



First Session — Thirty-Fourth Legislature
of the
Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS
(HANSARD)**

37 Elizabeth II

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Speaker*



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MANITOBA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
Thirty-Fourth Legislature

Members, Constituencies and Political Affiliation

NAME	CONSTITUENCY	PARTY
ALCOCK, Reg	Osborne	LIBERAL
ANGUS, John	St. Norbert	LIBERAL
ASHTON, Steve	Thompson	NDP
BURRELL, Parker	Swan River	PC
CARR, James	Fort Rouge	LIBERAL
CARSTAIRS, Sharon	River Heights	LIBERAL
CHARLES, Gwen	Selkirk	LIBERAL
CHEEMA, Gulzar	Kildonan	LIBERAL
CHORNOPYSKI, William	Burrows	LIBERAL
CONNERY, Edward Hon.	Portage la Prairie	PC
COWAN, Jay	Churchill	NDP
CUMMINGS, Glen, Hon.	Ste. Rose du Lac	PC
DERKACH, Leonard, Hon.	Roblin-Russell	PC
DOER, Gary	Concordia	NDP
DOWNEY, James Hon.	Arthur	PC
DRIEDGER, Albert, Hon.	Emerson	PC
DRIEDGER, Herold, L.	Niakwa	LIBERAL
DUCHARME, Gerald, Hon.	Riel	PC
EDWARDS, Paul	St. James	LIBERAL
ENNS, Harry	Lakeside	PC
ERNST, Jim, Hon.	Charleswood	PC
EVANS, Laurie	Fort Garry	LIBERAL
EVANS, Leonard	Brandon East	NDP
FILMON, Gary, Hon.	Tuxedo	PC
FINDLAY, Glen Hon.	Virden	PC
GAUDRY, Neil	St. Boniface	LIBERAL
GILLESHAMMER, Harold	Minnedosa	PC
GRAY, Avis	Ellice	LIBERAL
HAMMOND, Gerrie	Kirkfield Park	PC
HARAPIAK, Harry	The Pas	NDP
HARPER, Elijah	Rupertsland	NDP
HÄLWER, Edward R.	Gimli	PC
HEMPHILL, Maureen	Logan	NDP
KOZAK, Richard, J.	Transcona	LIBERAL
LAMOUREUX, Kevin, M.	Inkster	LIBERAL
MALOWAY, Jim	Elmwood	NDP
MANDRAKE, Ed	Assiniboia	LIBERAL
MANNES, Clayton, Hon.	Morris	PC
McCRAE, James Hon.	Brandon West	PC
MINENKO, Mark	Seven Oaks	LIBERAL
MITCHELSON, Bonnie, Hon.	River East	PC
NEUFELD, Harold, Hon.	Rossmere	PC
OLESON, Charlotte Hon.	Gladstone	PC
ORCHARD, Donald Hon.	Pembina	PC
PANKRATZ, Helmut	La Verendrye	PC
PATTERSON, Allan	Radisson	LIBERAL
PENNER, Jack, Hon.	Rhineland	PC
PLOHMAN, John	Dauphin	NDP
PRAZNIK, Darren	Lac du Bonnet	PC
ROCAN, Denis, Hon.	Turtle Mountain	PC
ROCH, Gilles	Springfield	LIBERAL
ROSE, Bob	St. Vital	LIBERAL
STORIE, Jerry	Flin Flon	NDP
TAYLOR, Harold	Wolseley	LIBERAL
URUSKI, Bill	Interlake	NDP
WASYLYCIA-LEIS, Judy	St. Johns	NDP
YEO, Iva	Sturgeon Creek	LIBERAL

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Monday, September 19, 1988.

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

PRAYERS

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS AND TABLING OF REPORTS

Hon. Clayton Manness (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I would like to table a number of reports: firstly, a guide showing Provincial Tax Comparisons across all provinces of Canada; Annual Report, 1986-87, the Department of Crown Investments; a copy of a Review of Government Accounting Policies and Financial Obligations to March 31, 1988, the Appendix.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Hon. Clayton Manness (Minister of Finance) introduced, by leave, Bill No. 27, The Private Acts Repeal Act.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

* (1335)

Mr. Speaker: I have a statement to make to the House.

Honourable Members may wish to be informed of the death on Thursday, September 15, of Charland Prudhomme, who was the Clerk of this Assembly from June 1, 1951 to February 15, 1973. Mr. Prudhomme was 84.

I have written to Mrs. Prudhomme to extend condolences on behalf of the House, as I believe all Honourable Members would want me to do.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mr. Speaker: Before we proceed, I would like to draw the attention of Honourable Members to the gallery where we have 10 students from a Swan River school (Emmanuel Christian). They are under the direction of Mary Klassen. The school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Swan River (Mr. Burrell). On behalf of all Honourable Members, I welcome you here today.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

Economic Stimulation Mini-budget Request

Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition): My question is to the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness). In the first quarterly report issued by his Government, there are strong economic indications of a downturn in the Manitoba economy. Retail sales tax or revenues have fallen short of projections by almost \$3 million

in the first quarter indicating significantly weaker sales in our stores. The \$1 million shortfall in payroll tax reflects increased unemployment. At the same time, federal monetary policy which is dedicated to higher interest rates to produce a managed slowdown in Ontario's overheated economy acts as a disservice to Manitoba.

Can the Minister tell the House whether he will introduce a mini-budget to stimulate consumer confidence and employment in Manitoba, given that his August Budget is a formula for zero economic growth?

Hon. Clayton Manness (Minister of Finance): Well, the direct answer to the question, Mr. Speaker, is no. But let us go into some of the preamble by the Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs). The forecasted growth of the economy in the August Budget was some 2 percent. The latest number that has been presented today by the Conference Board of Canada is 1.4 percent on the positive side, and indeed there is only one province in the nation that is going to have a contracting economy this year by again the forecasts of the Conference Board, and that is the Province of Saskatchewan.

We are cognizant of the fact that the drought certainly impacted and will continue to impact the economy to some degree, that the forecast of 1.4 percent growth in the economy is what we understand will continue to be in place. A newspaper report where an official of the Conference Board publicly mused at a number that may, in his mind, indicate that the economy would not grow is certainly not substantiated by calls that we have made today.

So, Mr. Speaker, the answer to the question is no. There will not be a mini-budget and, secondly and more importantly to the people of Manitoba, the economy is going to grow this year.

Interest Rate Escalation

Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition): Can the Finance Minister please tell the House today what response Manitoba has received from the request of our First Minister (Mr. Filmon) and other First Ministers with regard to sensitivity on the part of the federal Government with interest rates, considering that interest rates have increased by over 1 percentage point since that first request was made?

Hon. Clayton Manness (Minister of Finance): We do not want to see interest rates continue to climb. Most of the provinces, I dare say all of the provinces, do not want to see them continue to climb. But the Bank of Canada is an institution which tries to look at monetary policy in a fashion which is for the good of the nation. They are at arm's length from the federal Government and they are a much greater distance from

those of us in provincial Governments. So, Mr. Speaker, although I would share with the Leader of the Opposition the belief that the interest rates cannot continue to escalate, hopefully, that they will reduce in the short term or in the intermediate term, I do not think anybody today has direct impact on the actions of the Bank of Canada.

To that end, I can say, when I was in New York and Toronto talking to many financial people last week, everybody felt that interest rates beginning in 1989 would begin to show a diminishing effect. Therefore, hopefully the economies not only of most provinces but certainly of Manitoba, which is of greatest interest to us, would continue to pick up from that point.

* (1340)

Bond Rate Setting

Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition): It would appear then that the announcement by the First Minister (Mr. Filmon) was just a bit of fluff. Can the Finance Minister (Mr. Manness) tell this House when we can expect an improvement in our bond rating in light of the fact that was the purpose of this trip to New York?

Hon. Clayton Manness (Minister of Finance): The Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs) shows some lack of understanding of the process. I went - (Interjection)- it seems like the Leader of the Opposition is criticizing me because I went. I went to provide detail with respect to any questions that the rating agencies may have dealing with the Budget and the economy and, I dare say, even with respect to the political state of affairs in the Province of Manitoba.

That is the right thing to do. It is what Finance Ministers over the past number of years have done on several occasions. The process does not allow for the analyst, with respect to the rating agencies, to retire to some back room as a jury and then come in with a new rating or an unchanged rating, as the case may be, a half an hour later. That is not the process. We asked the rating agencies to come back to Manitoba in the month of October, which they will be doing, at which time they will no doubt have even more in-depth questions to present to us.

Let me say though with respect to the rating agencies and to the Budget, the rating agencies in my view were favourably impressed with this Budget of ours.

Western Diversification Fund Application Stimulation

Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition): Perhaps the next time, before he goes, he will not make quite such outrageous statements.

My new question is to the First Minister (Mr. Filmon). Manitoba, to date, has received less than 8 percent of the funding from the Western Diversification Fund. Of \$345 million, \$149 million went to three projects, none of which were in Manitoba. Of \$247 million worth of

projects, each over \$5 million, none of it went to the Province of Manitoba. A spokesperson for the Western Diversification Fund has said it is industry driven, and implies Manitoba has not been making the right applications.

Can the First Minister (Mr. Filmon) tell this House, what program has his Government put into place to stimulate the correct applications from the Province of Manitoba?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): I am glad that the Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs) has asked that question because of course, when we came into Government and we found that at that point in time there had only been some \$5.7 million, I believe, committed to Western Diversification as a result of the initiatives of the previous administration, we found that the previous administration was going to Western Diversification and saying we want the project money to go into things such as sewer and water and infrastructure that was normally viewed as provincial and municipal Government responsibilities. They were holding out for the money to go in for that, rather than for what it was intended to which was projects that would diversify our economy, that would provide employment in industrial development and take off our dependency on resource industries, such as farming and mining and so on, and that was the whole intention of the Western Diversification initiative. The previous administration ignored it completely.

We have been working with them along the right lines, along the area that they want to, and we have managed to have some, I believe it is in the range of, \$28 million now committed to Manitoba, a vast improvement over where it was before we took Government. We do not think it is enough. We are committed to work even harder and more diligently with the federal Government to get more money for true diversification and expansion of our economy, and that is what we are going to do.

* (1345)

Mrs. Carstairs: If this Government has a blueprint for the kinds of businesses it thinks could make and take advantage of Western Diversification funds, would it table such a blueprint in this House?

Mr. Filmon: We have indicated on many occasions that we believe that the economy of Manitoba can be much stronger. We have many advantages in transportation, in communications, in health care technology. As a result, the federal Government has announced an initiative for development in the health care field, a variety of initiatives, and we are working cooperatively with them in those fields. We have had an indication of course, as a result of Air Canada's purchase of Airbus, they are going to be doing more maintenance and more high technology work here in Manitoba.

We will continue to work to ensure that our economy is expanded and it grows. She knows of course that we are pursuing an aluminum smelter, we are pursuing

potash development, we are pursuing many, many initiatives. We believe that the attitude of the Government in removing the payroll tax from half of our employers, in giving of tax breaks to new small businesses who will be forming in Manitoba in future, all of these are indications that we want economic growth. We want sustainable economic development and growth, and we are working on it on all fields. That is our blueprint. That is our plan for the future.

Free Trade Food Industry Diversification

Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition): With a final supplementary to the First Minister (Mr. Filmon), food processing has been a significant employer in Manitoba in recent years. Can this Minister explain how this diversification will continue when 75 percent of our processing is conducted by American companies, and they have stated that there will be no new capital investment in Canada as a result of free trade?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): I regret the doom-and-gloom attitude of the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Carstairs). She referred to us during a televised debate earlier this year as being a have-not province. She has continued to put forth her theory that Manitoba is a down-and-out province, and it would be under her leadership. It would indeed be under her leadership, Mr. Speaker.

With respect to food processing, just yesterday, I spoke with the general manager of Campbell Soups here in Manitoba. They are supporters of free trade. They are bullish about their opportunities to expand and grow in Manitoba and in Canada, and they very much believe that free trade will create more opportunities in food processing for them.

Carnation Foods, not south of the border—I say to the Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs), she is the only one who wants development to take place south of the border. We want it to take place in Manitoba. We are for Manitobans and we support the best interests of Manitoba, unlike her and her colleagues, her doom-and-gloom colleagues.

Federal Economic Policy Interest Rates

Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Second Opposition): I am pleased to hear the flowery speech of the First Minister (Mr. Filmon). In light of the fact that Michael Wilson is totally snubbing all regions outside of central Canada, the Bay Street Finance Minister is totally snubbing the First Ministers in their meeting by his economic policies and totally disregarding the farm economy, the small business economy, the home building economy, will the First Minister inform Manitobans whether he has indeed stood up for Manitoba and written the Prime Minister on this high interest rate policy, and will he table that letter in the House today?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): I realize that the Leader of the NDP Party (Mr. Doer) does absolutely nothing

to try and keep up to date on issues, and so he has probably not seen the communique that was issued by all 10 Premiers in this province (sic), urging the Bank of Canada to abandon the increased interest policies that it has been pursuing. But surely he does not believe anybody in this Chamber or out in the province should believe that the federal Government wants to have high interest policies. The federal Government does not want it any more than the provinces do. The fact of the matter is that he should know full well that the Bank of Canada is an arm's-length organization.

* (1350)

Under the Trudeau Liberal Government, it brought interest rates up over 20 percent in this country. That is what the Trudeau Liberals did. That is what the Liberals would do today if they had the Bank of Canada around them. We do not want high interest rate policies. We have said so publicly, and I stand by it.

Mr. Doer: The only person in this House who is not keeping up with the times is the First Minister (Mr. Filmon). The Prime Minister and Mr. Wilson have totally disregarded their advice from the First Ministers' Conference. His communique is weeks out of date, percentages out of date in terms of the interest rates in this country and the interest rates in Manitoba.

My question to the First Minister is, why has he not written to the Prime Minister to overrule Michael Wilson's Toronto bias on high interest rates? Why has he not stood up for the farm economy? A 1 percent interest increase is \$100 million in terms of the farm economy. It will devastate small business and it will devastate an already beginning to be devastated economy under this Tory Government. Why has he not written the Prime Minister to overrule Michael Wilson on this terrible policy of the federal Tories?

Mr. Filmon: Mr. Speaker, just yesterday, I watched a commentary and a discussion amongst Ottawa observers in the media who acknowledge that high interest policies are a very detrimental thing for a Government going for re-election. There is absolutely no way that the Conservative Government of Canada wants a high interest policy. The reality is they do not put interest rate decisions in the hands of politicians so that they are not switched back and forth because there is an election in the offing or because of any other political need of a Government in power. Those decisions are made by a third-party group.

I disagree with the third-party analysis of the Bank of Canada. I happen to agree with the Leader of the New Democratic Party (Mr. Doer) that the interest rates are too high. They are two-and-a-half percentage points higher than the base rate in the United States. That is the largest spread that we have had vis-a-vis the American rates in history, and there is no justification for it. We have told that to the Bank of Canada, and I believe that we have got to continue to tell them that and indeed we will.

Contingency Plans

Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Second Opposition): The rhetoric in this House, Mr. Speaker, is all well and good. The question to the First Minister (Mr. Filmon) is, what is he doing about it? Has he written the Prime Minister about this crazy policy? This policy of high interest rates is three times the inflation rate in Manitoba, utterly unprecedented in terms of its impact on our economy, on small business, on housing and on the farm economy.

My question to the First Minister is, why has he not written the Prime Minister to overrule Michael Wilson? Why is he not taking any leadership, and what contingency plans has he got in place for our particular sectors that will be devastated by this continuing high interest rate policy of the federal Tory Government?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): Mr. Speaker, the Member for Concordia (Mr. Doer) has a short memory but, while the New Democrats were in Government in this province, we had interest rates go over 20 percent. We had prime rates in the range of 22 percent that wiped out small business by the hundreds and farmers by the hundreds while they were in Government. That was during the years of the early Eighties and we remember very sadly.

We are not about to let that happen so we have spoken out strongly to the Bank of Canada. We have enlisted the support of the other nine Premiers in this country to say high interest rates are bad for this country and we want a dampening effect on them because we want to keep them under control. Believe me, we agree with the position put forward, and we are speaking out strongly so that we do not hit the kind of interest rates that we had under the NDP.

Mr. Doer: My final question to the First Minister (Mr. Filmon), will he, in light of the fact that we had a contingency plan in place while the interest rates were decreasing over the last six years—interest rates did decrease for farmers and small business. Will the First Minister do two simple things today? Will he inform this House that he will indeed write the Prime Minister and ask him to overrule his Bay Street Toronto Finance Minister, and will he inform Manitobans what the contingency plan of his Government is dealing with small business, agriculture and the housing industry, all of which are being depressed in terms of Tory Government in Manitoba and are being contracted in terms of economic projections in this province?

* (1355)

Mr. Filmon: Our Government has indicated in the Budget: (a) that we are removing the payroll tax from half of the employers in Manitoba who currently pay that tax; (b) we are creating a tax holiday for new small businesses in Manitoba. With respect to farmers, we are removing education tax off farm land so that all farmers will have a reduced input cost in Manitoba.—(Interjection)— No, we are removing education tax on farm land. We have brought in relief programs, drought relief programs, over \$18 million, a 50 percent increase

in our Agriculture budget. We know where the priorities are. We know where the needs are, and we are moving to fulfill those needs and those concerns.

Mr. Speaker: I am sure that all Honourable Members would like to put their questions through the Chair and their answer through the Chair, not just back and forth across the Chamber floor.

Headingley Jail Range Bar Installation

Mr. Paul Edwards (St. James): My question is for the Minister responsible for Workplace Safety and Health (Mr. Connery).

In 1983, the then Government of this province promised to put range bars back into Headingley Jail, ranges seven and eight in particular, in response to two riots which occurred in that year. These range bars were never put in. Needless to say, since that time there have been numerous incidents which might have been prevented by the presence of range bars. Finally, earlier this year, Workplace Safety and Health did get involved and set a deadline of May 1 for the putting in of those range bars. That was extended to August 14, 1988 and, most recently, that was extended again to November 1, 1988.

My question is, have these very serious delays been brought to the attention of the Minister, and does the Minister accept the statement which was stated today by his officer that, if it goes a couple of weeks past November 1, that is no problem?

Hon. Edward Connery (Minister of the Environment, Workplace Safety and Health): There have been concerns over the installation and the timing of the installation of the bars, and I will take that question as notice and get back to the Honourable Member.

