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Second Session - Thirty-Fifth Legislature
of the
Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS
(HANSARD)**

40 Elizabeth II

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Speaker*



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MANITOBA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
Thirty-Fifth Legislature

LIB - Liberal; ND - New Democrat; PC - Progressive Conservative

NAME	CONSTITUENCY	PARTY
ALCOCK, Reg	Osborne	LIB
ASHTON, Steve	Thompson	ND
BARRETT, Becky	Wellington	ND
CARR, James	Crescentwood	LIB
CARSTAIRS, Sharon	River Heights	LIB
CERILLI, Marianne	Radisson	ND
CHEEMA, Gulzar	The Maples	LIB
CHOMIAK, Dave	Kildonan	ND
CONNERY, Edward	Portage la Prairie	PC
CUMMINGS, Glen, Hon.	Ste. Rose	PC
DACQUAY, Louise	Seine River	PC
DERKACH, Leonard, Hon.	Roblin-Russell	PC
DEWAR, Gregory	Selkirk	ND
DOER, Gary	Concordia	ND
DOWNEY, James, Hon.	Arthur-Virden	PC
DRIEDGER, Albert, Hon.	Steinbach	PC
DUCHARME, Gerry, Hon.	Riel	PC
EDWARDS, Paul	St. James	LIB
ENNS, Harry, Hon.	Lakeside	PC
ERNST, Jim, Hon.	Charleswood	PC
EVANS, Cliff	Interlake	ND
EVANS, Leonard S.	Brandon East	ND
FILMON, Gary, Hon.	Tuxedo	PC
FINDLAY, Glen, Hon.	Springfield	PC
FRIESEN, Jean	Wolseley	ND
GAUDRY, Neil	St. Boniface	LIB
GILLESHAMMER, Harold, Hon.	Minnedosa	PC
HARPER, Elijah	Rupertsland	ND
HELWER, Edward R.	Gimli	PC
HICKES, George	Point Douglas	ND
LAMOUREUX, Kevin	Inkster	LIB
LATHLIN, Oscar	The Pas	ND
LAURENDEAU, Marcel	St. Norbert	PC
MALOWAY, Jim	Elmwood	ND
MANNES, Clayton, Hon.	Morris	PC
MARTINDALE, Doug	Burrows	ND
McALPINE, Gerry	Sturgeon Creek	PC
McCRAE, James, Hon.	Brandon West	PC
McINTOSH, Linda, Hon.	Assiniboia	PC
MITCHELSON, Bonnie, Hon.	River East	PC
NEUFELD, Harold, Hon.	Rossmere	PC
ORCHARD, Donald, Hon.	Pembina	PC
PENNER, Jack	Emerson	PC
PLOHMAN, John	Dauphin	ND
PRAZNIK, Darren, Hon.	Lac du Bonnet	PC
REID, Daryl	Transcona	ND
REIMER, Jack	Niakwa	PC
RENDER, Shirley	St. Vital	PC
ROCAN, Denis, Hon.	Gladstone	PC
ROSE, Bob	Turtle Mountain	PC
SANTOS, Conrad	Broadway	ND
STEFANSON, Eric, Hon.	Kirkfield Park	PC
STORIE, Jerry	Flin Flon	ND
SVEINSON, Ben	La Verendrye	PC
VODREY, Rosemary	Fort Garry	PC
WASYLYCIA-LEIS, Judy	St. Johns	ND
WOWCHUK, Rosann	Swan River	ND

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Thursday, June 27, 1991

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

PRAYERS

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

**PRESENTING REPORTS BY
STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

Mr. Jack Reimer (Chairman of the Committee on Law Amendments): Mr. Speaker, I beg to present the First Report on the Committee on Law Amendments.

Mr. Clerk (William Remnant): Your Standing Committee on Law Amendments presents the following as its First Report:

Your committee met on Tuesday, June 25, at 8 p.m. in Room 254 of the Legislative Assembly to consider bills referred.

Your committee heard representation on bills as follows:

Bill 5—The Mental Health Amendment Act; Loi modifiant la Loi sur la santé mentale

Mr. Anthony Dalmyn - Canadian Mental Health Association

Mr. Bill Ashdown - The Society for Depression & Manic Depression of Manitoba

Mr. Gordon Mackintosh - Manitoba Association for Rights and Liberties

Ms. Chrys Rak - Private Citizen

Mr. Sid Frankel - Manitoba Association of Social Workers

Dr. John Walker - The Psychological Association of Manitoba

Ms. Catherine Medernach - Sun Network

Dr. Caroline Sehon - Citizens for Quality Mental Health Care

Ms. Annette Osted - Registered Psychiatric Nurses Association of Manitoba

Mr. Vern McComas - Manitoba Schizophrenic Society

Your committee has considered:

Bill 3—The Coat of Arms, Emblems and the Manitoba Tartan Act; Loi modifiant la Loi sur les armoiries, les emblèmes et la tartan du Manitoba;

Bill 43—The Workers Compensation Amendment Act (2); Loi no 2 modifiant la Loi sur les accidents du travail;

and has agreed to report the same without amendment.

Your committee has also considered:

Bill 5—The Mental Health Amendment Act; Loi modifiant la Loi sur la santé mentale;

and has agreed to report the same with the following amendments:

MOTION:

THAT section 10 of the Bill be struck out and the following substituted:

Subsection 17(2) repealed and substituted

10 Subsection 17(2) is repealed and the following is substituted:

Psychiatric assessment

17(2) A psychiatrist shall make an assessment within 72 hours after the filing of an application under subsection (1), and if the prerequisites for admission as an involuntary patient as set out in subsection 16(1.1) are met, the psychiatrist shall complete a certificate of involuntary admission.

Exception

17(3) Despite subsection (2), if a patient has been a patient of the psychiatric facility for more than 72 hours when the application is filed, the assessment under subsection (2) shall be made within 24 hours after the filing of the application.

MOTION:

THAT the proposed subsection 24(1), as set out in section 17 of the Bill, be amended by adding "consent to or" after "has the right to".

MOTION:

THAT the proposed subsection 26.4(6), as set out in section 24 of the Bill, be amended by striking out clauses (c) and (d) and substituting the following:

(c) is a psychiatrist or physician who is treating or has treated that person;

(d) is an officer, employee or staff member of the psychiatric facility in which that person is being treated; or

(e) is a lawyer who is acting for or has acted for that person.

MOTION:

THAT section 28 of the Bill be struck out and the following substituted:

Subsection 26.6(1.1) added

28 The following is added after subsection 26.6(1):

When hearing must begin

26.6(1.1) A hearing in respect of an application made by or on behalf of a patient shall begin as soon as reasonably possible after the application is received by the review board under subsection 26.5(1), and in any case within the period of time prescribed by regulation.

MOTION:

THAT section 31 of the Bill be amended by striking out the proposed clause 26.9(3)(j) and substituting the following:

(j) the standards committee of the psychiatric facility, including a medical staff committee established for the purpose of studying or evaluating medical practice in a psychiatric facility; or

MOTION:

THAT the proposed clause 26.9(3.1)(a), as set out in section 32 of the Bill, be amended by adding, ", including its legal advisors and assistants," after "who receives it".

MOTION:

THAT the proposed subclause 26.9(3.1)(b)(iii), as set out in section 32 of the Bill, be amended by striking out "sealed in a separate file and stored in a safe place" and substituting "returned forthwith to the medical officer in charge".

MOTION:

THAT subsection 26.12(2), as set out in section 41 of the Bill, be amended by striking out "subsection 80(1.1)" and substituting "subsection 80(1.2)".

MOTION:

THAT the proposed subsections 80(1.2), (1.3) and (1.4), as set out in section 45 of the Bill, be struck out and the following substituted:

Other powers of Public Trustee

80(1.2) When the Public Trustee is the committee of a person described in clause (1)(b), (c) or (d), the Public Trustee may

(a) determine where and with whom the person shall live either temporarily or permanently;

(b) commence, compromise or settle any legal proceeding that does not relate to the estate of the person; and

(c) consent to medical or psychiatric treatment or health care on the person's behalf if

(i) a physician informs the Public Trustee that the person is not mentally competent to make treatment decisions given the criteria set out in subsection 24(3); and

(ii) the person is not a patient in a psychiatric facility.

When Public Trustee is nearest relative

80(1.3) For greater certainty, nothing in clause (1.2)(c) affects the right of the Public Trustee to make treatment decisions on behalf of a patient under Part I in circumstances where the Public Trustee is the patient's nearest relative.

Limitation on Public Trustee's powers

80(1.4) The Public Trustee shall,

(a) when exercising any power conferred by subsection (1.2), consult with the person's nearest relative when reasonably possible; and

(b) when exercising any power conferred by clause (1.2)(c), do so in accordance with the best interests of the person having regard to the principles and the criteria described in subsections 24.1(3) and (4).

Consent

80(1.5) The Public Trustee may only place a person pursuant to clause (1.2)(a) with a person who consents to the placement and the person may on reasonable notice to the Public Trustee withdraw his or her consent and the Public Trustee shall then make a new determination under clause (1.2)(a).

MOTION:

THAT the proposed section 106, as set out in section 48 of the Bill, be amended by renumbering

clauses (h), (i) and (j) as clauses (i), (j) and (k) and by adding the following as clause (h):

(h) for the purpose of subsection 26.6(1.1), prescribing the period to time within which a hearing of the review board shall begin;

All of which is respectfully submitted.

Mr. Reimer: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable member for Fort Garry (Mrs. Vodrey), that the report on the committee be received.

Motion agreed to.

TABLING OF REPORTS

Hon. Leonard Derkach (Minister of Education and Training): I would like to table the report of the Manitoba Task Force on Francophone Schools Governance.

Hon. Harold Neufeld (Minister of Energy and Mines): One of the requirements of the recently tabled Mines Act is to have the Energy and Mines Annual Report filed no later than 90 days after the end of the fiscal year. I am proud to say that the department has lived up to that obligation, and we are now filing our 1990-91 report for Energy and Mines.

Hon. Clayton Manness (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I would like to table a report of amounts paid to members of the Assembly as required by Section 65(1) and (2) of The Legislative Assembly Act.

* (1335)

Introduction of Guests

Mr. Speaker: Prior to Oral Questions, may I direct the attention of honourable members to the gallery, where we have with us this afternoon from the Anishinabe Oway-ishi Program 18 students. They are under the direction of Marie Mason and Joan Davis. This program is located in the constituency of the honourable member for Point Douglas (Mr. Hickey).

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

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

Child and Family Services Restructuring Consultations

Ms. Becky Barrett (Wellington): Mr. Speaker, since Monday, in this House, the opposition has

been asking the government and particularly the Minister of Family Services to table, if they are able, documentation that shows consultation that has taken place by the government and the Department of Family Services leading up to their virtually overnight announcement about the restructuring of Child and Family Services agencies.

In 1987, the former government received the Reid-Sigurdson Report, which was a six-month public process that looked at all aspects of the Child and Family Services agencies and made some excellent recommendations. I would like to state that the Reid-Sigurdson Report said that the increased accessibility of the new system has been responsible for a greatly improved ability to detect abused children. It also recommends a decentralized system, quote: As it is only through this means that we can ever hope to make an impact on the large number of problems and act to provide services that are of assistance to families.

