manitoba Main Street if you ask them their druthers, but they didn't get the choice.

Yes, again an ill-conceived program, Mr. Chairman, by this Minister and his government, and when Perfect Pete takes the credit for it, I can tell you that's all he deserves credit for is a waste of taxpayers' money.

Mr. Chairman, as I indicated in the opening of these Estimates, I would have thought we would have seen a plan for the cost-sharing of this program that the Premier promised during the election campaign.

I will further report, Mr. Chairman, from the Minister's comments. "Our government recognized that some communities may have entered the application process." (Interjection) Well, the former Minister of MTS may find it comical to lose \$28 million in Saudi Arabia, but I'll tell you I don't find it very funny.

Mr. Chairman, the Minister said that these communities will receive every consideration under the new fund for rural development when the details of that program are finalized. Well, he's now telling us he's waiting on the Federal Government to introduce some money, Mr. Chairman. I don't think that there is a program, Mr. Chairman. I think we've hired the former Minister of Municipal Affairs, given him a job, given him his expenses, and still haven't got the report. I think we've wasted not only the Main Street Manitoba Program money but we've also wasted the money that

the former Minister of Municipal Affairs got. That's a big waste of money, too, other than to help him politically.

Mr. Chairman, I'm extremely disappointed that this Minister did not support the changes to the Boundaries Commission, placing the president of the Union of Manitoba Municipalities on that commission, giving rural people the opportunity to have a say in the drawing up of the boundaries.

I'm extremely disappointed in his lack of support for my colleague's private member's bill in supporting the Bible colleges in their relief for taxation, Mr. Chairman.

I'm extremely disappointed, Mr. Chairman, in the fact that we're seeing a major reduction in our population throughout Manitoba and nothing being done by government policy to reverse that trend.

Mr. Chairman, I'm extremely upset that this Minister of Municipal Affairs is a part of a Cabinet that's putting the biggest tax bite on the rural people of this province that they've ever seen and nothing done.

Massive increases in Autopac and the Public Insurance Corporation, putting it directly on the backs of those people who deserve to have lower rates.

Why are they putting the rates of Autopac up, Mr. Chairman, and the cost of public insurance up? Because of his ill-conceived reinsurance program and his lack of accountability in taking control of his responsibilities. He, in fact, should have resigned, Mr. Chairman, from Cabinet because of the horrendous loss that he has imposed on the people, as the Minister responsible for MTS should have resigned from Cabinet for his loss of taxpayers' money.

Mr. Chairman, the public is tired of carrying this incompetent government on its backs.

The loss of RCMP to the communities of Reston and Deloraine, Mr. Chairman, the loss of them in his own constituency, at Winnipeg Beach, and his not even having any understanding of what's taking place, his not even knowing what's in the agreement that's going to be signed or supposed to be signed between the municipal corporations and which his department was part and parcel of developing.

Mr. Chairman, where does the Minister stand on policies such as protection of people? Where does he stand on policies of health and maintenance of hospital beds and hospital care? Where does he stand on upgrading of roads and infrastructure and the Provincial Government's responsibility which was promised by the Premier in 1986, Mr. Chairman? Where does he stand on all these issues of leadership?

We've heard him say today, Mr. Chairman, that he's working on tax reform, tax reform for the fall. That is another review of something and then he may proceed on it. Well, Mr. Chairman, I'm sure that many people are looking for some positive steps coming out of this administration. I hope that the Surface Rights changes will be positive. I hope that the tax reform process and changes will be positive to help those individuals. I would hope he would come to his senses in the administration of the education tax relief and not try to over-burden the municipal corporations with red tape and make them the snoopers or try and make them prove whether a farmer is or is not eligible for the benefits.

I say, make it simple and make all farmers and property owners eligible for the tax relief on education

tax. Goodness sakes, they've educated the people in this province, the children, the young people, the old people. How much longer do you want them to carry the burden of education, the retired farmers of this province who still may maintain some land holdings. Why do you want them to be continually penalized? Do you not think they've paid their fair share of taxes toward education, to educate you, Mr. Minister, to educate your department, Mr. Chairman, and you, Sir? That's what these people have invested in. Now give them a little bit of relief. Don't try and bureaucrat them to death or don't try and pick fly s— out of pepper with your boxing gloves on, Mr. Chairman, as you're going to be doing. I withdraw anything that is unparliamentary about that, Mr. Chairman, but the intent was certainly parliamentary and was well meant.

I would expect nothing of any substance to come from the Minister of Education because he's demonstrated his true inability to be a part of a government that has any accountability, Mr. Chairman. Anybody that would make the kind of statements that he's made and then reverse, Mr. Chairman, dealing with wages and support to the educational program, should keep his mouth tightly shut.

Mr. Chairman, in concluding the remarks dealing with the Minister of Municipal Affairs, I'm extremely disappointed in his activity as a Minister, both with the Municipal Affairs portfolio and particularly disappointed in his handling of the Public Insurance Corporation funds, of which he will pay the price for eventually, extremely disappointed in his handling of the RCMP losses throughout the province in his responsibility as a rural Minister for the Crown, extremely upset with his whole approach to the accountability of this administration; and of course one could touch on his anxiousness to shred information which is pertinent to telling a story which each and every one of us would be interested in hearing.

Mr. Chairman, he'll never be able to get out from under that cloud of suspicion.

MR. CHAIRMAN: A point of order.
The Minister of Education.

HON. J. STORIE: Yes, Mr. Chairperson. The Member for Arthur, in full flight, has I believe seriously transgressed upon the . . .

Mr. Chairman, it is against the rules of this House to cast aspersions or to impugn the motives of members of the government, and I believe the remarks by the Member for Arthur do just that. He's suggesting, Mr. Chairperson, that the Minister responsible for Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation was somehow involved or somehow supportive of the error that occurred with respect to the archives of the province; and I think the record has clearly shown that that is not the case and that representatives from the Department of Culture, Heritage and Recreation and the Minister responsible have indicated that is not in any way accurate, and it's unfair for the member to reflect on the integrity of the Minister responsible, and I would ask him to withdraw those remarks because it is against the rules to impugn the motives of members of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Arthur.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Does the member have a point of order, Mr. Chairman?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I'm not sure if the member has a point of order or not. I'd have to review the tape to see what was actually said. But I would hope that the Member for Arthur would withdraw any intention that might be seen and that would be the end of the argument.

The Member for Arthur.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, the Minister of Education is trying to deflect the criticisms that are being handed to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and it seems strange that the Minister of Municipal Affairs cannot defend himself.

The point that I'm making is this, I am not going to do anything unparliamentary and if I've said anything unparliamentary I will withdraw that.

However, Mr. Chairman, I still want to leave it very clearly on the record that we have a very incompetent Minister, a Minister who cannot clearly explain as to what happened to records, important records dealing with activities as far as the Public Insurance Corporation is concerned. He hasn't been able to clear the cloud of suspicion over his head dealing with the losses, the massive losses by a Crown corporation.

He hasn't been able to explain himself as to the lack of support that he has given to the different areas within his jurisdiction, whether it's the Electoral Boundaries Commission changes, whether it's the depopulation of rural Manitoba, whether in fact it is the lack of substantive programs which were promised by his Premier in the election campaign of 1986, we still haven't seen any evidence of it, Mr. Chairman.

So I therefore, Mr. Chairman, have no trouble at this time in saying we can't support the passage of the monies that he's asking for. However, I won't be preparing a motion to that effect, but just want to say that we would like to see a lot better performance out of the Minister in this regard and would like to see him removed as the Minister responsible for the Public Insurance Corporation.

Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you moving the resolution?
9.(a)(1)—pass; 9.(a)(2)—pass.

Resolution No. 117: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$705,000 for Municipal Affairs, Expenditures Related to Capital, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1988—pass.

Minister's Salary - 1.(a)(1) - the Member for Arthur.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, I could repeat the comments that I just made dealing with the Minister. However, I think it's important to note that the irresponsible Minister for MTS, the former MTS Minister, I'm sure can sympathize with the Minister of Municipal Affairs as he has demonstrated his incompetence, they both demonstrated their incompetence in the massive losses of taxpayers' money, so they do have something in common.

I would just hope, Mr. Chairman, that the Minister does proceed to live up to some of the commitments

that he's indicated at this committee; that there will be a program for infrastructure very shortly announced, and a meaningful one, Mr. Chairman, not one of political puffery as was the Main Street Manitoba Program.

Mr. Chairman, the RCMP thing is a major issue which I would expect him to get a hold of and support municipalities when it comes to maintenance of RCMP protection. It is important in our society today to have that kind of protection. It is his responsibility to carry it out and I would hope that, in passing of these Estimates, he does live up to some of those responsibilities.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 1 (a)(1) - The Member for Niakwa.

MR. A. KOVNATS: Thank you.

I would like to direct an inquiry to the Minister inasmuch as I have tried some of the other departments, and I really don't know where it falls but, out of desperation, I think I would like to ask this Minister who I find to be most cooperative. Coming back from my farm in Menisino last weekend, I came past a comfort station just in the municipality just east of Pansy corner. I've asked the Minister of Highways, I've asked the Minister of Environment, I've asked the Minister of Culture and I get no answers. They have made one correction.

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please.

MR. A. KOVNATS: That's right. I never would have brought it up, Mr. Chairman, unless it was of that importance. But I went past the comfort station and the comfort station is no longer a comfort station. It's still there but the signs on the highway have been displaced. They've been removed. I would imagine that the comfort station has lost its tourist rating of four stars, or whatever it was at one time, but can the Honourable Minister advise whether any action has been taken to improve this location that is in a particular municipality? That's the reason I thought that the Minister would be involved, because I get no answers from anywhere else.

You know, I spoke and I condemned the location last year, because it was dirty and filthy. You'd be surprised at what somebody had done in one of those outhouses. I thought that it should have been cleaned up.

I hope that outhouse is not an unparliamentary word, because that's exactly what it is at the side of the highway. But it hasn't been cleaned up from last year; in fact, it's just been increasingly worse. Will the Minister do something to at least get the municipality to remove these buildings that are outdated and falling apart and where people just dump garbage?

It can't be an environmental problem, because I asked the Minister of Natural Resources last year also about this particular location. I think the Minister of Natural Resources at least had the signs removed from the side of the highway, the signs that say picnic benches, that show the picture of the picnic benches. Well, obviously nobody's going to go and use those picnic benches close to this particular environment anyway. Is the Minister going to do anything about cleaning up this environment in the municipality of which I spoke?

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: Well, I'm sorry the member wasn't here early this afternoon when we had resolved that problem. No, seriously, I'll take your question as notice. We don't interfere with municipal matters of that type, obviously it's a municipal problem and they would have to deal with it. But I am sure you have made the problem abundantly aware to my colleague, the Minister of Natural Resources, the Minister of the Environment. I'll review it.

MR. A. KOVNATS: It's 10 kilometres on Highway 12, east of Pansy Road. Somebody has removed the picnic signs at the side of the highway, so at least somebody's thinking about it and it's removed on each way. At least I thought highly enough of it, because of the tourist attraction that it might be, that I took time to stop there coming back from planting my tomatoes on Sunday and I did have a look around and it's exactly the same as it was last year. Somebody has to be looking after it and it's right on Highway No. 12 and in a Natural Resources area. It has to be either the Minister of Highways, the Minister of Natural Resources or the Minister of Municipal Affairs or the Minister of Tourism - somebody. But everybody says - or it could be the Minister of Consumer Affairs, and the next one I'm going after is the Minister of Labour, because he should be hiring people to go out, find jobs to clean up these places.

But anyways I would hope that somebody would look into it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 1.(a)—Pass.

Resolution 109: Be it resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$1,152,200 for Municipal Affairs, Administration and Finance, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March 1988—pass.

A MEMBER: Let's call it six o'clock, Mr. Chairperson. (Agreed)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Committee rise.

SUPPLY - CULTURE, HERITAGE AND RECREATION

MR. CHAIRMAN, C. Santos: Order please. This section of the Committee of Supply will be dealing with the Estimates of the Department of Culture, Heritage and Recreation.

We shall begin with a statement from the Honourable Minister responsible for the department.

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

I have copies of my text I could table. Mr. Chairperson, I have copies of my text if you would like to distribute it.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. I welcome this opportunity to present my department's Estimates, and to review the events and achievements of the past year on which these Estimates are based.

Tel que le mentionne le discours du trône, mes collègues et moi-même nous sommes engagés à ce que, dans le domaine de la Culture, du Patrimoine et des Loisirs, chacun et chacune puisse profiter des

possibilités qui reflètent les besoins et les aspirations de tous les Manitobains, et y soit davantage sensibilisé.

(English translation of the above.)

As was noted in the Speech from the Throne, my colleagues and I are committed to ensuring greater accessibility to, and creating greater awareness of Cultural, Heritage and Recreation opportunities which reflect the needs and aspirations of all Manitobans.

Inherent in that commitment is the belief that each member of society deserves equal respect, dignity, access to services and support systems in order to be able to achieve their full potential.

Mr. Chairperson, I am proud to be part of a government that recognizes the contributions of all ethnocultural groups to the social, economic and cultural fabric of this great province. And I am proud to say that we continue to be committed to safeguarding these contributions for future generations.

This government believes that, because all of our citizens contribute to our society, all of our citizens have the right to share equally in all of its benefits.

The achievement of equality of access and opportunity in the area of Culture, Heritage and Recreation is best accomplished through consultation with communities, and my department continues to be committed to that principle.

The government recognizes that Culture, Heritage and Recreation activities are major components in maintaining the quality of life for individuals and their communities.

In order to ensure continued growth and development, the Manitoba Government has increased its commitment to Culture, Heritage and Recreation programs, incorporating Appropriation and Lotteries expenditures. In addition, the major cultural institutions in our province have received an average 4-percent increase in operating grants for the current fiscal year.

My department has enjoyed a long-standing, cooperative working relationship with the major cultural and heritage institutions: the Manitoba Centennial Centre Corporation, Centre Culturel Franco-Manitobain, the Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature, the Ukrainian Cultural and Educational Centre, the Western Manitoba Centennial Auditorium, Osborne Village Cultural Centre, the Western Canadian Aviation Museum, and the Manitoba Agricultural Museum. The relationship between my department and these institutions is built on a recognition of their valuable contribution to the quality of life of all Manitobans.

Mr. Chairperson, the Winnipeg Art Gallery has also received an increase of 4 percent. This is a special year for the Winnipeg Art Gallery as it celebrates its 75th birthday, and I was pleased to authorize an additional \$25,000 grant to assist with the costs of mounting special exhibitions on "1987: Contemporary Art in Manitoba," and "1912: The Breakup of Tradition."

In keeping with the increases to the major cultural and heritage organizations in the province, I am pleased to report that the province's grant to the Manitoba Arts Council will be increased by 3 percent for the upcoming fiscal year. This, in combination with Lotteries revenues which the Government of Manitoba has made available

to the Manitoba Arts Council, will enable it to keep operating grants to organizations in line with inflation, and it has budgeted to increase the level of support to individual artists in its creative programs by 30 percent.

The council, over the past year, has developed two Lotteries-funded programs which will greatly benefit individual visual artists and musicians. The Visual Art Bank, with a budget of \$45,000 a year for the next six years, has just completed its first round of buying works produced by individual Manitoban visual artists. This program will better develop a climate where individual artists have the artistic and economic freedom to express the living culture of our local communities and province.

À l'automne, le conseil ouvrira la banque d'instruments destinée à aider les musiciens particulièrement talentueux à s'acheter des instruments de musique.

(English translation of the above.)

In the fall, the council will initiate the instrument bank, which will assist exceptionally talented musicians to purchase instruments.

Funding for exhibitions assistance, as well as grants to artist-run and arts service organizations will also increase. Together, these initiatives represent Manitoba's commitment to improving the status of the individual artist.

In addition the Manitoba Arts Gaming Fund Commission has initiated a special one-time-only community arts project to assist special endeavours in community arts by non-profit arts organizations. This program, with a budget of \$150,000, will begin this summer.

Mr. Chairperson, when I look at the growth of community arts councils in this province over the past few years, I am proud of Manitoba's reputation in this sphere. Since 1984-85, funding to community arts councils has increased 26 percent. We now have 22 local community arts councils compared to 16 in 1984-85. Today, virtually one-half of rural Manitoba is served by a community arts council.