Asbestos Removal Deadline

Mr. Paul Edwards (St. James): I look forward to the response from the Minister in that regard. My supplementary, also to do with Headingley Jail and to the same Minister, is the Minister aware that all of the asbestos at Headingley was supposed to have been taken out recently but, due to insufficient funding of the Asbestos Removal Program, there remains a list of areas with asbestos? Will the Minister act today to remove the very dangerous asbestos areas from Headingley Jail for the protection of guards and inmates?

Hon. Edward Connery (Minister of the Environment, Workplace Safety and Health): It looks like I am going to have a long answer for the Member tomorrow. Thank you, I will take it as notice.

Safety Committee Implementation

Mr. Paul Edwards (St. James): A final question, and perhaps the Minister will make his answer even longer after this. My final supplementary, again the Safety

Committee at Headingley Jail has recommended that sessions be held for guards on dealing with hostage-taking incidents. Will the Minister in his capacity as Workplace Safety and Health Minister (Mr. Connery) support the setting up of these very important sessions, and speak to the Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae) upon his return, if that is necessary, to organize these sessions for the guards at Headingley?

Hon. Edward Connery (Minister of the Environment, Workplace Safety and Health): We take our responsibilities in Workplace Safety and Health and the safety of workers very seriously. I will review it with my department and I will get back to the Honourable Member.

Fisheries Industry Small Mesh Net Policy

Mr. Harold Taylor (Wolesey): My question is for the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Penner). Lake Winnipegosis no longer has a fall fishery due to overfishing, and Lake Manitoba's fishery was closed for seven years in the mid to late Forties, a direct result of the implementation of a small mesh-net fishery policy, three-and-a-quarter inches in those years. Unfortunately Manitoba, under the NDP, began dabbling with this environmentally unsound practice in 1986 and 1988. The question is, would the Minister responsible for Conservation and Fisheries (Mr. Penner) tell the House how he justifies the implementation of a three-year small-mesh fishery on Lake Manitoba which will fish out that lake again?

* (1400)

Hon. Jack Penner (Minister of Natural Resources): Mr. Speaker, it is a very good question and I would like to, for the Honourable Member's information, indicate to you that the experiment that has been ongoing on Lake Manitoba with perch fisheries, as well as sauger fisheries, has proven to be of benefit to the commercial fishermen in the province and those who fish on Lake Manitoba. In 1988, for instance, the contribution made by the perch fishery on the lake contributed some \$400,000 to the 600 fishermen who make their living off that lake.

For that reason and by recommendations from the department, I made a decision to continue and put in place in all of Lake Manitoba three-inch mesh net for this coming year. I have indicated very clearly to the fisheries industry on the lake, as well as to department staff and all those who are concerned, that the program will remain under review and we will initiate three-inch mesh-net fishing on the lake this winter and review again next spring the impact of that and make public the results.

Mr. Taylor: Will the Minister explain how it can be construed as a sustainable development when the three-inch nets involved will mean only one breeding year for the fish caught in the future compared to the three to four years that the fish will be able to breed under the present system, the three-and-three-quarter-inch nets?

Mr. Penner: Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member might want to know that the make-up of fish in Lake Manitoba is some 40 percent sauger, some 53 percent perch and some 4 percent to 5 percent pickerel. There was a substantial overpopulation of perch and sauger on the lake. The fishermen asked whether they could harvest that overpopulation of sauger and perch, and we indicated to them that we would allow them to do it. It will be done for a three-month period and after that we will, as I indicated for next year, review that position.

Mr. Taylor: In recent times, 26 illegal small-mesh nets were seized by that Minister's conservation officers in the north basin of Lake Manitoba but 313 illegal three-inch nets were seized in the south basin. The question to the Minister is, is not his initiative really nothing more than a legalization of an illegal practice over political pressure from some interested parties in the south basin and is not in the interests of the fishermen overall?

Mr. Penner: It would appear to me, Mr. Speaker, that the Liberal Party has very little sympathy for the fishermen on Lake Manitoba. It is very obvious that there is a harvest to be taken and I have indicated very clearly that we, in fact, are going to allow, for a short period of time this year, them to harvest a stock of fish that is available which will contribute substantially to the economy and enhance the economic well-being of the fishermen who make their living. I am proud of those decision.

Frontier School Division School Year Length

Mr. Harold Gilleshammer (Minnedosa): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Education (Mr. Derkach). Has there been a resolution to the concerns raised by some northern communities in Frontier School Division vis-a-vis the length of the school year?

Hon. Leonard Derkach (Minister of Education): - (Interjection)- No, I am not going to take this question as notice.

Mr. Speaker, when I attended the conference for the Northern Association of Community Councils, one of the concerns raised was the fact that my department had indicated that there needed to be some significant changes made in the way the school year was made up when in fact school was being let out in the first week of June. Subsequent to that, I have had a meeting with the official trustee of Frontier School Division and also the superintendent where, in the spirit of consultation, we have arrived at an agreement whereby the school year will end in the first week of June and the school day will increase by no less than one-half hour in order to make up that time. In this way, the instructional time for students will be maintained at an appropriate level, not like was done in the previous administration.

Mr. Jerry Storie (Flin Flon): I think the House should be grateful to the Member for Minnedosa (Mr. Gilleshammer) for allowing the Minister to get both feet out of his mouth.

Manfor Ltd. Board Replacements

Mr. Jerry Storie (Flin Flon): My question is to the First Minister (Mr. Filmon). Some three weeks ago when the Minister responsible for Manfor (Mr. Ernst) announced that he was firing the board of directors, Members on this side raised questions about the legitimacy of making that move and particularly removing members on the board who represented communities in northern Manitoba, including Wabowden and Cranberry Portage, and also removing the only Native person who was on the board of directors.

Since that decision has been made, there have been notices appearing in northern papers announcing that there will be contracting out of both slashing and loading of operations in the Wabowden area. My question for the First Minister is: Was the removal of the only member on the board of directors from Wabowden, who happened to be a Native person, related to the fact that they were cutting jobs in Wabowden?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): The Member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie) does not refer to the fact that, in placing new members on the board of directors of Manfor, we placed a person from The Pas, who I believe is a woman as well. We placed a person from Flin Flon on the board. We placed a number of Northerners on the board. We have tried to balance it in terms of the interests of people who want to have a businesslike approach to Manfor.

The previous administration undertook to sell Manfor to the private sector. We are following through with those plans. We have people with industrial backgrounds, with business backgrounds, all acting on the board of directors so that we will put together a proposal to sell that corporation in the best of interests of all Manitobans, north, south and throughout this province. Mr. Speaker, the short answer to his question with respect to Wabowden is no.

Contract Awards

Mr. Jerry Storie (Flin Flon): Unfortunately, short answers mean fewer jobs for Northerners and particularly the communities that rely on Manfor.

Mr. Speaker, my question to the First Minister (Mr. Filmon), was there any consultation with the IWA with respect to this contracting out? Was there any consultation with the communities who are going to be affected by this? I understand they lose from five to seven jobs in a very small community. Was there any consultation or is this in effect the new management style of the politically appointed chief executive officer?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): In the absence of the Minister responsible for Manfor (Mr. Ernst), I will take that question as notice and have him bring a response back to the Member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie).

* (1410)

Mooselake Loggers Layoffs

Mr. Jerry Storie (Flin Flon): Perhaps while the Premier (Mr. Filmon) is taking that as notice, he can take as notice as well the fact that, on September 8, some 70 or 80 people at the Moose Lake Loggers Corporation received a pending layoff notice which would affect all of the people employed in that community of Moose Lake Loggers, most of whom are Native and from Moose Lake and area.

Can the First Minister indicate whether he will instruct the Minister responsible for Manfor (Mr. Ernst) to ensure that those people will have their jobs, that the negotiations that are going on at Manfor will be concluded, and that Moose Lake Loggers will have cordage to contribute to Manfor operations in the future, and these layoffs will not take place?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): Mr. Speaker, that is a question that should be properly given to the Minister responsible for Moose Lake Loggers (Mr. Downey), and I will let him answer that.

Hon. James Downey (Minister responsible for Moose Lake Loggers Ltd.): Let me first of all put on the record that the recommendation was made by the current board of Moose Lake Loggers which was appointed by the former administration. It is not a decision of a board appointed by us. It is a board that was there by the previous administration, Mr. Speaker. It is not an abnormal situation at this particular time of the year. I will take a little more of the detail as notice and get back to the Member, but I think it is not abnormal and it is being carried out by his board which he appointed.

Highway 75 Project Twinning

Mr. Ed Mandrake (Assiniboia): My question is for the Minister of Highways and Transportation (Mr. Driedger). During Question Period on July 26, the Member for Kirkfield Park (Mrs. Hammond) asked the Minister regarding Highway 75. The Minister replied, "We will be working forward on twinning Highway 75 from both ends." My question to the Minister is, can he tell this House when he plans to commence work on Highway 75 in this manner?

Hon. Albert Driedger (Minister of Highways and Transportation): I am hoping that my Estimates will come forward pretty soon so that I can table all the projects that we have undertaken for this year. Hopefully, we can do that soon.

I would like to indicate though to the Member who asked the question that when I indicated that we would start work from both ends on Highway 75 towards the twinning of it, the first thing we had to do was to hire a consultant to find out exactly where we were going to put the road, and that is in process right now.

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

An Honourable Member: It is on Pembina Highway!

An Honourable Member: They do not know where they are going.

Mr. Speaker: Albert, Albert!

Mr. Driedger: Mr. Speaker, if that statement has created some confusion, I will clarify that, because the previous administration had no further plans for the twinning of Highway 75 and they are very sensitive about it. There were no further plans from the point that it is right now. That is what we are doing. We have got a functional study going to designate the route that will be taken in terms of the twinning.

Mr. Mandrake: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, rural community leaders have expressed to me concern about this project. My question to the same Minister is, can he assure this House that the twinning of Highway 75 project, as desirable as it is, will not siphon money from projects in other parts of the province?

Mr. Driedger: The short answer is yes. We will be spreading our work across the province, as we will be indicating once we get into Estimates, and I will table the projects that are about to be undertaken. But I want to indicate to the Member that last year \$83 million was spent under the Capital Program, and this year we have \$95 million for the Capital Program. We finally made the corner and put a priority on highways in this province as we should and we will spread it across the province.

Some Honourable Members: Hear, Hear!

Federal Compensation Rail Line Abandonment

Mr. Ed Mandrake (Assiniboia): My final supplementary is to the First Minister (Mr. Filmon). Newfoundland received \$800 million for improvement of their highways due to the loss of the 547 kilometres of rail line. Manitoba lost 1,170 kilometres. My question is this: would the First Minister show leadership and tell the Prime Minister to treat Manitoba as an equal partner in Confederation and request our fair share of funding for our rail line abandonment?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): The Member for Assiniboia (Mr. Mandrake) has perhaps been reading some of my notes.

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Filmon: Mr. Speaker, his colleagues in the Liberal Party should not be laughing at that because I am sure he did understand them. The fact of the matter is that I went to Saskatoon to make that very point. I had those precise statistics that he put forward and, as a result, First Ministers passed a communique indicating that a national highway policy should become a part of the federal Government's program for the sake of fairness so that they do not just deal on an ad hoc

basis, building highways in some provinces but not in others.

As a consequence, we even indicated that international connections so that specifically Highway 75 could be included in that would be part of that national highway program and we are awaiting a response from Ottawa on that.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member for Dauphin (Mr. Plohman) will have time for one question.

Crown Corporations Accountability Hearings

Mr. John Plohman (Dauphin): My question is to the Minister responsible for Crown corporations' accountability (Mr. Manness). During the April election campaign, the Conservatives campaigned for what they said was greater Government accountability generally and particularly greater accountability with regard to Crown corporations. They talked about open Government.

Despite this, Mr. Speaker, the Government refuses to table studies on Rafferty-Alameda, as we witnessed last week, legal opinions on energy and free trade, and a number of other studies that have been asked for by this Opposition. Now we see this Government violating its statutory obligations requiring major Crowns like MTS, Hydro, MPIC and so on to hold public accountability sessions, and they are doing this at a time when Hydro is having one of its most disastrous years ever and when the chairman of Manitoba Hydro is talking about 30 percent increases. My question, Mr. Speaker, to the Minister, is he planning to hold public accountability sessions this fiscal year which ends December 31 for many of these Crown corporations?

Hon. Clayton Manness (Minister responsible for the administration of The Crown Corporation Accountability Act): Mr. Speaker, the former Crown Accountability Act is in place. It calls for the various Crowns to hold those meetings. I have asked various Crowns to provide for me a format as to how those meetings may be held.

I should also tell the House that there will be legislation coming in in short course that may have an impact on the existing legislation and therefore some of the meetings that may be called. But there definitely will be a new form of Crown accountability legislation that will be introduced into this House.

Mr. Speaker: The time for oral questions has expired.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Hon. Clayton Manness (Acting Government House Leader): Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Minister of Housing (Mr. Ducharme), that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee to consider of the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

MOTION presented.

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Mr. Jay Cowan (Second Opposition House Leader): Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, perhaps the Acting House Leader could indicate which committees will be sitting and where.

Mr. Manness: Mr. Speaker, there will only be one committee today, I am led to believe. It will be in the outside committee room dealing with the Estimates of Community Services.- (Interjection)- Well, if it is the will of the Members of the House, we can have that committee sit in the House. Is that fine or will you prefer to go in the—we will do it in here if it is in agreement.

The Clerk advises me that the rules specifically state that once a committee has started in a certain venue, it will continue there.

Mr. Speaker: Do Honourable Members grant leave to move the Committee of Community Services back into the Chamber? (Agreed)

QUESTION put, MOTION carried and the House resolved itself into a Committee to consider of the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty with the Honourable Member for Minnedosa (Mr. Gilleshammer) in the Chair for the Department of Community Services.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

SUPPLY—COMMUNITY SERVICES

Mr. Chairman, Harold Gilleshammer: I call this Committee of Supply on Community Services to order. We are on Section 1.(f)(1) Salaries, \$817,600.00. Shall the item pass?

Hon. Charlotte Oleson (Minister of Community Services): Before we commence that, there were some questions asked the other day when we were in the committee room, one of them dealing with confidentiality of case records. I have information for the Members to do with first of all Child and Family Services records.

Following proclamation of The Child and Family Services Act in 1986, standards and guidelines on case-record confidentiality were developed by program staff and circulated to all regions providing Child and Family Services and to external Child and Family Service agencies. This is a 30-page document which currently serves as a benchmark for client confidentiality for the complete provincial Child and Family Services system.

The guidelines in the document provide a wide range of information and procedures necessary to support the Child and Family Services legislation effectively, and they offer a framework for continued policy development in this area. Some parts of these guidelines may have previously been in place in regional offices and child care agencies prior to the new Act. The principle and goal of the guidelines were to achieve consistency in application of policy and procedures regarding client confidentiality throughout the Child and Family Services system across the province.

The legislative authority for and the base of these program guidelines is Part IV of Section 76 of the The

Child and Family Services Act proclaimed on April 1, 1986. As this is a manual-type document, I do not have any to table; however, I will outline the document highlights.

It re-emphasizes the confidentiality of Child and Family Service records and clarifies conditions of disclosure; defines who has rights of access to records and in what manner; provides special protections for voluntary service records and closed child care records of persons who are now adults; includes provisions for objections and corrections of records; adds review and appeal provisions; clarifies conditions of access for research. Under Community Social Services, there is no legislative base for confidentiality of client records under the Mental Retardation or Vocational Rehabilitation Programs or services provided by Community Social Services. Confidentiality of client information in this division is administered by divisional policy, standards, guidelines and procedures.

The regions, because each have their unique community, client and program base, have developed client information confidentiality guidelines or set universal principles. While most standards are common, there are slight variations in each region. We will provide a copy of the confidentiality guidelines utilized by regional program staff, sample from Parklands region. I would like to table a copy for the chairman and one for each of the critics.

* (1440)

There was another question asked regarding computer-automated projects, financial assistance client expenditure tracking system, FACETS. FACETS is a prototype system designed to track commitments and costs associated with an individual client. The system was designed by Community Services Program Branch with input from the regional program areas. The FACET system is presently operating in Winnipeg South Office on a pilot basis.

FACETS is a support system to the automated commitment accounting system, CAS, presently implemented in all Community Services and health offices. Commitment accounting system globally records all current and committed expenditures by object code (nature of expenditure) and program code (type of program) in Department of Finance format. FACETS is a client-based expenditure system which records expenditures by client, worker and placement data, thus producing expenditures by case.

FACETS in operational tests has proven beneficial to workers in that it provides individual client data. However, in its current form, it is a duplication of the majority of information entered into the commitment accounting system. Once the prototype has been evaluated through the pilot project, the objective of administrative services will be to merge the commitment accounting and FACETS into one to reduce duplicate data entry and provide regions with the client data required. The system is still in test stage.

A question was also asked about volunteer coordinators. I would like to provide the Members with that information. The regional volunteer program is

more prevalent in the Winnipeg regions. It evolved from a Winnipeg-based program called Volunteers in Public Service which is now inactive. The Winnipeg regions have dedicated staff to coordinate the volunteer program for all program services areas, Health and Community Services.

A number of volunteer coordinators in Winnipeg regions are: Winnipeg West Central, two full time; Winnipeg South, one half time; Winnipeg North, one full time. The rural regions utilize volunteers for specific programs which are primarily health programs: Public Health, Continuing Care. The program coordinators for these programs in the regions carry the volunteer coordination function. The Manitoba Developmental Centre also has one volunteer coordinator.

While I am on my feet, a question was asked with regard to the audit report on Community Services to the mentally handicapped. I shall give the Members information on that, if you will bear with me.

A) Purpose of the Audit. The purpose of the Internal Audit was to provide senior program management with an assessment of the program for services for the mentally handicapped under the new direction or mandate with respect to: a) The effectiveness of the case management systems—intake and referral, assessment and initial planning and ongoing planning, to meet new specific objectives of the program. b) The effectiveness of specific program components—child development, respite care, additional care and support, supervised apartment living, and crisis intervention, to achieve required program objectives. c) The ability and effectiveness of the management systems to control operational systems, practices and procedures. d) The extent of compliance with Government and departmental policies, directives and requirements, and legislative mandates.