My question to the Minister of Family Services, yet again, is: Can he table or tell this House of any review that has been done by this department that would give the lie to this recommendation on the part of the Reid-Sigurdson Report that decentralization is the way to go to help children in Winnipeg?

Hon. Harold Gilleshammer (Minister of Family Services): Mr. Speaker, I have said consistently, what worked in the former system was the decentralization of service. What has worked is left in place. What has not worked was the decentralized administration, and I do not know whether the honourable member wants to acknowledge a difference between the two or not.

We have looked at the Reid-Sigurdson Report of 1987 where they referenced the fact that there were problems in the system, that there was tension and unproductive disputes. We have reorganized the system administratively but left the service component in place.

I would quote from a May 15 report in the Winnipeg Sun where the then president of the Manitoba Association of Child and Family Services agencies is quoted as saying: I think some services certainly could be centralized, but we have to keep in mind service delivery should continue to be decentralized.

That is exactly what we have done. We have left the decentralized service delivery in the

communities, because that is the part of the system that has worked.

She goes on to say in this report that she could see services like accounting, the province's adoption, foster parent programs being amalgamated, and these are initiatives that have come forward from the president of the Child and Family Services associations. We intend to look at those recommendations and to have a more centralized administration and at the same time to leave that decentralized service in the community.

Ms. Barrett: Mr. Speaker, the question of centralization of things such as adoption and accounting is not the same thing as taking 90 board members, who were elected by the community, and making them into nine board members who are appointed by the government. It is not the same thing at all.

To quote from Reid-Sigurdson on page 276, where they say: A duplication of administration has not been observed to be a problem within the Child and Family Services agencies. It also states in Reid-Sigurdson that there was not a single person, who they interviewed in their six months, who was in favour of any return to a recentralized system.

I ask the Minister of Family Services if he can table information from individuals or groups that they have talked to that state that recentralization will provide better services to the children of Winnipeg and Manitoba.

* (1340)

Mr. Gilleshammer: The member asks about community involvement. We have left in place the creation of a system of community committees whereby the members of the community who are interested and involved with the child welfare system will have a voice to come forward to the new agency to make their feelings known. We have also put in place a situation where the community can elect board members to sit on this new executive.

The member goes on to ask about reports. We have talked about the Reid-Sigurdson Report. We talked the other day about an inquest report that was made public and was referenced by a spokesperson for the city police and the Winnipeg Sun yesterday. I have mentioned two external reviews done by the department, and the critic for the Liberals has asked about those reports, that there are factors in there to do with individual families and children that we

cannot make public. I have also mentioned a number of child death reports going back to '87-88.

All of these are crying out for a co-ordination of services to assist children and families, and this initiative whereby we are centralizing the administration is going to go a long way to resolving some of those problems.

Meeting Request

Ms. Becky Barrett (Wellington): Mr. Speaker, this government has also made a great to-do about its consultation process and the openness of its ministers and its members to views of the public. Tonight there is a public meeting dealing with the recentralization of Child and Family Services agencies to which the minister and his staff were invited.

I would like to ask the Minister of Family Services if he or any member of his staff is coming tonight to share views and opinions, and if not, why not?

Hon. Harold Gilleshammer (Minister of Family Services): I was informed this morning of a rally in a hotel here in Winnipeg where there are going to be concerns expressed about Child and Family Services. I will be in my constituency at a graduation this evening.

I will tell you that I did meet with the past presidents of all of the Winnipeg associations and a couple of other provincial associations on Monday. I did meet with the executive directors of the Winnipeg associations on Monday. I applaud parents for their continuing interest, and I am aware that they have formed an association called the Concerned Citizens of Families and Children. I have agreed to meet with members of that organization some time in the next few weeks.

Child and Family Services Regional Boundaries

Ms. Jean Friesen (Wolseley): My question is also for the Minister of Family Services.

This minister, in what the Winnipeg Free Press has called an arrogant manner, has destroyed overnight our community-based child and family welfare system. One of the agencies eliminated was the Child and Family Services of Eastern Manitoba, an agency which dealt with a wide range of urban and rural communities from the Brokenhead to Steinbach. Two days ago, the

minister was unable to table the new boundaries of his super-agency.

I would like to ask the minister today if his master plan has matured enough to table those boundaries. Can he tell us the fate of those communities outside the city of Winnipeg? Is he, for example, planning—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The question has been put.

Hon. Harold Gillehammer (Minister of Family Services): Yes, I was asked the other day if I had a copy of the boundaries with me. I indicated at that time that I did not have a copy in the House. I have one today. It is part of the regulations, and I will be pleased to table it for members opposite.

I would further say that there is no interest at this time and no disposition at this time to centralize organizations outside of the city of Winnipeg, as the member asked. I would indicate that we have a very complex system in the province, where we do have agencies such as the one in Winnipeg, one in central Manitoba and one in Westman. We have areas of the province where the department delivers that service, and of course, we have the five Native Child and Family Services agencies. It is a complex system that we have.

I indicated in comments the other day that certainly I see a lot of work that needs to be done with the Native agencies. We have met on a number of occasions to talk about jurisdiction and talk about other issues, about codes and standards. I made the commitment at that time that we would be meeting with the leaders of the Native community, from their child welfare committees, to further explore those problems.

* (1345)

French Language Services

Ms. Jean Friesen (Wolseley): Mr. Speaker, my second question is to the same minister.

This government claims to have a commitment to French Language Services, yet the minister has eliminated a decentralized agency with regional committees rooted in the communities of St. Boniface, St. Pierre-Jolys, Ste. Anne and others.

Mr. Speaker, my question for the minister is: In his new world order, what specific guarantees are there for direction from the French community, and is he committed to the appointment of Franco-Manitobans to this board?

Hon. Harold Gillehammer (Minister of Family Services): We have left in place the offices. The staff who were providing services last week are the same people and the same offices that are there this week. I am aware of the desire to have culturally appropriate services delivered. We did make an approach to a person to represent that community, and that person has declined. I am aware of the need to have representation from that community, and we will be moving forward to resolve that as we make further appointments.

Ms. Friesen: Mr. Speaker, I think there is more than one person in the French community, and I do hope that you do pursue those invitations.

Community Committees

Ms. Jean Friesen (Wolseley): My final supplementary is for the Minister of Culture, Heritage and Citizenship (Mrs. Mitchelson).

Between January and March of this year, the Franco-Manitoban community held over 45 community development meetings across the province in anticipation of a five-year agreement, Entente Canada Communauté. Would this minister indicate how the abolition of community-based boards of Child and Family Services of Eastern Manitoba fits with her government's support of the Canada Communauté initiative?

Hon. Harold Gillehammer (Minister of Family Services): I indicated, Mr. Speaker, in my previous comments, that we will be working with communities to develop community committees so they will have a voice that they can bring forward to the new agency. Those will not be in place for some months yet, but we will be working actively to have those put in place and to have people from the various communities have a voice on those committees. They will have an opportunity not only to elect a person to the new board but they will also have the opportunity to make their feelings known to the new board.

Just in response to the comment the member made, yes, I am aware that there is more than one person capable of representing the Franco-Manitoban community. I think the member would realize that, in matters like this, when you approach somebody, you have to give them the time to consider it, and once the decision has been made, then you have to go back and look at other alternatives.

Anti-Racism Programs Government Initiatives

Mr. Kevin Lamoureux (Inkster): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Justice and Attorney General.

On several different occasions, we have brought up the concern of racism inside this Chamber. We had brought up the issue of the racist pins, and the Minister of Justice and Attorney General took no action. We brought up the whole issue of the racist calendars, and this government took no action. We brought up the Ku Klux Klan line, Mr. Speaker, and we have seen no action from this government.

My question, put quite simply, to the Minister of Justice and Attorney General is: Why is this government failing to take action to combat racism?

Hon. James McCrae (Minister of Justice and Attorney General): The honourable member certainly raises a serious matter, albeit in a manner of which leaves open the question of how serious he views the matter. This government has made its position on these matters very clear with respect to the aggressive investigation of complaints of racist or hateful behaviour in our jurisdiction, and that is precisely what we have been doing.

The honourable member is probably referring to the latest issue that has been raised by the critic for the New Democratic Party and others with respect to the Ku Klux Klan and possible activities of that movement in our province. I can tell the honourable member that our department is reviewing the applicable legislation in our province to see what opportunities there are for us to combat racism as it is being put forward in this province.

I do not like to speak for other ministers who are not able to speak for themselves in this Chamber on any given day. The honourable Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Findlay), who is the Minister responsible for the Manitoba Telephone System, shares my concern, and no doubt, when he is able to, he would be able to discuss matters related to the operations of the Manitoba Telephone System.

That being said, my department is reviewing applicable legislation in this province to see what further action may be taken. The honourable member implies that no action has been taken. The honourable member would like to see people prosecuted where there is no likelihood of a success for prosecution. That is not the policy of this—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Racism Investigations Telephone Messages

Mr. Kevin Lamoureux (Inkster): Mr. Speaker, time after time, we bring forward a serious issue of this nature, and time after time, the Minister of Justice and Attorney General tries to explain in his long-winded answers as to why it is that they are not able to combat racism. Action speaks a lot louder than words, and the action from this government has been very lacking.

In Alberta, in regard to the telephone line, there was a line of similar nature in which the Alberta government was able to cut off the services. This government, on the other hand, has failed to take any action to bring it to the attention of the Canadian Human Rights board.

My question to the minister is: Why does he continue to refuse to take action that would prevent people from using lines or telephones in this nature that promote racism and hatred in the province of Manitoba?

* (1350)

Hon. James McCrae (Minister of Justice and Attorney General): The question has been asked and answered in the past, and it was asked and answered in the first go-around with the honourable member today in Question Period. The honourable member refers to the situation in the province of Alberta where the Canadian Human Rights Act, Section 13, was brought into play. That opportunity is not there for us in Manitoba, because our Manitoba Telephone System is a provincial Crown corporation which does not fall under the jurisdiction of the Canadian Human Rights Commission.

Mr. Lamoureux: Mr. Speaker, the minister can ask them. If this activity is allowed to continue, the problem is going to get a lot worse before it starts to get better.

Will the minister agree today to examine the Alberta case to see if it is in any way comparable to the situation in our province, and if so, will he take immediate action to cut off the KKK phone line and send a strong message that racism in this province will not be tolerated?

Mr. McCrae: Well, we have already done precisely what the honourable member asks that we do. If he had been listening to the last answer I gave, I told

him that the Canadian Human Rights Commission in Manitoba's situation has no -(interjection)-

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. McCrae: The Canadian Human Rights Commission, Mr. Speaker, has no jurisdiction over the Manitoba Telephone System, so the honourable member raises a question that we have already done that work to satisfy ourselves about that.

The honourable member seems to have a little bit of a problem in that he cannot control himself today and wants to keep talking after he has finished asking his question. I am trying to give him an answer. He does not seem to want to listen to the answer.

The Liberal position is not always as consistent as I would like to see or as Manitobans would like to see. If only the Liberals had taken the same kind of position they seem to be taking today with respect to impaired drivers on our highways, we would have had far better success, I suggest, in getting our drinking and driving initiatives off the road. The Liberals did everything they could, everything in their power at that time, when we, with the support of the New Democratic Party, were trying to take some leadership here in the province of Manitoba. We would like to take leadership in areas related to racism, too, and we would prefer to have help from members of the Liberal Party, as opposed to this kind of a tactic that they are using in the House today.