Lorsque je considère l'épanouissement qu'ont connu, au Manitoba, le théâtre, les lettres et les arts, je sais que nous créons un environnement qui encourage l'expression artistique. La semaine dernière, j'ai eu le plaisir d'assister à la première mondiale d'"IKWE", le premier film de la série dramatique en quatre volets intitulée "Daughters of the Country" qui, à travers la vie de quatre femmes, retrace l'histoire des métis de l'Ouest du Canada. Dans le cadre du fonds Manitobain de soutien à l'emploi, l'association des fonctionnaires du Manitoba a versé cinq cent mille dollars, contribuant ainsi à la production de cette série réalisée qui met en vedette des acteurs, des directeurs et des écrivains Manitobains, et présente le décor naturel du Manitoba.

(English translation of the above.)

When I look at the development of Manitoba theatre, writing and the arts, I know that we are creating the right kind of environment to encourage artistic expression. Last week, I had the pleasure of attending the world premiere of "IKWE," part one of "Daughters

of the Country," a four-part drama series on the history of Metis people in Western Canada, told through the personal stories of four women. The MGEA, through the Manitoba Jobs Fund, contributed \$500,000 towards this NFB series, which showcased Manitoba actors, directors, writers and landscape.

This past season, Mr. Chairperson, two local theatre companies produced entire seasons of written-in-Manitoba dramas: Prairie Theatre Exchange and Le Cercle Molière.

The Royal Winnipeg Ballet for the first time showcased a Made-in-Manitoba ballet for its Christmas show: Jacques Lemay's "Big Top." This year, les danseurs de la rivière rouge will celebrate their 40th anniversary. This organization has grown significantly over the past four years, widening their scope to include music and song. Their popularity is demonstrated by the fact the Pavillion Canadien Francais performed to 15,000 people at Folklorama in 1986.

Remi Bouchard from Neepawa won a national competition for composers and had his composition recorded by CBC. He also had his collection of piano pieces for children, "Souvenir" published by Les Editions du Ble.

Lois Braun of Altona has recently been nominated for the 1987 Governor-General's award for fiction for her first book, a collection of stories: "A Stone Watermelon," published by Manitoba's own Turnstone Press.

The Children's Museum, after one year of operation, is the second-most popular museum in the province and, in its first 9 months of operation, it had 50,000 visitors.

Le Cent Nons marks its 20th anniversary in 1987, having contributed to the development of the talents of many Franco-Manitoban performers, such as Daniel Lavoie, Marcel Gosselin, Gerry and Ziz, Normand Dugas, Monique Lacoste, Suzanne Druwe, Laurent Roy et Carole Freynet.

As further indication of unprecedented cultural activity in the province, Manitobans have the choice, over the next few weeks alone, of attending the International Children's Festival, the International Mime Festival, International Modern Dance Festival, and the Canadian Museums Conference.

Toute cette activité dans le domaine culturel à exigé du temps, du talent et un engagement de la part de notre communauté artistique, mais aussi un engagement de la part du gouvernement qui veut encourager l'épanouissement culturel.

(English transcription for the above.)

All of this excitement in cultural activity has taken time, commitment, and talent on the part of our arts community, and commitment on the part of this government to nourish cultural development.

Two years ago, Mr. Chairperson, this government amended legislation to enable the Manitoba Film Classification Board to license the distribution of home-use videotapes and to classify all such tapes prior to their sale, rental or distribution to the general public for home viewing. I am pleased to announce that we are very close to completing our negotiations for an interprovincial agreement with the Provinces of Ontario

and Saskatchewan which will enable us to classify cooperatively videotape products distributed within the three provinces. This measure will help Manitobans assess the suitability of tapes for home viewing and will restrict access to underage consumers on the same basis as theatre exhibition.

Mr. Chairperson, in 1984 Canada and Manitoba signed an Agreement for the Development of Communication and Cultural Industries. This sub-agreement was the first "ERDA" or Economic and Regional Development Agreement formally and financially to recognize the economic significance of culture. As Manitobans, we're proud of having set this precedent for Canada. In March, my department, along with the Federal Department of Communications, launched the new Canada-Manitoba Cultural Industries Development Office. With joint funding, totalling \$6,875,000, the office will be offering a comprehensive set of film, video and audio support programs. These programs will have an emphasis on training, equipment acquisition and product marketing.

Afin que la créativité engendrée par cette entente reflète la diversité du Manitoba, ces programmes comprendront des mesures qui garantiront une meilleure représentation des personnes habituellement sous-représentées dans l'industrie cinématographique, l'industrie de la vidéo et celle du disque. En proposant des stimulants financiers aux producteurs qui embauchent et en insistant plus particulièrement sur le recyclage, les femmes, les francophones, les autochtones et la communauté ethnoculturelle en général pourront profiter de nouveaux débouchés.

(English translation for the above.)

In order to ensure that the creativity which emerges from this agreement reflects the diversity that is Manitoba, these programs will include measures to ensure greater representation by persons traditionally underrepresented in the film, video and sound-recording industries. Through financial incentives to producers involved in hiring and through special consideration for skills upgrading, new opportunities and greater access will be achieved for women, francophones, native people and the ethnocultural community in general.

Cultural industries are a valuable cornerstone for maintaining our cultural heritage today and preserving it for the future. Because they make an enormous contribution to our economy and also reflect our national identity, I want to reiterate the position of the Manitoba Government on any bilateral trade agreement with the United States. There must be nothing in negotiations which diminishes or threatens our ability to support and strengthen cultural industries in Canada through federal and provincial initiatives.

Mr. Chairperson, provision has also been made for an increase in provincial support to Manitoba's public libraries, as part of a long-term strategy for improving service in this vital sector. This government has stated its commitment to working with the City of Winnipeg to develop a cooperative approach for steady improvement in the city library system. In line with that, the province has pledged for this fiscal year a \$160,000 increase in operating funds. This follows a \$185,000 increase in operating funds for the past year, and a

\$500,000 one-time-only grant for library materials paid out this past January. As a result, Winnipeg enjoys one of the highest provincial shares of a city library system anywhere in Canada.

Le montant versé par la province au titre des subventions de fonctionnement accordées aux bibliothèques rurales en 1987 passera de 3,50 à 4,25 par habitant. Maintenant que les bibliothèques rurales de la province sont plus nombreuses et plus importantes, les services de catalogage offerts par les services des bibliothèques publiques font l'objet d'une demande élevée. Pour répondre à cette demande et pour garantir l'accès continu aux collections, un projet important est prévu en 1987-1988: Le rattachement des services des bibliothèques publiques au University of Toronto Library Automation System.

(English translation for the above.)

The matching portion of the rural library operating grants will be increased from \$3.50 to \$4.25 for the 1987 grants. As Manitoba's rural libraries have developed and expanded, increased demands have been placed upon the cataloguing resources available from Public Library Services. To keep pace with these demands, and to ensure continued accessibility of materials, a major new initiative for 1987-88 will be the participation of Public Library Services in the University of Toronto Library Automation System.

This network makes accessible, through its members, an expanding database of more than 24 million cataloguing records, representing the holdings of more than 2,000 academic, public, special and government libraries within Manitoba.

Mr. Chairperson, as I indicated earlier in my remarks, this government recognizes the contributions of all ethnocultural groups to the social, economic and cultural enrichment of our province.

It is for this reason that funding for my department's Multicultural Grants Program has been increased by 10 percent and funding to the Manitoba Intercultural Council has been increased by 4 percent. The council continues to provide valuable advice to the government and a high level of assistance to our ethnocultural communities.

Through the Lotteries-funded Ethnocultural Community Support Fund, in the past year, MIC has distributed \$1.1 million to 104 ethnocultural organizations in the province. As well, it is currently conducting a community development program with all ethnocultural organizations which focuses on self-determination, fiscal management and recruitment of volunteers. The council's Fourth Biennial Assembly this November will focus on these same themes.

In addition, our government is taking steps to develop a comprehensive multicultural policy for the province which will not only reflect the cultural diversity and needs of its ethnocultural peoples, but also promote equal access and participation by them in all aspects of our society. A task force under the able leadership of Professor Neil MacDonald and Dr. Claudia Wright has been established to consult with Manitobans and report back with recommendations by the end of 1987.

En Mai dernier, j'ai eu le privilège d'annoncer la promulgation de la loi sur les richesses du patrimoine

qui garantit une meilleure protection des richesses du patrimoine du Manitoba. Pour encourager la conservation du patrimoine, mon Ministère a préparé du matériel publicitaire varié visant à renseigner les Manitobains sur les bénéfices de la conservation et de la protection de notre passé, de nos racines, de notre histoire.

Pour appuyer la loi sur les richesses du patrimoine, mon Ministère a mis en oeuvre deux nouveaux programmes de subventions qui permettent aux propriétaires et aux preneurs à bail à long terme de bâtiments qui ont été qualifiés de sites du patrimoine, soit à l'échelle provinciale, soit à l'échelle municipale, de les protéger. En outre, le programme de subventions pour l'installation de plaques commémoratives est un moyen d'aider les collectivités locale à célébrer leur histoire.

(English translation of the above.)

Last May, I had the privilege of announcing the proclamation of The Manitoba Heritage Resources Act, an act which provides for greater protection of Manitoba's heritage resources. To encourage heritage preservation, my department has developed a range of publicity materials to inform Manitobans of the benefits in maintaining and preserving our past, our roots, our history.

In conjunction with The Manitoba Heritage Resources Act, my department established two new grants programs to assist building owners and long-term lessees in preserving those buildings that have been designated of heritage importance, either provincially or municipally. Further, the Community Commemorative Plaques Program is a means to support local communities to commemorate local history.

Since the passing of the legislation, eight municipally designated buildings, including three in the core area of Winnipeg, and four provincially designated buildings have received funds for preservation. As well, the province turned over to the Town of The Pas, the courthouse, along with a \$500,000 grant to help with its rehabilitation.

Mr. Chairperson, this is a very important year for Manitoba's northern communities. It is the 75th Anniversary of the extension of Manitoba's boundaries to include northern territories. So I am proud of the fact that the Government of Manitoba transferred ownership of the courthouse to the Municipality of The Pas and that my department could provide a rehabilitation grant. Both actions, on the part of the Government of Manitoba, indicate our commitment to the development of the North in this province.

De même, le personnel de notre direction des ressources historiques aide la ville du Pas à préparer une conférence sur l'histoire du nord qui doit avoir lieu au Pas même cet automne, en offrant une aide financière et les conseils de spécialistes.

J'ai parlé plus tôt de l'importance de consulter la collectivité, et bien la consultation des municipalités de la province et les ateliers menés avec elles sont une des raisons de la réussite que connaît le programme de qualification relatif au patrimoine. Un nombre toujours croissant de municipalités envisagent de mettre sur pied leurs propres comités consultatifs domaine

de la qualification en matière de patrimoine, et je suis confiante que l'avenir verra une participation accrue des municipalités à la protection de leur patrimoine local.

(English translation for the above.)

As well, staff in our Historic Resources Branch are assisting The Pas, both financially and with expert advice, to plan a Northern History Conference to be held in The Pas this October.

I spoke earlier of the importance of community consultation, and one of the reasons for the success of the Heritage Designation Program has been the consultation and workshops that staff have conducted with municipalities across the province. Increasing numbers of municipalities are looking to establishing Local Heritage Advisory Committees and, in the future, I look forward to even greater participation of the municipalities in protecting their local heritage.

In the year since The Heritage Resources Act was passed, my department has commemorated four historic sites with plaques, including the A.A. Heaps Building, which was officially opened this past Heritage Day, February 16. Further, we have recorded 174 new archaeological sites; over 2,000 sites have been computerized. And I invite all Manitobans to visit Lockport this summer and watch while excavation crews continue their dig of the site, showing inhabitation exceeding 3,000 years and providing evidence of the earliest agriculture found to date in Western Canada.

Mr. Chairperson, this government recognizes that recreation and leisure contribute to an individual's growth and have, through enjoyable experiences, an unlimited potential to develop life skills, to create cohesive communities and to promote healthy independent lifestyles, all of which contribute significantly to the quality of life in our province.

I recently completed a provincial tour to gather views and information on the recreational needs of municipalities across Manitoba. Based on those consultations, my department will be developing a recreation policy statement for the province which will both clarify the roles and responsibilities of the different levels of government in providing recreational support programs, as well as set priorities for the future. This statement, Mr. Chairperson, will be completed by the fall of 1987.

To further enhance the strengthening of community identity, my government recently launched the \$40 million Community Places Program, and this new program will, over the next four years, encourage non-profit organizations and recreation associations throughout Manitoba to undertake capital projects which will provide long-term benefits and contribute to the quality of life.

Finally, Mr. Chairperson, in line with this government's intention to proclaim The Freedom of Information Act by spring 1988, records scheduling is proceeding as a government priority. We are currently compiling the First Edition of the Access Guide, which will be available at the time of proclamation and, in addition, we are developing both a video and a brochure which will inform the public of their rights to privacy and to access government records.

In closing, Mr. Chairperson, I wish to thank the many thousands of Manitobans, both volunteers and professionals, who contribute their time and talent toward the development of culture, heritage, recreation and multicultural activities across the province. It is our combined efforts which thereby enrich the lives of all of us.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

In accordance with practice and procedure in this House, we shall now hear the customary reply by the Opposition critic.

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

I'm pleased to begin discussion today of the Estimates of the Department of Culture, Heritage and Recreation for the fiscal year 1987-88. This department's actions are vitally important to the lives of all Manitobans, and the approval of these Estimates will either enhance and preserve the uniqueness of Manitoba's society, or it will continue as it has done over the past five years, to use rhetoric instead of action.

Monsieur le président, je vois qu'en écoutant les remarques du ministre, on voit qu'à plusieurs places qu'on parle des revenus des jeux de chance qui vont être servis dans les différents départements pour financer plusieurs programmes. Ça se paraît que, si on prend le budget en total, que l'appropriation est effectivement coupée, on va se servir plus de l'argent des jeux de chance. Ça veut dire ça que indirectement, malgré qu'est ce que la loi dit, que ce gouvernement-ci se sert de l'argent des jeux de chance pour financer leurs programmes.

Certainement ils vont dire non, on a certains programmes qu'on finance avec l'argent des jeux de chance, mais le fait est qu'en coupant certaines appropriations, le fait est que cet argent-là qui sort dans ce département, va être mis dans d'autres départements, d'abord. Ça, ça veut dire que ce gouvernement se sert moins en moins des appropriations, et plus en plus des revenus des jeux de chance. Tout en essayant de faire croire les personnes, résidents du Manitoba que c'est eux, à travers de leurs taxes qui payent pour. Ceci n'est pas une bonne manière de gérer les affaires de notre province.

(English Translation for the above.)

Mr. Chairman, I noticed in listening to the remarks made by the Minister that Lottery revenues, which will be used to finance programs in various departments, were mentioned a number of times. It appears from the total budget that appropriation will indeed be cut, and that Lottery revenues will be used more extensively. This means that indirectly, despite what the law says, the government is using Lottery revenues to finance its programs.

They will of course deny it, and say that only certain programs are being financed by Lottery revenues, but the fact is that certain appropriations are being cut, and that the money that leaves this department goes to other departments. This means that the government is using appropriations less and less and Lottery revenues more and more, while at the same time trying to make the people, the citizens of Manitoba, believe

that their taxes are paying for everything. This is not a good way to manage the affairs of our province.

As I read through previous Throne Speeches, Mr. Chairman, it was obvious that this government's record in the area of Culture, Heritage and Recreation has been and continues to be one of ideological discussions, unfulfilled promises, misguided leadership and lack of action.

In 1982, the government in its Throne Speech made reference to an Interim Liaison Committee on Multiculturalism as, and I quote: ". . . completing a full-scale review of multiculturalism policy." Yet in May 1987, this month, Mr. Chairman, this Minister has announced a Task Force on Multiculturalism in Manitoba to formulate multicultural policy.

Mr. Chairman, as indicated in 1982, Manitobans should have had a multicultural policy in place and, in subsequent years, we should have been witnessing action-oriented programs designed to fulfill the objectives of that policy. The announcement of the formation of such a task force means that this government: (1) considers the 1982 Liaison Committee to have been a failure; (2) it has no faith in the various ethnocultural groups and their leaders to provide this type of policy input; (3) the Minister has no confidence in her staff to do the work for which they are paid to do; and (4) raises serious questions as to why the Manitoba Intercultural Council is not performing its tasks.