B) The scope of the Audit. 1) Examination encompassed a general review of the significant systems and procedures of the Community Services to the mentally handicapped. 2) Examination conducted in the Programs Branch, Operations Branch, and Administrative Support Unit of Community Social Services division, Children Special Services Branch, Child and Family Services division and the following regional operations: Central, Interlake, Thompson, Westman, Winnipeg North, Winnipeg South and Winnipeg West Central. 3) Also involved interviews with other significant individuals and representatives of organizations who interface with the department and its programming for mentally handicapped—approximately 400 interviews, including consumers, primary care givers, collateral service providers, voluntary support and advocacy groups, community based non-profit agencies, other branches of our department, and other departments of the provincial Government, e.g., Education, Health, Employment Services and Economic Security, Natural Resources, Parks, as well as management and staff of the branches delivering the program. 4) The operational assessment was conducted through May 1986 and January 1987.

C) Method of Audit Report Review. 1) Copies of the report were distributed to all executive management, that is, Deputy Minister, Assistant Deputy Ministers,

and Executive Directors. 2) Summarized versions primarily pertaining to a manager's area of responsibility but including all recommendations of the audit team were provided to program line managers. 3) Verbal debriefings by audit team to senior management and individual program line managers as requested. 4) Verbal debriefings to all regional directors by senior management and audit team at regional directors' meeting. 5) On-site verbal debriefings to regional staff where audit is conducted except Central region which have been deferred at the request of the regional director.

D) Method of Implementation. There were in excess of 90 primary recommendations in total, many containing several subrecommendations contained in the report. All recommendations were reviewed in detail by senior management with their respective managers. Approximately 84 recommendations were accepted and prioritized for implementation. Work groups were established to study assigned recommendations and develop implementation plans, strategies and schedules. Recommendations were or are being implemented according to plans. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Ms. Avis Gray (Ellice): I have a number of questions resulting from that information but I will save them for other appropriations. One question that I would ask though, the Minister of Community Services (Mrs. Oleson) had indicated that with respect to Community Social Services in the regional operations that with the regions across the province there may be slight variations in the guidelines for confidentiality.

Could the Minister clarify for me: Does that mean then, if I happen to be an individual receiving service from Community Services living in a particular region in the city and I move to another region, that the manner in which my information about me will be dealt with in a different way because I moved from one region to another?

Mrs. Oleson: The minimum standard is the same across all the agencies.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister then indicate the confidentiality standards and guidelines that she has tabled and presented to us then, that every staffperson across all regions in the province then would at least be applying these minimum standards?

Mrs. Oleson: Yes, they should be.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate to us why some regions have decided to develop further confidentiality standards and guidelines? Would it not seem an important enough issue that in fact all regions across the province would be looking towards developing similarly higher standards and confidentiality guidelines?

Mrs. Oleson: Different regions of the province deliver different programs. For instance, the rural areas deliver the child welfare so that would be the reason for any differences between the regions.

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Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate to us, of the three regions in Winnipeg who would be delivering similar services, in fact the confidentiality guidelines and standards within each region would be the same for all three regions?

Mrs. Oleson: They should be the same.

Ms. Gray: The other day, within this appropriation, the Minister indicated that with the number of the computer programs that were being implemented in the regions the workload of the clerical staff would be equalized. Is she aware—does her department have data to support the fact that the workload will be equalized and in fact no extra clerical staff will be needed once the programs are fully operational?

Mrs. Oleson: What we will have to do is review the staffing needs when the program is fully implemented. It is sometimes difficult to tell in the preliminary stages exactly what staffing will be needed. Of course, there is an ongoing review of staffing at all times.

* (1450)

Ms. Gray: When regional directors and senior staff are putting forth budgets for upcoming years, have they not planned ahead? If they feel that more clerical staff will be needed, have they not asked for more clerical SYs because of the computerization?

Mrs. Oleson: That is part of budgeting is to project what needs there will be in the coming year, and staff are already working on next year's budget. So those things are being considered.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate, as the implementation occurs with computerization amongst regions and in other branches of her department, could she tell us what type of training programs are in place to ensure that the staff who will be utilizing the computers, who will be operating them, are fully trained?

Mrs. Oleson: Each automation program will have its own special needs and its own training program within it to familiarize the staff with how it operates.

Ms. Gray: When staff are being trained in the use of the computers, are staff taken out of their work environment and sent to a training program or are they expected to learn how to use the computers on the job? By that I mean, as they do their day-to-day work, are they also expected to learn the use of computers?

Mrs. Oleson: Both would be used. They would be learning off-site and on-site. It would depend on the particular program that was being instituted.

Ms. Gray: Does it seem reasonable to assume that when staff are doing their day-to-day work, as well as that, they can also be expected to learn a computer program as well?

Mrs. Oleson: It would depend on the stage that the program is at. They would not be expected, I would

not think, to be doing double duty but, if they are going to make use of the computer program, it would follow quite naturally, at least in my mind, that they would have to learn how to use it.

Ms. Gray: The Administrative Services, I understand, deals with office space. Could the Minister indicate to us if there are any proposals or have there been within the last year or so from anywhere within her department requesting new office space?

Mrs. Oleson: I have the information for the Member on regional office space. If she would bear with me, I will give her the complete details.

Manitoba Community Services, Manitoba Health, and Manitoba Government Services have formed a committee to work closely in the development of long-term spacial plans and share responsibility for resolving spacial issues, that is, workplace safety and health, overcrowding, etc. This group is in its developmental stage with a view of developing an overall long-term departmental spacial plan.

Community Services has now acquired new space for Winnipeg west at 2015 Portage Avenue. This resolved the spacial issues at 1981 and 2000 Portage Avenue and resulted in the consolidation of and a more accessible service delivery system. Community Services has also received approval in principle, in the 1988-89 major/minor capital, to acquire new office space for the Thompson Regional Office.

Manitoba Health has identified the North Winnipeg Region Office space issues as a priority in their Estimates. This issue involves a space at 1400 Henderson Highway, 108 Vaughan Street, and 1021 Court Avenue. The status of this space request is unknown as it is contained in the Department of Health work plan and Estimates.

Community Services is responsible to negotiate all leased space arrangements in rural Manitoba for Health and Community Services regional offices. Community Services is presently working to resolve the spacial issues at Winkler, Pine Falls, Grandview, Gillam and Rossburn by obtaining more accessible and appropriate alternate space, subject to Government Services and Treasury Board approval. Community Services is also exploring the feasibility of alternate space in Ashern and Lynn Lake for more suitable program delivery. This is being done in consultation with regional directors to determine the need.

The department is awaiting a decision respecting the Manitoba Hospital Services Commission Capital budget for the approval of the Dauphin and Virden Hospitals development projects, prior to finalizing the consolidation of office space in those respective communities.

The committee also works in consultation with Manitoba Hospital Services Commission regarding future hospital expansion projects to ensure existing and future regional office spacial requirements are considered in the planning if desired.

In conclusion, current regional spacial issues are reviewed, lease renewals negotiated, spacial

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documentation prepared and submitted by the department to Government Services for final approval and implementation. On new space acquisitions, the department is only involved with identifying need and spacial requirement, and requests approval through the Estimates process.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate to us what priorities she would give regarding new office space at 1400 Henderson, given that there have been reports from fire commissioners about the basement being a fire hazard?

Mrs. Oleson: It is given a high priority. It is under the Health Department. I have visited that office and I realize that it is crowded.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister assure us that in fact she will do everything in her power and work with the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) to ensure that this particular office space—there has been a request for new office space for the last four and five years—actually receives very high priority with Treasury Board?

Mrs. Oleson: Yes, as I have already indicated, it is a high priority and, yes, I will be pursuing that with the Minister of Health.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate to us, within the budget, has there been any allowances made for any Capital expenditures for new office space in Winnipeg?

Mrs. Oleson: That would be under Government Services. This department does not have a Capital budget.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister of Community Services (Mrs. Oleson) indicate to us what exactly the rental cost is on the building at 1400 Henderson which we rent from the City of Winnipeg?

Mrs. Oleson: Mr. Chairman, we could provide the Member with that information later.

Ms. Gray: The Administrative Services also deals with the allocation of Government cars. Could the Minister indicate to us what is the criteria that is used to determine which staff within the department receive Government cars, with exception of the Minister of course?

Mrs. Oleson: It is the standard way that, under Government administration, standard criteria, other cars are assigned as well.

* (1500)

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister repeat her answer? I am sorry, I did not hear it clearly.

Mrs. Oleson: Perhaps I was not as clear. It is laid out in the General Manual of Administration and the same criteria is used as in other departments.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate to us what is the ratio of field staff in rural Manitoba who have Government cars versus staff in the City of Winnipeg?

Mrs. Oleson: We can provide the ratios later, but the information I have is that there were 270 vehicles last year. This year we are down to 107. There were transfers to Corrections, took part of that number. This year we are at 107 cars, but we could find the ratio for her later.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate to us what the policy or guidelines or the thoughts are in relation to Government vehicles in the past number of years, and it has gone back and forth? There has sometimes been a move toward not having as many Government fleet vehicles and toward not assigning Government cars at all. Could the Minister indicate to us whether there is a move at all in her department to reduce the number of Government vehicles?

Mrs. Oleson: That policy issue rests with the Minister of Government Services (Mr. Driedger), as that criteria is set up by the General Manual of Administration and is administered by the Department of Government Services.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate to us what her thoughts are about having Government cars within her department? Does she feel that we should be increasing the number of Government cars, or should we be moving toward removing Government cars from her department and from other Government departments?

Mrs. Oleson: That issue really has not been on the top of my agenda of things to worry about in this department, but I could certainly take it under advisement and have a look at it for the future. But as I repeat, it is not something that has kept me awake nights.

Mr. Chairman: Item 1.(f)(1)—pass; item 1.(f)(2) Other Expenditures, \$44,500—pass.

Item 1.(g) Human Resources Services: Provides departmental services in the recruitment, selection and evaluation of staff, evaluation and classification of positions; development and training of staff resources; and department payroll, No. (1) Salaries, \$417,900.00. Shall the item pass?

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate to us, is this the section where coordination of The Freedom of Information Act would occur and, if it is not, where does it occur?

Mrs. Oleson: No, it was in the item just passed.

Ms. Gray: Within the Human Resources, could the Minister indicate to us—it indicates that there are six SYs which are professional and technical. Could she give us a breakdown of the types of professional or technical positions which involve the six SYs?

Mrs. Oleson: There are five personnel administrators, and one Affirmative Action Coordinator.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate to us who does the personnel coordinator report to?

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Mrs. Oleson: To administration.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate to us what relationship, if any, the Affirmative Action Coordinator would have with the Civil Service Commission?

Mrs. Oleson: Ongoing functional.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister please explain what she means by ongoing functional?

Mrs. Oleson: That person receives ongoing information and direction.

Ms. Gray: Is there a staff relationship between the Affirmative Action Coordinator and someone in the Civil Service Commission, or is it a liaison function?

Mrs. Oleson: It is a liaison relationship.

Ms. Gray: Who within the Civil Service Commission does the Affirmative Action Coordinator liaise with?

Mrs. Oleson: With the Deputy Minister.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate to us if the Affirmative Action Coordinators within various departments liaise with the same individual in the Civil Service Commission, or are there different individuals within the Civil Service Commission?

Mrs. Oleson: The Assistant Deputy Minister in charge would be the one who they would all liaise with.

Ms. Gray: Given that the Affirmative Action Coordinator—there is a liaison function between that coordinator and the Civil Service Commission—when policies come down from the Civil Service Commission and a department for whatever reason is perhaps not implementing the policy, what authority does that person in the Civil Service Commission have to ensure that in fact the policies would be implemented, given there is no line relationship there, there is only a liaison function?

Mrs. Oleson: The Deputy Minister has a responsibility for all the branches in the department, all the divisions, so he would be directly responsible.

Ms. Gray: Therefore, is the Minister stating that the Deputy Minister of Community Services then is responsible within her Department of Community Services to ensure that the affirmative action policies and guidelines are implemented and that the objectives are met?

Mrs. Oleson: The short answer is yes.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate to us if the Deputy Minister liaises with this ADM in the Civil Service Commission?

Mrs. Oleson: Yes.

Ms. Gray: So my understanding is that the Affirmative Action Coordinator in human resources and the Deputy

Minister both liaise with the Assistant Deputy Minister in the Civil Service Commission in regard to affirmative action? That is correct?

Mrs. Oleson: Yes, quite often.

* (1510)

Ms. Gray: In regard to the Affirmative Action Program, could the Minister indicate to us, within the Department of Community Services, what some of the systemic barriers have been that have been identified by her coordinator and by Human Resources, and what are some of the implementation steps that have been taken to remove these systemic barriers?

Mrs. Oleson: Of course, one of the barriers is attitudes and class specifications of jobs and they need to be rewritten, and managers need to be held accountable.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate to us if there have been any proposals or ideas formulated regarding how you deal with attitudes within her department?

Mrs. Oleson: Mr. Chairman, some of the ways that the executive management group reviews the policies, the deputy communicates with the directors and also reports, and there are seminars held from time to time—also represents the target groups.

Ms. Gray: Mr. Chairperson, the Minister has indicated that the Personnel Director represents the target group. Could she indicate to us how that changes attitudes within the department?

Mrs. Oleson: Mr. Chairman, yes. The personnel administration hires people within the target groups and that certainly of course would be evident that would change attitudes.

Ms. Gray: Mr. Chairperson, I would think that, if the department goes ahead and hires staff within the target groups, in fact that is not necessarily going to do anything to change attitudes of people within the department who may be concerned about hiring affirmative action groups. In fact, it would actually cause more difficulties. Could the Minister indicate to us if a comprehensive orientation program has been developed and has been given to all staff within her department explaining the concept of affirmative action?

Mrs. Oleson: I take exception to the Member saying that one of the things I said that would change attitudes would be hiring people from the target groups. That certainly would change the attitude. One of the things to do with recruitment and selection—excuse me, the programs for the coming year, recruitment and selection ensuring non-discriminatory practices with added emphasis on affirmative action selection and the systemic barrier reviews. That is, continue to change internal operation to eliminate inherent systemic barriers in recruitment and selection and job specifications; and the continued support and consultation to managers respective of program design, implementation and

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education of both managers and employees; and the formulation of position and policy papers related to tying affirmative action to budget process; establishment of a career development program within the department; development of cross-cultural training workshops and weighing of affirmative action in the screening and selection process.

Ms. Gray: Mr. Chairperson, could the Minister indicate to us if all the supervisors and anyone who is involved in the hiring process have been adequately informed and oriented and are fully aware of the Affirmative Action Program and the objectives and, in fact, agree with the affirmative action concept and are very willing to make sure that the objectives are implemented?

Mrs. Oleson: Mr. Chairman, the affirmative action considerations are stressed in all recruitment activities. Contracts have been established with numerous external groups and agencies, that is Core Area Initiative, Native Employment Services, Society for Manitobans with Disabilities, involved in the placement of various target groups. Additional outreach recruitment is done by distributing employment notices to Band Councils, Native education programs, community service agencies and self-help groups, counselling individuals on requests regarding employment opportunities and career pathing, retaining active affirmative action policy inventory, ongoing consultation with managers to establish career development programs within branches.

Career development programs have been initiated in the Human Resources Branch, Winnipeg South Region, Central Region, bridging positions in clerical and administrative support into paraprofessional and professional positions; an automated statistical system established which provides current information as to the departmental affirmative action configuration; a reporting and monitoring procedure designed for senior managers to assess efforts and advancements being made throughout the department.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate to us what specific assistance would be in place if a supervisor or a manager within the Department of Community Services wanted to hire someone who had physical handicaps and required special equipment or required access to the office? Could the Minister indicate to us what programs or assistance are in place to ensure that a supervisor or manager could indeed hire that person who is physically handicapped?

Mrs. Oleson: We would work with the Department of Government Services and with the personnel managers within the department to find some way to accommodate that person.

Ms. Gray: If a supervisor wanted to hire someone who is physically handicapped, i.e., was in a wheelchair, and the particular office with which the person would be working was not wheelchair accessible and therefore of course there would be no washrooms as well, or there were steps and the person would not be able to get into the building by a wheelchair, are there arrangements available so that the building could be modified so that person could be hired?

Mrs. Oleson: We recognize that there are barriers. Sometimes they are difficult to get around, but we would work with individuals and try to accommodate them. We have, as I said, worked with Government Services, with the Civil Service Commission to see if there could be some arrangements made. I am sure, when we are renting facilities, when an occasion arises we need to rent new facilities, that sort of thing would be kept in mind. This building is very difficult at some points. Some of the newer buildings, for instance, that we may be renting, that certainly would be taken into consideration, the access to them, not only by the people who work in them but the people who might need to visit them.

Ms. Gray: If a supervisor wanted to hire someone who was physically handicapped in the sense that they perhaps required special equipment such as telephone equipment or special aids, for instance, people who were considered thalidomide babies—there are some adults right now who are working in the Civil Service and have been applying for various jobs—could the Minister indicate to us if a person such as this, who is very capable to do the job but required some assistance, was to be hired, what would be the length of time that it might take from the time a supervisor put in a request to have these aids put in or to have the person assessed to see if there were aids available so that they could be hired? What might be the length of time from that beginning question by the supervisor to when it would be completed?

Mrs. Oleson: The time would certainly vary, depending on the circumstances. In one case, a ramp had to be built for the Affirmative Action Coordinator, for instance, so that person would have access to the building in the Human Resources Branch. It would certainly depend what needed to be done. No, you could not say that one day or three months or whatever would be exactly the time it would take because it would vary with each circumstance.

* (1520)

Ms. Gray: The Minister has indicated that there may be no particular length of time and that in fact it can take quite a while before such aids or modifications are made. Would the Minister tell us whether she sees that as very much a barrier to employment? Because when supervisors feel that it may take months and months before they can hire a person into a position, in most cases, what they would prefer to do is hire someone who is able-bodied because then they do not have to go through the hassle.

Could the Minister indicate to us what steps her department is looking at to ensure that these assistances and these modifications are much better handled so that supervisors and managers feel that they will get some support and they will have no difficulty in hiring the physically handicapped?

Mrs. Oleson: I recognize what the Member is pointing out and it is difficult but, as I said before, we cannot give anyone a solid time frame. It would depend upon the disability and the needs that person had. And of course we will be, as I said before, looking at buildings

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that we rent and in the future, buildings that we currently rent, to make sure that they are accessible for the handicapped.