Business Practices Act Proclamation

Mr. Edward Connery (Portage la Prairie): Mr. Speaker, last session, this government and this Legislature passed The Business Practices Act. The Business Practices Act was a bill that was crying out for introduction into Manitoba for many, many years. The NDP sat on it. While they talk about concern for the public, concern for the people, they did absolutely nothing for the consumers of this province.

Mr. Speaker, we went through a long and protracted consultation. We, for the first time in the province of Manitoba, had the Manitoba Society of Seniors in, we had the Consumers' Association, along with all of the other business communities, to discuss a good bill.

Mr. Speaker, it is important that that bill—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The honourable member, kindly put his question now please.

Mr. Connery: —be put into place very quickly, Mr. Speaker, and I ask the Minister of Co-operative, Consumer and Corporate Affairs—because before I left office, I had instructed the department to have regulations in place that they would be ready for the first of July.

I would ask the Minister of Co-operative, Consumer and Corporate Affairs what the status of those regulations are pertaining to The Business Practices Act—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The question has been put.

* (1355)

Hon. Linda McIntosh (Minister of Co-operative, Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my honourable friend the member for Portage la Prairie for that question and thank him, at the same time, for the preliminary work that he did in introducing this bill and for getting it underway after a long period of neglect in this area.

Having said that, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to report that the bill is in the final stages of preparation for proclamation. The information packages are currently being prepared. I expect to have it ready for proclamation within the next week or two.

Immigration Government-Sponsored Refugees

Ms. Marianne Cerilli (Radisson): Mr. Speaker, the number of government-sponsored refugees coming to Manitoba has dropped this year by 40 percent. This means that \$2 million of federal money that accompanies these people will be lost to Manitoba's economy.

What is the minister responsible doing to ensure that this trend, with respect to refugees and immigrants, does not continue?

Hon. Bonnie Mitchelson (Minister of Culture, Heritage and Citizenship): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to report that, as of last week, the newly formed branch within my Department of Citizenship will be headed by an ADM, one Doris Oulton, who will be working very actively to co-ordinate all issues regarding new immigrants and citizenship of the province of Manitoba.

One of the priorities will be to negotiate an agreement with the federal government on levels of

immigration to the province of Manitoba. Manitoba is not unique in the instance where less government-sponsored refugees are coming just to Manitoba. It is across the country. In fact, we will be negotiating very aggressively for an agreement whereby we in Manitoba will receive our fair share of immigrants in accordance with our population of the country.

Prairie Regional Documentation Centre

Ms. Marianne Cerilli (Radisson): Today we find that the trend is continuing with respect to Manitoba's treatment by the federal government in this area and that Winnipeg is going to lose the Prairie Regional Documentation Centre which assists immigrants and refugees to prepare their cases for claims. Is the minister aware of this, and how will the government address the issue of backlog which has been exacerbated by the federal government's new refugee assessment process and its centralization of immigrant and refugee services?

Hon. Bonnie Mitchelson (Minister of Culture, Heritage and Citizenship): Mr. Speaker, I will do everything, and we as a government will do everything within our power to ensure that immigrants who come to our province and need access to services will find that service available in the most expeditious way.

Ms. Cerilli: This is another example of services that are leaving the province.

Government Initiatives

Ms. Marianne Cerilli (Radisson): Can the minister table correspondence to show what she has done and what she can do, if she can table correspondence now—she thinks she can do anything now to bring the centre back—to show that she is in fact standing up for immigrants and refugees in Manitoba?

* (1400)

Hon. Bonnie Mitchelson (Minister of Culture, Heritage and Citizenship): I think our commitment to new immigrants and immigrants in the province of Manitoba—the record stands and shows that we as a government have been very proactive.

Mr. Speaker, when in fact we saw that the federal government was reducing their commitment to ESL training in the province of Manitoba, we came forward with a strong commitment as a province,

and as a matter of us making that concerted effort, there will be 20 percent more money going into ESL training in the province of Manitoba for new immigrants than there was last year, so we have shown our commitment.

We have shown our commitment to immigration and to the multicultural community through our multicultural policy that we initiated. We have shown our commitment to anti-racism initiatives by working co-operatively with the Manitoba Federation of Labour on training modules, not only for the Civil Service, but right throughout the working sector in Manitoba.

Mental Health Care Nursing Shortage

Mr. Gregory Dewar (Selkirk): My question is for the Minister of Health.

Over and over, this minister has stated his government's commitment to quality mental health services in Manitoba, but yesterday the Registered Psychiatric Nurses Association of Manitoba asked this government to address the problems that will result from the decline of more than 50 percent in the number of psychiatric nurses in Manitoba as a direct result of the closure of the Selkirk school.

What answer does this minister have for this association? Will he table in this House evidence which indicates that there will be a sufficient number of trained nurses graduating to fill the future needs of mental health services in this province?

Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health): In the consolidation of the two schools of nursing, it is anticipated that we will have 45 student placement slots. I might indicate to my honourable friend that—and I am going from memory—I believe in 1988 there were a total of 38 graduates in the province of Manitoba from two schools of nursing. In 1989, I believe the number was 47 graduates from the two schools of nursing, and in 1990, I believe the number was 43.

Based on the anticipation of having 45 training slots available in the consolidated school of Brandon, which is an increase over the number that is there now, as one might expect, we are hopeful that will meet the graduate needs of Manitoba, which have been in the range of, as I say, about 38 to 47 over the last three years that I have information on memory.

Of course, my honourable friend must respect that this consolidation of the school is the beginning point of enhancing the educational opportunities for registered psychiatric nursing at the Brandon site in Brandon, Manitoba.

School of Psychiatric Nursing Selkirk Closure - Review

Mr. Gregory Dewar (Selkirk): Given the dramatic shortage of trained psychiatric nurses that will result from the closure of the school, will this minister now reconsider his decision to close the school, a move that was even condemned by the Manitoba Chamber of Commerce in its most recent convention?

Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health): I hate to break with the normal opinion that New Democrats have that the Chamber of Commerce is nothing but an arm of the provincial government when it is Conservative and political striped.

My honourable friend did not choose to listen to my answer. The graduates over the last three years from two schools have ranged from 38 to 47. We are anticipating 45 slots of training available in the consolidated school. There is some consistency in that number.

Secondly, when my honourable friend indicates a shortage of psychiatric nurses in the province of Manitoba, my honourable friend ought to know that, of those graduates, ranging from 38 to 47 over the last three years, anywhere from 14 in one year down to about eight or nine sought employment outside of the province of Manitoba.

The balance were employed in Manitoba, but the ones who sought employment outside of Manitoba did so because employment opportunities were not available. They wanted to remain in Manitoba, but sufficient positions were not available to be filled by those graduates.

Mental Health Care Nursing Consultations

Mr. Gregory Dewar (Selkirk): Will the minister agree to real partnership in the mental health system and grant the request by the Registered Psychiatric Nurses Association to place a psychiatric nursing consultant in the Mental Health Division so that the minister does not make any more mistakes like the closure of the Selkirk school?

Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health): Mr. Speaker, I always take my honourable friend's offer of co-operation very seriously. I just hope that, when the New Democratic Party comes around the issue of the consolidation, the improvement of registered psychiatric nursing in Brandon, Manitoba, they consult with the member for Brandon East (Mr. Leonard Evans) and assure that he is in disagreement with that as portrayed by my honourable friend the member for Selkirk.

Where does the New Democratic Party stand? Do they want improved psychiatric nursing training in Brandon, as the member for Brandon East (Mr. Leonard Evans) does as a front bencher of the New Democratic Party, or do they want to participate in the silliness of my honourable friend from Selkirk?

Manitoba Interest Rate Assistance Cash Payments

Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Second Opposition): My question is to the Minister of Finance.

Mr. Speaker, in the 1990-91 budget, one of the highlights of his announcements was a program called the Manitoba Interest Rate Assistance Program, an interest rate assistance program which would be given to farmers and which was targeted as some \$23.6 million.

Mr. Speaker, I asked the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Findlay) last December for the amounts. He would not give them to me. I asked him again in March for the amounts expended on this program. He would not give them to me. Finally, in Estimates on Monday night, he did give them to me, and it was not \$23.6 million. It was \$14.4 million.

Will the Finance minister tell the House today if it is now the intention of this government to take the remaining \$9.2 million and give it out in direct cash payments to the farmers of the province of Manitoba?

Hon. Clayton Manness (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, in accordance with the open fashion of this government, the Minister of Agriculture provided that number to the Leader of the Liberal Party (Mrs. Carstairs) the other night.

The member knows full well the accounting policies of the Province of Manitoba. When we put forward the budgetary amount of twenty-three-point-some million dollars, Mr. Speaker, it was our full expectation that all of that

money would be called upon and it would indeed flow. Inasmuch as the farm community chose in part not to exercise their right to call upon that, that money therefore lapsed, as is the general nature of all expenditures of government when indeed it is not called upon. It was set aside for use; it was not called upon by the farmers of Manitoba in totality, and therefore it lapsed. It will represent a saving, a contribution to deficit reduction for the '91 fiscal year.

Mrs. Carstairs: That is a fascinating statement, since there is an agreement signed between the provincial and federal governments saying that the Province of Manitoba will provide \$62.5 million directly to the farmers of the province of Manitoba. Included in that \$62.5 million is the \$23.6 million. The agreement further goes on to say that any significant shortfall in these Manitoba initiatives below \$62.5 million will be made by Manitoba in the form of cash payments directly to producers.

Is the Minister of Finance now saying that he is not going to fulfill Manitoba's part of the agreement between the Province of Manitoba and the federal Government?

Mr. Manness: Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that the covenants of the contract read by the Leader of the Liberal Party are still at issue, are still being discussed, but let me remind the honourable member, indeed all members of the House, that this government has contributed in excess of \$40 million in terms of our commitment to the Gross Revenue Insurance Program. I would argue in part that a significant part of that is in keeping with the covenants under the contract from which the member has just read.

Mrs. Carstairs: Mr. Speaker, the Order-in-Council No. 642, signed by this government, very clearly states the province's obligation to not only the federal government but, much more importantly, to the farmers of the province of Manitoba.

Is this minister saying that they are not just prepared to break faith with the federal government, but they are also prepared to break faith with the farmers of the province of Manitoba? What effect will that have on future federal payments to agriculture in our province?

* (1410)

Mr. Manness: Well, absolutely not, Mr. Speaker. Let me make the categorical statement, no government in the space of the last 10 or 15 years

in the province of Manitoba has directed more cash to the farm community than this provincial government has in this fiscal year. Whereas budgeting formulations in the past have had us set aside a large allowance for losses in the MACC account, that number is much lower.

The total amount of \$100 million-plus this year for the most part, virtually all of it, will represent an infusion into the agriculture community. That was not the case previously. Before, we had a larger portion within the drug and in the Semen Centre and in the lab testing areas that represented a service area. That has been removed and replaced by our premiums in GRIP and also in NISA, which will represent direct infusion of millions of dollars by this government. We are proud to do it, and we have honoured our commitment to the farmers of this province.