In the 1985 Throne Speech, this government spoke of its commitment to open government by introducing the Freedom of Information legislation. Is this government really concerned about the Freedom of Information legislation? Is it really concerned about open government. How open have they been with MTX, with MPIC, and with the Workers Compensation Board, to name but a few? No wonder we still don't have a Freedom of Information Act proclaimed. The Minister mentions the spring of 1988, but the Attorney-General made many promises before. When spring of '88 comes around, we'll see then whether that promise has been fulfilled. They haven't fulfilled too many promises, Mr. Chairman.

It makes one wonder, Mr. Chairman, if a socialist government has any serious intentions of introducing such an act, and should it happen in the spring of '88 or at any time, if it will achieve its true objectives and purpose. After all, let's not forget that freedom and openness are not words which are synonymous with socialism.

In that same Throne Speech presentation, the government speaks of, and again I quote: ". . . strengthen programs and strengthening ethnocultural organizations." But in an analysis of previous years' Estimates, there is a drastic decrease in the funding of programs when taken as a percentage of the department's total budget. Programs were 78.3 percent of the total department's budget in 1985, but they are being reduced to only 67.5 percent in 1988. That's an 11 percent cutback, Mr. Chairman. Where has the money gone? It has gone to both administration and finance and to communications. Administration and finance used to consume 5.1 percent of the budget. Now it eats up almost 7 percent - 6.9 percent to be exact.

It is even worse in communications, the government's propaganda arm, or the art of apple polishing, to quote the newly crowned prince of this Cabinet in a former life. The art of apple polishing has increased from a 12.1 percent of the total budget in 1985, to a bright - one might say rosy red - 21.6 percent in 1988, a virtual doubling of its propaganda budget.

Where are the priorities of this government? They are not in the programs division, which is where the services to the consumer, the taxpayer, the recipients, are located. Rather the increased spending is, as it was last year, spent on communication services which provide government departments and agencies with help in - and again I quote from the Estimates book - "their public communication strategies, programs and materials."

Mr. Chairman, the facts are that this government is steadily increasing the amount it spends on its propaganda machine, shades of George Orwell's "Ministry of Truth," and a decreasing amount as a percentage of the Budget on those areas which really matter to people. Never mind what the people need or want, indoctrinate them with what the government thinks they should have or should want.

Mr. Chairman, in the Throne Speeches from 1986 to 1987, we have more of the same promotional rhetoric. Mr. Chairman, during the past several months, I have had the opportunity to speak with many ethnocultural groups, their leaders and very many of their members also.

What I have been hearing and what appears to be consistent with that is the government's record of a lack of action or, to borrow a Shakespearian expression, "It's much ado about nothing."

Mr. Chairman, it is imperative that the Minister herself go out and communicate with the people in those groups. You will find that what they want most is to belong to the mainstream of life in Manitoba and in Canada. They need to educationally and economically assimilate and to share and participate in our society through cultural integration. They need programs to help them belong, programs that celebrate their cultural similarities, not only programs that emphasize their differences.

In other words, Mr. Chairman, although people want to keep their languages and cultures - and that is very good for all of us as a society - they also want to be Canadians first. That is why they came to this country. That is why they become or want to become Canadian citizens, and that is why we should be helping and encouraging them to become full-fledged members of society, not just hand out grants at the song and dance of a variety in a patronizing fashion.

In regard to recreation, if the Minister will allow me to quote Hansard from last year's Estimates, in her opening remarks she says, and I quote the Minister: "Recreation has become an integral facet of the basic health and well-being of all Manitobans. It is a critical element in ensuring that Manitoba is a good place to live. Recreation has an almost unlimited potential to develop life skills and to promote and maintain healthier and independent lifestyles, thereby giving communities the tools for revitalization and self-sufficiency."

Mr. Chairman, I agree with the basic premise of that statement but, when I look at previous years' Estimates compared to this year's, the trend is that funding has

decreased by 23.3 percent from 1984 to 1988. That is very critical.

Also, grants to recreation agencies have been declining and they are more and more being supported by Lotteries, the tax on the poor, and less and less by appropriations. I ask you: Is that being responsible?

Government policy on recreation is still in the White Paper stage. Will it ever progress into policy? Will that policy be integrated with Culture and Heritage policy? Will both rural and urban recreation policy participate and benefit equally? I guess we'll have to stay tuned as the soap opera continues next year.

Which reminds me of libraries, Mr. Chairman, the subject of question period on April 21 of this year. When I asked about the state of funding for libraries, this Minister stated that they had responded to the needs of Manitobans. It took a lot of pressure from various groups and agencies, the press and the Opposition to get that response. The government was reactive, not proactive, in its attitude on funding for libraries.

As well, according to a comparison of Estimates from 1984 to 1988, there has been an increase of only 8.8 percent in funding, which, over four years, is an average of 2.2 percent annually, hardly, to quote, "well beyond the cost of living," or able to - again a quote - "make it possible to see major improvements in the library system," as was suggested by the Minister in her answer to my questions.

In reading the list of grants made by the department from the appropriation in Lotteries for the 1985-86 fiscal year as a basis for comparison with the Supplementary Information for Legislative Review Estimates - that's the 1987-88 Estimates - for the Department of Culture, Heritage and Recreation, a significant trend appears to be developing.

This trend shows that less appropriation dollars - that is money from general revenues from the taxpayers as a whole - are being spent, and more Lotteries money - the tax on the poor - is funding the entire department. This transfer of dollars and responsibility has been called - and I quote from many areas in the Estimates book - "a consolidation under Lotteries."

A closer look reveals that not only are there consolidations but decreases in funding as well. The euphemism for decrease is now the consolidation of funds under Lotteries. Euphemisms are, according to my dictionary anyway, just a more pleasing and less straightforward way of saying something displeasing. It somehow reminds me of deficits masquerading as unfunded liabilities.

A MEMBER: How about revenue-raising initiatives?

MR. G. ROCH: Ah, another good euphemism!

Besides a penchant for playing with words, this government is also famous - or perhaps I should say "infamous" - for its creative accounting practices which are not only to be found in Crown corporations but now in cultural concerns as well.

Mr. Chairman, this government has not only mastered the skills of wordsmithing but has become so creative in accounting they could probably rewrite the Mexican Government's debt to show a surplus.

I would like to leave you with a quotation which I find to be a most fitting description of this department's

work: "Words are the most powerful drug used by mankind." Mr. Chairman, that is a quote from a speech made by Rudyard Kipling in 1923.

Given the sinister approach taken by this government in its use of words for both self-gratification and propaganda, it is chillingly appropriate today and especially in this department, a department which disseminates the words that they want the populace to swallow and shreds the words that it does not want the people to see.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: At this point in time, the Chair wishes to invite the administrative staff of the department to take their respective places.

Deferring the budget Item No. 1, Salary for the Minister, as the last item for consideration by this committee, we shall begin with a consideration of Item 1.(b)(1) Administration and Finance, Executive Support: Salaries; 1.(b)(2) Other Expenditures.

The Honourable Minister.

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

I would just like to make a few comments, while staff are getting set up, in response to the Member for Springfield who made some interesting comments that are hard to rationalize in the context of other comments made by members opposite and the general policies of the Official Opposition.

Mr. Chairperson, we have heard repeatedly from members opposite about the deficit and about the need to find ways to cut programs and to trim the budget. Yet the Member for Springfield has, in effect, suggested two things: (1) that we should be increasing on just about every area; and (2) that we should be eliminating

MR. CHAIRMAN: With due respect, I called Item No. 1.(b)(1), Executive Support: Salaries; and 1.(b)(1) Other Expenditures. All debate should be strictly relevant to the item under consideration with considerable leeway under Salary.

The Member for Springfield.

MR. G. ROCH: I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman. I thought was in the committee room. I was remaining in my seat. I have a disadvantage that the Minister and the Member for Portage don't have. I am not as close to the desk as they are.

Mr. Chairman, as this is my first time through the Estimates process in Culture, I would like to ask a few general questions in order to clarify the major spending before we get down to the more detailed Estimates.

The Minister is requesting \$19.9 million for the 1988 appropriation on page 6 of the Supplementary Information document. Is that number representative of tax dollars, or is Lotteries money involved?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: The answer is tax dollars, Mr. Chairperson.

While I'm on my feet, if I could introduce the staff who have joined me. The first is Tom Carson, who is Acting Deputy Minister for the department. Beside him is Dave Paton, who is the Director of Finance and

Management Services; and across from Tom is John Wilkins, Executive Director of Support Services.

MR. G. ROCH: Thank you for the information and the introduction of the staff present, Madam Minister.

I would like to know how much Lotteries money is spent directly in Culture and Heritage?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: The total amount of Lotteries dollars spent on Culture, Heritage and Recreation activities is \$10.136 million - \$136.8 million (sic). That does not include the Lotteries revenue that is directed into the Community Places Program. That, as the members opposite know, runs to \$10 million a year.

MR. G. ROCH: I may not have understood the first part. Was that \$136.8 million?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: \$10.1368 million. It's on page 11 of your Supplementary Estimates book.

MR. G. ROCH: Now in relation to total expenditures on page 13, is the \$10.1 million on top of the \$19.9 million on page 6?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: Yes, Mr. Chairperson.

MR. G. ROCH: Then in reality, we are discussing a \$30 million budget.

Still on page 13, the Grant Assistance of \$8.5 million, who can access the money?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: That's a line that covers all grant programs that are funded through the Lotteries revenue and will be coming to each one of those programs as we go through the Estimates line by line.

MR. G. ROCH: I suppose then, as to the way it's allocated, will that be covered when we get into line by line as well?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: Yes, it will. In fact, we provided the member opposite with a list of total grants allocated and the program titles under which those grants fall.

MR. G. ROCH: So therefore, there is a projection for allocations to tally the \$8 million to \$8.5 million, or is it the balance of the trust accounts?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: I didn't quite catch that question. Could I hear it again, please?

MR. G. ROCH: Basically what I want to know is how it's allocated, and is there a projection for allocations to tally to \$8.5 million or is it the balance in the trust accounts? I'd like to find out before we get into the line by line.

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: All of the various programs will add up to this amount, and we'll get to that line by line.

MR. G. ROCH: There is \$587,700 targeted for Salaries. Can you tell me who is being paid? Are these salaried

employees, full-time or term? Are there any contracts and are there any per diems?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: Again, it covers the full range of staffing arrangements. I should point out - maybe the member isn't clear - this is a summary page for our Lotteries expenditure and, as we go through each item, there will be a breakdown of appropriation and Lotteries expenditures which is a response to the concerns expressed in last year's Estimates that we provide complete and full information and see this as an entire package rather than two separate items.

MR. G. ROCH: If I understand correctly then, I'll be getting the answers to my questions as we keep on through that on these specific items.

Under Administrative Support on page 16, concerning Grants/Transfer Payments, what constitutes a discretionary or nondiscretionary grant?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: We'll also be getting to that under the relevant sections of the Estimates.

MR. G. ROCH: I take it then, as far as the people who make those decisions and accountability and all that, are you going to be giving me the same answer that we'll all be getting into that in the line-by-line Estimates?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: Yes, Mr. Chairperson.

MR. G. ROCH: Okay, well then, I would just like the Minister or the Minister's staff to take note then for later on - well, possibly I'll ask those questions then when it comes to the relevant time.

We'll go on to 1.(b) Executive Support. I'd like to know if Joy Cohnstaedt is returning as Deputy Minister, or will Mr. Tom Carson be in this position permanently.

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: Mr. Chairperson, Tom Carson is in the position on an acting basis until such time as a decision is made both on the part of Joy Cohnstaedt and our part.

I would like to point out to members of the House that Joy Cohnstaedt has been awarded the Bora Laskin National Fellowship in Human Rights Research, which is an incredible achievement, and we're very proud of the fact that she was the only person in Canada to be awarded this scholarship. It's sponsored by the Secretary of State of Canada and administered by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

MR. G. ROCH: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to join the Minister in congratulating Ms. Cohnstaedt in receiving that award.

My further question is: Is the Federal Government paying the salary of the former Deputy Minister on leave?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: Yes, Mr. Chairperson.

MR. G. ROCH: What is the status of responsibility that Ms. Cohnstaedt has with the Federal Government?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: As I just indicated, she's been awarded the Bora Laskin National Fellowship in

Human Rights Research. That's an appointment made by the Hon. David Crombie. It was after a process of competition and a jury selection process and she was successful and, under that scholarship, will be undertaking some very important research in the area of human rights.

MR. G. ROCH: Okay, the Minister has answered my question. So, basically, it's research in human rights. Has Manitoba made any financial commitment to this particular project?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: No, Mr. Chairperson. The scholarship is, as I said, sponsored by the Secretary of State of Canada and administered by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

Basically, she has the latitude to determine an appropriate research project under the guise of this scholarship, and has chosen, much to our pleasure, to study the whole question of human rights and, in fact, to make recommendations regarding barriers from a human rights' perspective in federal programs.

MR. G. ROCH: Therefore, it's basically a secondment and the benefits that we hope to accrue will be whatever knowledge she obtains in that position for the time she is away?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: No, it's not a secondment. This is not a government position. She has not left temporarily the Manitoba Government and taken a position with the Federal Government. She's been awarded a scholarship. On the basis of her merits, her experience and a successful application, she has been chosen to be the winner of this scholarship. That means a leave of absence from the Provincial Government to undertake research. We're very pleased that it's research of this nature.

MR. G. ROCH: How long is the leave of absence for?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: Joy Cohnstaedt requested a leave of absence for a year, Mr. Chairperson.

MR. G. ROCH: Mr. Chairman, on page 21, I would assume that the Deputy Minister's salary would be approximately \$60,000.00.

Does this department have two Ministers?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: No. Two Ministers?

I'm sorry, I heard the member ask two Ministers in

MR. G. ROCH: I'm sorry if I said two Ministers. I meant two Deputy Ministers.

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: Mr. Chairperson, I apologize for misunderstanding the question.

I think the member is referring to the two SY's listed under Managerial. That does not indicate two Deputy Ministers. One is Deputy Minister, and Tom Carson, as I have indicated, is the Acting Deputy Minister; and the other one is John Wilkins, who is the Executive Director of Support Services.

MR. G. ROCH: Okay, under Professional/Technical on the same page, there are the same number of staff

years and the salary has doubled from \$64,300 to \$120,700.00. Are they the same individuals?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: One is the same individual, and that is my executive assistant, Sonia Kennett. We had to approve a new position for her following her appointment by O/C on April 24, 1986. Since this approval came after the finalization of the department's '86-87 Estimates, funds were not included in last year's Estimates, and that accounts for \$32,400 of that item.

The second is a new person in a reclassified position, and that's the position of our multicultural coordinator with a change in responsibilities and a new mandate and greater scope in this area as outlined by the Ethnocultural Committee of Cabinet. It was felt that the position should be reclassified and then bulletined.

MR. G. ROCH: The job which was reclassified, the Coordinator of Multicultural Services, that is I take it one Myron Spolsky. Was this handled by an Order-in-Council?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: Mr. Chairperson, it was handled by a Civil Service competition.

MR. G. ROCH: Under Administration, can you give a breakdown of what positions are included here?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: If the member is referring to the line entitled "Administrative Support," that covers two administrative secretaries in the Minister's office, an administrative officer and administrative secretary and a clerk-typist in the Deputy Minister's office, and an administrative secretary in the Executive Director's office.

MR. G. ROCH: Mr. Chairman, then under the classification of Other Expenditures in Communications, is that for the annual report?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: Mr. Chairperson, I would refer the member to page 16 of the Estimates book and the description for Object Codes listed under Administrative Support, and he will find "Communication" which is a code used to refer to, "Telephone, electronic mail, postage, advertising, exhibits, radio systems."

MR. G. ROCH: Is there any money for a computer in Other Expenditures?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: If there had been, it would have been under the code "Capital," but the answer to the question is no.

MR. G. ROCH: The increase for Capital Expenditures then, is it for physical assets?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: That increase is related to the purchase of computer furniture.

MR. G. ROCH: Did the Minister say for retail furniture?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: Computer furniture.

MR. G. ROCH: Mr. Chairman, unless other members have questions, I'm ready to proceed on to 1.(c).

MR. CHAIRMAN: 1.(b)(1) Executive Support: Salaries—pass; 1.(b)(2) Other Expenditures—pass.

1.(c)(1) Research and Planning: Salaries; 1.(c)(2) Other Expenditures - the Member for Springfield.

MR. G. ROCH: What projects has this group completed in the last two fiscal years?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: That item refers to research and projects in the following areas: the first is a response and analysis of the federal task force, the Bovey Report. As well, included in that item are studies pertaining to Manitoba crafts, a Manitoba craft study, a Christmas craft sale survey, a craft producers' study and so on. As well, there has been work done on the economic dimensions of culture which is related to performing arts and cultural industries. And, finally, some support came out of this area for recreation policy development.