But no matter how much you plan, you cannot plan every single eventuality and they have to be all looked at separately. Unfortunately, it may take a little time in some cases, and unfortunately that may make it difficult for someone who wants to work in the department. But I assure the Member that we would do all we could to accommodate people who want to work for us.

Ms. Gray: The Manitoba Association of Rights and Liberties developed a report on the Affirmative Action Program within the Civil Service and they certainly had a number of recommendations regarding some of the changes necessary. Could the Minister indicate to us whether the information that she has from her department is similar in nature in that—does her department, have they found the deficiencies as identified by the MARL report are the same as what her staff is finding within the Department of Community Services?

Mrs. Oleson: Our coordinator is looking at the issue of accessibility for prospective employees and is reporting to me on ways that we can improve the situation.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate to us, the affirmative action policies and the objectives, are these managed through the Affirmative Action Coordinator centrally or are specific objectives left up to individual regions within the province to develop various guidelines and thrust which they may want in regard to affirmative action?

Mrs. Oleson: It is a coordinated effort by myself, the Deputy Minister and the Affirmative Action Coordinator.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate to us if any regions have taken it upon themselves in the hiring process to garner individuals from the community who happen to be of the affirmative action target groups and asked them to sit on hiring boards?

Mrs. Oleson: Yes.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister comment to us as to what she feels is the value of having individuals who happen to be of the affirmative action group sit on hiring boards?

Mrs. Oleson: Those people would have far more insight than I myself, for instance, would have on their special needs and on ways in which they could be met. So I think it is very useful to have people to give their expertise, if you will, their opinion, on these matters so that we can better serve the public.

Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Second Opposition): Mr. Chairperson, I would ask the Minister to please advise us of the staffing plans and organizational plans dealing with the stated intent of the Government to proceed with amalgamation of services between the

Departments of Health and Community Services in the Winnipeg delivery system.

Mrs. Oleson: Would the Member repeat the question, please? I am not just clear on which region he is meaning.

Mr. Doer: Could the Minister please advise us of the staffing plan and organizational deployment to deal with the stated intent of the Government to proceed with amalgamation between the delivery system of Health and Community Services in the Winnipeg region, particularly?

Mrs. Oleson: That is just in a preliminary review stage. The Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) and I have not met to even review the review, if you want to put it that way. So there are no plans that have been submitted to me on the amalgamation.

Mr. Doer: Is the department working on a number of options of personnel deployment and a number of contingencies on those options for personnel deployment, consistent with the statements we have heard in this House certainly from the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) and from this Minister in terms of the amalgamation of those services? Could she please advise us of what state those options are at and when we would expect an announcement?

Mrs. Oleson: As I indicated in my earlier answer, this is still at a very preliminary stage and so it is being worked on between the staff of the Health Department and this department. There are no firm plans in place but those things are being considered by the two departments.

Mr. Doer: I would ask the Minister: Is there an interdepartmental committee dealing with the personnel deployment issue between the Department of Health and the Department of Community Services? Will there be an announcement within the next couple of months in terms of the amalgamation in the City of Winnipeg for those services?

Mrs. Oleson: As I indicated before, this is preliminary and all those issues are being looked at by an interdepartmental committee and the recommendation has not come to me at this time.

Mr. Doer: Perhaps I did not hear, but there is an interdepartmental committee dealing with this issue between the Departments of Health and Community Services?

Mrs. Oleson: Yes.

Mr. Doer: Just a couple of last questions, the Affirmative Action Program has been mentioned by the Member for Ellice (Ms. Gray) in a number of questions. I would ask the Minister, what were the objectives for the first three months of her leadership position as Minister of the department? What were the objectives for professional positions in terms of the Affirmative Action Program and what were the results?

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Mrs. Oleson: There have been no changes. What was in place before is now. I am reviewing all positions and looking at ways to improve the department, so affirmative action will be one of the things that I will be looking at.

* (1530)

Mr. Doer: Mr. Chairperson, the results, particularly with professional positions, are very important to us all. The hiring from May 9 on is the responsibility of the department consistent with The Civil Service Act and under the leadership of the Minister. We have heard in this House before that the Minister responsible for Labour (Mr. Connery), when he got rid of the Affirmative Action Coordinator, would now assume total responsibility for the Affirmative Action Program in Government. I guess our question is, what are the objectives and what are the results for the first three months, which is the first quarter of the Minister's responsibility as Minister responsible for this department?

Mrs. Oleson: As I said before, we are continuing the advancement that was there before, continuing an aggressive approach position-by-position to make sure that affirmative action is properly adhered to. We are developing and formalizing policy in such areas as affirmative action and budget process, weighing affirmative action in recruitment and selection, and alternative methods to recruitment and selection.

Mr. Doer: Given the fact that the Minister of Labour (Mr. Connery) has stated that he is responsible for the Affirmative Action Program in Government, and given the fact that the Minister of the department is responsible ultimately for the hiring within the department, has the Minister of Labour, who is responsible for affirmative action, met with all Ministers to review their objectives? Has the Minister met to review the results of the Affirmative Action Program in his responsibility and stated position of being responsible for affirmative action all over the Civil Service?

Mrs. Oleson: The objectives are set out by Cabinet and reviewed by Cabinet. The Minister has given me a clear indication that affirmative action is to be followed in every department and he will be asking us for results in the very near future.

Mr. Doer: Given the fact that the Minister is reviewing these results with the Minister of Labour (Mr. Connery), who has made a big to-do about getting rid of the Affirmative Action Coordinator, can the Minister please share the objectives and the results of her department in the first three months under her responsibility in terms of the bottom line, particularly for professional positions, which is the area in which I think we all admit is underrepresented in a number of different and significant ways in affirmative action?

Mrs. Oleson: I have not had an opportunity to review the results of the affirmative action but, as soon as these Estimates are over, that is one of the things that I will be wanting to look at.

If the Member wishes, I can go through the objectives, for this department, of affirmative action for him.

1) Increased representation of Natives by outreach recruitment; participation in special training programs, that is Core Area Initiative; special wording in job bulletins to attract Native applicants; and development of cross-cultural workshops.

2) To facilitate hiring of physically disabled outreach recruitment; consultation re job design; some buildings made more accessible; consultation re awareness of capabilities of physically disabled; consultation regarding technical aids.

3) Increased job satisfaction of administrative support staff; consultation regarding career planning and career development; consultation regarding job share and split and acting status appointments, secondments and transfers.

4) Increased representation of women in underrepresented classifications; identified positions underrepresented; established contacts in specialized areas, example, Faculty of Engineering and Administrative Studies, women's organizations, Outreach recruitment; consideration in recruitment and selection in classifications identified as underrepresented.

5) Increased representation of visible minorities by Outreach recruitment; retention of applicant inventories; cross-cultural workshops; investigating academic equivalencies; consideration in recruitment and selection.

6) Review of employment systems regarding those negatively impacted in target groups; review and propose changes regarding systemic barriers in recruitment and selection, and systemic barriers in job specifications; develop awareness and commitment to affirmative action; dissemination of information; information sessions with managers; formalization of Outreach activities; checklist established for personnel administrators during board interviews; quarterly reporting by managers; self-declarations incorporated in application process; and monitor effectiveness of the affirmative action activities and the collection of data from target group candidates interviewed, target group candidates appointed and distribution throughout the department of quarterly reporting by managers and conducted needs analysis to determine perception of managers.

Mr. Doer: The Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) just tabled the quarterly results of checking the objectives in a budget and the results in a budget with this House, with this Chamber. In light of the fact that the Minister has just stated that she is responsible for coordinating affirmation action of the department but they liaise with the Minister of Labour (Mr. Connery) in some way, I would wonder if the Minister, not the stated objectives, but whether the objectives of hiring, in terms of the specific professional positions, are there objectives, specific numbers? Has the Minister ensured that there are results? Can she table these results in the House so that we would know that it is being achieved, result-orientated just as a Budget in terms of this Department

of Community Services? How does that fit with the Minister of Labour, who is allegedly holding everybody accountable in this area?

Mrs. Oleson: Over the last fiscal year, our department has changed its approach to targets. All positions must receive affirmative action consideration, and targeting positions is not as successful due to no control over turnover and we have no control over availability of qualified target group members, and spirit and intent of affirmative action is not adequately served by targeting.

I should also say that the first quarter results—I have not had an opportunity to look at them yet since it was just the end of last month that they pertained to. I am committed to improving the picture of affirmative action in this department. I am sure that should go without saying that, as what I said before indicates, there have to be positions available in order to recruit affirmative action targets. There are other things that get into the mix, and there have to be availability of candidates for that particular job. It seems a very slow, frustrating process but I assure you that we are working on it.

Mr. Doer: I would ask then the Minister to table in this House—we would agree that there has to be positions available—all the positions of a professional nature that have been filled from May 9 on—indeed that would be over three months—all the positions that have been filled in a professional capacity in the department, and how many the department would view as being consistent with the objectives that the Minister stated.

* (1540)

I would also ask for the Minister to please indicate to us, in light of the fact that the Minister of Labour (Mr. Connery) has indicated that he is running the whole show in terms of affirmative action in Government, given the fact that it has almost been four months since they have been in office, indeed over four months, when he intends on meeting with the Ministers to ensure that we are in fact achieving objectives.

So I would ask the Minister to table the number of positions filled since she has been in her position as Minister of a professional nature, and whether indeed she feels that these are consistent with the objectives that she has read out on the record.

Mrs. Oleson: The Member should realize that there have not been a great number of hirings since we took office. I could undertake it under advisement to provide that information to the Member.

Mr. Chairman: On item 1.(g)(1) Salaries—shall the item pass?

Mr. Gulzar Cheema (Kildonan): Mr. Chairman, I have a few questions for the Minister as regards the affirmative action. My first question is that, since this Government has taken office, how many people from the target groups, especially from the minority groups, have been hired and how many applicants were there? As the Minister indicated that they have got qualified

people, we would like to know the numbers and what are the criteria for selecting them.

Mrs. Oleson: As I just indicated to the other Member for Concordia (Mr. Doer) who was asking a similar question, we have not hired very many people since we took office. I could undertake to take it under advisement and get information for the Member, but I have not got it with me.

Mr. Cheema: My next question is, what are the mechanisms this Minister has in place to communicate with the target groups because I am aware that there are not many target groups who are aware of the various jobs available?

Mrs. Oleson: I have answered that question before for the critic for this area, but we do try to contact different groups of outreach programs to let them know that these jobs are available. They are bulletined jobs, of course, within the department. Some attempt is made of outreach to let all the people know that these jobs are available.

Mr. Cheema: Would the Minister please table in this House the number and names of the organizations she had been in touch with in the past five months, and how many times they have communicated with them?

Mrs. Oleson: We could find that out for the Member, but we do advertise in ethnic newspapers. The Member may have noticed some of that. We could take his question under advisement.

Mr. Cheema: Would the Minister tell us if there is any possibility of retraining programs for this year to improve the qualification of these particular target groups?

Mrs. Oleson: Would you repeat the question?

Mr. Cheema: My question is this. Is there any program for retraining for these specific target groups as far as minority groups are concerned? Are you thinking of establishing a new program like Core Area or just improve their education or their qualification in terms of establishing some kind of—the target group, you have to go and reach them and also make some program available to them. Are you considering any special programs?

Mrs. Oleson: The programs I think that the Member is referring to come under my other department. Employment Services and Economic Security does have some programs, for instance, for newcomers and for people who have training in another country and wish to upgrade or be able to work here and use their professional skills. The questions probably would be better directed to the Employment Services and Economic Security Estimates whenever we get there.

Mr. Cheema: My final question for the Minister, can you give us the number of people you have appointed from the target group for the various boards to reflect the numbers of the minorities or the special target groups?

Mrs. Oleson: I could undertake to do that later. The Community Services Department has not made any specific appointments to date. We are in the process of making some. We could get the information at some other time for the Member. We do not have it at the moment.

Mr. Jay Cowan (Churchill): The Minister has indicated that they have not hired very many people over the past little while or at least during her tenure as Minister. Could the Minister please indicate what the overall vacancy rate is for the department at present?

Mrs. Oleson: It is about 4.8 percent this week.

Mr. Cowan: The Minister indicated that there were a number of specific concerns with respect to affirmative action programs which would have to be dealt with by her department in order to ensure that more groups and individuals of groups that had been disadvantaged in the past and had not been able to participate fully in the employment opportunities of the department would be able to do so. She listed specifically systemic barriers among a number of others. Could she please give us some indication as to what she believes those systemic barriers to be at present?

Mrs. Oleson: One of the things, of course, that first comes to mind, and I am sure the Member realizes, is attitudes toward hiring. Another thing would be access to the workplace. These things, I went over earlier for the critic for the Liberal Party, but there are many systemic barriers in hiring practices that come to mind that have been prevalent over the years. "They are part of the way things were done," should we say, but gradually, and far too gradually, things are changing. Employers, both from Government and in the private sector, are becoming aware that people with handicaps certainly have a place in the work force and should be hired and can be hired for many jobs which were at one time considered impossible. The harder we try to get workplaces accessible and to change the attitudes of employers in all walks of life, the more the affirmative action programs will work. It is far too slow a process, I know; we would all like it hurried up, but the point is we are working on it and hoping that in the future we will not even need to ask questions like that and have affirmative action programs that these things will be automatic. It takes a long time to change attitudes.

Mr. Jay Cowan (Churchill): The Minister, Mr. Chairperson, in her answer referenced a couple of times "access to workplaces." Perhaps she could be more specific as to what she sees to be specific systemic barriers that might be included under that particular category, as well as to elaborate a bit more on the attitudinal problems which she outlined in her answer as well.

Mrs. Oleson: Mr. Chairman, there are many systemic barriers—barriers to access, rather. One of them, which of course comes readily to mind, would be access to a building for someone who is physically handicapped and in a wheelchair. The steps alone in this building would be very difficult for someone who was handicapped in any way so that was why the ramp was

built at the side to make it more accessible, not only for people in wheelchairs but others who had difficulty with steps. There are also problems with hearing. Hearing impaired have a problem in some workplaces and visually impaired people have problems in some workplaces. All these have to be taken into consideration. In the Decade of the Disabled, the coordinator of our program in this department is working on all those matters and will be reporting to me shortly some suggestions for what we can do in the future.

Mr. Cowan: Mr. Chairperson, I think the Minister has indicated what she believes to be some of the physical barriers that would prevent the disabled particularly and the handicapped from participating more fully in employment opportunities.

The question I asked basically was systemic barriers and what does she believe to be some of the systemic barriers. I would ask her if she could elaborate a bit on what she believes to be specifically systemic, not physical barriers.

Mrs. Oleson: Mr. Chairman, I thought I had answered that in the previous question, but one of the things is attitudes and awareness by people of needs. Very often, a great many people go on their way and do not realize the need of someone who is handicapped or has a special particular need. Culture has been sometimes a barrier to positions, too, and we are certainly trying to eliminate that part of barriers to the workplace.

Mr. Cowan: Maybe the Minister would care to elaborate as to how she perceives culture as being a systemic barrier.

Mrs. Oleson: It is not the culture itself that I referred to; it is the attitude to the culture. I think it is not too long ago that police forces, for instance, you could not belong to a police force unless you were a certain height and, of course, we all know that some races are not as tall as others. That is one item in many and that is the sort of thing I meant by cultural barriers.

* (1550)

Mr. Cowan: Would the Minister consider the lack of equal education opportunities across the province to be a systemic barrier that would prevent certain groups—geographic groups—from participating more fully in employment with the Government and would put them at a disadvantage?

Mrs. Oleson: Mr. Chairman, yes, that is quite possibly a barrier to many people in jobs—education differences of people across the province, of people coming to the province, and all these things have to be looked at.

Mr. Cowan: What advice is the Minister therefore giving to her colleagues and to the Cabinet with respect to how she believes those systemic barriers should be eliminated so as to ensure further participation by groups that have been disadvantaged in the past in employment opportunities with the Government?

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Mrs. Oleson: Of course, I will not be repeating what I would be saying in Cabinet or caucus, but our caucus and Cabinet are very aware of these problems, these barriers, that have taken place in the past, and are working to eliminate them. We often have discussions on this. The Member may find it difficult to believe, but that nevertheless is the case.

Mr. Cowan: I would not ask the Minister to provide the exact wording or even specific recommendations but, generically, what has she been saying? What sort of advice is she giving?

Mrs. Oleson: I can give him considerable advice on hiring of women; for instance, we need more women. We need more women in this Legislature, we need more women in managerial positions. I have often spoken on that subject.

As the Members of my caucus and Cabinet are aware, these things come up for discussion and they are discussed very adamantly, not only by the women in caucus, by everyone.

Mr. Cowan: Would the Minister consider the appointment of more women as chairpersons of boards and commissions in the Government as being a worthy goal in reducing discrimination against women if that is one of the issues that she identified specifically?

Mrs. Oleson: Yes. I certainly agree with more women being appointed as chairpersons, vice-chairpersons, to boards, and we are doing all we can to make that a reality.

Mr. Cowan: Does the Minister agree that one of the systemic barriers that has long been a problem is the way in which we perceive different groups in society? She said that perceptions and attitude were a distinct barrier. Would she agree that the way in which we perceive groups, the way in which we talk about groups, the way in which we identify groups would be a systemic barrier?

Mrs. Oleson: I think that is part of the barrier, yes.

Mr. Cowan: Could the Minister then provide to us again in a generic way what advice she has given to her First Minister, the Premier and Leader of her Party (Mr. Filmon) and to others within her Party with respect to their refusal to identify chairpersons as "chairpersons" and their strict adherence to the use of the word "chairman"?

Mrs. Oleson: I believe that our chairman prefers to be called the "chairman," and I believe in calling people what they would like to be called. I like to be called "Mrs." as opposed to "Ms." That is my personal preference. I think that it is important for politeness alone to address people in the way in which they wish to be addressed.

An Honourable Member: Hear, Hear!

Mr. Chairman: On the item (g)(1) Salary, shall the item pass?

Mr. Cowan: It is fine for the Minister to stand here and say that she believes that people's personal desires and wants and needs should be considered.—(Interjection)— Well, if there is anyone in this House—and just to put it on the record what the Member for Arthur (Mr. Downey) said, he does not like people's personal preferences being acknowledged, suggesting that we do not.