Gasoline Products Price Increase

Mr. Jim Maloway (Elmwood): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Co-operative, Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

We have been informed that a gasoline station, the Shell station in St. Boniface has increased its gas prices today by 9 cents a litre, from 45.9 cents to 53.9 cents. We have also been informed that another station, an Esso on Notre Dame, expects to increase its price per litre from 47.9 cents to 53.9 cents by the end of today. It has been reported that other gas outlets across the city are following suit. The fact of the matter is that the price per barrel of gasoline increased only 16 cents in the last day from \$20.08 yesterday to \$20.24 this morning.

I would like to ask the minister whether she is aware of any wars or turbulence in Alberta over the last few days that would necessitate such an increase in the price of gas to consumers?

Hon. Linda McIntosh (Minister of Co-operative, Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I note incidentally that, over the last few weeks, indeed over the last more than a month, when the prices have been depressed, I did not get any questions. I did note that the question came today when the prices have gone back up in an attempt to end the depressed price war scenario we have had over the last few weeks.

Mr. Speaker, you know, the prices fluctuate. The member is aware of that. He has seen that we are

consistently in the lowest prices across the country. We currently have the fourth lowest price in Canada, of the major cities surveyed by Energy, Mines and Resources Canada. We have prices that have been consistently lower than they have been in NDP Toronto, where they still are incidentally higher there in southern Ontario than they are here in Manitoba, and that is fairly consistent.

Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Opposition): What are you going to do?

Mrs. McIntosh: If the Leader of the Opposition wants to add his question to the member for Elmwood and ask what I am going to do, and if they are implying that what they think I should do is to regulate or interfere, as has been done in some other provinces, may I point out with respect that which I think they may already know, that prices in the regulated provinces are higher than us and have been higher than us since before I became minister, long before I became minister. They remain higher than us at this time, 60.3 cents, as a matter of fact.

Pricing Regulations

Mr. Jim Maloway (Elmwood): Mr. Speaker, it is very clear to me that this minister is indicating an intention to do absolutely nothing. She is more concerned about the oil companies' profits. It is very clear that the oil companies are giving orders and direction to this government. One only has to look at the financial statements that the party filed in the last week showing the contributions—

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Maloway: . . . those oil companies.

My question to the minister is: Will she endeavour to regulate the price of gasoline under the Public Utilities Board, since that is what is done with hydro rates, gas rates and Autopac rates? If it is good enough for those commodities, why is it not good enough for gasoline?

Hon. Linda McIntosh (Minister of Co-operative, Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the prices we are experiencing now are the same prices that we had last summer. If you look on the year to year, our prices are the same now as they were last summer.

Despite the shock that the market has had because of the Gulf War, we are not seeing an increase over last summer, and there are not a lot

of consumer products that have not increased in that same span of time.

I do not know if the members opposite want us to get into all kinds of arenas that we have not traditionally been in. Maybe they want us to go back to building airplanes, I do not know.

May I point out that, among the many experts and people who I have talked to since I have become minister, one whom is respected, I know, by the opposition, Professor Nicolaou, has spoken quite clearly against the concept of regulation saying that it is not advisable.

Mr. Speaker: Time for Oral Questions has expired.

Committee Changes

Mr. George Hicke (Point Douglas): Moved by the member for Point Douglas, seconded by the member for Wellington (Ms. Barrett), that the composition of the Standing Committee on Public Utilities and Natural Resources be amended as follows: Burrows (Mr. Martindale) for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie).

Moved by the member for Point Douglas, seconded by the member for Wellington, that the composition of the Standing Committee on Industrial Relations be amended as follows: Elmwood (Mr. Maloway) for Thompson (Mr. Ashton); Transcona (Mr. Reid) for Swan River (Ms. Wowchuk).

Mr. Speaker: Agreed? Agreed.

Mr. Edward Helwer (Gimli): Mr. Speaker, I would like to make some committee changes.

I move, seconded by the member for St. Vital (Mrs. Render), that the composition of the Standing Committee on Industrial Relations be amended as follows: the member for Sturgeon Creek (Mr. McAlpine) for the member for Roblin-Russell (Mr. Derkach); the member for Assiniboia (Mrs. McIntosh) for the member for Ste. Rose (Mr. Cummings); the member for Fort Garry (Mrs. Vodrey) for the member for Arthur-Virden (Mr. Downey); the member for Emerson (Mr. Penner) for the member for Lac du Bonnet (Mr. Praznik); and the member for Riel (Mr. Ducharme) for the member for La Verendrye (Mr. Sveinson).

I move, seconded by the member for Fort Garry (Mrs. Vodrey), that the composition of the Standing Committee on Public Utilities and Natural Resources be amended as follows: the member for

Seine River (Mrs. Dacquay) for the member for Ste. Rose (Mr. Cummings).

Mr. Speaker: Agreed? Agreed and so ordered.

House Business

Hon. Clayton Manness (Government House Leader): Mr. Speaker, I would like to make an announcement of a committee time, but first of all, I would move, seconded by the Minister of Justice (Mr. McCrae), that Bill 44, The Public Utilities Board Amendment Act, be withdrawn from the Standing Committee on Public Utilities and Natural Resources and transferred to the Standing Committee on Industrial Relations, by leave.

Mr. Speaker: Does the honourable government House leader have leave to switch committees? No. There is no leave? Leave is denied. Order, please.

Mr. Manness: Mr. Speaker, Bill 44 has been referred to Public Utilities and Natural Resources, and I will ask then that standing committee to sit tonight at eight o'clock to consider Bill 44, and if required to sit tomorrow afternoon at 1 p.m. to also consider Bill 44.

Mr. Speaker: I would like to thank the honourable government House leader for the information.

* (1420)

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Hon. Clayton Manness (Government House Leader): Mr. Speaker, I ask whether there is a willingness to waive private members' hour this afternoon?

Mr. Speaker: Is it the will of the House to waive private members' hour? No. Leave is denied.

Mr. Manness: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Minister of Justice (Mr. McCrae), 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 agreed to, and the House resolved itself into a committee to consider of the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty with the honourable member for St. Norbert (Mr. Laurendeau) in the Chair for the Department of Health; and the honourable member for Seine River (Mrs. Dacquay) in the Chair for the Department of Industry, Trade and Tourism.

CONCURRENT COMMITTEES OF SUPPLY

SUPPLY—HEALTH

Mr. Deputy Chairman (Marcel Laurendeau): Will the Committee of Supply please come to order. This afternoon, this section of the Committee of Supply meeting in Room 255 will resume the consideration of the Estimates of the Department of Health.

When the committee last sat, it had been considering item 2.(c) Women's Health: (1) Salaries \$415,200, on page 84 of the Estimates book and on pages 42 and 43 of the Supplementary Information book. Shall the item pass?

Mr. Gulzar Cheema (The Maples): Mr. Deputy Chairperson, can the minister tell us, has the position for the director of the department been filled?

Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health): Yes.

Mr. Cheema: Can the minister tell us the qualifications of the individual who is the director of this department?

Mr. Orchard: Sue Hicks—and I guess she has been with the ministry for a number of years—was in the directorate prior and had come from the regions to the department.

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, what is the experience in terms of the women's issues affecting health care, specifically?

Mr. Orchard: Well, she has been active in a number of general public health issues and, most recently, issues more focused on women's health issues, and that is through a variety of involvements and experience, including involvement with the Canadian Public Health Association.

Mr. Cheema: I am asking the basic qualification of this individual that relates to health care.

Mr. Orchard: Nurse—Master of Public Health in Nursing.

Mr. Cheema: I just wanted to know the qualifications.

There are two more positions out of 10 positions. How many positions are not filled yet?

Mr. Orchard: Two vacant positions and two term positions.

Mr. Cheema: What are those two vacant positions?

Mr. Orchard: A program specialist and a clerical support.

Mr. Cheema: How long has this program specialist position been vacant?

Mr. Orchard: Several months, about December, I think.

* (1440)

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, what is the function of this program specialist, and who has been filling in for several months for this very sensitive position?

Mr. Orchard: The balance of the staff have been carrying an additional load, if you will, of responsibility. Everyone works on the projects of the directorate.

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, can the minister then tell us what is the reason why this position has been vacant? Are they not able to find a suitable candidate, or are there different other reasons?

Mr. Orchard: There is always a process of delay in filling vacancies. We are very, very careful as to how quickly we fill vacancies; it is part of the process.

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, it is, again, a pretty good answer or part of it. I am just asking, though, who has been doing the job. This person is supposed to do it, and what are the reasons why this position is still vacant? Is it going to be filled within that department? Has this position been advertised?

Mr. Orchard: No, it has not been advertised. The workload, as with all vacancies, when you have a vacancy, the workload is shared across the remaining staff as a normal share of workload.

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I do not want to be too critical about this position, but I think when so much has been said about this directorate and so many announcements were made and it has been a part of the, twice I guess, of the throne speech that so many things are going to be done for this directorate, particularly the Breast Screening Program and the midwifery issue, I am just very curious to know why such a sensitive position of a program specialist has been vacant for several months and why this has not been advertised so far?

Mr. Orchard: Well, Mr. Deputy Chairman, there are vacancies that are distributed throughout the

department. They happen upon occasion. When staff decide that they wish to move on, we sometimes have ample notice to fill, we sometimes do not. Vacancies are a part of government. We do go through a very deliberate process of filling vacancies, and this one, the workload is being shared across the other program specialists who are part of the directorate.

If my honourable friend wants to conclude that not filling it is an example of not wanting to proceed with women's health issues, that is fine. That would be a wrong conclusion. It is part of government in terms of the way we have been operating in terms of filling vacancies. The vacancy will be filled, but it has not been filled to date.

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, how many of the program specialists are within the department?

Mr. Orchard: There are two others.

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, could we have the terms of reference for this particular position, if we do not have it today, or the duties of this particular position?

Mr. Orchard: Yes, we can provide the job description.

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, can the minister tell us, other than initiating the Breast Cancer Screening Program and some issues concerning midwifery, what specific initiatives have been started under this Women's Health Directorate?

Mr. Orchard: Outside of breast cancer screening, aboriginal women's health, child health, early postpartum discharge, parenting in terms of the "Nobody Is Perfect" program, work with Planned Parenthood Manitoba, reduced postpartum stay initiatives, reproductive health counselling, reproductive technologies—I guess about a fairly recent participation in that in terms of the federal initiative—and, of course, my honourable friend mentioned breast cancer screening, and in the midwifery study programs.

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, the minister has mentioned the program of reproductive health. I will just again ask him to reconsider his decision for deinsuring the reversal of sterilization on compassionate grounds, and I think it will not be a saying that the opposition told you so, we are just asking on compassionate grounds. It is not a large

number, and I think it should be left up to the Health Services Commission to decide on those bases. Would that be a reasonable request?

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Deputy Chairman, I have had discussions around that issue. A legitimate case came forward about an individual whose spouse died unexpectedly and suddenly, and we are giving very, very serious consideration and I believe will accommodate that request.

At the same time, my colleagues suggested when the issue was discussed that the same circumstance of personal tragedy can exist, for instance, if one's children are tragically lost, and we are considering that as well in terms of attempting to narrow the focus of the reversal of sterilization.

So my honourable friend's suggestion on the loss of a spouse has been taken very, very seriously by government, and in a discussion the second issue came up of tragic loss of children. I think my honourable friend will be pleased with the resulting discussions.