MR. G. ROCH: I'd like to know which projects were done internally, and also which projects were done by contract or per diem.

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: The programs I just listed have been done by contract, with the exception of the last one on Recreation Policy.

The programs done internally include the development of a policy statement on provincial recreation; research on independent book sellers and their impact on distributing Manitoba published works; a provincial response to revisions to Canada's Copyright Act; the development of a discussion paper in cooperation with the Department of Industry, Trade and Technology on the Canada-U.S. trade negotiations and their relations to cultural issues in Canada and Manitoba.

There have been a number of federal task forces, in addition to the one I mentioned on the Bovey Report, that have required our analysis and response. There has also been work done on finalizing the interprovincial agreement on video classification.

Work of this branch has been also done in the area of an environmental analysis to guide departmental planning, and of course the whole question of role and mission of the department has been under review.

There was substantive work done in preparation for the last Federal-Provincial Culture Ministers' Meeting.

We have also worked with Statistics Canada to determine level of provincial expenditure on culture and level of provincial expenditure on social science research.

I could go on, but I think that covers most of the items.

MR. G. ROCH: What kind of an evaluation system of current programs is in place to ensure that effectiveness is being conducted?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: Mr. Chairperson, I guess I could answer that in three ways: one is an evaluation process takes place as part of the whole Estimates

process and as the department prepares for the Estimate's process. Secondly, I have asked the department to put in place a mechanism for reviewing programs on an ongoing basis. For example, in the whole area of community cultural and arts development, we have a number of programs. We'd like to find a way to monitor them on a regular basis and determine their effectiveness to, in effect, see if changes should be made to those programs. Finally, I've been quite active in the whole area of consultation and tours around the province, and that has been a very effective means of evaluating programs.

MR. G. ROCH: What kind of evaluation in relation to the funding of the agencies is being done?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: Annual reviews of their entire budgeting system takes place.

MR. G. ROCH: Are these annual reviews done by the department or by the Provincial Auditor?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: By staff of the department.

MR. G. ROCH: Is the cultural industries policy concluded?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: Mr. Chairperson, the whole question of cultural industries really is an ongoing process because it is such a changing field and requires staff to be on top of the latest at all times.

A number of studies, as I hinted at, are being undertaken. The economic dimensions of culture is a study that has been part of our federal-provincial discussions, and staff have been exploring the economic impact of the heritage component as well as part of that whole package. That study will include data on publicly supported museums, historic sites, archives, historic parks and art galleries.

As well, the department is consulting currently the cultural community in developing a response to another federal study, the Status of the Artist, and as I mentioned earlier, the Bovey Report, Financing of the Arts Task Force. This has involved preparing an analysis of reports and providing information to the intergovernmental committee that's examining the status of the individual artists and arts funding.

As well, a very important aspect of the department and of this branch has been a review of broadcasting policy and the development of a response to federal policies. The member opposite may wish to explore that further in the line on Telecommunications.

MR. G. ROCH: Mr. Chairman, is it possible to have background information on these particular policies?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: Certainly, we'll provide the member opposite with anything that is ready and available. I'm surprised he doesn't have some of the reports since they come from the Federal Government. In fact, we've been quite swamped with responding to federal task forces and reports, but we can certainly provide him with their reports.

MR. G. ROCH: I'd like to know how many positions - I'm talking about staff positions - are working on the cultural industries policy?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: I guess an estimate would be about one-and-a-half staff years are devoted currently to research on cultural industries matters.

MR. G. ROCH: Is it the same for broadcasting crafts?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: Basically, Mr. Chairperson, there is a Research and Planning Branch that has a director, two planning and programming analysts and a secretary. That's the branch that is responsible for coordinating and carrying out the research. Obviously, when it comes to an area like broadcasting, they will draw on the expertise of staff in Telecommunications.

If I could add one line to that, Mr. Chairperson, there is one SY who's funded through Lotteries who should be added to that total component, bringing it to five.

MR. G. ROCH: So therefore, if I understand the Minister correctly, they are all staff years. I mean, they are employees of the department, or are there any on term or contract?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: They are all permanent, except the one under the Lotteries line is term.

MR. G. ROCH: It says on page 23 at the bottom, "Current focus is on broadcasting and crafts policy."

What was the focus on last year? I'm referring to the cultural industries policies.

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: In previous years, at least certainly the last year or prior to this one, the focus has been primarily on the areas of film and publishing.

MR. G. ROCH: Mr. Chairman, I would like to go to Capital now.

The capital costs have increased from \$200 to \$4,700.00. What percentage increase is this and what was it for?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: This was for an additional microcomputer.

MR. G. ROCH: Could I find out what the percentage increase was from \$200 to \$4,700.00?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: I'm not sure of the question, but the cost of the additional microcomputer is \$4,500.00.

MR. G. ROCH: I'll go on to the next question. How many computers are there in the Department of Culture, Heritage and Recreation?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: A quick calculation is about 90 work stations.

MR. G. ROCH: I take it that the term "work stations" means a computer? Am I correct in understanding? Okay, thank you.

Are all these computers compatible?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: Yes, virtually all are compatible.

I should add, in addition to when I said 90 work stations, it could mean either computers or word processors.

MR. G. ROCH: The Minister says they were originally all compatible but some might not necessarily be compatible. Is that what I understand the answer to be? Specifically, do they all access to the same main frame?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: By and large, all the computers or word processors are Wang. There are just a few apparently that are IBM, either for specialized reasons or by being there before we moved towards Wang.

MR. G. ROCH: I take it from the answer that they're not necessarily all compatible. Is there an effort being undertaken by the department to sort of streamline the operation and then, hopefully, eventually get to a system where they will all be compatible and all have access to the same main frame?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: Yes, as I indicated, there are a few still non-Wang type machines hanging on from previous days and, obviously, that means we're trying to phase those out and put in place a totally compatible system. I think we have probably one of the most advanced, effective and efficient computerized systems anywhere in the Government of Manitoba.

MR. G. ROCH: Mr. Chairman, unless other members have questions, I'm ready to move on to 1.(d).

MR. CHAIRMAN: 1.(c)(1) Research and Planning: Salaries—pass; 1.(c)(2) Other Expenditures—pass.

1.(d)(1) Communication and Information Services, Salaries; 1.(d)(2) Other Expenditures - the Member for Springfield.

MR. G. ROCH: Mr. Chairman, it is interesting that, as we get to this area, there are appropriations here in Lotteries - this is a separate section - and it is an individual operation and that it has one managerial position, one support staff.

The functions of this department are already being done under Section 3, Communication Services. When will the Annual Report of the Department of Culture, Heritage and Recreation of 1986-87 be available? It would be useful to have in terms of an overview on the Estimates.

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: Well, first to the latter question, that depends on when the audit is completed.

In terms of the first question or the first statement, this question gets asked every year and I'm glad for the opportunity to clarify it. The section (c) of the Estimates of this department is pertaining to an entirely different aspect of communication than the one that is before the member now with 1(d).

This line is for the direct communication, public communication and education programs for the department. The sections under No. 3. have to do with the communication capacity and central service provided for all departments and the government as

a whole. I think that needs to be clarified, and I hope the member understands that. If not, I'd certainly like to clarify that in more detail.

MR. G. ROCH: I'm sorry, I wasn't able to hear all the answer. I was interrupted. But if I understand correctly, you're saying that this particular area is for communications within the department itself and section 3. is communications for the departments as a whole.

Why is that section 3., Communications, not taking care of communications within this department as well as all the other departments, or does each department have its own internal communication department?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: Every department has some communications capacity, obviously, to handle information and public education matters. It just so happens that the Communications Advisory Services, which is for the government as a whole, happens to be attached to the Department of Culture, Heritage and Recreation. It could be attached to any other department. It is a service that is for all matters pertaining to communication from a government-wide perspective, and we can certainly go into that in more detail when we get to those sections.

MR. G. ROCH: I asked awhile ago - and possibly the Minister answered while I was being interrupted - but I asked when the Annual Report of the 1986-87 Culture, Heritage and Recreation Department would be available.

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: Well, I intend on following the current practice of providing it within 15 days after the opening of the next legislative Session.

MR. G. ROCH: From which fiscal year are you going to pay for that report?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: 1986-87, Mr. Chairperson.

MR. G. ROCH: On page 25, under (B) Lotteries, there is one staff here. Could I know who that is, please?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: Yes, that's an information writer and it's a term position currently. It's filled by a person by the name of Vienna Badiuk.

MR. G. ROCH: Is it a position or a job directly involved with Heritage Day and is the person still employed?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: In part, it has to do with Heritage Day and, yes, the person is still there.

MR. G. ROCH: The Finance and Management Services area, could the Minister tell us what improved financial and management systems have been developed and implemented?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: Could I clarify? Have we passed the previous section, before we move on?

MR. G. ROCH: Oh, I'm sorry; I'm the one who's got my notes in the wrong order here.

If no other members have questions, I'm prepared to pass 1.(d).

MR. CHAIRMAN: 1.(d)(1) Communication and Information Services: Salaries—pass; 1.(d)(2) Other Expenditures—pass.

1.(e)(1) Finance and Management Services: Salaries; 1.(e)(2) Other Expenditures - the Member for Springfield.

MR. G. ROCH: Under the Finance and Management Services, I would like the Minister to tell us what improved financial and management systems have been developed and implemented?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: We have automated the quarterly cash-flow system and, as well, advanced the whole Estimates planning process.

MR. G. ROCH: I'm not sure I understood the answer. Could the Minister please repeat it?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: If I understood the member's question, which was something to do with what has been accomplished in terms of changes or improvements in management and financial planning, if that's the question, my answer was an automation of the quarterly cash-flow system and some advanced planning, advanced means for planning around Estimates.

MR. G. ROCH: What has been the impact then of this on the function of your department?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: Well, I could point to several outcomes of these improvements to our system. One is a better, quicker decision-making process, quicker turnaround on the financial reporting, and improvements to our management system in general.

MR. G. ROCH: Under Capital, there is an increase from \$5,600 to \$72,400.00. Is this an increase that's associated with the purchase of the computers, because the Minister referred to automation in her earlier response?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: That increase reflects improvements to our records management system and, more specifically, it provides for upgrading of the departmental computer system for that whole purpose of records management or software development. There is a programmer analyst staff year as part of that, work station and expenses related to that, and all of it together is enabling us to meet our obligations under The Legislative Library Act and to move closer to being able to implement freedom of information in a meaningful way according to the deadlines that I've indicated in the House previously.

MR. G. ROCH: Could the Minister tell us how many computers there are in all? How many have been purchased and who gets them?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: I think I need to clarify this line because it's not all simply computers. I should break it down for the member opposite. There is about

\$62,000 for the upgrading of the departmental computer system. There is another \$20,000 for software development; \$29,000 for a programmer analyst; \$11,500 for a programmer analyst work station and related expenses; and finally, \$20,000 for local work stations, peripherals and communications at the Provincial Archives and at the Records Centre.

MR. G. ROCH: I take it though that the bulk of it is associated with computers. How many are there in all and who does get those computers, which areas?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: First of all, it's not all related to computers. It relates to a complete system to ensure that automated records management system and to meet our responsibilities relating to freedom of information. So all of this line relates to expenditures for the Archives and for the Records Management Centre.

MR. G. ROCH: Is there any course of action being taken to ensure that in this area, if you look back at 1.(d) Communication and Information, the whole system is being integrated together?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: There is no relationship between this item and 1.(d). All of this has to do with an effective automated records management system, and there is a staff year as part of this to coordinate efforts in this area.

MR. G. ROCH: So therefore, there is no effort or action being taken to integrate the two.

Continuing on to this Finance and Management, the Minister mentioned the upgrading of the existing system. What is the targeted completion date for this system as it relates to retrieval capacity?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: We hope it's all in place and up and running by the announced date of proclamation.

MR. G. ROCH: Announced date of proclamation?
Okay, what type of information will members of the Legislature, or the general public for that matter, have access to?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: I'm wondering if we could hold the questions pertaining to freedom of information until we get to that, which I believe is Provincial Archives, that's 2.(h).

MR. G. ROCH: Mr. Chairman, I have no further questions in 1.(e). Unless other members have questions, I'm ready to pass onto the next item.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 1.(e)(1) Finance and Management Services: Salaries—pass; 1.(e)(2) Other Expenditures—pass.

1.(f)(1) Administrative Services: Salaries; 1.(f)(2) Other Expenditures - the Member for Springfield.

MR. G. ROCH: Mr. Chairman, in Administrative Services, it would appear that there are too many fragmented areas in the Department of Culture, Heritage

and Recreation. It's imperative that this Minister and this government take some initiative to integrate the functions that are identical within the departments, thereby making information more available and accessible. There's got to be some consistency if we are to have efficiency.

When one studies the items under 1.(e) and 1.(f) there is so much of a dynamic relationship which exists and functions that the review analysis and the collection and retrieval of information, accountability, expenditure and management and reporting are all part and parcel of the same operation. By integrating both functions, one will not only integrate identical functions, but we'll also be eliminating the heavy middle and top management which seems to exist in this area.

Under Salaries in this section, there is a decrease of one staff year and a decrease of only \$13,000.00. Is this a partial transfer? If it is, why not change the staff year to show it correctly?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: No, it's not a transfer, Mr. Chairperson, it's an actual cut.

I should also address the first few points made by the member regarding his view that the department is fragmented. First, let me say that the display in the Estimates Book is a general practice and requirement by the Department of Finance and the way our information is displayed is generally consistent with other departments. In real terms and in terms of how the department functions, there has been some reorganization within the department and, in actual fact, Administrative Services and Finance Management Services have been consolidated under one head, Finance and Management Services.

MR. G. ROCH: If I understood it correctly at the beginning, the \$13,000 is an actual cut and will not show up in another area as a transfer?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: That's correct, Mr. Chairperson.

MR. G. ROCH: I'm prepared to go to the next item, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 1.(f)(1) Administrative Services: Salaries—pass; 1.(f)(2) Other Expenditures—pass.

1.(g)(1) Personnel Services: Salaries; 1.(g)(2) Other Expenditures - the Member for Springfield.

MR. G. ROCH: Mr. Chairman, under Salaries, Professional and Technical, there is a 50 percent increase in wages. Is the same person on the job?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: That's attributable to a reclassification of personnel assistant position.

MR. G. ROCH: What method of job reclassification was undertaken?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: I'm sorry, could you repeat that? Could the member please repeat that?

MR. G. ROCH: Mr. Chairman, I was asking what method was used to reclassify the job, the position?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: It was a standard process through the Civil Service Commission.

MR. G. ROCH: Why was the position upgraded?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: The reclassification is related to an increase in volume, an addition of professional duties for this position and also we've seen this as a valuable Affirmative Action tool and an opportunity for advancement through the system of a target group.

MR. G. ROCH: On page 30, the department talks about an integrated personnel policy. What programs have been initiated in Affirmative Action for visible minorities or for the handicapped?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: We've been making some very deliberate progress toward Affirmative Action goals for not only visible minorities and the disabled, but also women and members of our indigenous community. Particular progress has been made in promoting clerical staff to administrative levels and women into management positions. As well, the recruitment of target group members has kept pace with departmental projections. Finally, career development opportunities for clerical staff have resulted in promotions and reclassifications, one that we just talked about.

Specifically, I could point to the fact that 43 percent of the department's managers are women; also that 7.1 percent of the department's positions are occupied by members of other Affirmative Action groups, specifically, Native, disabled and visible minority staff.

We're quite cognizant of the fact that we have a long way to go, that much more progress needs to be made, and we are committed to achieving steady progress in that area.

I might also mention that a Clerical Advisory Group was established to advise the departmental Affirmative Action Committee. This group represents approximately 108 clerical staff, and has been conducting a survey to assess attitudes and awareness about Affirmative Action.

As well, I think it's noteworthy that of the six management trainee positions established by the Civil Service Commission in January of '87, two were filled by staff of this department through the competition process.

We're going to continue to monitor the situation, to watch for discriminatory systems and practices and steadily make progress in the Affirmative Action Program.

Finally, let me mention that we are in the process of hiring an Affirmative Action coordinator for the department.

MR. G. ROCH: Could the Minister indicate how many of these are in senior positions?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: There is one visible minority in a management position and, of the total 32 similar positions, 15 are women.