If there is any group in this House that have consistently argued against the personal preferences of certain individuals in society being denied, being ridiculed and being objected to, it is the Members of the Conservative Government. That is an historical fact and that is a current reality. All he says from his seat will not deny that fact, so I would suggest that he look more carefully in his own house when he suggests that one should look to and acknowledge the personal preferences of individuals within society.

The specific question, though, was with respect to chairpersons. We have heard a fair amount of commentary about the Conservative Government's rejection of the term "chairperson." It was something that we saw in this House from 1977 to 1981 when the Premier of the province at that time got quite exercised in this House whenever someone would use the word "chairperson."

We have seen it more recently when, on a number of occasions, we have used the word "chairperson" in this House and we hear from the Conservatives, chirping from their seats, "chairman, chairman, chairman, chairman." They seem to take particular offence to that word, notwithstanding whether or not a person might like to be called that, or might not like to be called that.

I would ask the Minister then, has she had discussions with her colleagues to reinforce her own personal approach that if people do wish to be called "chairperson," they should not object to the calling of them "chairperson." They should not object to the use of that gender-neutral word, and they should, in fact, encourage the use of that word in order to try to make the language a bit more in tune with what she says are the affirmative action policies of herself and her Government.

Mrs. Oleson: Members of our caucus, some of them use "chairman" to a man, they use "chairperson," they use "chair," on whatever occasion, whichever they feel that that person wishes to be addressed. We do not have a hard and fast rule of "thou shalt say—whatever" in our caucus, but the subject has been discussed and it is felt that if a person wants to be called a chairperson, fine, you call them a chairperson, if you know what they want to be called. Then, I guess, if you are working with this, you should find out what they want to be called. If they want you to be called the chairman, then they could be called the chairman. If they wish to be addressed as "the chair," that is fine, too.

Seems to me, someone wrote a letter to the Premier (Mr. Filmon), quite upset that the females in the Conservative caucus wanted to be addressed as "Mrs." I really think that is my prerogative. If I want to be

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addressed as "Mrs.," I think that is quite within my rights to ask someone to do so, but if someone addresses me as "Ms.," I do not get all upset about it. That is fine.

I do get a little upset, however, when I get letters that say "Dear Sir." I do get a little upset about that, and it has happened on occasion, many occasions, because—back we go to the systemic barriers and the attitudes that people somehow automatically think when they are writing to a Member of the Legislature or a Member of the House of Commons that it would be "Dear Sir." Someone, I am sure, women in various businesses get the same sort of attitude. People address them as "Sir." I have shown up at various occasions and said I was there representing my Party, and they looked around to see where my husband was because they thought he would be the one that would be representing.

All these things happen to us and I guess, if you really were thin-skinned about it, you would get terribly upset. I try not to, but I do, as I say, get a little upset when they do the "Dear Sir" routine, or address me as "Mr." on a letter.

It does not show anything terribly wrong except that they did not find out really who they were writing to and perhaps that is more of an insult than the fact that they used the wrong designation. I think that to put people all in the same mold and say you have to say "chairperson" or "chairman" or whatever is rather a mistake. If they wish to be called "chairman," then I think that is their right to be called that.

* (1600)

Mr. Cowan: Not to belabour the point, but I do want to ask one more question about this specific issue and then perhaps a couple of questions on some related issues.

If one did not know what an individual wanted to be called—chair, chairperson or chairman—what name would be the inclination on the part of the Member to use in that particular instance?

Mrs. Oleson: I guess, actually, probably my age would show because I probably would be inclined to blurt out "chairman" because I have been used to that for years and years. I guess maybe it is hard to teach old dogs new tricks, but I am being persuaded; I often use "chairperson." The first inclinations I have, because of years of conditioning, I guess, is to say "chairman."

Mr. Cowan: Which makes my point, Mr. Chairperson, why it is extremely important that we start to use words like "chairperson" so that we retrain ourselves, and there is nothing different about the Member who just suggested that we are all brought up to use certain terms in certain ways and they tend to stick with us and they, in fact, do continue on in our own minds certain perceptions that if a person is in a position of authority, a chair, then that person is a male; just as she said that people automatically—listen carefully to what I am saying—

Mrs. Oleson: Just automatically male.

Mr. Cowan: I am saying that is exactly right, and the use of the word "chairman" continues that process, because when you use the word "chairman," you are suggesting that the person in a position of authority is automatically going to be a male. When you use a gender-neutral word such as the word "chairperson," then you are leaving the visualization of what that person may or may not be to the individual that is hearing what you are saying, and I think it is extremely important. Just as she said she gets vitally concerned and agitated even when people refer to her as sir, without knowing who she is, because they expect that a person in a position of power in a legislative sense or someone who was elected would be a male.

The same applies to the use of the word "chairperson" in that if we are going to continue to rely upon the word "chairman" and not try to change a language, not go out of our way to teach ourselves, each of us, new tricks because I had to learn to use the word "chairperson" as I think everybody in this Chamber has probably had to learn to use the word "chairperson," and that meant learning—person.

Mr. Mark Minenko (Seven Oaks): Point of order, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman: The Member for Seven Oaks, on a point of order.

Mr. Minenko: I am just wondering if the Chairman could advise this particular subsection on what line of the Estimates we are presently on.

Mr. Chairman: The Member does not have a point of order. The Member for Churchill.

Mr. Cowan: Just to address a comment, I hope it was not flippant and I hope the use of the word "chairman" was not flippant, but just to take note of the fact that the use of the word "chairman" by the Member, and also to address the issue, we are on affirmative action—

Mrs. Oleson: Seven Oaks.

Mr. Cowan: The Member for Seven Oaks (Mr. Minenko). Yes, we should identify who it was that made that statement.

We are on affirmative action, and part of the systemic barriers that we discussed earlier, which was brought to the discussion by the Minister, is the use of the—

Mr. Minenko: Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Cowan: Try again, the best out of two.

Mr. Chairmam: The Member for Seven Oaks, on a point of order.

Mr. Minenko: I certainly would ask that the Honourable Member for Churchill (Mr. Cowan) retract any comments that he just made with respect to suggesting that any comments that I have just made were flippant. I think it certainly imputes some particular motive there.

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Mr. Chairman: The Member for Churchill, on the point of order.

Mr. Cowan: Mr. Chairperson, imputes no motive, perhaps it betrays an attitude.

To continue on with my comments with respect to gender-neutral language and the fact that we have to change our own attitude and our own language to encourage the use of gender-neutral language, I would just say that I am pleased to hear that the Minister is attempting to change her own habits, as must we all, and that is no reflection on her at all—it is, as a matter of fact, a compliment—and I would hope that she would use her awareness and her enlightenment on this particular subject to have some long, serious talks with some of her colleagues that consistently in this Chamber and elsewhere object to the use of that gender-neutral word. I hope that she would take the time to help them become a bit more enlightened as well.

In her reply to questions by the Liberal critic, she suggests that one of the other policies that they are undertaking with respect to affirmative action is tying affirmative action to the budget process, and she also referenced that with respect to her answers to the Member for Concordia (Mr. Doer), my Leader. I would ask her if she could be more definitive about how her Government is attempting to tie the two together.

Mrs. Oleson: I have asked the department to give me a report, and to see if there is an implication for the budget on this item.

Mr. Cowan: Perhaps she could be a bit more definitive than that. What sort of implications? Are they approaching it from a negative or a positive perspective? Are they attempting to find ways to eliminate barriers in the budget process that may work against or mitigate against affirmative action programs that would normally take place?

Mrs. Oleson: One of the things that could be looked at, for the information of the Member, is outreach hiring and cross-cultural implications of hiring and just to see if there are any implications for the budget.

Mr. Cowan: How would one deal with those implications then? Is she saying that her department is prepared to set aside the normal budgetary process, and the normal budgetary constraints to put in place effective outreach programs that would go beyond the practice as it now stands?

Mrs. Oleson: What I want to know is what training needs that may come up, and whether with outreach to cross-culturally, if there needs to be something in the recruitment, something in the training that would impact on the budget, and how we would deal with that. That is really all that I meant.

Mr. Cowan: How would she suggest that they do deal with those implications if they were to be identified?

Mrs. Oleson: Training would be, as I said, one of the items that—these are the preliminary things that I want

to have a look at to see what outreach program might be useful, if we could fit it into the budget, what training might be necessary and, specifically in this department. Of course, my other department looks at this too with a view to programs, and perhaps if he saw the Minister of both, there might be some coordination between the two.

Mr. Cowan: What specific indication of those budgetary anomalies would we find in the Estimates before us? In other words, she has indicated that she wants to reduce systemic barriers. One way of doing that, of course, is to provide training because the lack of education, the lack of specialized training in certain areas to certain groups within society has long been known as a systemic barrier.

She wants to undertake more outreach, and that is important because it has long been known that there are certain groups that do not apply for jobs because they have become so frustrated in the past by not being able to obtain jobs that they literally turn off to new opportunities, and one has to go out and overcome that frustration in the past, and one has to literally reach out—to turn the word around—reach out to them and say, listen, there is a different approach, we are trying to do things differently; please come and give us a chance as we are prepared to give you a chance in this new area, the same chance that all of us deserve in life. So those two activities cost a fair amount of money. They are not activities that one can undertake without addressing some budgetary implications. They are ones that one cannot undertake without setting aside some enhanced funding in those areas to ensure that they are done well.

* (1610)

So my question to the Minister is, in the Estimates that we have before us, where do we see those specific programs? Can she be as detailed as is possible because this is a review of the detail of the Estimates, as to what programs are in place, what programs are anticipated and the cost of those particular programs; and also what evaluation mechanisms have been put in place to monitor those programs to ensure that they are having a desired effect.

Mrs. Oleson: There is nothing in these Estimates except for the ongoing activities that have been taking place before. But the Member makes my point when he said that there are problems with some cultural groups and it does require funds. It would require funds to do an outreach program, and it would require staff years. That, of course, is the very reason I have asked for this information. It might not be able to be fitted into a budget immediately; it might have to be phased in, but these are things that I want to look at and be aware of before preparing a budget for next year.

Mr. Cowan: We will then look forward to asking the same questions when we review the budget and the Estimates next year. However, I must say that it is somewhat regrettable that there is not more in this particular budget because this is an issue where, I believe, there was some momentum being generated

by the previous administration, not all that could have been done.—(Interjection)—The Member says, very little, and I think she will find over time that when put side by side with what was done from '77 and '81 and what will be done from '88 on, it will seem like an immense amount. But having said that, having said that by comparison it will seem like major efforts, I can tell you that not enough was done. That is no reflection on the previous administration, that is a reflection on the society in which we live, where so much needs to be done because so little has been done over a long period of time that no administration, no government no matter how well intentioned, no matter how capable they are, could hope to address all the needs in a few short years.

So we believe that we put in place programs that provided for some momentum. We would like to see that momentum continued and that momentum is not continued by maintaining the status quo, that momentum is continued at the very least by incremental progression or some more action than was done previously, and it is also maintained by ensuring that one is always looking at innovative ways to accomplish the same goals and constantly monitoring and evaluating that which had been done. I do not see that as having been done.

Now to not be particularly harsh on the Minister, one could use the excuse that they had a very short time during which they could prepare their Estimates, and that they had a lot of ideas that they just could not include in this particular set of Estimates. But having stated that as being a possible excuse, I want to say that when this Government found it necessary to give back some money to Inco, they found a way to do that. When this Government found it necessary to give back some money to the CPR, they found a way to do that. When this Government, the Conservative Government found it necessary to give money back to businesses through the deferral and the progressive elimination of the health and education levy, a policy that they are supported with by the Liberals on, they found a way to do that. When this Government, the Conservative Government wanted to find ways to do all sorts of things, they found ways to do that in a very short period of time.

So the fact that they have not found ways to enhance the Affirmative Action Program with this department previously tells me that this was not as much a priority as were the other things they found ways to do. That concerns me because I represent a constituency where there is a large need for affirmative action, outreach programs, for training programs. We implemented a number—there were others we would have liked to have been able to implement and there are many more that need to be implemented.

I would encourage the Minister to act as quickly as possible, not to wait till next year's Estimates, not to wait till next year's Budget, but to begin immediately to determine how it is they can enhance their affirmative action activities because it is so vitally important to so many groups within society, not just those within my own constituency but to so many other groups across the province who require an aggressive approach to a long-standing problem.

So with that one note of regret and hopefully a note of encouragement, I would ask the Minister if she could indicate to us how she intends to work with the different groups which represent disadvantaged individuals in society to ensure that any new affirmative action programs and, optimistically, I take it from her comments that there may be some new programs, and the new programs reflect not only the needs and the aspirations as seen by the Government but the needs and the aspirations as perceived and as enunciated by the particular groups out there that are going to be the recipients of those programs.

Mrs. Oleson: Yes, I am interested in input from various groups at how this program could be enhanced. We are progressing—the Member may not think so—in the department with this matter. We are certainly not going backwards as he seemed to indicate. The programs that were there before are still there. As I was saying earlier, I have asked the department to give me some indication of how it would impact on next year's Budget. I would be happy to have suggestions of how these things could be worked in and we are working on it.

Hon. Edward Connery (Minister of Labour): Mr. Chairman, I would like to say a few words on affirmative action. As the Members know, that affirmative action falls under the Department of Labour. When I took over the department and took a look at what has been taking place—I do not care how far back you want to go—but in the previous administration, who tried to exhibit a strong concern about affirmative action, I took a look at what had been accomplished under their jurisdiction. I can guarantee you that we saw a lot of rhetoric, we saw a lot of lip-service, we saw the Leader of the NDP stand up in this Legislature and say that he had signed two documents on affirmative action.

One of the greatest drawbacks to affirmative action in the Civil Service was the MGEA—the Leader of the NDP was president at that time—and he had a lot of systemic backdraws to women and to the Affirmative Action people, the physically handicapped, the visible minorities, and to the Native groups. We did not see much action.

So when we took over Government, we had a long discussion with the Civil Service who ran the Affirmative Action Program. They did have a position called the Director for Affirmative Action. The program was not working. We discussed how we could streamline it. The action of affirmative action to make it work, we have to put it in to the department of the personnel of each ministry and to ensure that all of the personnel people realized that affirmative action was strong with this Government and that they had an obligation to ensure that people from the affirmative action target group were hired.

We had a meeting just today with Mr. Hart and Terry Edgeworth, who is the Assistant Deputy Minister of the Civil Service responsible for Human Resources. We have elevated the position of who reports for affirmative action from the director to an Assistant Deputy Minister.

We think, with the various committees, that we will have an opportunity to ensure that all of the target

groups of affirmative action will see their rightful place. It is going to take some time.

* (1620)

I think Members opposite realize that because of the no-layoff clause—and we would not fire people anyway to implement affirmative action, because that would not be in a positive way. So it is through attrition - (Interjection)- oh, you liked that one, did you, John? That is okay. It is through attrition and people quitting, going to other careers, that there will be openings for people in the Civil Service. We are trying to ensure that the Affirmative Action target group get a fair share. What is a fair share? I am not sure.

I have talked to the critic for the Liberals and I hope that the critic for the NDP would meet with me and Terry Edgeworth and Paul Hart to see what suggestions they have and where we can really target to improve the opportunities for Affirmative Action people.

In this Legislature, we viewed, not too very long ago, one of the biggest slaps in the face for women, that part of the affirmative action group, when the Liberals moved what I think is a fairly competent woman from second row to the third row. Whatever you want to say, the perception is there to put a male whom you wanted so badly to defect to your Party that you would move a competent woman into the back row.

Mr. Chairman: A point of order, the Member for Transcona.

Mr. Richard Kozak (Transcona): Yes, Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. I believe the Honourable Minister knows full well that the Rules of this House prevent our impugning of the motives of any Member or of any collectivity of Members. I am sure he will be pleased to withdraw.

Mr. Connery: Mr. Chairman, any words that—

Mr. Chairman: On the point of order, the Honourable Minister of Labour.

Mr. Connery: No, not on the point of order. They want me to withdraw it. The actions of the Liberal Party—I will withdraw whatever they think is not good, because Beauchesne is that way. It prevents us from telling some of the facts and the truth. Their actions reflect what the realities of life are. For that Member to move to the third bench, to let a man sit in the second bench, is a slap in the face of the women and affirmative action.

Mr. Chairman: A point of order, the Member for Ellice.

Ms. Gray: Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. On a point of order, the Minister of Labour (Mr. Connery) has made reference to the fact that the Liberal Party is not treating women equally because we have moved to the third bench.

I am wondering if the Minister of Labour would like to get into discussion about comments that he made at Camp Sandy Haven in regard to myself, as I see

his comments as being in fact treating women as objects and not as equal. I would be glad to get into that discussion.

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Chairman: Order, please. The Member does not have a point of order. The Honourable Minister of Labour.

Mr. Connery: Mr. Chairman, I will tell you what I said. I was making reference to the Member for Ellice (Ms. Gray) and I referred to her as Arvel, and of course that is not right. It is Avis. I said I am sorry, but they are both good looking. So I guess, in the terms of Larry Desjardins, I withdraw the comment about good looking. So we withdraw that comment. Obviously, I refer to men who are good looking. If that is a discriminatory remark, so be it. Even the Member for Churchill (Mr. Cowan) is not that bad—

Mr. Chairman: Order, please; order, please. Thank you for withdrawing the remark.

Mr. Connery: Thank you.

Mr. Chairman: On the line (g)(1) Salaries, shall the item pass? The Honourable Minister of Labour. Shall the item pass?

I would recognize the Member for Ellice.

Ms. Gray: Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. I would like to ask the Minister of Community Services (Mrs. Oleson), in light of the comments from the Minister of Labour (Mr. Connery) in regard to the largest barrier being the MGEA, could the Minister tell us whether she agrees with those comments?

Mrs. Oleson: I believe the Member is referring to something in the past that really has nothing to do with these Estimates. Whether I agree with the MGEA or not has really nothing to do with these.

Ms. Gray: On the contrary. If there are systemic barriers which have gone on in the past, and as the Minister of Labour (Mr. Connery) refers, mentions that the MGEA was one of the largest stumbling blocks, I would think that it would be incumbent upon this Minister to recognize whether that did occur, is it still occurring and if it is, what steps she has taken to ensure that the MGEA is not a stumbling block? I do ask the question to the Minister: Does she agree with the Minister of Labour that the MGEA was a large stumbling block in regard to the signing or implementation of the Affirmative Action Program?