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I really appreciate that approach. I think it is very positive. If there are a few things not being done, and if the government is not going to change its mind on certain issues, but specifically if they are going to make some provision that will really be very helpful and at least allay some fears in terms of somebody who cannot pay for the reversal of sterilization. I do not have the exact amount with me, but I think it is quite expensive in certain cases.

I will go with a further issue, as one of the initiatives the minister has mentioned is aboriginal women's health. Can the minister tell us who is in charge of this program, and what is their mandate?

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Deputy Chairman, I think it is fair to say that we are trying to, through consultation and discussion at the Women's Health Directorate, identify maybe specific directions, if that is the appropriate phraseology to use, to deal with some of the issues surrounding aboriginal women's health and that, of course, will lead us into discussions about aboriginal women's health and their newborns, because some of the areas where we know there are more unfavourable statistics, the health status statistics. We are attempting to formulate problem identification, prioritization and discussions toward policy and assistance in some of those areas.

Let me deal with some specifics. I mentioned the "Nobody Is Perfect" program. What I will do is, I think, if my honourable friend has not a copy of the kit and the information educational brochure, I will make it available. Basically, it is a parenting skills program with multicultural content and has been utilized in some northern communities. A small number of aboriginal women have been trained as facilitators, and it is to upgrade the potential parenting skills of aboriginal mothers.

* (1450)

Twenty-five trained community health workers are employed by Manitoba's Community Health Services division, and nearly all are aboriginal women. They are living and working within their own communities where they provide health services in conjunction with public health nursing staff of the area. The program has been, I think, quite successful, and that is part of ongoing, and I have to say, hopefully, enhanced opportunity for aboriginal women in terms of expanding their opportunity to be part of the care delivery regime.

Manitoba Health, Manitoba employment and economic security were jointly funding a 30-week health care orientation training program at The Pas. The purpose of the program is to expose aboriginal women to careers in health care and provide basic knowledge for solving personal health problems. Eleven women from Cormorant, Moose Lake, Easterville and Grand Rapids are enrolled in the first session, so there are some of the initiatives that are ongoing right now.

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, the minister has indicated that some of the statistics are indicating the severity of the problem. Even though the minister knows that some of the aboriginal issues are in the age group of the very young, and they have children who are having a lot of problems, but some of them are registered, some of them are not registered, so they are really lost within the system.

I do not want to go through all the statistics where I think there is a problem. It is quite a serious one. Also, it should be combined with the sexually transmitted diseases, have an AIDS education program and street outreach worker programs, some of the things which have been initiated, but I think more needs to be done on the reserves. That still brings a question of who is responsible to do all of those things.

As long as the Department of Health is aware of and continues to take some leading role, as they have done in this department, in this area specifically, I think it is a good model. I have been able to do some research personally, and I was very pleased. I just wanted the minister to know that it is a positive step.

My next question will be in terms of—the minister knows that our party has put forward a very important resolution in front of the House. It is on the fetal alcohol syndrome, which has very serious manifestations due to the alcohol used during the pregnancy. The statistics are there. The issue is not new, but it may be new for the politicians.

I am asking the minister to give due consideration for that particular resolution by the member for River Heights (Mrs. Carstairs) to make sure that it gets proper attention and not get lost in the usual stuff of one-hour time and trying to put more speakers and some proposals, and then self-congratulating governments as the minister has done many times.

I am asking his particular attention to this particular issue. I think that part could be included under the aboriginal part of the program so that the education can be done. I hope that the minister will support our resolution.

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Deputy Chairman, the ministry and the Women's Health Directorate already undertake a pretty proactive awareness and education program on fetal alcohol syndrome. It is an integral part, as I understand, to the prenatal classes and the public health education classes. It is very much a part of the counselling that we provide. When I mentioned earlier about our community health workers that are nearly all aboriginal women, they very much carry the message to the Native women who are expecting. I think it is fair to say that in fetal alcohol syndrome the problem—and one always risks when one uses a generalization—but I think it is fair to say that the problem follows socioeconomic lines.

The middle and higher income women, I think, are less affected than are lower income socioeconomic groups. So that we have discussed and have been trying and indeed have been focusing—not just before this government but the department has been focusing—on greater efforts in education and awareness along the socioeconomic lines as well, because we recognize that as a higher-risk group.

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Deputy Chairman, also the minister knows full well that the infant mortality rate is quite high in the aboriginal population as compared to the others and does have a direct bearing with the socioeconomic status and also the poverty and some other factors and also the problem with the federal government how they have handled the whole issue of Native health for the last so many years. I think particular attention can be given to that aspect.

My next question is regarding a postpartum discharge program. As we have discussed every time in Estimates, I think last time the minister said that we only had programs in two hospitals, St. Boniface and I guess at women's hospital, and they were thinking of expanding to other hospitals. Can he give me an update on that particular program?

Mr. Orchard: I have to apologize to my honourable friend, I was just discussing with my assistant deputy minister and missed the last part of his question.

Mr. Cheema: I am asking if this program, based on the success of this program, is going to be expanded to other hospitals.

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Deputy Chairman, I think that I can answer yes to that. The reason I say I think I can answer yes to that is that is one of the issues that is being studied at the Urban Hospital Council level. Let me indicate the reason why.

The program, I think, it is fair to say has been successful in the two hospitals in which it has been tried. We know it works, we know it works well. It was—how do I put this genteelly? The program was forced to work all during the month of January, because a number of newborns and their mothers were discharged very, very early, probably in some cases earlier than the formal program would normally dictate. That was right across the system.

The young fellow who works with me in the farming operation at home had his first born—he and his wife had their first born—during January. She is a Bachelor of Nursing graduate, worked at the hospital and found that she was home within 24 hours and found it to be a very interesting process to be on the patient end of advice she had been giving for a number of years as a practising nurse.

Okay, the point being, though—and I think my honourable friend would understand—is that we were able within the month of January to undertake quite significantly lowered stays for all mothers, with

few exceptions, because of the strike. It also showed us that we can support that activity in the community in times of crisis. Which means that with reasonable program development we can support it very, very clearly—we can support it in a planned fashion. So that the Urban Hospital Council is dealing with it as an issue, and it certainly has been an issue that is part of the range of issues studied by the Winnipeg hospital role study. That study, as an interim report, is at the Urban Hospital Council for any advice it might be to them in terms of decision making.

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I think positionally for the last two years it has been shown in Estimates that this program is very successful. Certainly, due to the strike—I think I have to be careful what I say about strike, which hospital I am going to name. I have learned my lesson in a very hard way, which was a very innocent way of doing things, but those things happen. I think it was one of the lessons learned that the early discharge program was very effective and could be put into place in other community hospitals.

I will go to my next question. —

* (1500)

Mr. Orchard: I think my honourable friend also knows that only with community support can it work, but the point I made is that it was able to work with safety for mother and new-born in times of crisis caused by the strike in which there was not the formal opportunity to plan, et cetera, et cetera, its implementation. So I think that is why I can almost prejudge maybe one of the recommendations that may come out of the Urban Hospital Council, this being one of the recommendations for change.

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I think that my next question may be part of the Health Services Commission about the re-organization of some of the obstetrical units in the hospital. I will wait till that section comes.

The next question is in regard to midwifery. We got the copy of the report from the minister's office and I want to thank him for that. Can the minister give us some guidelines on how and when we are going to achieve the final draft for any regulations in regards to midwifery in Manitoba, and when the minister will bring the required legislation to proceed in that direction?

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Deputy Chairman, the report that I sent to my honourable friend was the report from the College of Physicians and Surgeons and MARN. That report now is subject to wide community distribution. I think we probably sent 200 reports to different organizations who had an interest in the issue. We want to hear their reaction and their feedback and their suggestions to the College-MARN report. We have got a committee that will then collate or study—I hate "studies"—consult with the community. I hate to use that word because you know who is here. At any rate, we want to try and put together reasonable and workable recommendations on the implementation of midwifery within the Manitoba system.

Chairing that committee is Dr. Patricia Kaufert. The committee is just in the process of gearing up, and I think the first meeting is tomorrow on it. Let me indicate to my honourable friend, one of the major guiding principles for implementation of midwifery that I wish to see is that midwifery does not become an add-on and cost to the system and another layer in terms of service delivery. If midwifery is going to be a legitimate alternative that women choose—it has to be, in my estimation and I would hesitate to approve it otherwise—if it is going to involve layered professional input and hence drive the cost, it must be within current costs.

I think everybody who has talked about midwifery has made the case that it can be as safe, it can be more satisfying for the mother and the family. They have often combined that in a win-win presentation to government, that it can also be done in a less costly fashion to the health care system. I want to assure myself that that is possible and achievable and, should it be, I think you would see this government very much proceeding posthaste with implementation of a program. If the recommendations come back that it is a service available but adding to the cost of the system then it will not, in today's circumstance, receive the open and favourable welcome that a program proposal that meets agendas, as I had mentioned a few seconds ago, would.

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I just wanted to put a few comments on the record as we have gone through this report also. I think one of the issues here is whether this is going to be an add-on position. Are you going to have extra

resources to put in place and still provide the same services?

I am sure, as the opposition, probably we should not be commenting on that, but I think as a responsible individual I think we will have to make sure that there is no possibility of extra cost. Otherwise, we are just duplicating services. I am sure there is going to be a lot of competition then: who is going to do what and who is going to be responsible? Ultimately there should be some mechanism to make sure these are, as much as possible, not add-on services to the taxpayers.

I think there are a number of other issues in terms of the education standards and setting a special area for the nursing, for this particular position, and then who is going to be responsible for liability. I think those issues have to be very carefully looked at in terms of the final responsibility because it is a very sensitive area where there could be some difficulties even with a normal, so-called normal, pregnancy. There could be problems and there is always a 5-10 percent chance that things could go wrong.

I think that issue has to be discussed because as far as I know I think there are two or three provinces that may have the same kind of smaller projects, not really a larger area, especially I think Quebec has one. Ontario did have a part of—they had one project, but really no province has taken a major stand on the whole issue.

I would ask the minister to look into those aspects very carefully so that the proper standards and proper care can be provided and at the same time as much as possible we should try to avoid the add-on cost. I think in that regard the consultation process with the College of Physicians and Surgeons, the nurses' organization and the community group one is a very positive one, so that everyone knows what they are getting into, and so that the ultimate result should be a compromise, but not on the basis of paying more money out of taxpayers.

I just want the minister to be—as I was going through the report and I found some of the remarks, I think they should be taken into consideration and finally we will see something very positive.

I think other provinces probably can learn from our experience in bringing in, maybe initially, a small project in one hospital in one area, and then develop a Manitoba model which is going to be really unique

because of our demographic variation and our population, and our aboriginal communities and isolated communities in certain areas. So rules and regulations may not—not rules and regulations, but the European model may not apply in Manitoba. I think we have to be very careful. We do have to model in one area, one hospital—probably not hospital—but one area and then eventually develop on that.

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Deputy Chairman, I appreciate my honourable friend's contribution because he has echoed some of the concerns that one would have in introducing the program. In terms of the committee that would be moving the report through to recommendations and a plan for implementation, they are looking at what Quebec and Ontario are proposing to do, so that is part of their study, to see whether we can learn in advance, rather than reinventing the wheel.