MR. G. ROCH: Mr. Chairman, unless other members have questions in 1.(g), I'm prepared to move on to Item No. 2.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 1.(g)(1) Personnel Services: Salaries—pass; 1.(g)(2) Other Expenditures—pass.

We will proceed without having a resolution because of the Minister's Salary, which we deferred as the last item in the consideration of the budget Estimates.

Item No. 2., Culture, Heritage and Recreation Programs. 2.(a)(1) Executive Administration: Salaries; 2.(a)(2) Other Expenditures - the Member for Springfield.

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

In 2.(a), which is Executive Administration, total Salaries have increased 6.1 percent in 1988 over 1987. On page 33 of the Supplementary Information booklet, under Expected Results, it says and I quote: "Under what specific section is the interdepartmental committee involved so that the appropriate questions can be asked?" I'd like to know who are the members of this committee.

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: Members of the committee are the Deputy Minister, the Assistant Deputy Minister, all managers of the department and the province's multicultural coordinator.

MR. G. ROCH: What type of studies are undertaken by this group? For example, are they socioeconomic, financial or affirmative action? Could the Minister elaborate, please?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: Actually this committee was set up as part of the overall new thrust and focus and a reflection of our commitment to developing a comprehensive multicultural policy for the province. It is my hope to ensure that the Department of Culture, Heritage and Recreation was in effect serving as a model department in this area for other departments and felt a strong commitment to ensuring that all aspects, all branches of the department, had integrated the concerns, issues and policy requirements of the ethnocultural community into their own program, so that we could demonstrate a commitment and seriousness to that notion that I believe the member has referred to in his opening remarks of complete and full integration in all aspects of our society.

MR. G. ROCH: In the last fiscal year, how many studies were undertaken by this department? How many were concluded and are any available?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: I'm not sure where the member is getting the word "studies," under section XIV 2.(a). Am I missing something? This is the Culture, Executive Administration for the department. We've just done Research and Planning, and I'm just curious to know how I respond to his remarks in the absence of a context?

MR. G. ROCH: It says there, under 2.(a), to "Establish an intradepartmental committee to examine the impact of departmental programs on the ethnocultural community." I'm assuming that this intradepartmental committee is conducting the studies or reviews, or whichever terminology you want to use.

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: No, the role of this committee is not to carry out studies. The role of this

committee is to examine for themselves how they can, as managers of key areas within the Department of Culture, Heritage and Recreation, better respond to the needs of our multicultural community, better integrate their concerns throughout all policy areas, so that we deal with the concern expressed by the member of departmentalizing or compartmentalizing the concerns of the ethnocultural community, but that all of us find ways to integrate concerns in all policy areas in all programs.

So it's not a study group, it's not a research group. It's a group to come to grips with the real issues of multiculturalism in a department like Culture, Heritage and Recreation, and to develop solutions to the concerns expressed by those communities. This is, by the way, in direct response to a recommendation made by the Manitoba Intercultural Council, who felt that it was important that there be some coordination between the branches of this department because there were so many different areas that either were having an impact on the ethnocultural community or where there was a potential for an impact and direct relationship. So, it's an action-oriented committee. It's a response in a very real way to the needs of the multicultural community.

MR. G. ROCH: Mr. Chairman, I continue to use the word studies because, when I asked the question originally and used the term studies, the Minister answered and now I find it's not the right word. But in any case, what recommendations have been made and what is the process of implementing these recommendations?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: The committee has actually just been set up. I'm informed that they are looking at about an eight-week process, probably over the summer, to review the outputs, the expectations and that barriers in all of the programs of this department.

MR. G. ROCH: Is this same group responsible for interdepartmental and external assessment activities?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: I'm not sure I heard the question. Let me just reiterate that this is an intradepartmental committee, so it's a committee within the department of Culture, Heritage and Recreation, bringing together all the managers and the key players together in one committee to deal with these issues. We are at the same time working at establishing an interdepartmental committee to bring together at least all the key departments pertaining to multiculturalism to find ways of better coordinating intercultural matters from a government point of view and from a collective point of view.

MR. G. ROCH: D'abord, si je comprend comme il faut, c'est que ce comité là s'occupe juste des affaires internes. Quel sorte de mécanisme que le gouvernement se sert pour examiner qu'est-ce qu'il y a dehors, d'abord?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: Je ne sais pas la réponse exactement là cette question, mais j'imagine que ce comité va mettre en place un processus qui va inclure

un questionnaire peut-être, un examen de notre programme, mais les politiques de chaque parti de notre ministère et faire des recommandations pour de l'action dans le futur.

MR. G. ROCH: Oui, mais dans le cas des allocations, d'argent et des ressources extérieurement, qu'elle groupe s'occupe d'assurer que l'allocation est équitable, et qu'ils sont priorisées? Et de quel but?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: Est-ce que la question s'applique pour le comité interne? Est-ce que c'est là?

(Translation will appear in subsequent issue.)

MR. G. ROCH: I'll repeat the question in English, Mr. Chairman. Specifically in relation to external assessment, what kind of a mechanism is in place to ensure an equitable allocation of funds and resources, and whether they are on a prioritize or a needs basis?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: Je ne peut pas comprendre la question, ni en français, ni en anglais.

(Translation will appear in subsequent issue.)

MR. G. ROCH: Is there anyone higher than the Minister who could answer the question?

A MEMBER: The super Minister, where's the super Minister when we need him?

MR. G. ROCH: A while ago, I asked about which group was responsible for interdepartmental and external assessment of activities, and the Minister said that this particular group, which she referred to a while ago, was strictly looking at internal assessment of activities. I'm asking now, specifically in relation to the external assessments, what kind of mechanism is in place to ensure that there is an equitable allocation of funds and resources, and whether these are on a prioritize or on a needs basis?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: Comme le député sait, par la nature de ses questions dans la Chambre aujourd'hui, nous allons mettre en pied un comité de travail avec huit membres, pour examiner tous la politique sur la question du multiculturalisme pour la Province du Manitoba, examiner toutes les activités des ministères de ce gouvernement et développer les objectifs et les buts dans une politique sur la question du multiculturalisme, et faire des recommandations à ce gouvernement.

(Translation will appear in subsequent issue.)

MR. G. ROCH: Mr. Chairman, unless the other members have questions in 2.(a), I'm prepared to go on to 2.(b).

MR. CHAIRMAN: 2.(a)(1) Executive Administration, Salaries—pass; 2.(a)(2) Other Expenditures.

2.(b)(1) Grants Administration: Salaries; 2.(b)(2) Other Expenditures; 2.(b)(3) Grant Assistance - the Member for Springfield.

MR. G. ROCH: 2.(b) or not to be.

The Grant Assistance under appropriation for 1988 has been decreased by 26.8 percent from \$6.5 million to \$4.7 million. The three administrative support staff who were transferred to Lotteries from appropriation at \$22,000 each for a total of \$66,000, added to the one staff year already there, who earns \$27,900, makes the total Salaries \$93,600.00. Comparing with the 1988 Salaries of \$103,000, that's a 10.4 percent increase. Is this increase purely economic, or is there some change in responsibility, or can Lotteries afford higher wages?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: The increase for that line is attributable to the transfer of four staff years, which represents \$131,000 in Salaries from appropriation, which includes cost of living and merit increments of \$4,400.00. It also includes increased provision for a reclassification totalling \$2,700, and includes provision for a maternity leave of \$4,500.00.

MR. G. ROCH: In 1986-87, the combined total for Grant Assistance for the appropriation in Lotteries was \$10.7963 million. In 1987-88, the estimated combined total for the two is \$10.0444 million. That means there is a reduction in spending of \$751,900.00. So that means there is a decrease as well as a consolidation.

Under Grants Assistance for Extradepartmental Agencies, from the listing of grants paid in the year ending March 1986 pamphlet, there was approximately \$6.9 million paid out from Culture, Heritage and Recreation and from Lotteries another \$1.3 million, for a combined total of approximately \$8.2 million.

On page 36 of the Supplementary Information book, under Lotteries for '86-87, there is a figure of \$2.2 million and \$6.5 million from Culture, Heritage and Recreation, for a total of about \$8.8 million. For the year ending March 31, 1988, from appropriations there is about \$4.7 million and from Lotteries about \$4.1 million, for a total of \$8.8 million again.

Am I reading these figures correctly, or is this representative of the capping of funding to the organizations under this heading?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: Well, I'm not sure where the Member for Springfield is getting - how he's putting together all of these figures. I think the best way to respond to him is to indicate that there certainly has been no decrease in grants to our cultural institutions and to some very important endeavours funded under this line. In fact, the opposite is the case. As I indicated in my opening remarks, we're very proud of the fact that we've been able to ensure, on average, an increase of 4 percent to all of the majors.

The consolidation or the transfer of institutions previously funded under appropriation to Lotteries is something that is not new. Members opposite, when they were in government, will know the practice of transferring between Lotteries and appropriation. It was quite a common practice for members opposite. I'm surprised now they're suddenly finding it, at least on the basis of the Member for Springfield's opening remarks, so abhorrent when it's a long-standing practice, something that members opposite had no hesitation in doing previously.

As I was about to say in my response to the Member for Springfield's opening remarks, I find it quite a contradiction in terms that, on the one hand, they have asked us to find ways to cut the deficit, to trim the budget, and yet they have trouble with us finding approximately \$10 million in Lotteries revenue to ensure no cutbacks and in fact to be able to guarantee some increases, contrary to almost every other province across this country where we have seen massive slashes and cuts.

I think the Member for Springfield needs no reminder of the kind of situation facing culture and the arts west of us. The situation has been devastating. I'm quite proud of the fact that we've been able to not only hold the line but find increases to respond to the cost of living and to show recognition for the fine contribution that these institutions make to the cultural fabric of this province.

Mr. Chairperson, the member refers to capping. I'm not sure why he's making that comment and how he's tying it into this discussion when the facts clearly demonstrate an average of 4 percent increase across the board.

Now, is he criticizing the increase? Or is he criticizing the fact that there have been no cuts? Now, which way does the member want to have it? Do they want to see the cultural life in this province grow and thrive or do they want cutbacks as we've seen west of it? - (Interjection)-

The Member for Morris, Mr. Chairperson, is questioning the very existence of some major internationally acclaimed cultural and arts organizations in this province. We, on this side of the House, happen to be proud of the existence of those organizations that we have no hesitation in finding ways to support those institutions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Morris on a point of order.

MR. C. MANNES: If the Minister wants to abuse my interjections, Mr. Chairperson, so be it. But at least I would that she reflect them accurately.

The point I made, Mr. Chairperson, was: Was she saying, was she suggesting that the cultural identity of this province, however defined, could not survive unless the government gave grants in support of that identity?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: Mr. Chairperson, this cannot . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Can we start with the same point of order?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: Certainly on a point of order, Mr. Chairperson, the member has questioned the giving of grants to major cultural institutions.- (Interjection)- He has questioned whether or not our identity can exist with or without those grants.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Disagreement between two members is not a point of order.

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: Mr. Chairperson, I was in the process of answering the Member for Springfield's question about the whole question of Lotteries'

expenditures and increases which ties in directly to the Member for Morris' outburst, in view of the fact that these institutions depend very heavily on government support for their existence and their future and for their continued growth in the future.

Mr. Chairperson, contrary to the philosophy of members opposite and to the approach that we have seen in other countries, here in Canada it has been a long-standing and respected tradition for governments to ensure solid and ongoing support for arts and culture as a means of ensuring our unique identity.

I make no apologies for our level of support for these institutions and, in fact, wish it was within our power to find ways to even go beyond this level of support and ensure even more rapid growth in the cultural fabric of our province.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Springfield.

MR. G. ROCH: Mr. Chairman, as usual the Minister did not answer the question since she went into some kind of a tirade, accusing us of all kinds of things which don't make sense at all.

I have said specifically that, on page 36 of the Supplementary Information book under Lotteries for 1986-87, there's a figure of \$2.2992 million and \$6.551 million from Culture, Heritage and Recreation for a total of about \$8.8 million.

For the year ending March 31, 1988, from appropriations there is about \$4.7 million and from Lotteries, about \$4.1 million, for a total of \$8.8 million again.

All I am asking is if I am reading these figures correctly. If not, I ask her again - is this representative of the capping of funding to the organizations? If there is no capping, let the Minister be specific. She has a staff available; I don't.

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: It is simply a matter of display of the figures. In the first instant, the support for museums has been included and, in the latter, it has not.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

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

I would like to engage the Minister in a brief discussion about her Community Places Program, which was commenced on the 8th day of April, with an Order-in-Council that reads among other things: "That whereas the Manitoba Community Places Program, a new four-year, \$14 million program to assist communities in establishing facilities that will enhance the local quality of life." Mr. Chairman, that rings clear and one could applaud that focus, that direction.

Through you, Mr. Chairman, I also want to engage the Minister briefly in a philosophical discussion about the differences between her and her socialist point of view and myself as a Conservative. You see, Mr. Chairman, as a Conservative - and by the way, at the conclusion of this little philosophical discourse, I will prove that she basically is as Conservative as I am.

Because, Mr. Chairman, a very fundamental, ideological and philosophical difference between a

Socialist and a Conservative is that socialists insist that they can by regulation, by Order-in-Council, by legislation, change human nature, change mankind, change our base instincts. Mr. Chairman, I make no such great claims for myself, never have in the 21-odd years that I've had the privilege of serving the people who I represent. What I am content to do is to try to provide basic rules, basic laws, basic guidelines that make my community, make Manitoba a better place to live in, live in in an orderly way with as much fairness as I can impart to those laws. But I do not presume that I can change mankind and human nature.

Quite frankly, I leave that to my spiritual advisors, to my church, to my family, to my parents who've raised me, to impart those values in me, but not a true socialist, not an NDP Minister. They insist that they will - and this is, I think, a correct, legitimate description between the differences between us. This is what Lenin, Marx and others set out to do, to fundamentally change the nature of man. But I'm going to prove in the next few moments, Mr. Chairman . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: With due respect, I'd like to remind all members who are being carried away. I'm interested in philosophy, but I remind them about Rule 64.(2): "Speeches in a Committee of the Whole House must be strictly relevant to the item . . . under close discussion."

The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

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

Because now I'm going to, in a few moments, set out how truly Conservative this Minister really is, because you see, Mr. Chairman, I like to call a spade a spade.

It is the role of the Opposition to sometimes question when a government, a government Minister has its hand on \$40 million to give out in grants that maybe, just sometimes maybe, even despite the devotion of their staff and the good works of their staff, they will do it fairly and based on the merits of the applications before them, that they will truly live up to the Order-in-Council that says, "enhance the local quality of life."

But then on the other hand, as a Conservative, bearing in mind what I said a few moments ago, recognizing our weaknesses, I can understand it occasionally they look more kindly on people who support them, like NDP ridings versus Conservative ridings. That's been known to happen, and I must tell you that I don't like to make these kind of acknowledgements publicly, because unfortunately they're all on Hansard.

I have to acknowledge that there has been the odd occasion where, as a former Minister of Highways and I am faced with a difficult decision, do I build this road in a Conservative riding or an NDP riding, yes, I have also made -(Interjection)- thank you, I took the high road, but there have been occasions where I have tended to favour those who tended to support me.

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please, order please.

The Member for Lakeside has the floor and he wants to be relevant now.

MR. H. ENNS: To come to your point of order, I would like to read out and put on the public record the awards that were made under this program in the Interlake, which I am a proud member of and represent one-third of - I might add, the largest constituency by population - but I share it with the Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs who represents Gimli and the Honourable Minister of Agriculture who represents the Interlake. We have three constituencies representing the Interlake.

This is the listing of awards that this Minister has awarded under this program: Arborg Co-op Curling Club, NDP riding; Fisher Branch Curling Club, NDP riding - I'll give you the dollars - Gimli District Recreation Club, NDP riding, \$75,000; Lake Manitoba Band, NDP riding, \$20,000 - pardon me, these are in thousands - Little Britain Community Club, Selkirk, NDP riding again, \$8,000; the Matlock Community Club, NDP riding, \$2,200; the Moosehorn Heritage Museum, NDP riding, \$7,500; the Petersfield Community Club, washroom improvements, NDP riding, \$17,000; the Poplar Park Community Hall in Libau, NDP riding, \$2,000; the Poplarfield Curling Club and Community Club, NDP riding, \$6,210; the Sandy Hook Community Club, Gimli, NDP riding, \$3,050; the Selkirk Friendship Centre, NDP riding, \$50,000; Selkirk Kiwanis Club, NDP riding, \$2,700.00. I remind you, Mr. Chairman, I represent over one-third of the population of the Interlake.