Mrs. Oleson: I can only say to the Member that I am working with all groups to be sure that affirmative action is implemented.

Ms. Gray: Since we did not receive an answer on that, maybe the Minister of Community Services (Mrs. Oleson) could tell us. She mentioned that advertisements for jobs bulletins did go to community

or ethnic newspapers. Could the Minister indicate to us; is it standard procedure that whenever a job is bulletined within her department, that those bulletins do go to all ethnic newspapers?

Mrs. Oleson: It is not always the case, but it is becoming more and more the practice.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate to us what criteria is used to determine which job vacancies are bulletined within the ethnic newspapers and which ones are not bulletined within those newspapers?

Mrs. Oleson: It has been determined in the past. They determined whether it was a productive area of search for recruits. I could also add that I would be looking at this to see why they would not all be bulletined that way. There may be something they can do to change the policy in the future as I think it needs reviewing.

Ms. Gray: We certainly would encourage the Minister to review that.

The Minister also indicated something that her department was doing—were involved with cross-cultural workshops. Could the Minister indicate to us, since the beginning of this fiscal year, how many of these cross-cultural workshops have been held? Is there a target or an objective to be reached for this fiscal year in regard to the number that they would wish to hold?

Mrs. Oleson: I do not have the figures of all the events that people have attended, but the Civil Service Commission does put on some cross-cultural seminars. As I say, I do not know how many have been attended and so forth. I might add, too, that this department is really not hiring a lot of people these days, so it would not be necessary to be putting on particular seminars.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister explain to us, although there may not be a lot of vacancies within her department, why it would not still be necessary to conduct cross-cultural workshops?

Mrs. Oleson: It is necessary. According to the resources available, we will still be planning these workshops.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate to us if any workshops have been held since April 1?

Mrs. Oleson: We can get that information for the Member. I do not have it here right now.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate to us, since a large population, or aboriginal peoples, reside north of the 53rd parallel, if any of these workshops are held in northern communities as opposed to being held in Winnipeg?

Mrs. Oleson: Most of the training is decentralized.

* (1630)

Mr. Connery: Mr. Chairman, with our meeting today, as the longer we get into our portfolios and the deeper

we get into discussion and the revelations of what took place before with the previous Government, the Member for St. Johns (Ms. Wasylycia-Leis) was a Member of that Government when they put through, and the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Doer) was the chairman of the MGEA, to have them accept affirmative action. The Government of that Day was forced to agree that the only jobs that would be put out for external people to apply for were those in the bottom third. The previous Government was going to ensure that affirmative action people only were able to apply for the bottom third of the jobs in Government. That is one of the most insulting things to affirmative action target groups to have this Government do.

To see the Member for Churchill (Mr. Cowan) stand up in a very pious way, questioning the present Minister of Community Services (Mrs. Oleson) that there were a lot of shortfalls, I am very upset. That is in the contract that I have to have. I do not know what I can do to change that, but if I could ever get any resolve to a piece of legislation like that, I think it is absolutely and totally disgusting that a Government would say to the affirmative action people, if you are not on the inside, you cannot apply for the top two-thirds of the jobs in Government. The Member for St. Johns (Ms. Wasylycia-Leis) and the other Members of that Party who are sitting here today were party to that agreement, and I say "Shame!"

Mr. Chairman, they say what long-term implications we have for affirmative action. It is going to be a long process before we bring the affirmation action of the target group up to a level that is part of the numbers which, in the case of females, I think, it is 50 percent; Natives is 10 percent; the physically handicapped, I believe, is 7; and visible minorities are 6 percent of the population of the province. Now maybe this needs a slight updating, I am not sure, but the target group definitely does not have its proper proportions in Government. Because of the slow change in jobs or of people moving out of Government and the slow increase in the number of jobs being created by Government, it is going to take some time before that happens.

Our concern is not just for affirmative action within Government. It is affirmative action in all parts of our society. We only have something like 18,000 people under the MGEA that work for the Government of Manitoba. There is something like 450,000 jobs in Manitoba and the people of the affirmative action target group should have equal access to all of those jobs. It is not going to be easy. It is going to take some time. We had a meeting this morning on how we can ensure and encourage the Crown corporations to ensure that they have their numbers of affirmative action target group people in there.

Mr. Chairman, the Member for Churchill (Mr. Cowan) was critical of us giving some money to Inco or relieving them of some taxation. Some of these forms of relief to companies end up in the creation of jobs. A lot of the affirmative action people attain some of those very valuable jobs that are created by assisting business. The Members of the NDP try to insinuate that any time you do anything for business you are doing something

for business and not for anybody else. It is the bottom line that we try to achieve. When assistance is given to a business and to encourage business to flourish, it creates jobs. Affirmative action people get a share of those jobs, so the more jobs we create the more jobs that are available for those from the affirmative action target group.

One of the areas that I do have the greatest concern—and I am not singling him out—but I feel that the physically handicapped are ones who have been probably most patient and have had probably the least success. It is one area that I really want to ensure that all groups of the affirmative action target group have equal access, so within our departments we are working very, very hard to ensure that this program is in place. We are going to be monitoring every department within the Government to see what departments are following the program and what departments are not following the program. Those that are not will be pointed out very quickly and we will be coming down fairly heavy on them.

Mr. Chairman, just to say that within the Government of Manitoba, affirmative action is very healthy and we will work as a Government with the Department of Labour, with the Assistant Deputy Minister, Mr. Edgeworth, the Human Resources member, to ensure with all of the personnel departments that we achieve the success that is required to ensure that all people in Manitoba have an opportunity. The affirmative action group is one group that we know we have to give special assistance to because they still are one group that do not have even equal access to jobs in this province.

When the Members of the NDP stand up with a very pious tone and question us on affirmative action, all I can say is that they should look in a mirror. The Member for St. Johns (Ms. Wasylycia-Leis), while she sits there in her seat smiling, I think she should be rather concerned that under her Government it was a disaster. Now we see the start of the Liberal Party with the moving of a competent woman to a back bench for a male undeserved. I think this is a disgrace and this Government is willing to work with people in a very fair and equitable way.

Ms. Gray: The Minister of Community Services (Mrs. Oleson) had referenced earlier that one of the systemic barriers they were looking at was the year of attitudes and certainly we all recognize that attitudes are probably one of the most difficult areas to actually make changes in. I am wondering if the Minister could tell us—and I am going to pick out one of the target populations—in this case that is women, because they do make up a large proportion of the Civil Service—could the Minister indicate to us some specific examples or kinds of attitudes that have been identified in terms of barriers that prevent women from moving ahead within her department?

Mrs. Oleson: One of the barriers seems to be in the field of training, and by that, we sometimes mean training itself, and advanced training, because women sometimes are at a disadvantage for one reason and another, in that they do not have the professional training to take advantage of opportunities. That I

believe is changing, but not fast enough, of course. Sometimes there has not been enough opportunity for women to move up within the ranks and achieve managerial type positions. Those are just some of the barriers that have been in place and we hope can be overcome.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate to us if there are attitudes that are prevalent as to traditional or stereotypic ideas of what the woman's role is, and that although women are in managerial positions in the Civil Service, and I always think of the example told by the Civil Service of a woman who was to be hired for a particular job and was certainly very well qualified. She did not get the job because the man who was on the hiring board knew that the job involved travel across the province, and said, I do not really think she would be good for the job because I would not want my wife travelling across the province.

This is an example which illustrates the attitudes of some men within the Civil Service, and I am wondering if the Minister could indicate to us if it is found that in fact men within the department still have a set idea of what a woman's role should be, that although they are working and have a career, their still main responsibilities are at home with the family, and that men still view women as sexual objects and not as equal colleagues? Could she comment on that?

* (1640)

Mrs. Oleson: I could relate to the idea she was talking about, about the stereotyping and the woman not getting the job because of the driving. I can relate to that very personally, because I know that as my job as MLA, some people have expressed some considerable surprise about the driving that I do alone, and did you drive out here all alone in the winter? They would never ask a man that sort of question, and I have heard that so many times, I am getting kind of used to it because I have always been a more independent type when it comes to driving, so it would never even have occurred to me that it would be something unusual that I should show up in the middle of a snowstorm.

I want to assure the Member that in any discussions I have had with my staff, I do not see them feeling that women are not capable of handling managerial jobs. In fact, there was a ADM in my department who had a responsible position in the department—it was on an exchange—and left, and I am sure she was accepted very well by the men in the department. But I do not sense any need for me to give lectures to my staff, let us put it this way. I think they do understand that women can play a very active role in administrative positions.

Ms. Gray: In light of the comments made by the Minister of Labour (Mr. Connery) in regard to his not seeing anything wrong with his comments about me and in, as well, with the agreements from the Minister of Housing (Mr. Ducharme) that there was nothing wrong with those comments, could the Minister indicate to us if she feels perhaps the first place which attitudes need to be dealt with is in her own caucus?

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Chairman: Order, please. The Honourable Minister.

Mrs. Oleson: I am sure that in all three caucuses there are discussions on attitudes and I do not think the Conservative caucus would be unique in the fact that there are discussions, and quite often discussions that follow around that theme, that of affirmative action of women and their role in society. That goes on in all walks of life.

Socially and business-wise, I have been known to pass remarks on this subject so I do not think that the Conservative caucus could be considered the only place where these discussions would need to take place. I am sure within the Member's own caucus there are probably discussions along this line and there often needs to be. Everyone needs to be educated and I think it is very important for us as women to speak up in our various caucuses and point that out to our Members, and many of the Members are already aware.

Women in our caucus are not the only ones who speak up on this issue. The men do too. We of course are very aware that there needs to be changes in the attitudes of society. All too often these changes are slow, but we have to keep reminding people, not only in our individual caucus but out in the rest of the world, out in the real world beyond this building, too, that there are attitudes that need to be changed.

Ms. Gray: Again in reference to affirmative action, I am wondering if the area of lack of educational background and training is also one of the areas that have been identified within her department?

Mrs. Oleson: In my experience, not knowing of course everyone in my department and their skills individually, I really could not answer that. I have not identified that as a specific barrier in my department. It may very well be and the more I learn about people and so forth, but I do not know the training skills of everyone in my department so I really could not tell you.

Hon. Clayton Manness (Minister of Finance): Mr. Chairman, I feel compelled to add something to the discussion at this point in time because the Member for Ellice (Ms. Gray) has made some inference with respect to the Government caucus. She seemed to be, by imputation at least, asking the Minister of Community Services (Mrs. Oleson) to do a better job or at least to pass judgment on some of the colleagues with whom she happens to sit with either in caucus or Cabinet or, failing that, try to bring a greater understanding of this social dilemma. I use those words advisedly and I attribute them to the Member for Ellice.

I am wondering whether there is a right or a wrong or if it is just perceived in the way we treat each other as people. I would like to bring it to a point by asking a rhetorical question of the Member for Ellice (Ms. Gray) as to whether or not she is right or she is wrong in addressing you as Mr. Chairperson or the Chairperson versus Mr. Chairman.

Whose right is it, when we indicate or ask you, or indeed, whoever is sitting in your position and we make

a reference to you, to put a certain name on you? Is it ours who believe that because of this greater equality we want to bring to society that we therefore can call you what it is we wish because of our deemed view of what it is that you should be doing and what that position should be, or should we be going to you and asking how it is that you would like to be called? What I sense—and we talk about stereotypes. I listen to Members opposite and they have obviously given a stereotype not to you individually but to the great seat that you have. I would think that if we cared about individuals, we would want to go to you and ask you how it is that you would like to be addressed.

An Honourable Member: No.

Mr. Manness: Well, people say no, because that is where at times we disagree on these issues. I see the Member for St. James (Mr. Edwards). He is dying in his place. He is just sitting there dying. I guess this brings it into perspective then as to who is it we are addressing. Is it the position of the Chair or is it a person? Is it a person and whose viewpoint is supreme? Is it the person who is being addressed or the person who is asking for the floor? I guess then we look at these issues from different perspectives.

I say to the Member for Ellice (Ms. Gray) when she in her very superior fashion says to my Minister, to my colleague, would you come to grips with your colleagues? In essence, would you try and teach them the modern ways of the world, that she indeed realized that maybe the modern ways of the world have not left yet, the way of common sense, and secondly what is the way in which people like to be addressed? I addressed the Member as Mr. Chairman because I believe that is maybe what he would like to be addressed as. I just use the issue to point out the difference at times and the Members sharing the same caucus and the same Cabinet as the Minister of Community Services (Mrs. Oleson) do not really need to be lectured on any issue such as this. Thank you.

Mrs. Gwen Charles (Selkirk): This Government has said they cannot find suitable Natives to put on Manfor. They cannot find interested women to be on agricultural boards. They cannot find educated minorities to be in the Community Services area, and they will not listen to women when they ask that non-inclusive language be used. What is in a word is often expressed, and of course this was not our argument, it was made by the other Opposition Party. But I think it is very important that we bring up what is in a word.

We have to assume that everybody wants to be created equal. I do not think arguing words in this House is going to solve the equality but it begins the argument. There have been past minorities throughout history, particularly in the states when words have been used in a very derogative manner and yet the people at that time assumed that people liked being called those names. They did not see them as anything else but objects. We are asking today how this department is treating minorities and majorities such as women, and what are they doing with affirmative action? So I ask the Minister, assuming that they have another year

to go, what particular goals are they aiming for as to affirmative action, as to numbers? I assume there are some actual numbers they would like to see, or is it just a generality that they are aiming for?

* (1650)

Mr. Chairman: I would remind all Honourable Members that we are on section (g)(1), and I would point out Rule 64(2), that questions in committee should be strictly relevant to the item or clause under discussion. On item (g)(1), Salaries, shall the item pass?

Mr. Minenko: Before going to some of the questions in this matter, I would just like to add some comments with respect to the way the Honourable Member for Churchill (Mr. Cowan) perhaps considered my remarks and would like to point out that several years ago, as a matter of fact in my early years at university, in studying psychology, they were just beginning the area of psychology of women and I was fortunate to be able to attend that course. I presume that over the intervening 10 years that whole area of academic interest has been encouraged and has expanded.

With respect to some of the matters raised by the Minister on cross-cultural seminars in education, certainly coming from initially an education background, I can well understand the value of having these sorts of seminars considering the makeup of the population here in Manitoba. I would like to ask the Minister, what have been the subject of discussion for consideration at cross-cultural seminars that have been held in the past if, in fact, they have been held in the past in here department; and the other question coming from that, what are the subjects covered in the cross-cultural seminars presented recently under this Minister's tutelage, if there have been any, and if her department is, in fact, planning any in the future, what are the subject matters for those seminars?

Mrs. Oleson: Most of these are run by the Civil Service and some of the subjects could be—and they have been run, I assure the Member. I told his colleague that we could get some information later on when and how many, but things to do with Native values and sensitivity to cultural differences, and characteristics of different communities and cultures. That is a generalization, but that is some of the types of topics. We could get more information for the Member.

Mr. Minenko: I appreciate the advice the Minister has offered and I certainly would like to see if she intends to table or simply pass on to our particular critic, and I would appreciate receiving a copy of that as well.

I would like to also ask the Minister then whether she would include in her comments, on the ones that have been held, of who organizes these things, and I presume then the Civil Service Commission, and who would select the topics for the discussion?

Mrs. Oleson: The Civil Service Commission would do that, but we have the course outline. If the Member is interested, we could provide him with a copy of that.

Mr. Minenko: This Minister's department certainly touches very many people in very many different

circumstances. I am just wondering, in preparing any of the topics for discussion that are required in her own department, whether any consultation or coordination is done with the Minister for Culture, Heritage and Recreation (Mrs. Mitchelson), presumably through that Minister's contacts and so on, to ensure that there is coordination throughout the entire Civil Service.

Mrs. Oleson: The personnel directors of the various departments would work with the Civil Service Commission to set these up. They would not be set up in isolation. So in my department, the personnel manager would have input in cultural affairs. It is done in a coordinated way with the Civil Service Commission.

Mr. Minenko: Does the Minister, or through her personnel officers, coordinate any of these activities with the Manitoba Intercultural Council, which I think is a resource that should probably be used more often than it has in the past to perhaps advise Government on matters of this nature?

The question then to the Honourable Minister is whether her personnel officers have had contact personally with the representatives of the Manitoba Intercultural Council to assist her department in selecting relevant topics? And, if not personally, has her personnel staff been advised that the Civil Service Commission has contacted the council through her colleague, the Minister of Culture, Heritage and Recreation (Mrs. Mitchelson).

Mrs. Oleson: The Civil Service Commission may very well and does, I am sure, draw from various parts of the community for advice. I think your questions would probably be better dealt with under the department that includes the Civil Service Commission. My understanding is that they do reach out to various communities to get advice on these matters.

Mr. Minenko: I just have two more questions in discussions of the Estimates of this particular department for this afternoon.

The first question is dealing with the training. The Honourable Minister has set out that there perhaps have in the past been some problems with respect to training of the women in the Civil Service in order for them to step into positions of various other higher classifications. The question I have for this Minister is—and what I am concerned about as well as I am sure all Members of this House—this Government's policy with respect to the training that people have received overseas and who have now come to Manitoba to work. Has her department looked at this area? Has her department developed a policy with respect to equivalencies for training received by people immigrating to Manitoba and wishing to participate in our community?

Mrs. Oleson: Yes, this department has worked with the university on the subject of equivalency. I was addressing a question of your colleague, the Member for Kildonan (Mr. Cheema), I believe it was, a while ago and reminded him that in my other department, the

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Employment Services and Economic Security, there is a program to deal with newcomers who have training in their former homeland and now are here and are not able to use that professional training. There is a program to help them to be able to qualify to work in this country. So a specific program to deal with that is not in this department, but this department does deal with the university in the matter of equivalency.

Mr. Minenko: Just as a final question. I was wondering if the Minister would be prepared to either table or forward to me any copies of material that would indicate how the whole equivalency area is working within her own department with respect to allowing recent immigrants to Canada who have social work training, what that equivalency would be here in Manitoba, and what further training that person may have to do if, in fact, that is a continuing requirement. I am just wondering if the Minister could provide me with that information.