I should have mentioned this, but my honourable friend mentioned a first in Canada, and indeed we have the opportunity, I think, with this report and with the kind of co-operation around the issue, because to be first in Canada—I am quite sure that this may even be the first in Canada, but certainly in Manitoba: this is the first time that two professional associations, nursing and physicians, have come around an issue to jointly work on a report.

I guess that kind of demonstrates the co-operative atmosphere that we have been able to foster, and that will benefit all of us, taxpayers through to health care consumers.

* (1510)

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, just one comment and then the member for St. Johns (Ms. Wasylycia-Leis) will maybe ask questions on this particular section. I think it is one example of a very true part of the consultation, how this thing as a whole evolved over a period of so many years. Ultimately at least all the interested parties know what they want to achieve. They have all formulated the policy and they have come to at least basic consensus on some of the focal points. Definitely, it is the first one that is going to be in Canada. If it is going to be wider as we hope it to be, I think it will be very positive.

Ms. Judy Wasylycia-Leis (St. Johns): Just to follow up questions where I left off the other day on breast cancer, and I know we have been over this issue a few times, but I would like to get it a little

clearer in my own mind in terms of the government's plans.

The minister gave us some fairly shocking statistics the other day: 157 deaths from breast cancer; 655, I believe he said, diagnosed cases of breast cancer for the year 1989. Other information shows us that one in every 11 Canadian women is struck with breast cancer. Also, statistics show us that mammography plays an important role in reducing deaths by about 20 percent and therefore is an important interventionist technology.

I know the minister has said that he has concerns—I believe he has said he has concerns about the technology in terms of breast screening, and that he is awaiting studies. I am just wondering if he could give us a clarification in terms of what the evidence has been to date in terms of problems and which study is he waiting for and what exactly is it focusing on?

Mr. Orchard: Not that I want to get into a debate with my honourable friend, but did my honourable friend say that mammography has reduced deaths from breast cancer by 28 percent? I would be interested in knowing where that comes from because—and I do not want to get into an argument over the issue with my honourable friend, but that is the whole problem that is emerging as more expert knowledge is focused on mammography and it is a value to the system.

We have some concerns over recent studies which are showing that in fact that there is an increased incidence with screening rather than without, and that is a result of studies which can only take place after several years of screening programs in other areas and jurisdictions. It might be interesting to note that while we are wrestling with not government but a committee of experts in Manitoba in terms of coming to grips with providing a recommendation to the Province of Manitoba, I want to tell my honourable friend that Norway as a nation, for instance, has recently, I guess within the last year, rejected the suggestion or the program of mammography as an early detection program because it has not been demonstrated to their satisfaction that it works.

My honourable friend the member for The Maples (Mr. Cheema) says he has to be cautious from time to time about what he says, but let me be as open as I can with my honourable friend. A great number of people believe the answer to early detection lies

with breast cancer screening. That has been pushed by two groups in North America: No. 1, manufacturers of the equipment; and No. 2, physicians who believe that use of the equipment will do that.

You might recall last week, we got into the issue of the technology drive in medicine and in health care, and this is a classic example, because we have women believing that if they do not have a mammography, they are probably not receiving adequate health care, but yet growing opinion of experts upon studying mammography are beginning to question its value as an early detection tool.

It is an expensive program. That is not the reason why we are wishing to seek a greater knowledge around its potential implementation. That is not the reason at all, but because it is a significant commitment of resource, we want to make sure it works, and there are people who are of the opinion that it may be not as effective as has been sold to us by the manufacturers and the proponents, radiologists mainly, out of the American health care system wanting and advertising openly and raising the awareness without medical outcome proof or statistics or data to reinforce that it is an adequate program. That is the stage we are at right now.

Our committee is very diligently trying to work through information to provide us with a good recommendation. They have not done that yet. I am hoping that they complete their investigation and give us guidance by the end of this year.

You know, when a nation like Norway, as a nation, comes to the conclusion that they are not going to provide mammography as a screening detection device, they are faced with the same question of whether it works or not that we are wrestling with right now.

Ms. Wasylcia-Lels: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I appreciate what the minister is saying. I certainly also want to err on the side of caution, although on a case like this we are dealing with some pretty shocking statistics in terms of half of our population and particularly high statistics among women over the age of 65. It seems to me that we do not have a minute to lose in terms of finding some technology to ensure early detection so that measures can be taken, treatments can be undergone so women do not have to die.

I am wondering if the minister shares my concern. Here we are in the year 1991. Breast cancer has been around for a long time and we still do not have proper technology, and we are not prepared at this point to implement a program that will cut down on the number of deaths of women in our population. Why are we still at the point of studying something that has been around for so long?

Mr. Orchard: You know, I have been trying to explain that to my honourable friend, not only today but for the last two weeks. There are the proponents of mass screening by mammography. The major push in the world I have to say comes from the manufacturers of the equipment. Their goal may or may not be as broad as our goal. Their goal is to sell equipment and make money selling the equipment. Our goal in the health care system is to assure that when we make that investment that it is going to achieve the objective we believe it should, early detection and saving of lives in women.

The difficulty is that after introduction of that technology, studies are emerging that show in fact it may increase the incidence of cancer; in other words, to put it as bluntly as I understand it to be, may cause cancer. I cannot, in conscience, personally without full knowledge recommend a program which may cause cancer.

* (1520)

Point of Order

Ms. Wasylycia-Lels: Point of order, I think the minister misread my question. I was not repeating my earlier question about the program. I was expressing my concern as well in terms of if there are health hazards associated with a particular technology then that should be dealt with.

I was asking the minister—and this was not a critical question in terms of his goal as a minister or his government—but I am asking him if he has any understanding or knowledge to help me and others understand why in the year 1991, when breast cancer has been around for so long, we are only at the stage of trying to figure out what might work as a detection method. Where have we gone wrong as a society? Is it because we are dealing with a particular group in society? Has it to do with research in terms of this area? I am just asking if he has some understanding based on his department advice or groups he consults with in terms of helping us understand that.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: The honourable member for St. Johns did not have a point of order. She was only clarifying her question.

* * *

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Deputy Chairman, I cannot answer that, but I think I can answer it in this way. I believe that when the technology of the screening devices was advanced to production and sale, I believe that the proponents or the manufacturer believed that they were providing what my honourable friend wants. Unfortunately, as sometimes happens with new technology, it did not deliver the expected goal, and we are finding that out in terms of studies done on initiatives where the screening program has been brought in. That is what is causing the experts who are reviewing the issue to advise some caution, and I think they are cautious in terms of what advice they might want to give.

Now, if my honourable friend wants to say, and I detect it in her question, because it affects a group of people, because it is a woman's issue it has not taken priority, I cannot say that that is the case, and I do not think anybody can say that that is the case. I certainly have not been advised by anyone anywhere that because it is a woman's health issue, it is not an issue. So I cannot answer my honourable friend's question.

Ms. Wasylycia-Lels: I appreciate that, but I think there is probably some correlation. Some people—and I do not want to get the minister's back up on this—have made a parallel between breast cancer and AIDS as two very serious health issues, but because they have been particularly prevalent in a particular group, in the case of breast cancer, women, and the case of AIDS, our homosexual community, there has been less attention paid to research and development of treatments.

I simply suggest that to the minister. I have no basis for saying that, except I think one area where we can look at understanding our lateness in responding to an issue like breast cancer is in terms of the research dollar. I am wondering if the Minister of Health could tell us what percentage of the health research dollar in Manitoba goes towards women's health issues.

Mr. Orchard: I will have to try and provide that information to my honourable friend, but if my honourable friend is saying that there is a linkage between breast cancer, because it affects women,

and AIDS, because at one time was almost exclusively in the homosexual community, and that AIDS does not receive research money because of that, my honourable friend ought to talk to researchers from North America involved with the United States research. The exact opposite accusation is made, that we have put too much resource on AIDS and it has taken money away from cancer and heart and lung and other disease entity researchers in the United States.

Exactly the opposite case is made by researchers in the field, and I do not know where my honourable friend gets her information from, but I happen to have that kind of information coming from the research community, so I reject my honourable friend's linkage of AIDS and the homosexual community and no research because it is inaccurate, No. 1, with breast cancer in women as a linked issue somehow. It is not linked in anybody's mind that I know of.

Ms. Wasylycia-Lels: The minister says he will get information about the percent of research dollar in Manitoba for women's health. I am doubtful that the percentage, although I hope it is better than the Canadian average, is much higher than the national average, which is 3 percent. Three percent of the total health research dollar goes to women's health issues. I am wondering if the minister perhaps could see the correlation between that kind of lack of research in women's health issues and our lateness as a society in terms of addressing something as serious as breast cancer.

Mr. Orchard: I guess my honourable friend can conclude as she wishes, but is my honourable friend trying to say, because only 3 percent of health research nationally is attributed to women's health issues that the other 97 percent into cancer, into heart disease, into stroke, into every other disease entity there is does not have an applicability to 51 percent of the population who are women? Women get cancer, women have heart attacks, women have strokes, women have lung disease, on and on and on.

Now in terms of specific focus on issues such as breast cancer, I cannot give my honourable friend the percentage of it, but you know, not that I want to belittle my honourable friend's issue, but men get breast cancer too. A good friend of mine went through extensive surgery for breast cancer—a male. I know my honourable friend maybe wants to make a case, but to make the case that she is

making would have women absolutely outraged that the initiation of research into AIDS at the National Institute of Health and the Centre for Disease Control and other very sizable established research communities in the United States could be criticized by every woman in the province because originally it was a male-homosexual disease.

I do not think any women criticized trying to come to grips with AIDS, to find out whether there is a cure, how we can develop vaccines and other areas of research, because AIDS—I think my honourable friend would admit now, because I have heard her use the argument that AIDS is no longer a narrow disease entity; it affects all people. So in making the argument she has made now of research would defeat the argument she wants to make on AIDS as being potentially a disease of all Canadians or all humankind.

Ms. Wasylycia-Lels: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I do not think anyone will dispute the fact that as a society we had been and continue to probably be slow in terms of addressing an issue like AIDS. It has taken a long time to get government's attention focused on that issue. It has been a long time coming to get the public aware of it. I think there is certainly a correlation between that and the issue of breast cancer and other health issues of particular concern to women.

No one doubts that and no one criticizes the research dollar that addresses issues that cut across both sexes, but we know, and the statistics show us every day, that there are particular health needs of women that continue to be underresearched, underaddressed and shuffled off to the side and, whether we are looking at the inadequate testing of birth control measures before put on the market, whether we are looking at the still yet available adequacy of screening equipment, we have a problem. I hope the minister just recognizes at least that much that I am saying.

I just wanted to raise a question in light of statistics around the women's health situation. It has been brought to my attention that illness among working women is 20 percent higher than among men, that illness among women who work full time in the home is 50 percent higher than among men. So we have a clear difference in terms of the health status of men and women, something that needs new research, new approaches and new understandings.

So I am wondering if the minister has any plans to address those kinds of statistics and ensure that research dollars, program planning and departmental work and so on try to come to grips with this differential health status picture?

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Deputy Chairman, what is the source of the statistics my honourable friend has just used?