Now, Mr. Chairman, we go on: the Selkirk Recreation Foundation, NDP riding, \$75,000; Society of Self-Help - now that's a great one - Society of Self-Help, NDP riding again, \$20,000.00.

A MEMBER: Say it isn't so.

A MEMBER: They sure help themselves.

MR. H. ENNS: I take my hat off to them because here it is: the Teulon United Church and Day Care, NDP riding, \$20,000; the Teulon Rockwood Centennial Centre Board, NDP riding, that of my friend for Municipal Affairs, \$9,895; the Town of Gimli, NDP riding, that of the Minister of Municipal Affairs, \$10,000; the Ukrainian Orthodox Summer Camp, NDP riding, \$4,000; the United Zionist Camp Massad of Manitoba in the NDP riding of Gimli, \$12,000; the West St. Paul Curling Club, NDP riding, \$5,367; the Winnipeg Beach Community Curling Club, NDP riding again, \$27,000.00.-(Interjection)- Oh, yes, they did remember the Member for Lakeside who represents more than one-third of the population of the Interlake. The Lundar Hospitality Centre got \$7,000, and the Lundar Day Care Centre got \$3,000.00.

Mr. Chairman, out of the awards, 91 percent of the projects, 98 percent of the funding went to where? To come back to where I started from, to prove that she is really not all that much different anyway, she has the same base instincts that Conservatives have. She wants to look after her own and she has admirably well. And, Mr. Chairman, that's where we get a little bit serious about putting these kind of funds into the hands of this kind of a Minister.

They are buying votes with taxpayers' money left and right, left and right -(Interjection)- Mr. Chairman, not only that, but they will bring in a Tahoe, Nevada

gambling specialist to teach Manitobans to gamble more profitably or more diligently so they can bring more money into the coffers of this government.

Mr. Chairman, I simply ask the Minister to what extent has this program, to quote from the Order-in-Council that established the program, enhanced the quality of life in Lakeside?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Before I recognize the Honourable Minister, is it the will of all the members of the committee to be generous about the rule about relevance and allow all-ranging debates? -(Interjection)-

I'm asking the members of the committee, all seven of the committee.

The Member for Brandon West rising on a point of order.

MR. J. McCRAE: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Will the member please state his point of order?

MR. J. McCRAE: Would you be good enough to tell honourable members what it is prompted the warning you just gave?

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is not a point of order.
The Honourable Minister.

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. It certainly would be the case that we . . .

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: . . . if not irrelevant, at least the comments are certainly quite a ways from the line-by-line process we've adopted through the Estimates process.

However, Mr. Chairperson, I'd be delighted to respond to the Member for Lakeside's comments. Let me start by saying that . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Because of our speeches and because of our debate, we are sometimes carried away. I have been extremely generous with members, allowing a little latitude, but we still have the rule under Rule 64.(2), "Speeches in a Committee of the Whole House must be strictly relevant to the item or clause under discussion."

The Honourable Minister.

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

Let me just simply say at the outset that it's not my intention nor the intention of any my colleagues to try and change human nature. It's our goal and our raison d'être here to try and set the conditions so that fairness, tolerance, justice and equality can thrive.

That's the philosophy, Mr. Chairperson, that has certainly guided us throughout the establishment of the Community Places Program and the allocation of funds through this process. I'm sorry that the Member for Lakeside wasn't able to see more projects in his constituency approved. Unfortunately, with 531 applications and only \$10 million allocated per year, it was very difficult to respond to all requests.

It would have been nice to have the money to respond positively to every application. Unfortunately, that's not the case and all of us have had to deal with very disappointed constituents and constituent groups, and certainly I'm no exception.

Let me say that, contrary to the impression left by the Member for Lakeside, all of the statistics and I realize that members opposite - I've seen the Member for Charleswood scrambling around with the sheets I gave to him yesterday - have not had an opportunity - (Interjection) - no, not at all, I'm always happy to provide information. But I realize that members opposite have not had an opportunity to tabulate all the results and to understand the broad way and the fair way in which this fund was allocated.

Let me start by reminding members opposite that a clear indication, a general indication of the fair distribution of this fund has been on the basis of roughly \$2.5 million for rural Manitoba, roughly \$2.5 million for Winnipeg, and about \$1.3 for Northern Manitoba.

As well, let me indicate that if members had done their calculations, they would be able to see that on the basis of applications approved, as a proportion of applications received, there has been a fair and equitable distribution. I think the Member for Lakeside would have been putting all of this into its proper perspective, if he had clearly indicated to the House the number of applications that had been received from his constituency. I noted that he failed to do so and left the impression that automatically, regardless of numbers of applications, regardless of eligibility, regardless of whether or not the organizations withdrew their applications, that he should still be automatically entitled to one-third because there are three constituencies, he claims, as he states in the Interlake, but he should automatically be entitled to one-third of the grants provided.

Well, I come to the very point that needs to be emphasized over and over and over again. This program was put in place with clear guidelines and criteria and with a very effective evaluation process to ensure long-term viability of projects and to ensure coordinated responses at the community level and to ensure that we were responding to the needs of Manitobans from a broad range of perspectives. It's been our goal, Mr. Chairperson, to ensure that a balance is not only maintained between rural, urban and Northern Manitoba and between all economic regions, but also between all aspects of the quality of life in Manitoba.

So we have worked very hard, Mr. Chairperson, to ensure that recreation, sports, cultural activities, heritage activities, child care services, services for the mentally handicapped, benefits for the disabled of the province, improvements for facilities for senior citizens, all are able to benefit from this program.

So as we delve with this kind of volume, Mr. Chairperson, we had to keep in mind regional balance, and I've indicated how that has been addressed from a fair and equitable point of view, and also a fair and equitable distribution from the point of view of various disciplines.

Let me explain to the Member for Lakeside the kind of process that went into determining the resolution of these applications and the final decisions around the sum available. Let me indicate to him that we have a very rigorous application process with criteria that

the Member for Lakeside should be quite familiar with, that we followed up each application with assessments by field staff who actually went to the site, reviewed each project and brought back recommendations.

As well, Mr. Chairperson, it should be noted that every department relating to one of these areas was consulted from the point of view of consistency with the priorities of that department. With all of that process, Mr. Chairperson, and all of the demands placed on the system, I'm very proud of the fact that we've been able to achieve this kind of equitable distribution right across the Province of Manitoba.

Let me conclude my remarks, Mr. Chairperson, by saying that I am confident that, given our rigorous process that we have put in place and given our commitment for fair and equitable distribution that, if we're looking at it from a sheer political point of view, I'm quite confident that roughly half the applications approved were from Conservative constituencies.

Let me conclude, Mr. Chairperson, by saying that, if it was left to members opposite, either we would have no program or we would see all of the money allocated on the basis of political criteria. I'm sorry, Mr. Chairperson, we have rejected that approach and, if it was left to the Member for River Heights, who I regret is not here, we would have no program.

Mr. Chairperson, I think it is quite within the Rules of this House to refer to members of this Chamber who have made statements on policies and programs. It seems to me members opposite have done that on quite a regular basis. The Member for River Heights on January 24 totally rejected this program and said that this program shows the government's priorities are misguided and confused.

Well, the response that we've had to this program tells me that we're on the right track, that there's a huge demand for this program. I am sure that, when any of those organizations hear the Member for Lakeside, they are quite disappointed in his attitude.

I could follow the same tack as the Member for Lakeside and I could sit here for an hour and list off grants to organizations that I would presume would be in the constituencies of members opposite. I know for a fact, based on the Member for Morris' lobby of me and my colleagues for a grant to the Morris Stampede facilities, that he's no doubt quite happy. I would assume the Member for Brandon West is quite happy; I would assume the Member for Pembina is quite happy; I would assume the Member for Springfield is quite happy. I could go on and on. I can list the dozens and dozens of grants that were approved through this process.

Now if members opposite would like to suggest which of those projects should be not provided funds and reallocated to other organizations, facilities, I'd be happy to receive that advice.

But let me conclude, Mr. Chairperson, by saying that our commitment to fair and equitable distribution of funds available through a program like this are notable and our commitment to improving the quality of life throughout the Province of Manitoba has been advanced considerably and appreciated by Manitobans right across this province.

MR. H. ENNS: Well, Mr. Chairman, I've been chastised by the Minister and so I deserve to be chastised,

because it is true that I have not beaten down her door or that of her staff every week for requests for additional grants. But, Mr. Chairman, I've done that because you try for some consistency in business. I can't on the one hand chastise the Minister of Finance about doing something about the growing deficit problems of this province. I can't on the one hand support four additional services in such important fields as health when we see hospital beds being closed in record unprecedented numbers in this province.

But let me rise to the challenge of the Minister. This weekend, some 400 youngsters are gathering at a competition held, regrettably, in the Progressive Conservative constituency of Portage la Prairie. That was the one request that I made of this department, the one request I made of this Minister, for a small hospitality grant, to help 400 youngsters and their parents to enjoy a competition evening at the Manitoba Junior Rifle Club, and I was turned down.

So before the Minister chastises me in this long list, she might have looked and said, well gee, you know, the Member for Lakeside has really been asleep at the switch. He hasn't been beating the bushes to get these grants. I do remind her and I thank her because her office was very cordial, they received the representative that I had, Mr. Ben Fetterman from Grosse Isle, who is a director of the Manitoba Junior Rifle Club. This is a club that may offend members opposite because this club teaches young people the responsible use of firearms, supervised by none other than the Minister of Natural Resources in his Hunter Safety Program and, for years, they have encouraged the safe and responsible use of firearms by our youngsters.

Mr. Chairman, I won't take the time in this committee to tell you what this Minister has found money for and other NDP administrations, whether they are Marxists conventions held at the University of Manitoba, porno films that she has money for, or money to bring in hired, professional gamblers from Lake Tahoe, Nevada. She's got money for that but not for 400 young Manitobans. She stands up here and lectures me about not making appeals to her department. Shame on you, Madam Minister, and shame on your department!

Mr. Chairman, I won't pursue this discussion; the record speaks for itself. I am only very pleased and very proud that I represent a constituency. The people in my constituency don't have to be bought by their own tax dollars. I have been re-elected into this Chamber longer than anybody else, bar the Member for St. Boniface, and I don't need this kind of vote buying that is being engaged in by this Minister and by this department.

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: Let me clearly reject the assumptions, the underlying assumptions, to the Member for Lakeside's comments and questions and set the record straight.

Let the record show, Mr. Chairperson, that all economic regions of this province have received benefit from the Community Places Program. Let the record show, Mr. Chairperson, that all various aspects of the quality of life in Manitoba have received benefit. Let the record show, Mr. Chairperson that 22 day cares were able to be supported through this program, all ridings. The question was, which riding? All ridings, Mr. Chairperson, all economic regions of the province.

(Mr. Deputy Chairman, S. Ashton, in the Chair.)

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: The question of approvals for day cares was done after thorough consultation of the state of readiness of those organizations and the staging of those day cares and the spaces as a part of our total overall day care plan that members are quite familiar with. It's based on objective departmental expertise. The members are being quite silly to suggest anything otherwise.

Let me refer, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, to the three libraries that were supported through this program. Let me talk about the 15 Indian bands that were supported through this program, or the 12 projects providing assistance to the disabled members of our community. Let me talk about the 11 seniors' organizations that received benefit through this program, the 116 recreation associations that benefited from this program, and on and on the list goes.

Mr. Deputy Chairperson, if the members opposite were truthful and if they wanted to ensure that this issue was addressed in a proper context on the basis of real facts, they would be quite prepared to stand up and talk about the incredible benefit that the communities in which they live or that they represent have clearly benefited.

I see the Member for Brandon West is very, very quiet. I see the Member for Portage hasn't had too much to say. I see the Member for Springfield is very quiet, and the list goes on.

Mr. Chairperson . . .

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister has the floor.

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: Mr. Chairperson, just let the records show that all regions, all areas and all needs right across the Province of Manitoba have benefited from this program. Perhaps the members opposite have difficulty with money going -(Interjection)- Maybe the root of the problem, Mr. Chairman, is that the members opposite have difficulty with money going to child care facilities, or to multicultural facilities, or to improve services for the disabled. There is no other basis, there is no other way to understand the comments of members opposite.

Now, Mr. Chairperson, let me try to wrap up by addressing a few of the other comments of the Member for Lakeside. He has tried to chastise my department on the basis of, again on the basis of a very parochial interest, on that basis of the fact that the one grant that he requested through my department was not approved is evidence, according to him, that this department is not responding to the needs of communities.

He totally ignores the fact, a fact that he is very well aware of, that hospitality grants, Mr. Chairperson, are provided to events and conferences that are national in nature. We have no program to provide local events in terms of hospitality. If we had, we would need 10 times the budget we've got now to be able to respond to every little conference in the province.

The members opposite, and let me repeat the words of the Member for Lakeside, seemed to again show

their true side when they make comments about our support for the International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival. I heard the member use the words "porno flicks," again totally prepared to do a disservice to an entire group within our society, a minority group in our society, on the basis of no information, on the basis of totally false information, and prepared to leave that on the record?

Mr. Chairperson, I am appalled that this . . .

MR. G. ROCH: Mr. Chairman, I object to the fact that the Minister of Culture, Heritage and Recreation keeps referring to members of the gay and lesbian community as a minority group. There are many ethnocultural groups and religious groups in this society who are decent people, who do not want to be on this same boat as that kind of people.

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: I think the record obviously speaks for itself.-(Interjection)- No, one needs no further comment on members' attitude opposite about one particular minority group in our society.

Mr. Chairperson, needless to say, we on this side of the House are appalled on a daily basis about remarks of members opposite towards the whole range of minority groups in our society. There seems to be no exception to that rule.

Let me conclude my remarks to the Member for Lakeside, who unfortunately is leaving, to indicate -(Interjection)- sorry, I apologize.

MR. CHAIRMAN: With due respect, may I remind all members, including the Honourable Minister, not to refer to the absence of any member of the House.

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: Mr. Chairperson, I apologize to the Member for Lakeside who just whispered in my ear. But I think it's important to make note of that whole question of the apparent contradiction in terms again from members opposite about their comments with respect to this program, which is lottery-based. Every cent of it is from Lotteries revenue, and they all seem to be anxious to ensure that money is spread to their constituencies, yet in the same breath are prepared to criticize the thought of any development in the whole question of lotteries or casino activities, and have pointed particularly to the bringing in of a consultant to train our Lotteries staff on a new game for the casino, because there appears to be considerable interest here in Winnipeg for that game.

I think it should be clearly pointed out that there is a contradictory message from members opposite and I, for one, would appreciate getting some advice from members opposite about this difficult issue.

Our options, on this side of the House, Mr. Chairperson, were, without the lottery revenue, to see significant decreases in funds going to culture and the arts. I guess we in many ways were thankful that at least, with Lotteries revenue, we were able to ensure no cutbacks and in fact were able to see some increase to those major institutions.

Mr. Chairperson, I certainly want to indicate to members opposite that I don't have all the answers on that question of Lotteries revenue, but I would certainly

like to hear the opinion of members opposite on this matter and how they would handle the question of maintaining support for culture and the arts.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Gladstone.

MRS. C. OLESON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I just would like to mention to the Minister that the people in MacGregor will be very interested to read the Minister's remarks when I send them out about how the quality of life was enhanced in MacGregor with the three applications that were rejected from that community.

Whereas I will admit there was one application accepted in Glenboro, the major applicant, the golf course, was turned down there. That is a major tourist attraction in that community and there is some concern and wonderment about why, after their second application for that building, they were turned down again.

I fear that this program is following exactly along the lines of the program which preceded it, the Community Assets Program, where figures I have in front of me, talking about the number of applications, out of 380 applications in P.C. ridings with the Community Assets Program, 130 rejections; whereas out of 380 applications, the NDP ridings were only 19 rejections, which is very interesting. So we're following along under the same old way. When projects are approved in P.C. ridings, they're very often for very small amounts of money, whereas the opposite is true in the NDP ridings.

So I would like the Minister to have a look when she enters the second phase - I understand there's a second phase to this year's program. I don't know how she has split the money, whether it's \$5 million now and \$5 million after the next application. What hope is there for people to go to all the work of applying for this? Do they have some hope of getting in on the second phase of this program this year?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: First, let me indicate that there are two applications every year for four years. We decided in this first application period -(Interjection)- Mr. Chairperson, obviously members opposite - I can think of no other way to respond to members opposite and say they wanted to see all of their projects funded and are not prepared to deal with a difficult situation of 531 applications and with an allocation of only \$10 million for this first year.