Mrs. Oleson: I really have nothing that I could table specifically in this department on that. It would depend on individual cases of how that could be dealt with. I remind him that in the Department of Employment Services and Economic Security, we could discuss the program in that department to deal with this; but, no, I do not have anything specific to table in this department because, as I say, each case would be dealt with individually because probably no two are exactly the same.

* (1700)

Mr. Chairman: The hour is now 5 p.m. I am interrupting the proceedings for Private Members' Hour. The committee will return at 8 p.m. this evening.

IN SESSION

Mr. Speaker: The hour being 5 p.m., time for Private Members' Business.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

RES. NO. 12—URBANIZATION OF THE CITY OF BRANDON

Mr. Speaker: On the proposed resolution of the Honourable Member for Brandon East (Mr. Evans), Resolution No. 12, Urbanization of the City of Brandon, the Honourable Member for Brandon East.

Mr. Leonard Evans (Brandon East): Mr. Speaker, I would move, seconded by the Member for Churchill (Mr. Cowan), that:

WHEREAS the City of Brandon is a major commercial, education, health and culture community, and the second largest centre in Manitoba; and

WHEREAS Brandon has major urban redevelopment problems, including the downtown area and inner core of the city; and

WHEREAS Brandon has major water and sewage infrastructure requirements characteristic of an urban centre; and

WHEREAS Brandon has economic and social concerns typical of an urban centre; and

WHEREAS the Department of Urban Affairs deals solely with matters pertaining to the City of Winnipeg; and

WHEREAS the Department of Municipal Affairs is essentially rural oriented since it deals with over 200 municipalities, nearly all of which have small populations with rural-type problems; and

WHEREAS it is appropriate to have an enlarged Department of Urban Affairs to concentrate on urban development problems;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba call upon the Government of Manitoba to transfer responsibility for the City of Brandon from the Department of Municipal Affairs to the Department of Urban Affairs.

MOTION presented.

Mr. Leonard Evans: It gives me great pleasure to be able to rise in the Legislature to speak on this important topic which is one of great concern to the citizens of Brandon. I might add that I introduced this subtopic during the last campaign, during the last provincial election, and I found that the response generally from the public was very good. The general population found that proposal interesting and agreed that it was time that more focus be put on the City of Brandon as an urban centre. There has been some media coverage to this matter since the election as well.

Brandon—I am sure most of you have been to the City of Brandon but I would like to spend a few minutes to describe the city—is a city of nearly 40,000 people. It is certainly the second largest city, the second largest centre in the Province of Manitoba. It has a diverse economy.

It has some very important manufacturing industries, some of which may be well known to Members here. The Simplot Company is one of the major employers, producing fertilizers for farm operations. We have various smaller industries in electrical apparatus, and metal fabricating, but we also have larger ones such as the McKenzie Seeds company which processes and distributes packaged seeds across the country.

I might add, for some Members who may not realize it, the McKenzie Seeds company is really the only truly national packaged seed company in Canada. The competition that it has is virtually regional companies that are working or operating in B.C. perhaps, or Ontario or Alberta or whatever, so that we really have Canada's only national packaged seed company in Manitoba in the City of Brandon. It is an important employer and contributes significantly not only to the city's economy, I would suggest, but also to the provincial economy.

Another important manufacturing company is Burns Meats, which has a major facility there, and, as I said, there are many other smaller facilities, smaller manufacturing companies, processing wool and fabrics, for example, and other items.

In addition, there are major shopping centres. It is a major commercial centre for the Westman region and, indeed, for eastern Saskatchewan. It has a couple of major shopping centres and there is definitely a move to expand these shopping facilities. So there has been considerable growth as a commercial centre.

Brandon also is a very important regional health centre. It has a major hospital, the Brandon General Hospital, which is considered a regional hospital on par with facilities such as Concordia or Grace Hospital, Misericordia and so on, as I understand Manitoba Health Services Commission and how it classifies hospitals.

It has developed, I might add, substantially in the last few years. The most recent development—there has been the addition of a major laundry facility which will not only provide those services for the hospital, but also assist other health facilities in the region with that important service that is required to maintain adequate hospital services. I might also add that the manager of General Hospital recently received, about a year ago, a very important piece of equipment called a CAT scan. Generally, it is well-equipped. It has needs of course, but it is a very important health facility.

* (1710)

Apart from the Brandon General Hospital, you have the Brandon Mental Health Centre, another major health facility in the city, in the province, and indeed there are many other related health facilities, major personal care facilities, nursing homes, three of which were developed in the last few years at a cost of \$20 million, a \$10 million addition to Fairview Home, a new Dinsdale Home of about \$4 million to \$5 million, and another several million dollars for the new Rideau Park Personal Care Home.

It is a major education centre. Brandon University has certainly developed over the years. It has a national reputation, indeed international, as a music school. It has some excellent teachers and excellent facilities. It has a new auditorium, a new building, the Queen Elizabeth II Building. It is something that we are all proud of. It also has excellent faculties in arts, science and education. It has grown over the years and does make a major contribution to post-secondary education in this province.

Brandon is known as an educational centre also because of the existence of a community college, namely Assiniboine Community College, which has grown over the years and plays a very significant role in training of students from all over Manitoba, many parts of Canada and from other parts of the world. At graduating exercises over the years there were many who are on the graduating list from countries in Africa, for example, and the Middle East. That is a tribute to ACC, that it can attract people from beyond Canada. They do not have to come to Brandon, to ACC for training, but they do, because of the contacts and the reputation that facility has developed. Of course, there is a major regional secondary school in the area, namely Crocus Plains School.

It has various facilities for tourism. One of the most prominent, of course, is the Keystone Centre which is

equivalent to the Convention Centre that we have in the City of Winnipeg. Indeed, because of that facility we have seen many major conventions held at the Keystone Centre, not only of a commercial nature but you have them of religious organizations, union organizations have had meetings there—I believe the Manitoba Federation of Labour. Of course, you have a host of service clubs that have used the facilities over the years, too numerous to mention. Certainly, it plays a significant role in agricultural exhibitions and the very important Royal Manitoba Winter Fair is held there, as well as the summer exhibitions.

The city, being the size that it is, has a television station, two radio stations and a daily newspaper, so it has all the characteristics of a city, albeit a relatively small city compared to Winnipeg, but nevertheless, a very important urban centre.

It has problems similar to Winnipeg on a smaller scale but we do, indeed, have our traffic problems in the city. You have congestions at certain times of the day, the rush hour, and so on, and there are other problems created for various reasons. It has water and sewer problems. In fact, at the moment it is facing some major requirements for funding for a new sewage facility and we are hoping that some money may be forthcoming, both from the federal and provincial Governments, to assist the City of Brandon overcoming a very, very significant financial burden that is facing it because of the need to enhance and improve the sewage system.

It has an excellent transit system, the only one I believe of its kind outside of the City of Winnipeg and it is rather interesting. The transit system in Brandon is funded more or less on the same formula as the City of Winnipeg transit system but one is handled by the Department of Municipal Affairs. The City of Winnipeg is handled by the Department of Urban Affairs. For the life of me I guess there has to be a lot of liaison between the two departmental officials—the officials in the two departments to make sure that there is equity in approaching subsidization of the transit system. It is very important to have a good transit system. There are a lot of people who are dependent upon it. As usual, people on lower incomes, people on fixed incomes, the elderly, some disabled people and so on. That is a feature of a city that it has or should have a good bus or transit system.

It has social problems of a city. There are, regrettably, needs—we need various agencies to assist in some of the problems that we have. There is a Westman Crisis Shelter for Women. We certainly have a Child and Family Services office for the Westman area that operates out of Brandon. We have a very active Salvation Army Corps and so on to help deal with some of the social problems. The point I am making, Mr. Speaker, is that these problems are urban-type problems, the kind you find in cities, the kind we find in Winnipeg, certainly on a smaller scale but similar in nature.

By this resolution I do not in any way wish to be critical of the Department of Municipal Affairs. It is an excellent department. It has some very good people, dedicated civil servants. They have done a good job over the years, so I do not want it to be understood

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that in any way, shape or form do I want to reflect negatively on that department.

I guess we have over 200 municipalities in Manitoba and most of those municipalities of course are small municipalities and many of them are rural municipalities. My impression over the years, having been in Government for awhile, is that that department essentially is absorbed and involved in dealing with the problems that the smaller municipalities have, so it tends to be mainly a rural-oriented department.

Again, it does have people who deal with the likes of Brandon, Portage, Flin Flon and Thompson, the other cities, but nevertheless my impression is that it is essentially rural oriented and maybe that is the way it should be because of the fact that most of the municipal organizations it deals with tend to have small populations.

These smaller municipalities are concerned with different kinds of issues. You do not find them with the same social problems. They certainly do not have urban transportation, urban transit systems. They do not have traffic problems. They do not have core renewal or downtown renewal problems that you find in Winnipeg and in Brandon. I just might add, I should have mentioned this earlier, that the city is very concerned that the downtown be redeveloped. There have been various studies done. I trust they met with the Minister of Urban Affairs—perhaps they have in the last few months—to explain some of the ideas and thoughts they have about revitalization of the downtown core.

They did not, incidentally, get in on Main Street Manitoba. I have always felt, and I think a lot of people in the community felt, that Main Street Manitoba was essentially for the smaller towns, important towns, but essentially for smaller places, much smaller than the City of Brandon. So they did not receive any of that money, and I think it is time we focussed on their concerns to assist with the downtown redevelopment and core renewal. Really, what they are asking for is something similar to the Winnipeg Core Area Initiative. Obviously, that involves the federal Government as well, and I am sure the people of Brandon would be very delighted to have federal money brought in, and I think there is room for the province to help with some leadership in this area.

* (1720)

On the other hand, we have the Department of Urban Affairs which is essentially oriented to the City of Winnipeg. In fact, you could almost call it the Department of the City of Winnipeg because that is the only municipal government that it deals with. Again, it is a fine department; it is much smaller. It does not have the staff capacity that Municipal Affairs has. I recognize that and I suggest that what one would have to look at, the Government would have to look at, is reassigning perhaps some people from Municipal Affairs into the Department of Urban Affairs; but the point is you would have an Urban Affairs Department concentrating on urban type problems.

I would say that you could consider, I am suggesting the City of Brandon, the Government may wish in its

review of the situation to consider other larger centres. Portage is a city; Flin Flon is a city; Thompson is a city, but there are one or two other major communities such as in the Interlake, the good Town of Selkirk, which is fairly large and so on. Dauphin is a fairly large size and so on. It may make some sense that the larger centres in the province also be put into that department. I think that if we did this, I think you would have a department whose mandate is to deal with these kinds of problems.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member's time has expired.

Does the Honourable Member have leave just to conclude? (Agreed)

Mr. Leonard Evans: I just want to conclude very quickly. I think we need more balance in Manitoba. There should be more emphasis on regional growth. I would suggest that maybe it is perception problem, but I think one way to deal with it is to have this reorganization that I am proposing. I trust that this resolution will be passed and that the Government will proceed with departmental reorganization as requested and that proper attention do be given to the City of Brandon as an important urban centre. Thank you very much for your patience.

Hon. Gerald Ducharme (Minister of Urban Affairs): First of all, it is a pleasure to rise to speak on this particular resolution. I have got some different specifics to mention during my remarks and, if I have time, I will be glad to maybe diverse a little bit on what the Member for Brandon (Mr. Evans) has mentioned in regard to Brandon. I will get to those. He did mention in regard to the core. He mentioned in regard to those particular tripartite type of arrangements. I can understand Brandon's concerns as this particular Government's concerns, as we have concerns with other towns and cities throughout the province.

However, as again with my involvement with the City of Winnipeg, and at the time I had the pleasure to be involved in the original North of Portage, to have been involved in the original Core Area Agreement; and now to be Minister in charge of these particular agreements, I can certainly appreciate that Brandon would like to get into these type of three Party agreements. There are times where the city councillors today are mentioning that they wish they were not in, but I am sure after they appreciate the two core agreements that will take place and the North of Portage when it is finished, that they will be glad that we did have people with foresight that carried out these particular type of programs.

I congratulate the previous Conservative Government for being the ones who first started to get into these programs. I congratulate the Government that was defeated in April on carrying out these particular programs. Myself, I was very involved with the City of Winnipeg and the Mayor and the former Government in these particular programs.

The merits of the resolution deserve considerable debate. I know that Members of the caucus of the Liberal Party have been to Brandon and they did make

a presentation. I do not know who they talked to when they made their presentation. I must congratulate the Member for Brandon (Mr. Evans) because he did mention in his remarks that he did go door to door. He did get the message across. I do not have that message from the Council of Brandon. I do not have that message or any calls or overtures from the City of Brandon.

At present, as he has mentioned, the Department of Urban Affairs deals exclusively with the City of Winnipeg, Manitoba's capital and largest city. The resolution calls for Brandon to come under the same jurisdiction as the Manitoba Urban Affairs. Our Government is keenly aware of the role which the City of Brandon, as Manitoba's second largest city, as mentioned by the Member, and the major regional centre for southwestern Manitoba plays in provincial affairs.

I can assure the Member for Brandon (Mr. Evans), in our caucus work, many, many times we are reminded of the southwestern section of Manitoba and the Member for Brandon. We are committed to ensuring that the relationship between Government and the province is productive and as mutually rewarding as possible. For this reason, we are quite prepared to discuss, and are ready to discuss in future discussions, as time does not allow us to do, the pros and cons of a change in Brandon's working relationship with the Province of Manitoba.

He mentions that he was not trying to knock down the Municipal Affairs, the way they have been handling Brandon, and I can certainly appreciate that he would not want to do that. However, an approach in this issue, I consider it worthwhile to start by probably identifying some of the differences between the two cities and the similarity between the two cities.

First of all, Winnipeg and Brandon are both, as he mentioned, significant urban centres in their own right. They do have the same type of problems that probably other areas have. The two cities deal with similar issues and problems which vary sometimes only in degree. The two cities provide similar urban services, as mentioned by the Member. Both Brandon and Winnipeg operate—and he emphasized the public transit system. I know that the City of Winnipeg, through its efforts, negotiates a 50 percent share on the transit services. I do not know what they do in Brandon. I do not know in the rest of the municipal areas.

I know that we just entered into a program of the Handi-Transit system, the extended Handi-Transit, which I know in the month of July provided probably 400 additional wheelchair trips; and 700 additional ambulatory trips were carried out by that Handi-Transit, just in that month of July alone. I have not got the figures for August yet, but that one particular type of program, like the Handi-Transit, shows what kind of expense you can become involved in when you get in these two types of programs. Both Brandon and Winnipeg do have that particular transit problem, where it gets very, very expensive, and I can appreciate his concerns.

Each of the cities provides extensive municipal services, such as fire protection, the water and sewer

treatment, as mentioned, sanitary, the landfill, recreation facilities, and a comprehensive road network, including—and as anybody has gone through Brandon—the major bridges over, and they do go over sometimes the same river, the Assiniboine, where in Winnipeg we have to deal with maybe some other crossings.

Both cities have central business districts whose dominance of the urban area, as he mentioned, has declined. He mentioned the monies in the North of Portage. We have spent countless monies, extensive monies in the North of Portage. It is just starting to see a little bit of light come to the centre with the Cadillac-Fairview development. Once we get our housing components in place that are almost finished now, along with the apartment complexes, once the "Y" comes into play, well, then, that North of Portage will be what we saw a few years ago of what we hope to be the dream of the people who were involved and hope that we will see that reality.

Brandon and Winnipeg share a need to rejuvenate their respective central business districts, and each has taken steps in dealing with this issue. I know the Member for Brandon East (Mr. Evans) remarked in regard to the proposal. I have not been subject to that proposal, I hope he provides me with one of those, or maybe through my remarks he will make sure that I get one and that is without interfering with Municipal Affairs. I would still like to see, and maybe we can pass on some of our concerns to the Municipal Affairs Branch.

* (1730)

Each city deals with a similar trade-off between downtown and suburban expansion. The city probably, I must admit, is a little more severe. We have been dealing with it and we hope that we have enough monies in my generation and your generation.

I know just dealing with, say, water main renewals. At the scope of I think it is in the City of Winnipeg, if we renew all that are going to be needed, I think that if we put in \$6 million a year, we will be finished in the year 2025. So that gives you a little idea of what the monies that will have to go into, just water main renewals.

Both cities have older residential neighbourhoods close to downtown, which have served generations of citizens, but now require the upgrading and the guarantee that we need of future years of productive life that must occupy these particular areas.

Affordable housing is a concern, and especially my other portfolio, in Housing, in both cities, although Manitoba has, by and large, escaped the housing crisis that have beset other provinces and cities like you have in downtown Toronto, where the average duplex, one side is around \$238,000, but we are now still in the \$70,000 to \$80,000 range.

Housing for senior citizens is a concern. I know it is a concern in Brandon for both cities, particularly as Manitoba's population ages and places additional demands on our social services and health care system. We all know and we have all discussed the cost of

health care system, especially when cities are involved and municipal hospitals, etc.

Manitoba's universities are also situated in these two centres. In Winnipeg, the University of Winnipeg and Manitoba, and in Brandon, the University of Brandon.

Now, there are some differences between these two communities, and it is also very well worth noting. You do have one particular city that has 630,000 people to another one that has 40,000. Winnipeg contains through those figures 60 percent of the population, for over two-thirds of the gross provincial product. It is a regional centre for Manitoba, as well now it is starting to go out as far as northwest Ontario.

Winnipeg has a diversified economic base, including manufacturing and the aerospace technology, health care industries, and a large and vital service sector. Brandon, on the other hand, has a strong dependence on the agricultural economy, and closer linkages with the rural and the municipalities that you mentioned, the many municipalities that they are in membership at the present time under Municipal Affairs.

The manufacturing, industrial sectors have a mixture of petrochemical industries, food-processing plants, and other small scale manufacturing operations, mostly related, and it was emphasized by the Member for Brandon (Mr. Evans) to the agricultural industry.

Brandon is a regional centre providing retail health, institutional, administrative services for its own population and that of south-southwestern Manitoba. It has a relatively small industrial, commercial assessment base, and therefore a high reliance on property tax revenue. I think that Brandon's strong links with the surrounding agricultural areas have also been recognized in the formation of the planning district under The Planning Act. This planning district incorporates Brandon, and it incorporates it with its many adjacent agricultural areas and farm lands that surround it. The formation of this district have led to improve consultation between the city and its neighbouring municipalities. I think that is something very important that we have to make sure that we keep that touch, and better coordinate efforts in the area of land use, planning and development.