Ms. Wasylycia-Lels: The source—he could contact Dr. Donna Chow, whom he no doubt knows in terms of her work in the area of cancer and women's health issues. Would you like any more information about the source?

Mr. Orchard: Is this a published research document she has done or—

* (1530)

Ms. Wasylycia-Lels: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I am sure that if you contact her—she is the author of papers and has made presentations and has done work through the Women's Health Research Foundation of Canada.

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Deputy Chairman, I want to deal with the issue that my honourable friend mentioned, about inadequate research, for instance, into birth control methodology, and how that has possibly caused, well, it has caused some health problems. I want to guarantee you that should a government have made the decision not to provide that birth control device to women, there would have been those who would have criticized the government for making that decision because they were denying women their right to health care services.

So when governmentsays, I do not know whether that is a good thing to do, and they are attempting to put in place the kind of research before technology is introduced to the system, it is done to prevent those kinds of things, but the easy thing for—and it is fed by the supplier and often groups who promote that, to have that device, that technology available, and if you do not make it available people are going to die, and that is what drives the system. There are critics, and I am saying critics generically, who are willing to come out and beat governments about the head for delaying anything for a moment, when, in fact, implementation of it may well cause greater health problems than it is attempting to resolve.

Let me deal with the issue in terms of research into that. We have made the case at the ministerial

level that what Canada needs is an opportunity, because this really comes home when reading second opinion. We do not have, anywhere in Canada or indeed North America, evaluation for new medical technologies. We put stuff into bodies—well, this is maybe an overstatement but we will use medical devices with less evaluation than we require automakers to go through in putting devices on cars. The case is made that we had better get our act together, and we agree.

We have participated, in part, on some initiatives because, you have to appreciate, this is a very, very complex issue, to evaluate medical devices. First of all, you have to decide who does it. My opinion is, that for a population of one million and with the health budget we have, we cannot afford to evaluate every medical technology. That position is shared with other health ministers. It is only Quebec and Ontario who have significant-sized provinces, wherein they can undertake, possibly independently, evaluation.

We are making the case that this is an area for federal-provincial co-operation, so that we can establish the standards. I hope we are able to achieve some co-operation there. The biggest issue is going to be, okay, who pays? Well, we are all going to have to pay. We do that within the Canadian blood system where we have a national agency so all provinces did not have to re-invent the wheel, and we all contribute according to our population. So I think we can do that.

The second issue is how then, if we have the formal approval vehicle in place, are we going to be able to have the opportunity of evaluation, because the public pressure is going to be there. I will give you two examples in the province of Manitoba.

We have CAT scans at Brandon General Hospital and the two teaching hospitals, St. Boniface and HSC. We have one community hospital that is into its second year of operation of a CAT scan. All other community hospitals are ready to go with a CAT scan. They want to have CAT scans because the drive in the system is there. They make, in their estimation, an excellent case for those CAT scans.

Do you know what we do not have in Manitoba? We do not have an evaluation as to the protocol for use of a CAT scan. In my opening remarks, you might recall that I indicated one of the areas the Centre for Health Policy and Evaluation is pointing out to us is that in a five-year period of time, I believe

it was, the investment, the cost of medical imaging went up 450 percent, driven by CAT scans, MRIs and other sophisticated imaging technologies and modalities. That is only the beginning.

I mean I had the opportunity to see what is on the horizon. There is a medical imaging technology, which is not MRI, where you line up, through magnetic intervention, the ions on your body and get an image. It is not X-ray, as is CAT scan, but it is sensors so sensitive that they pick up every single electrical impulse of your nervous system. These detectors are so sensitive and they have to be so well shielded that were they sitting out in the open, they would have detected the kick-in of the moon rover on the U.S. manned space visit to the moon. Where they kicked the electric moon rover on, it would have picked it up. That modality of imaging is next on the horizon.

Let me tell you what it can do. It shows you areas of dead tissue. If you have suffered a heart attack and part of your heart muscle tissue is dead, this will show it, because there are no nerve endings sending out the impulse. I see a linkage where that can fit into our health care system. I will give you the linkage.

We do open heart surgery. Some open heart procedures are probably done on individuals with dead heart tissue. I do not think I am saying something that is untoward. The medical efficacy of that has to be questioned, but yet you cannot—how does a medical practitioner make that decision? I mean, you have a person who honestly believes as a patient and a family that open heart surgery is going to help the individual. How do you end up saying, well, I do not think it will work? That kind of imaging modality can better prioritize those who receive the treatment and take it independently away from the judgment call of the physician, who will be blamed if they do not give—and I understand what drives them to make decisions in part. But then the question is: Are we going to use it with an effective protocol and not have it become a commonly used technology across the system?

The Centre for Health Policy and Evaluation, having identified the problem we have of growth, is now working very, very diligently to develop protocols for use for both CAT scan and MRI, because St. Boniface has the MRI in operation adjacent to their research building doing research but also clinical imaging. No question about it, Health Sciences Centre wants an MRI. I have to

ask myself, is the \$7 million-\$8 million investment that would require one of the highest priority investments for a million people? Secondly, once invested in and the capital is in place, the imaging costs are, I am going by memory, \$700-\$800 per image, and I think it takes pretty close to an hour to do the image. Is that an appropriate use of scarce resource in terms of improving the health status of Manitobans?

* (1540)

I am hoping to be guided in those kinds of decisions by the Centre for Health Policy and Evaluation so that I am not accused by critics—and I am not saying my critics in opposition, but by critics and observers of the system who say, well, you know the Minister of Health is just deliberately holding back, he is denying us care and we are going to die, because those are the very easy correlations that will be made anytime government would not accede to the latest technology request.

We are taking on evaluation outcome research. Let me bring my answer full circle for my honourable friend so that she understands where we are coming from. The Centre for Health Policy and Evaluation, through the linkage that we are attempting to develop with Statistics Canada population, will allow us to understand differential health issues. In other words, where a group, be it through socioeconomic circumstance, location in the province, gender, age, appear to have a health problem which can be remedied, that kind of research allows us to focus our health care dollars in new program and possibly prevention, possibly treatment.

It also opens the window to confirm in fact the statistic my honourable friend makes may well be correct, of 20 percent greater incidence of disease amongst working women. That is an opportunity that we have to statistically identify and, having that information, should that be the case, allows us then to find out what drives that and whether there are prevention remedies that may be introduced into the workplace to intervene early. So—long answer, short conclusion. The mechanisms that we now have in place and maturing allow us probably a greater opportunity to focus on gender specific women's health issues than ever we have had before.

Ms. Wasylycia-Lels: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, the minister may have not heard me when I also gave the statistic about illness being 50 percent higher

among women who work in the home than among men. I think both those statistics in terms of working women and women who work in the home are important in terms of where we go with respect to health care policy for women and make it incumbent upon us to address very seriously the underlying social conditions. I think those statistics probably, without doing a lot of research, point to economic, social factors and barriers facing women today.

I appreciated what the minister said about evaluation and testing. I would suggest that, while there is a correlation between products being put on the market and public demand before perhaps adequate testing and research has been done, there is probably an even stronger correlation between such products getting on the market and doctors encouraging and wanting those tests and those products because of the whole fee structure. There could also be a very high correlation in terms of, and I think the minister already said this, between just the drive of the health products companies to get things moving.

I would guess, based on the kinds of incidents that we have had in our society over the last little while, that it is likely that when it comes to women's health and particularly reproductive health issues, products do not go through the same kind of stringent evaluation and research and get put through the same standards that would be the case in terms of products and services and drugs for the population as a whole.

I think that the recent controversy around the Meme breast transplant is a good one. We are not sure about all the facts on this one and it is still an ongoing controversy, but I think that points to a serious issue. I wanted to ask the minister on this whole topic about the correlation between—or to ask him if research has been done in terms of the correlations between breast cancer and diet nutrition and correlations between breast cancer and treatment for PMS, because I think there are some serious issues there as well.

Mr. Orchard: I am informed that both of those issues have been studied, not in Manitoba, but have been studied and apparently are part of the study material that the implementation committee on mammography is looking at.

Ms. Wasylycia-Lels: I appreciate that. I was quite shocked to learn that when it comes to PMS, the standard approach in our society these days is to

basically say we are dealing with an ovarian failure, therefore we are dealing with a hormone deficiency and therefore we need estrogen therapy. Studies recently tend to show that among those who end up having estrogen therapy, there is a dramatic increase in terms of breast cancer. In fact, it was told to me recently that among women who have been on estrogen therapy for nine years or more, there is a 70 percent increase in breast cancer, and among those women who have been on both estrogen and progesterone therapy for over four years, there has been a 200 percent increase in breast cancer.

I think that tells me that we have not done the kind of research that is necessary and sometimes it seems to me, and I do not want to get the minister all excited, women tend to be used as guinea pigs, much more so than in the case of men. I think if men could get pregnant, we probably would have seen safe products for birth control on the market a lot earlier than we did or than is the case today.

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Deputy Chairman, it is interesting. My honourable friend and I are even going to agree a little bit on this, and this may just absolutely blow my honourable friend from St. Johns away, but I do not disagree with what she is saying.

I have had some discussions with the Women's Health Clinic, and it impressed me that their program—now I cannot say because I simply do not have knowledge of what other groups are doing in terms of their assistance with PMS—but if my memory serves me correctly, they have a woman physician on staff and they approach PMS from not the chemical intervention method, with the emphasis solely on chemical intervention, but rather on an acceptance to a degree that this is a natural phenomenon of aging that women will go through and give them noninterventive advice on how they can come to grips with the issue. I cannot tell you what they are, but all I can say is there are groups that very much are taking the issue seriously. I support their initiatives. I was very intrigued with the discussions I had. That is going back about a year and a half or two years ago.

These issues will come out and be resolved as a natural evolution, and I say that from this standpoint. The students in medicine used to be almost exclusively men. If you want to go back 35 or 40 years ago, I bet you did not find more than a couple of women in the faculty of medicine. Now I think it

is close to 50 percent, and as more women are trained as doctors, then there will be more emphasis on the practice of medicine in a nonpharmaceutical, or however we want to put it, method for women because there will be more understanding by the practitioner as a women on women's health issues, rather than the practitioner as a man on women's health issues.

I am not saying that men have not taken women's health issues seriously. They have, but I think it is also fair to say that they do not have the same perspective and understanding of the issues that women trained in medicine do. These things -(interjection)- All I am saying to my honourable friend is, you know, I am not hung up on what my honourable friend says. I think she is right.

Discussions I have had, particularly on PMS, have very much confirmed what she has said. There are opportunities to deal with that in a more progressive way, I guess is the word to say, rather than the traditional—well, my honourable friend said, the feminist way. I do not know whether I would say the feminist way, because that might cause my honourable friend to call me a pinko. I know she would not do that to me. Well, you would never call me a chauvinist.

The issues are being addressed and are being addressed in a more noninvasive way, which I think is appropriate and proper. -(interjection)- Well, I will not get into what I do personally.

* (1550)

Ms. Wasylycia-Lels: Mr. Deputy Chairman, just to back up briefly, I have one more moment on the mammogram and breast cancer. Right now, in the absence of a breast screening mammogram, I assume that all patients, all individuals who need a mammogram require or must—how can I put this?—are then referred for a diagnostic mammogram. Is that correct?