Now, Mr. Chairperson, in response to the demand, we did ensure that more than 50 percent of this amount was spent or allocated in this first application period. In fact, we have allocated amounts that come to a total of about \$6.3 million. That leaves around \$4 million for the next application period. I have no way of predicting applications and the success rate of applications. I can only tell the member opposite that there is a process in place. She has heard the process. There are factors that come into play in trying to make these decisions. There are assessments in the field. There are in-depth reports on the basis of departmental programs and criteria. All of that comes into play and must be used. That information must be used to make decisions about these programs.

Mr. Chairperson, the member talks about her again, her particular three applications. Well, all of us have many applications that were not supported. All of us have to deal with disappointed constituents. As I said earlier, I am quite confident in telling members opposite that, if they did the homework and did the calculations, no doubt they would see that close to half the applications approved came from Conservative constituencies, if we want to look at it in crass political terms, as they seem to want to do. Those are not our intentions. Our intentions are to ensure that this program meets the needs with respect to quality of life in this province, Mr. Chairperson.

Let me ask the Member for Gladstone, who comes from a region which saw a percentage share - a share of grants allocated on roughly an equal percentage to other regions right across the board, and from a region that only submitted roughly 24 applications with 10 approvals, which is comparative to other regions - what on this list she would like to see go in order for one of her projects to succeed, and then help us deal with this difficult position of many, many more very important projects than we can handle.

Let me ask her if it should be the Brookdale Community Club, or that the Canadian Association for Community Living, or the City of Portage la Prairie perhaps - maybe the Member for Portage and the Member for Gladstone would like to make a trade - the Curtisridge Co-op Community Club; the Haywood Sports Committee; the Hall of Friendship Centre; the Knights of Columbus and their facility for elders, and so on and so forth. Now are you going to tell me that those projects aren't eligible, that they don't meet a certain need; that a day care isn't an important need; that a facility for elders is not an important need; that assistance for the disabled is not an important need; or for the mentally handicapped is not an important need?

Mr. Chairperson, we had an incredible task to do of trying to balance all of these aspects of quality of life. Yet each one of those members opposite wants to approach this project from the point of their own little constituency and their own little parochial view of the world. Well, I'm sorry, we just don't operate that way on this side of the House. We have to try to act more responsibly and ensure that an element of fairness exists across the board not only in terms of regions, but in terms of the nature of the project and the measure of contribution that it's making to the quality of life in this province.

MRS. C. OLESON: Now, I haven't seen the list that the Minister is referring to, and it's quite interesting that she gets so exercised about this because, if the people who are being rejected could see some fairness in this, but time and time again with this government we do not see fairness. So people are not as upset. They can see that there is some particular reason and some fairness in distribution in grants but, with this government, there is not.

Now another thing that I should mention under Grants to the Minister, the Manitoba 4-H Council is undertaking to write a history of the 4-H in Manitoba. They need money in order to get the book published. Is there any way that this department could be helping them with a grant for that?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. I thank the Member for Gladstone for that question.

Certainly the whole area of recording the history of this province in all of its facets and aspects is one that this department is very concerned about. I've had the same conversation with the Member for Ste. Rose who indicated to me the need for support for this project, and I have encouraged, through him, the organization to write to me requesting some support.

Now, the Member for Gladstone says why should an organization have to write for support. I'm not sure how else one responds.- (Interjection)- Well, Mr. Chairperson, I don't recall ever having received a letter from the organization requesting assistance for support for this history project. I would be delighted to receive a letter and to respond to that letter.

There is no obvious program in the department for providing support on a regular basis, on an ongoing basis, to history projects. In fact, we have had to turn down many, many very important projects. However, we still try to look at each one individually and, when there are unique circumstances or far-reaching implications in terms of a project, then we try to find the means to deal with that proposal.

One good example is our support for the publication of the Ukrainian Encyclopedia, a project which we were quite proud to have been a part of. It did not come from a program per se, but we were able to repriorize from within the department to meet the needs of that project.

I would certainly be interested in hearing more about the 4-H history project and see if there's any way that we can support this project.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Charleswood.

MR. J. ERNST: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to join in this discussion as well, along with my colleagues from Lakeside and Gladstone with respect to the Community Places Program.

Considering that there were 500-and-some applications, it's obvious there's a demand and a need for this kind of program in the Province of Manitoba. As a matter of fact, this program very closely resembles a program that the Member for Riel and myself managed to implement in the City of Winnipeg two or three years ago where the take-up was very similar.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Can we have some order, please? The Member for Charleswood has the floor.

The Member for Charleswood.

MR. J. ERNST: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Certainly it resembles the program that the Member for Riel and myself had the opportunity to have some input in, in terms of implementing a program at the City of Winnipeg a couple of years ago. So obviously the program is good in itself and the need certainly is great, one that I'm not sure can be satisfied ever, but certainly with a very great need out in the community.

We've also heard, Mr. Chairman, the goals and objectives of the Minister and of her government in saying that, yes, fairness and equity is the situation with respect to this program, that grants were

distributed on a fair and equal basis, that certainly there were no politics being played in the situation at all, that it was done on the basis of an analysis of those projects and a determination made based on need and a number of other criteria that she has mentioned.

Mr. Chairman, I happened to do a quick calculation on the list that the Minister provided for me yesterday. In the City of Winnipeg, the first three pages of this list, fairness and equity is distributed 81 percent of the projects in NDP ridings, with 86 percent of the money. That's fairness and that's equity, from the members opposite, for this government.

In addition, Mr. Chairman, the indication was that the government was being fair and equitable, that the government was not playing politics with this situation at all. This is purely done on the basis of the kind of administrative treatment based on a certain criteria. Mr. Chairman, tell me why then it was NDP Government Cabinet Ministers, NDP MLA's phoning the people and telling them that they got the grant under this program? Why are they out phoning the people who have made applications to these programs to say they are the ones who got it, and this is the Minister so-and-so speaking to let you know how great we are?

Mr. Chairman, tell me if that's fairness and equity and if that's not playing politics with respect to a program such as this. Can you tell me why - and I want to be slightly parochial for a moment with respect to a project in my constituency that was not successful, and I think I understand and they understand that not all projects can be dealt with, that there isn't money to fund every single project where an application is made. Can you tell me why, if the Community Places Program, one of the main objectives is to create jobs, as it was under the Community Assets Program with the Jobs Fund, why a project like the Varsity View Arena, for instance, would be turned down when a grant such as \$75,000 could well have levered over \$1 million in private investment, could have levered 20 man-years of construction labour, four permanent jobs for a \$75,000 grant under this program?

Tell me: Where is the criteria, where is the analysis on these other projects to say how many jobs are created? We don't have that all of a sudden. We have just grants made, in the case of the City of Winnipeg, 81 percent of them in NDP ridings, with 86 percent of the money in NDP ridings.

The Minister has stood up there in her holier than thou approach, chastised the members opposite and told them we should be grateful, members on this side, for the few crumbs that government has thrown in the way of Conservative ridings in this particular program. We should be grateful for that. She named several members on this side of the House to indicate that they should be grateful for the kind of few crumbs that were thrown the way of Conservative ridings and that we should really not question the whole program at all. Well, Mr. Chairman, I find that totally unrealistic and I'm sure you would find that totally unrealistic.

With respect to that particular program, I am told, Mr. Chairman, that the rationale for the turndown of that project was not because it didn't create jobs, not because they decided arbitrarily that no arena was needed in the community of Charleswood. They decided - based on what criteria I have no idea, because the demands far outstrip the supply. Anyone involved in

minor sports, users of those facilities, Mr. Chairman, knows that, anybody involved, even on the periphery, knows that the demand is growing by leaps and bounds, not disappearing. Yet they were told, no, it's not required in the community of Charleswood; therefore you don't get your grant. You don't lever the million dollars in investment, you don't lever the 20 construction jobs and you don't lever the four permanent jobs that would have been created under that kind of situation.

Mr. Chairman, while we're also on the question of Grants Assistance, I would like to ask the Minister a question. Mr. Chairman, I asked the Minister, in person and by mail, about grants availability for my daughter's high school band to travel this summer on a concert program. The Minister is very kind, and she wrote me back and said - I can paraphrase her letter - "The department doesn't have a policy with respect to grants anymore. We don't generally provide grants of assistance. We did last year because of Expo '86." And I accepted that. That was fair. The department doesn't do that anymore and I understand that.

But, Mr. Chairman, a couple of weeks later, I happened to be watching the six o'clock news when I saw the principal of Isaac Newton School stand up and say he received a grant for his band to travel to Ottawa. Now I wonder who the principal of that school is? Mr. Brian O'Leary, past president of the New Democratic Party and son-in-law to the Minister of Community Services and Corrections. Now tell me if that's the kind of fairness and equity that the Minister is dealing with.

A MEMBER: Now get up and be proud!

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: Let me start by answering the Member for Charleswood's last question and then take it from there. I find it hard to believe that members are prepared to stand up and put on the record totally dishonest, not factual information.

MR. J. ERNST: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Charleswood rising on a point of order.

MR. J. ERNST: Mr. Chairman, the Minister indicated that the questions and information that I brought forward today during debate were dishonest. Mr. Chairman, that is not true and I ask her to withdraw that statement from the record.

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: I would certainly be prepared to withdraw anything that the member is opposed to. I'm quite happy to withdraw that.

What I want to point out to the House is that the Member for Charleswood has left the impression that a particular high school band has received money from my department to go to Ottawa. He mentioned the name of the school principal, Brian O'Leary. Why I made my comments, Mr. Chairperson, is that the information is totally inaccurate. The principal of that school, yes, wrote me and asked for assistance, and we said the exact same thing we said to him when he wrote about his high school band, Mr. Chairperson. Now let's get the facts straight.

The members opposite don't like it when I'm forced to get excited on these matters but, time and time

again, I am forced to get excited by virtue of the information that they put on the record and the impressions that are left.

Again, I don't understand the rationale of members opposite. On the one hand, they are suggesting that we find ways to cut our budgets and deal with the deficit and, on the other hand, they're asking us to put in place a program that would cost millions if we were to respond to the travel needs of every high school band, of every drama club, of every football team and every hockey team in this province.

MR. D. ORCHARD: But instead you don't. You only give them to NDP constituencies.

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: Mr. Chairperson, the Member for Pembina is presenting to this Chamber incorrect information. There has been no different application of this applied anywhere. There has been no differential application of this policy.

Again the Member for Charleswood has two particular projects in mind. One is his. I believe it's a band that his daughter is a member of. The other is a community club in his constituency. Now is that how he suggests the government makes policy, on the basis of parochial needs and on the basis of patronage and on the basis of a family member's needs?

A MEMBER: I'm sure you can explain the figures, 81 percent and 86 percent of the money. Explain those figures.

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: I will. I will certainly explain those figures because the Member for Charleswood is again wrong on that count.

Before I get to that final part of the member's comments, let me address the question of high schools.

HON. L. EVANS: Mr. Chairman . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: A point of order being raised.

HON. L. EVANS: . . . on a point of order, there are some questions asked by members opposite of the Minister. The procedure is for the Minister to get up and to give that information. Every time the Minister gets up to give the information, people on that side keep on interjecting. I ask you, Mr. Chairman, to call those members to order, because we can't even hear the Honourable Minister give the explanation, out of common courtesy and decency. I don't know about the people of Manitoba, who are here looking, must think very little of Opposition members who haven't got the courtesy to listen to the answers. So let's have a little order in this place.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I appeal to all members of the Assembly to have that common courtesy because we are reflecting the Province of Manitoba.

The Honourable Minister.

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister has the floor. Will all the members please give her the floor?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

On the question of support for high school bands, I regret that it's not within our power and within our budget to support high school bands for the purposes for which the member has described.

As the member will know, there are about 150 schools with institutional programs, many of which have up to six performing ensembles. So it would be certainly way beyond the reach of our ability to respond to the travel requests of all of those groups. However, I'm very pleased that we have been able to provide assistance to the Assiniboine Band Festival, which includes over 200 ensembles, and we provide an \$8,000 to \$10,000 project grant to that organization.

I am pleased that we were able to support the Member for Charleswood's daughter's high school band, the Silver Heights Band, last year, for the Expo 86 program where we found support for a good number of cultural organizations and groups such as high school bands to be able to travel to Expo 86 and perform there.

I'm pleased that we were able to provide \$2,500 in support for travel of the Silver Heights Band to take part in the National Stage Band Festival staged in conjunction with Expo 86. So when there are very special circumstances, we have been able to coordinate efforts and reprioritize from other parts of the departments to respond.

Let me also, while we're on the question of high school bands, take a moment to offer my congratulations to Silver Heights, as well as Tech Voc and Fort Richmond Collegiates, who all won gold medals at the Stage Band, Senior Class Level, Music Fest '87, a national competition in Ottawa this year. I think all of us are proud of the success of all of those bands, including the band of the Member for Charleswood's daughter.

Now on to the question of the Community Places Program, again it's hard to deal with the questions of members opposite when they're coming at it from such a parochial point of view and posing questions to me about specific grants that weren't funded. Nobody has yet, from that side, asked a question about all of those dozens and dozens of projects that were funded through this program. I'd certainly like to hear the other side of the question at some point if members opposite are prepared to stand up and say so.

But let me respond specifically to the member's suggestion that 80 percent or 90 percent of the Winnipeg projects funded were from, he said, NDP constituencies. Maybe we're just coming at it from a different perspective on this side of the House, Mr. Chairperson, but for a good number of the Winnipeg organizations, we see them as supporting a city-wide or in fact a province-wide need.

So I ask the member, the Member for Charleswood, where he classifies Artspace Inc., a prominent institution, a house for artists and cultural organizations, where he puts the Canadian Hemophilia Society, the Canadian Mental Health Association, the Caribbean Canadian Association, the Contemporary Dancers, Dance Manitoba, Downs Children Centre, Floating Gallery, Indo-China Association of Manitoba, Lion's Club of Winnipeg Senior Citizens, the Manitoba Chinese Cultural Association, the Manitoba Choral Association, the Manitoba Indian Cultural Education Centre, the Manitoba School for Theatre and Allied Art, the

Manitoba Theatre Centre, the Manitoba UNICEF Committee, the Manitoba Writers Guild, the Mennonite Brethren Collegiate Institute, the National Council of Jewish Women, the Native Women's Transition Centre, the Osborne Village Cultural Centre, the Portuguese Association of Manitoba, Rainbow Stage, the Society for Manitobans with Disabilities, Western Canada - excuse me. Members will have to excuse me if I'm getting a little excited, because I just don't understand the logic of members opposite. To finish my list, I'd like to ask where they would put the Western Canada Aviation Museum, or the Wildlife Foundation of Manitoba, or the Winnipeg Art Gallery, or the Winnipeg Canoe Club, or the Winnipeg Humane Society, and I could go on and on.

Mr. Chairperson, I'm sorry, on this side of the House, we have assessed applications on the basis, as I said, of a number of factors: the rural/urban split; an adequate balance between sports and recreation, and culture and heritage, and child care and social services, and so and so forth; and also, of course, the obvious criteria that comes into play, the fund-raising capability of the organizations, the funds on hand; the current situation of those organizations and whether or not they're totally dependent at that moment, tied to other funds; whether or not there are serious problems with the facility; whether or not there is a particular target group in society, such as the disabled or seniors, who don't have the same advantages that all of us have to those facilities. All of those factors come into play, Mr. Chairperson, and I make no apologies for not one, not any one of those organizations that we have supported that I have just listed.

MR. J. ERNST: First of all, the Member for Brandon East, the Minister of Employment Services, stood up and indicated that we should be called to order because the members on this side were interjecting whenever the Minister stood up to make an answer.

Mr. Chairman, the reason that members on this side stood up was because the Minister wasn't giving an answer. The kind of baffleleg that we got from that side of the House continuously indicates, Mr. Chairman, that the Minister either doesn't know what she's talking about or is afraid to answer the question - one of the two.

Mr. Chairman, if the Minister had listened to what I said about high school bands in travel situations, she would have heard - and the record will clearly indicate what I said - that I said I can understand that if the department does not have a policy with respect to that, they cannot afford to fund travel by those kinds of groups, then I accept that. And I said that earlier, but she didn't hear that, I guess, Mr. Chairman. Then what I said was I accepted that up until I saw Mr. Brian O'Leary on 24 Hours television say to the public of Manitoba over that television program that he got lottery money to fund his band's travel to Ottawa. That's, Mr. Chairman, when I said that what kind of a policy is that, when the gentleman in question has some obviously quite close relationships to the members opposite. What am I supposed to think when I see that kind of a situation occur on television, when I have a letter in my hand telling me that there's no policy?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.- (Interjection)- Can we have some order in the committee, please?