Another difference between the two centres, and this is the subject of the resolution, is that the City of Winnipeg operates on a unique provincial statute, The City of Winnipeg Act, while Brandon's legal relationship with the Province of Manitoba is governed by The Municipal Act and The Planning Act. The different statutes which impact upon the two communities serve to highlight the legal implications that a transfer of responsibility for the City of Brandon would have.

The City of Winnipeg Act was drafted to deal exclusively with the City of Winnipeg, it mandated powers in its responsibility. Would the transfer of responsibility from Brandon to Urban Affairs require a new act, separate legislation for Brandon, I do not know, or would Urban Affairs simply deal with the two separate municipalities, having different powers and responsibilities under different statutes? The financial implications of a transfer of responsibility could be significant as well.

In outlining some of the pros and cons of the resolution and in alluding to the possible legal and financial implications of a transfer and responsibility of Urban Affairs, I would like to point out that my mind is still open on this matter. We have not discussed it with Brandon. We will, however, work with Brandon, continue to work with Municipal Affairs and all the matters that Brandon and the concerns they have addressed.

When we discuss urban centres, as has been discussed by the Member for Brandon (Mr. Evans) and the similar urban problems expressed by Brandon and Winnipeg, we have to assure ourselves of what is meant by urban. In Manitoba, the Association of Urban Municipalities not long ago endorsed a resolution calling for some 49 urban centres in Manitoba to come under the jurisdiction of the Department of Urban Affairs. Do we stop with Brandon?

I probably know the Member for Selkirk (Mrs. Charles), I know the Member for Portage (Mr. Connery), the Member for Thompson (Mr. Ashton), do we include all these as well? Do we now divide these up? These are the problems that we have to deal with when we are dealing with this particular issue. Do we create one large department to deal with incorporated municipalities as they have in Saskatchewan? And another department, rural development, to deal with rural areas? There are many such questions that this resolution raises.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, our Government is closely attuned to the needs and the aspirations of the citizens of Brandon. We will ensure that Brandon is treated fairly by the Province of Manitoba. We will consult with the people of Brandon and their public leaders to determine their wishes and their concerns. My colleague, the Honourable Jim McCrae, has been consulting with the citizens and the elected representatives of Brandon on this very matter.

We are interested in hearing the views from all the Members. We are interested in hearing the views from the other Members in Selkirk. We are interested in hearing the views, as I mentioned, in all the urban areas. We expressed that before we can make that decision, that any decision could be made that affects Brandon's legal, fiscal and planning relationship with the province. I feel strongly that only through such careful consideration and consultation can we ensure that we deal with this issue in a most effective manner.

How much time have I got, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Speaker: 30 seconds.

Mr. Ducharme: Mr. Speaker, maybe I could mention that I must not be expressing myself when the Member for Churchill (Mr. Cowan), when he gives me leave, then I really must be doing something wrong up here. However, I would like to just answer one concern that the Member did bring up, and that was about the tri-party agreements that are involved with the City of Winnipeg. Remember that before Brandon or before Selkirk or before any of these particular urban centres do get involved in these programs, that they are three-

party agreements and they must be equal partners or else they do not work. They have to be equal in money. They have to be equal and say at the table, because I can honestly tell you from my previous experience that if anybody thinks it is a simple direction to get involved in that type of, given that type of agreement, then I say that is not so.

Mr. Leonard Evans: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I could have leave to ask the Minister a question?

Mr. Speaker: Does Honourable Member for Brandon East have leave? (Agreed)

* (1740)

Mr. Leonard Evans: Just a very brief question. I appreciated the Minister's remarks when he said—I believe that his mind is still open on this matter—and did allude to the fact that Members of the Government will be reviewing this situation, looking at the various implications. Has he any time frame in mind, any concept of when they would come to some conclusion after looking at the various pros and cons and so on?

Mr. Speaker: Does the Honourable Minister have leave to answer the question? (Agreed)

Mr. Ducharme: To be very honest with you—I am always straight up front to you people—we have never—Urban Affairs has never discussed this particular concern with Brandon. I am talking about as myself, being Minister, time-wise I cannot really answer that. If Brandon does come to us after—if they do make the approach, then as I say, in consultation with the Municipal Affairs Minister, we will be glad to answer that and the other problem you mentioned about movement of staff. Remember that the Urban Affairs is not without the Assessment Branch. Municipal Affairs would not be that much larger than the Urban Affairs staff.

Mrs. Gwen Charles (Selkirk): I, too, am very glad to speak on this topic. I grew up in a town very similar to Brandon and I feel very at home in Brandon and often vacationed there. I came from a town called Belleville in Ontario, grew up there from the age of nine to 19 when I came out to come to university in Manitoba. Belleville—being an old railroad town such as Brandon is, divided by a river serving a regional, agricultural area—in many ways has gone through the problems that Brandon has faced in its infrastructure in trying to regenerate its downtown. Of course, the structure of politics in Ontario does not quite have the same similar circumstances.

But I think we have to look at the whole system of Urban Affairs versus Municipal Affairs and I think—well, I know it is very nice to hear from the Urban Affairs Minister that this is open for discussion on this floor because I think the question is, what process do we have for a city to mature in Manitoba?

We, right now, designate only two possibilities in generalities, that is the City of Winnipeg and everybody else, and certainly coming from the "everybody else"

area, it creates many hard feelings. We see Winnipeg, which is indeed the centre of population for Manitoba receiving all the services. We are doubly taxed outside the Perimeter, especially considering the telephone services, and it is very difficult for urban centres outside the City of Winnipeg to gain recognition by the Province of Manitoba, or so they feel. Certainly, as I have expressed in this House during Estimates, the Town of Selkirk, in trying to regenerate its downtown, had an agreement which has now seems to have fallen apart, which is very unfortunate for a town of any size to see its aspirations being dwindled down the drain, so to speak.

So we have to look at the future of Manitoba and certainly all of the world is beginning to—the population is running into the urban areas. People are not staying outside of the centres of population. They all want to come in for services. The more services that are offered at the moment, it seems the more that are coming to them.

I think this Bill, and I certainly support it in intent, is actually questioning what we have and what we should have. I guess that is really what we should be discussing here today and in future days when we are discussing this motion, is that, what should we have in Manitoba? Should we continue to have one main city centre, indeed supporting 60 percent of the population? Are the services within this population going to expand, leaving others behind? Or are we going to bring others up to the same level? Would it not be a better province if we did have three or four cities vying for attention for population, for industry? I imagine that would be the case, that economically we would be more attractive to the world if we could offer more industrial sites and more competition amongst ourselves.

Certainly, we always say in Canada how underpopulated we are and I think Manitoba is a fine example, a fine composite of Canada. We, as Westerners, complain that Ontario and Quebec get all the goodies and that we get the second-hand spinoffs from it.

I think that most of our rural people feel the same way. Winnipeg gets everything and the rest of us are second-class citizens going down the line. Certainly the Northerners probably have the most to complain about, although I am sure they do not really see it as complaining. They want to be a positive influence and are trying to make their voices heard.

In this day and age with the communication systems that are available—the Fax machines, the telecommunication machines, computer networking—it would not be difficult to diversify the departments of this provincial Legislature into an area such as Brandon. I think cities such as Brandon would be very pleased to receive the population, the industry and all the spinoffs that would occur from a diversification.

I think provinces that we look at and the States as well, where their central capital state centre or provincial centre is different from their industrial centre, are probably better for it and that we should have again competition which is good for all sectors of any economic structure.

I know, coming from a town in a planning district, that often it is a competition even within our planning districts. The needs of an urban centre are definitely different from an agricultural centre. I have heard of circumstances where the City of Brandon has had projects held up because members of their planning district do not understand these urban needs.

So I would suggest to the Minister of Urban Affairs (Mr. Ducharme) and the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Cummings) that we have some further discussion on the means of bringing maturing cities from Municipal Affairs to Urban Affairs. I am not saying that one is not welcomed within Municipal Affairs because it is, I think, in general a reasonably, smoothly-run organization, not that it cannot be improved of course.

We have to recognize—I mean, if Brandon is 40,000 some-odd people now, we assume it will grow. When will it in fact become an urban centre that will be recognized by this province? Will it be at 50,000.00? Will it be at 60,000.00? I think that is what we have to address here; this development of when we bring a municipal centre into an urban centre and under Urban Affairs.

I would suggest that perhaps an amendment to this resolution will be forthcoming but will ask for some process to be looked at to bring these centres up and into the future. Perhaps there will have to be monies made available to the centres in changing over but it is certainly not going to be an easy task to take one centre from one department and move it into another department.

But if we are to look at the future of Manitoba, I firmly believe we have to diversify our departments of the Legislature. We have to diversify our intent of the province as to where we think the people deserve the most recognition and it certainly is not just because they are surrounded by a particular highway. It has to be because of the needs of the centre and the needs change as the population grows.

Previous speakers to this have spoken on the infrastructure needs, on the transportation needs and all those bases, on the redevelopment that occurs as the cities grow. All those have to be addressed not as part of a community, of a patchwork quilt of Manitoba where we have every size, every need available but under an umbrella of a department that recognizes the special needs of larger centres.

The population, wherever they are centered, have to feel they have a future in Manitoba. I do not know what centres such as Brandon, Thompson, Flin Flon, all the major cities and urban centres feel that they have for a future. They have outgrown the roots, so to speak, as in Municipal Affairs. In fact, Brandon has just come back under the organization of Urban Affairs of Manitoba Association of Urban Municipalities, that is. I am sure there was more than one reason of why they did not come under that group for the last couple of years. I do not think they felt at home. I do not think they felt that they had as much to offer under that association as they might under a city centered organization.

I do not think that it is fair to assume that the City of Winnipeg should have its own department in this

province. Whether or not it is true, the intent that it has one Minister looking after it, seems to centre it out as a special centre. I do not think any of us, coming from all the communities we do come from, would agree that any one area is special, because indeed every area is special, much like children we have. There is no one that is any more special. They are all different but all have needs. As children mature and turn 18 and have special recognition because of their age and their size, so too I think we have to look at the departments within our jurisdiction.

I would urge that this Government do look at this piece of legislation we are looking at here and listen to the arguments and discussion that goes on and that from this, we can look towards a future of Manitoba that will not limit the growth to one's particular centre but will agree that the growth should occur in various centres, not maybe even just the City of Brandon but beyond that, and that we develop through this process a system where as communities reaching particular degrees of population, particular degrees of services needs and services rendered, that these too can look forward to becoming a larger community and a recognized community for their own particular needs. Thank you.

* (1750)

Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Second Opposition): I would like to rise and support the resolution of the Member for Brandon East (Mr. Evans) in terms of calling upon the Government of Manitoba to transfer the responsibility of the City of Brandon from the Department of Municipal Affairs to the Department of Urban Affairs.

I had the opportunity to meet with the Brandon City Council and the Mayor of Brandon and also members of the business community, members of the Unemployed Help Centre and a number of other groups, I believe, in January February of this year. I think there is a lot of rationale to proceed to move Brandon into the Department of Urban Affairs. It is always a very subjective decision. It is subjective in terms of creating Urban Affairs to deal with the City of Winnipeg. It is subjective, I suppose, when you argue what city should be in or out. If you were to add Brandon, do you go to Selkirk, do you go to Thompson, do you go to other communities? There is not an abstract criteria or a specific criteria one could use. It is a subjective decision.

But there are a number of reasons I think it does make sense. The population is certainly one factor in terms of over 40,000 people in the province; also some of the similarities with the City of Winnipeg, notwithstanding the much different size of the city. There are many more similarities, I believe, with an urban centre and the City of Winnipeg than there is to other communities in Brandon.

Certainly, the whole area of transportation and transportation systems, which is an area, quite frankly, that Municipal Affairs has some expertise in, but there is absolutely no question that between the two departments, Urban Affairs has a number of experts and studies and areas of expertise in the area of mass

transportation, public transportation, urban transportation, handi-transportation and other similar forms of transportation that confront the community of Brandon. Brandon has a transit authority, a transit system in the community. It has some of the similar problems in terms of planning of traffic between a public transportation system and a system where cars are the primary focus of transportation in the community.

I believe that the expertise that is within the Department of Urban Affairs and the people within the department that have that expertise would be very useful for Brandon in terms of their medium-term and long-term planning of their transportation system. It does not always follow though, that there is lots of money for some of those nice, exotic rapid transportation systems that we all love to pass resolutions and talk about.

I guess the Member for Fort Garry (Mr. Laurie Evans) would like to talk about rapid transportation in south Winnipeg. Certainly, I always thought we should have a rapid transportation system on Gateway or Raleigh in northeast Winnipeg, perhaps even going out to Transcona and other spokes of the city.

I always resented the fact there was only one area of the city that was talked about for rapid transportation and as the Minister of Urban Affairs, I thought Transcona, East Kildonan, Assiniboia should be considered. McPhillips has great potential in terms of some of the spokes that can be developed there and that we should develop a rapid transportation system, not with one spoke into Fort Garry but rather with all spokes in terms of how it would fit with the centre.

But there is a lot of expertise in Urban Affairs—not a lot of money from the department, probably from this Finance Minister (Mr. Manness) as well—not a lot of money but there are a lot of good ideas there. I think Brandon needs those ideas as well in terms of developing their transportation system.

Brandon fell between the cracks when it came to developing their projects in terms of downtown development. On the one hand, we had Main Street Manitoba, which was very popular and was utilized by a number of communities. On the other hand, we had the Core Area Initiative.— (Interjection)— The Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) goes to New York for a couple of days; he comes back rabble-rousing in this House. I could not hear him.— (Interjection)— That is “Main Street Pete”—yes.

Mr. Speaker, if I could proceed—I suppose Morris would be the next area to proceed with Urban Affairs. Brandon fell between the cracks. It was not eligible for Main Street projects to the degree it needed. It was not available for the kind of coordinated federal-provincial and city approach that was used for two core area projects and the North Portage project and the spinoff effects of North Portage, which was the Exchange District, the East Yards and hopefully someday, some planning by the council and the council member and others, in terms of the village in Osborne, which is now floundering between two community groups without any sort of direction or focus in planning at all.

I met with some of the downtown people, both before and after the election and there are some excellent documents. I am surprised that they have not been reviewed by this Cabinet, dealing with the Brandon Downtown Revitalization Plan. I wonder whose Ministers' desks these are sitting on.

These are very, very good proposals. They make a lot of sense. There is a tremendous amount of synergy between the downtown business group that is establishing BIZ, Business Improvement Zone legislation, and the ability Brandon business people have. I met with them in June. I met with them in February and I met with them in January. It sounds like the Members opposite talk a lot about meeting and do not act a lot about meeting. Our MLA met with them on a continual basis in terms of the City of Brandon.

These projects, not only do they require or ask for support from the provincial Government but they also put their own money on the table in terms of downtown development and redevelopment in the City of Brandon. They call for some effort by the provincial Government to get the federal Government involved in this project.

They get lots of speeches from the federal Member allegedly representing Manitoba at the federal Cabinet table but we do not see very much action—a little bit of money into Loewen Windows in Steinbach, and a few other dollars, and new bars on the jails. I guess that is the economic development program in Manitoba. We get improved bars at Stony Mountain but we do not get anything going into redevelopment and real development in the City of Brandon and other Manitoba communities.

So that is the second reason that I believe support of the Member's resolution should be considered by this Government and should indeed be passed by this Legislature.

There are a number of other assets in the community of Brandon: universities, hospital resources, that are very much consistent with urban settings and urban challenges in terms of those facilities.

There is also the whole area of social problems that arise out of urban decay in the downtown City of Brandon, social problems that are unique to urban centres. We cannot just look at cities in terms of putting them into various pigeonholes as departments. We have to look at the challenges and the problems that we all have to work together on, arriving at some conclusions.

Indeed, I think if you look at any of the social indicators for communities you would see that certainly Winnipeg has a number of factors that show unique urban problems in the social area. Many of these same indicators are evident if the Members would review them in the community of Brandon.

When we met with the council members and were reviewing it ourselves early this year, there was a considerable amount of agreement by the members of the council that we talked to. There was agreement from the city members of the business community in Brandon. There was agreement from many of the educational organizations that we met with. There was

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agreement from indeed, the citizens in the community of Brandon as articulated by the Member for Brandon East (Mr. Evans), and we are even now getting support for this resolution from a Brandon editorial dated June 14, where there is a consensus to deal with Brandon in a way that would put it into Urban Affairs.

The Minister mentioned The City of Winnipeg Act. I certainly do not see that as a problem. Many components, many factors that must be dealt with under the City of Winnipeg jurisdiction, whether it is The Real Property Act, or The Municipal Assessment Act, or Transportation Act, or Highway Acts, or a number of other Acts that affect the City of Winnipeg are Acts that are administered by other Ministers of Government. There is the option of looking at a separate Brandon Act. There is the option of leaving it under The Municipal Act. Notwithstanding any of the designations of the Act, one would not see any major change in the Governments in the City of Brandon. That is certainly not the intention.

The community of Brandon, therefore, when you look at the social factors, you look at the transportation factors, you look at the manufacturing conditions, the industrial base, the future projections for the system, the need for a coordinated, I believe tripartite, core area or downtown program.

In fact, with Brandon we could even go one step further. The business community is in a lot earlier than the Core Area Program. With the Core Area Program the business community had to come in after. With the

North Portage Development Centre it was, I think, for every public dollar spent there were three or four private dollars spent. The spinoff effect was \$62 million to \$178 million, I think, between public money and private development. So I think not only will this be some kind of tripartite program with the Downtown Business Association and other organizations be helpful to Brandon, it also may be an excellent way to stimulate the economy in that area.

We should remind Members opposite that stimulating the economy I think is going to be a major challenge in this House, because the economy whether we like it or not is going downhill under this Government. The economic indicators are already starting to show a strangulation of the economy consistent with Tory philosophy where they -(Interjection)- oh, Mr. Speaker, Tory times are tough times. The effect of the drought is not yet even in place and we are starting to see there are 3,000 more people unemployed in this province August of '88 over August of '87, because these Members opposite do not know how to run and develop an economy. They strangle an economy, and the people will soon see that in this province.

* (1800)

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hour being 6 p.m., I am leaving the Chair with the understanding that the House will reconvene at 8 p.m. in Committee of Supply. When this matter is again before the House, the Honourable Member will have three minutes remaining.