The Honourable Minister.

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: Mr. Chairperson, on a point of order.

I think it should be - the misinformation, and I'm not suggesting that the Member for Charleswood has deliberately provided misinformation, but this matter must be clarified through a point of order.

The fact of the matter is, that as the Member for Charleswood said . . .

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. CHAIRMAN: A point of order cannot be used for clarification. The Minister to ask a question.

The Member for Charleswood.

MR. J. ERNST: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

As I was saying, I don't know what anyone would have thought if they held in one hand a letter that indicated that there was no policy, no funding, no program for that kind of a situation and yet, in front of their eyes, there's a gentleman on television telling something exactly the opposite.

Now, Mr. Chairman, what are we supposed to think? The Minister was concerned that I'm presenting misinformation to the House. Mr. Chairman, those are the facts. The tapes from CBC, I'm sure, will prove that. I have the letter in my file that will prove that end of the argument, Mr. Chairman. So certainly there's no question that kind of situation occurring indicated to me at least, and I would think to any other person with some fragments of common sense, that there was preferential treatment in that kind of a situation.

And that kind of situation I find intolerable. Particularly I find it intolerable in the light of the kind of statements made by the Minister about fairness and equity, about the kind of holier-than-thou attitude that she had brought forward, that certainly there was no question of dealing with this matter in a political vein at all. But she didn't answer the one question, why NDP Cabinet Ministers were phoning up the people involved in these projects to tell them that they were successful.

A MEMBER: What if they didn't get a grant?

MR. J. ERNST: If they didn't get a grant, I'm told by the Varsity View Community Club, who obviously didn't get the grants as I indicated earlier, they were phoned up by a department, a civil servant, telling them that unfortunately their application wasn't successful.

A MEMBER: Who was the Cabinet Minister?

MR. J. ERNST: Eminently reasonable that the department official should carry out that task. But how come, Mr. Chairman, we have a situation where the NDP Cabinet Ministers and MLA's are phoning up the successful applicants in their ridings to tell them, the successful applicants not only in their ridings, but in other ridings as well, to tell them, yes, you're successful, we're going to give you the money, your project is great, this is "X" Minister speaking?

MR. G. DUCHARME: Who delivers the cheque, Jim?

MR. J. ERNST: And I'm wondering - exactly, there's a very good question raised by my honourable friend from Riel. When the time comes to deliver the cheques, I wonder what's going to happen. Will they be mailed out in the normal course of events? Or will some member magically appear, cheque in hand, to shake hands and say, how great guys we are, here is your money? Is that the kind of situation, that's fairness and equity? That's no politics according to the Minister's statement.

If that's the case then, Mr. Chairman, members opposite are a little fuzzy in the head.

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: Let me start off, I failed to answer in our last exchange and I apologize for forgetting to answer that question about other Cabinet Ministers being involved in that very heavy responsibility of phoning all of the grant recipients. I'm quite grateful for all of my colleagues who have helped share the load with me.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Why didn't you let me phone mine?

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: The Member for Pembina, it is so . . .

A MEMBER: Why didn't we get to phone ours, Judy?

A MEMBER: I wasn't asked to phone the Silver Heights Band last year in my constituency.

A MEMBER: Why didn't you let us phone Judy, if it's such a good thing to do, and help your staff. Your overworked staff would have appreciated having us phone.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister has the floor.

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: I know members opposite are desperate to get into government, but this is a bit ridiculous.

A MEMBER: No, you're ridiculous.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Yeah, for the four years out of 16.

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: Mr. Chairperson, it is quite common practice for the Minister responsible for a program to be involved in the providing of information relating to the outcome of that program. I thought it was quite common practice in governments everywhere that, if I have responsibility for a program, it's my responsibility to ensure that the information is . . .

HON. L. DESJARDINS: It's well established from this bunch.

A MEMBER: Mr. Chairman, I can't hear the Minister with that Minister of Health bafflegabbing recitals.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister has the floor.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Take the stones out of your ear.

A MEMBER: Larry, be quiet.

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: So, Mr. Chairperson, I maybe naively assumed that it was quite common practice . . .

A MEMBER: Oh, yeah, she giggles about that.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Next time, tell him they can phone and say, sorry, you weren't successful.

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: My colleagues were distracting me, Mr. Chairperson, I apologize.

So I assumed it was quite common practice to ensure that the information was provided through - that the Minister responsible had the job of ensuring that the information was provided.

Now, I'm delighted that we've been able to get the information out as quickly as we have. We've been able to ensure that phone calls were made immediately by the help of all of my colleagues to all of those applicants who were successful. We were able to ensure letters immediately went out as well as some phone calls made to those who were not successful, to encourage them and to remind them of the length of this program. The fact that there are two application periods a year for four years and to provide them with whatever assistance they needed to get their application in again for the next round. Mr. Chairperson, when it comes to the delivery of cheques, it's certainly my intention, as I do in all of my other programs, to get those cheques out and, if necessary, to draw on the help of my colleagues. I again assumed that was normal practice for a Minister responsible.

Now, Mr. Chairperson, it is necessary to go back . . .

A MEMBER: The way you guys run the Post Office, not a chance.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I appeal to all members, let's have some order in the Chamber.

HON. J. WASYLYCIA-LEIS: Thank you.

I'd like to raise a serious matter. It is necessary to go back to the Member for Charleswood's first comments because, in effect, he has - and I hate to use these words - stooped to the level of the Member for Fort Garry the other day, through innuendo and presentation of facts that totally misrepresent the actual situation.

Mr. Chairperson, it's my understanding, yes, that the person in question, Mr. Brian O'Leary, is part of an organization, part of an effort to improve services in the inner school, and actually applied to our Umbrella Lotteries Distribution System for funds to the Community Services Council and were successful. Now, Mr. Chairperson, for the Member for Charleswood who is very familiar with this system to suggest that there was any kind of favouritism, any kind of allocation of funds on the basis of an individual.- (Interjection)-

Mr. Chairperson, I have never seen this Chamber, and members opposite, become so disgusting in their

performance. The things that are being said now are lower than the Member for Fort Garry. Let's make sure that the record shows the attitude of members opposite and their willingness to involve themselves in innuendo and slurs and degrading, downgrading comments, by virtue of an association through marriage of a member in our society who is working actively to better our society.

Now I wonder, is the Member for Charleswood, is he envious that he didn't think to go the route of the Community Services Council. Or is he regretting that he didn't have that foresight? He knows full well that these umbrella groups are set up as arm's length, independent, decision-making bodies from government. He knows full well the record of the Community Services Council and their allocation of resources. I can make sure that the lists are provided through our Lotteries Estimates, but he knows very well the nature of that organization. I reject entirely the kind of nonsense that's coming out of the mouths of members opposite.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Springfield.

MR. G. ROCH: Mr. Chairman, it's obvious that the Minister is taking an exception to the fact that members on this side are bringing out a lot of facts to the people of Manitoba.

In any case, to keep on the line-by-line Estimates, I notice that from 1986 and 1987 - I think that's where we were a while ago - there has been a shift from Culture, Heritage and Recreation funding of approximately three-quarters of the total amount to only half of the total amount in 1987-88. Are there any changes in the main agencies who are listed on page 1 of the 1986 listing of grants paid from Culture, Heritage and Recreation for extradepartmental agencies?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: The only change is that all but the Arts Council and the Museum of Man and Nature and the Manitoba Inter-Cultural Council are funded out of Lotteries.

MR. G. ROCH: Does the Minister have any control or power to whom these agencies award grants to?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: Again, consistent with the remarks I just made, if he's referring to organizations like Manitoba Arts Council or the Manitoba Intercultural Council, we . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister of Labour.

HON. A. MACKLING: On a point of order, Mr. Chairperson, I and many members in this House distinctly heard the Member for Sturgeon Creek saying in a loud voice that, if I had a daughter like that, referring and nodding towards the Minister of Cultural Affairs, if I had a daughter like that, I would spank her. Those are insulting, sexist, derogatory words from that member and, Mr. Chairperson, I ask that when that honourable member is in this Chamber, you put it to him that he has said those words in this Chamber so that everyone could hear, and you call upon him to withdraw those defamatory words defaming a member of this House.

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Did he have a point of order, Mr. Chairman?

A MEMBER: Yes, I'd like a ruling, Mr. Chairman.

A MEMBER: Hitler wants a ruling, Mr. Chairman.

A MEMBER: We need a ruling on that point of order.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Did the walking-dead Cabinet Minister have a point of order?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The member has no point of order since everybody knows that, within the Chamber, every member of the House has the privilege of the House. They enjoy exceptional parliamentary privileges while . . . (inaudible).

A MEMBER: You can say anything in the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

I, too, found those remarks by the Member for Sturgeon Creek offensive. It's not the first time he has said those exact words, and I thank the Minister of Labour for raising that issue.

Now, on the question . . .

MR. G. ROCH: Are you answering the question?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: On the question, for the Member for Springfield, he asked a question about whether or not this government plays a role in how those arm's length organizations allocate funds.

Consistent with my remarks to the Member for Charleswood, we have set up these organizations to provide independent advice and exist in terms of an arm's length relationship with government. That basic principle, Mr. Chairperson, has characterized our relationship with those organizations, and it's our every intent to ensure that they put in place their own processes and procedures and juries for the allocation of funds on a basis that is consistent with the principles and the purposes of that organization.

There has been no intent on our part, at any point, to interfere in those decisions, contrary to the suggestion of the Member for Charleswood who appears to suggest, through his remarks, that we should be interfering with that process and dictating to those organizations how they should allocate their funds.

Well, Mr. Chairperson, I'm sorry. We in this House reject that principle. We have set up these bodies and provided support to ensure that they can continue to operate on an arm's length basis with government and provide independent advice.

MR. G. ROCH: Is the Minister saying there is no accountability to the department; that you are giving them, in effect, a blank cheque?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: Mr. Chairperson, I have tabled annual reports which the members opposite are - the intent of tabling those reports is that members know that they are welcome to peruse them and to raise any questions and to ensure that I am fully accountable and responsible for those organizations.

Mr. Chairperson, obviously, we expect annual reports, we expect audited statements, we expect a proper use of government funds but, in terms of the actual day-to-day administration of those organizations, in terms of the allocation of grants, it would not make great sense for us to decide how money should be spent through the Arts Council. We try very much to respect their jury process, their procedures for awarding on the basis of artistic and cultural merit, not on the basis of any other criteria.

So obviously, I'm accountable here right now, here and now, for those organizations, and I welcome any questions the member may have about those organizations.

MR. G. ROCH: Under any of those organizations, therefore, the member is saying she is accountable. That's good to know. Under the Lotteries Trust Funds listing . . .

MR. J. McCRAE: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Brandon West is rising on a point of order.

MR. J. McCRAE: Mr. Chairman, I'm one of those who is unfortunate enough to hear only out of one ear very well, and not very well out of that one. I'm having trouble hearing the Honourable Member for Springfield, and I sense it's because the microphone is either not turned up enough or not turned on. I wonder if others are experiencing the same difficulty.

HON. A. MACKLING: Yes, that's true.

MR. J. McCRAE: Thank you, AI.

HON. A. MACKLING: Look up when you speak, Gil, so we can hear something.

MR. G. ROCH: Yes. Well, I speak into the mike, AI, unlike you, who speaks with a forked tongue.

Under the Lotteries Trust Funds listing of grants for the same extradepartmental agencies, are these groups still receiving ongoing funding?

HON. A. MACKLING: It sounds like you were shovelling something.

MR. G. ROCH: You're pretty good at shovelling camel manure, aren't you?

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: The level of noise in the Chamber I'm afraid was too high for us to be able to hear the question.

MR. G. ROCH: Sorry. The Member for St. James has left the room, so I'll apologize on his behalf.

Under the Lotteries Trust Funds listing of grants for the same extradepartmental agencies, are these groups still receiving ongoing funding?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: Yes, Mr. Chairperson.

MR. G. ROCH: Under the same trust funds, what new groups are receiving funding under this portion?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: If I understand the member's question, the list I've referred to before: the Centennial Centre Corporation, Centre Culturel Franco-Manitobain, Western Manitoba Centennial Auditorium, Manitoba Children's Museum, Manitoba Heritage Conservation Service, Western Canada Aviation Museum, Manitoba Agricultural Museum, Artspace, Native Communications Inc., Winnipeg Art Gallery, Ukrainian Cultural and Education Centre and the Osborne Village Cultural Centre. I think that roughly covers those organizations.

MR. G. ROCH: The Minister listed them both under Lotteries Trust Funds as well as under the Department of Culture, Heritage and Recreation. I'd like to know: Is this where the Gay and Lesbian Film Festival received its grant from?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: No, Mr. Chairperson.

MR. G. ROCH: Under what section of the department did this particular organization receive their grant from?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: Cultural Resources, Mr. Chairperson.

MR. G. ROCH: If I recall correctly, it was in the amount of \$2,000.00. Therefore, am I to assume that the Minister is accountable as well, as she said awhile ago that she was accountable for the extradepartmental agencies and she is therefore accountable for the \$1,100 that this group received from the Manitoba Arts Council as well?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: No, Mr. Chairperson, the Arts Council makes its own decisions about how it allocates money. I'm not sure of the member's question. We certainly don't interfere with their decisions on a grant basis, so I'm not sure what he's getting at.

MR. G. ROCH: Mr. Chairman, awhile ago, the Minister said that these groups - I asked her about the accountability of these other agencies, and she said that she was accountable for them, she was accountable now.

Therefore, I'm asking the Minister: Is she accountable for the \$1,100 grant that the Manitoba Arts Council gave to the Gay and Lesbian Film Festival?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: On the basis of the annual report that the Member for Springfield has, where he can see exactly the nature of the programs under the Arts Council, the criteria used, the objectives of the organization, I think that general structure and that

general set of goals provides the member with the answer to that question.

I'm certainly prepared to stand behind that set of objectives, principles and decisions that flow from it, just as I'm prepared to stand behind my own department's decision to fund the International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival.

MR. G. ROCH: Mr. Chairman, I'm certainly glad to hear the Minister put that on the record. I'm sure Manitobans will be pleased to know where she stands in this aspect.

Still with extradepartmental agencies, did the groups that are funded under this heading have the same fiscal year as the government?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: Most, Mr. Chairperson.

MR. G. ROCH: And those that don't, what system is in place to handle this problem?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: We don't seem to have a problem, Mr. Chairperson. I'm not sure what the member is referring to.

MR. G. ROCH: Well, if the organizations do not have the same fiscal year-end as the government, how does the government get the information together, or the department get the information together, for its annual report?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: It really doesn't impact on our ability to meet our responsibilities. We provide assistance on the basis of our own cash flow and not on the basis of the organization's fiscal arrangements.

MR. G. ROCH: Mr. Chairman, I'll accept the Minister's word that there is no problem in this regard.

What organizations benefited under the Deficit Reduction Plan in 1986-87, and who will benefit in 1988?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, M. Dolin: The Honourable Minister.

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: I'll give the Member for Springfield a list of the organizations that we have been involved in, or are involved in deficit reduction arrangements, since our deficit reduction arrangements usually last for three years.

They include: the Association of Manitoba Arts Festivals, Austin Agricultural Museum, Manitoba Opera Association, the Osborne Village Cultural Centre, the Tiger Hills Arts Association.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The hour is six o'clock. Committee rise. Call in the Speaker.

IN SESSION

The Committee of Supply adopted certain resolutions, reported same and asked leave to sit again.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER, C. Santos: The Honourable Member for Kildonan.

MR. M. DOLIN: I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Education, that the report of the committee be received.

MR. D. ORCHARD: The Minister cannot second that report. It has to be a backbencher on the government side, which doesn't exist in the House right now.

MR. M. DOLIN: I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Education, that the report of the committee be received.

MR. D. ORCHARD: That's not legal. A Minister can't second that. Come on, get your act together and get some people in here, Mr. Whip. You cannot accept that, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Get a backbencher. Stevie to the rescue.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Kildonan.

MR. M. DOLIN: I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Thompson, that the report of the committee be received.

MOTION presented and carried.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hour being 6:00 p.m., this House is now adjourned and stands adjourned until 1:30 p.m. tomorrow. (Wednesday)