Mr. Orchard: I want to correct just one word: "need." Women who have been told they should have a mammogram right now have to access formal fee-for-service system and have a diagnostic mammogram. The process is the same, but the costs are higher than what you would normally encounter in a screening program.

Ms. Wasylycia-Lels: Could the minister indicate what the waiting list would be for women who have been told that they should have a mammogram?

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Deputy Chairman, I do not think there is a waiting list and very small if there is one.

Ms. Wasylycia-Lels: Roughly how many billings are done in terms of the diagnostic mammogram?

Mr. Orchard: It has been growing. I think I have it here now. Manitoba Health Services Commission in 1989—there were over 24,000 mammogram billings; cost, \$1.9 million. It is estimated, because that is the best we can do, that 60 percent of these were done for screening purposes.

Ms. Wasylycia-Lels: Could the minister clarify what—is he saying of these billings, some were screening mammograms?

Mr. Orchard: The estimate of the just over 24,000 mammograms, costing \$1.9 million, is that 60 percent of them were done for screening purposes, in other words, meeting a criteria of a screening program.

Ms. Wasylycia-Lels: It would seem then that there is not only from a human health point if you have some urgency to get the results of the study on breast screening, but there is also a cost issue involved because, in fact, if the breast screening procedure is roughly half the cost of the diagnostic mammogram, then the minister could be looking at saving up to a million dollars. So I just wanted to make that point, and ask, is it by this end of the summer or this fall that the minister expects to receive the final report and then make a decision?

Mr. Orchard: The working group—I am expecting a report in the fall of this year with recommendations from them. I am trying to find in some of my information here—yes, my honourable friend is right. If we can do a shrewd enough negotiation with the radiologists, probably we can cut the cost per mammogram, currently diagnostic at \$75, in half and probably can contain costs.

You have to remember, on the other hand, if we are going into a screening program we are going to—the target that has been suggested is 50- to 69-year aged women so that you would probably have greater numbers. Your cost to the taxpayers would go up, probably not go down, because you would do more numbers.

Secondly, bear in mind that there is no mature access criteria as to who ought to have a mammogram outside of the screening age group. Screening age groups have even been recommended for 40 and up, and the drive currently

in the United States has intrigued—I knew this was some place, but the latest media advertising in the U.S.A. and from numerous American professional groups, promotes mammography screening commencing at age 35.

There is not really the statistical justification for 50 to 69. I say that because Norway made the decision that they were not going to do it because there was not the evidence there, but appreciate my earlier point about the drive, that now young women may well think that they are being denied quality medical services if they cannot get a mammography at age 35. I am concerned about that because scientific evidence does not prove positively that it is good, and there is some evidence that it may, in fact, increase the incidence.

Ms. Wasylycia-Lels: Just one more question on mammography. In terms of the minister studying this whole issue, in addition to studying the health consequences of the actual screening process itself and the cost effectiveness of it, is he also looking into the different models, should a breast screening program be deemed to be the right way to go? Is he looking at the different options of putting in place such a program? I am thinking specifically, given the nature of our province and its similarity to Saskatchewan, is he studying their travelling mammography unit?

Mr. Orchard: Well, that is one of the options of a fixed location unit for the major population centre of Winnipeg and then mobile units should the program come in. That prejudices that we are going to go with the program, but that certainly is one of the options. Additionally, we continue a one-to-one teaching and educational and examination program. I do not have, because appreciate I do not know what is the right thing to do, a preconceived idea as to what we ought to do.

* (1600)

That is why—and then maybe it might help if I indicate to my honourable friend the members of the working group, because we have probably put together the pre-eminent experts in Manitoba on this committee. There is Dr. David Bowman from the Manitoba Cancer Treatment Foundation; Dr. Barry Anderson—now I do not know where he has come from; Chuck Sawyer; Pat Kaufert; Dr. Noralou Roos from the centre; Charlene Black; Dr. Heather Domke from the MMA; Dr. McKeown, who is a radiologist; Dr. Janice Sasneck, a pathologist; Dr. Patricia

Mirwaldt; Tracey Kelly from the Cancer Society; Leah Weinberg; Sandra Gessler, and then Sue Hicks as director from the Women's Health Directorate. As a matter of fact, Sue Hicks chairs the group.

Ms. Wasylycia-Lels: Just quickly, very briefly, on the issue raised by the member for The Maples (Mr. Cheema) on the early hospital discharge postpartum follow-up program, a program which I certainly support and have personally benefited from.

My question is—and I am concerned that it appears that there has been a significant increase in terms of early hospital discharges, but not a commensurate increase in terms of public health staff to do the kind of follow-up work that is required, so you end up with overworked public health staff resources being stretched to the utmost and probably less than adequate services provided.

I am wondering is that the case, and if so what is being done about it?

Mr. Orchard: Well, I think, pretty clearly, that was the case in January and possibly for the week leading up to and maybe for a week or two afterwards, not as a regular occurring event. Clearly, we understand that the program cannot be brought in without the ability to provide adequate community services.

Let me tell my honourable friend what we are trying to achieve. If we are going to, for instance, bring in as a program the early postpartum discharge across the system, and that is going to cost us some additional resource in the community and save resource in the hospital, we want to make the transfer from institution to the community. If you do not do that without being unfair to the institution, that budget line will continue and then you have built and you have added to the community line. There has to be the replacement and that is not always easy to achieve, because every hospital will make the case that they have other places within that they can utilize that budget, but that does not get you to institutional reform and enhancement of community-based programs unless you make the linkage.

Ms. Wasylycia-Lels: Related to that issue, of course, is the whole midwifery issue and as the member for The Maples (Mr. Cheema) noted, the minister is circulating a report from the College of Physicians and Surgeons and MARN, a report

which has a particular point of view. It is very much focused on the nurse-midwife issue and does not at all recommend the other options.

I am wondering, in this consultation process, if the minister is encouraging a response equally to the kinds of proposals and suggestions being made by the Advisory Council on the Status of Women.

Mr. Orchard: Well, actually, Mr. Deputy Chairman, the Advisory Council on the Status of Women can feel gratified because that is why we ended up with the joint report between the college and MARN.

Without belittling the work done by the Council on the Status of Women, one of the critical analyses of that report was that it did not have the input of the professional side, be it nursing or physicians. Their report led us to the joint efforts of MARN and the college to deliver the report which is out for comment, including from the Status of Women, so that they can advise or critique the recommendations.

In general, I think there are several issues that have been identified which have to be resolved for implementation of program. The first one is in terms of the add-on to the system. I do not think anybody wants to have midwifery as a pure add-on to the system. In saying that, you have to come around with one other major issue: Who practises midwifery and what are their training requirements? After you answer that question: Can you access training programs elsewhere? Can you, for instance, certify already trained midwives who are here from other countries that have midwifery as part of their health care system?

All of those questions are answerable, if you will. Then you have to establish the liability issue, and of course one of the things that sort of maybe confused the issue was not the issue of midwifery as a professional care delivery system, but midwifery got very much associated with the issue of where a birth takes place, i.e., the home-birthing issue. The attachment of midwifery to home birthing is probably linked in many minds, but they are not necessarily the same issue. They are entirely separate. Midwives can deliver home births. In some countries they indeed do that under certain circumstances.

That is not the linkage that we made as government. We wanted to look at midwifery as the profession and how it can be potentially incorporated into the Manitoba health care system.

You get around that issue; then you have to deal with the where issue. After you establish whether it can be introduced, what is the professional training? What is the liability? What are the circumstances under which the program would operate? Then you can move into the where issue.

The where issue, I will tell you right now, I do not want to touch until we get the other questions, the fundamental questions, on whether the program can be fit into the Manitoba health care system.

Ms. Wasylycia-Lels: I would just make one final comment on this issue, and that is: I hope we do not in this whole process shut the door to options other than nurse midwifery. I hope we look at the results in Ontario and I hope we study other countries' examples, because the way I read the report that the minister is circulating, it is a pretty definitive statement on a general policy basis. It does tend to rule out looking at other options. I just hope that the minister and his government does not close the door on that whole issue.

Mr. Orchard: I do not think we are closing the door. I think we are trying to open the door on what is an appropriate educational standard for midwifery in Manitoba. Anytime government would bring in a new program as part of the health care system we become responsible for the quality of service delivery that comes out of there. That is why I indicated to my honourable friend, I did not want to get into the issue of where birthing takes place, but rather the qualifications of who might be a birthing attendant, and so I used the generic language of birthing attendant that may well be what is commonly known as a midwife.

Ms. Wasylycia-Lels: I am raising mostly concerns around "who" not "where" because I am concerned about the focus on going the nursing route and the baccalaureate route in order to qualify as a midwife. We have not resolved a position on that. I understand Ontario is not going that route and I would like to keep that option open.

Now, on to an issue that has tended to be fairly controversial in the past and will probably be so again and that is the question of reproductive health and whether or not the minister has changed his mind at all about the question of deinsuring therapeutic abortions in community clinics in order to avoid a costly court case?

Mr. Orchard: We are going to argue over the language again. We are providing access and

coverage under the health care system as required by the Canada Health Act. That issue was resolved, I believe, in July of 1988 and, in our opinion, remains resolved.

We have, as my honourable friend well knows, an outstanding issue which may well be before the courts. We believe our provision of therapeutic abortions in Manitoba will sustain any challenge initiated by anyone on any of the provisions of the Canada Health Act. We have not deinsured therapeutic abortions as my honourable friend has so alleged.

* (1610)

Ms. Wasylycia-Lels: The minister would not want to quarrel with the phrase "deinsuring therapeutic abortions in community clinics" because that is precisely what he has done. In the past when we have raised this and questioned the wisdom of it and referenced it in terms of provisions that have been made with respect to paying physicians' fees in other private clinics, the minister has suggested that the Morgentaler Clinic has been treated differently because the minister has said, and I am going back to Question Period of October 1990 in our Estimates for last year, that he has referred to "anyone performing a therapeutic abortion ought to have access and admitting privileges to hospitals."

Is the minister still basing his—or at least part of his decision on that thinking and that argument?

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Deputy Chairman, if my honourable friend might recall, the college extensively dealt with the issue and indicated that any therapeutic abortion must be performed by a physician with admitting privileges to a hospital. That led us to a crafting of the regulation that my honourable friend refers to and the issue around which we passed the regulation was an assurance of access then to needed health care in a procedure which has risk, as all medical procedures do. In making that regulation, we have ensured a greater degree of health protection for women in Manitoba and not, in any way, restricted or interfered with the Canada Health Act.

Ms. Wasylycia-Lels: I would think the minister should know that the college licensed the Morgentaler Clinic to perform therapeutic abortions because it was satisfied that the clinic could do the service safely in a free-standing clinic.

Mr. Orchard: Well, now hold it. Mr. Deputy Chairman, before my honourable friend gets too far out on the limb as to what the college did or did not do, what the college did was inspect the facility and indicate that the equipment and the facility was up to the standards that they insist on in terms of infectious control, et cetera. In licensing the Morgentaler Clinic, they said that it has equipment adequate to undertake the procedures that they were going to undertake. They did not make the other comment, as my honourable friend says, because within the licence they said any physicians practising there must have admitting privileges to a Manitoba hospital.

Ms. Wasylycia-Lels: The minister should know, and I hope he does know, that is the same provision that regulates all nonhospital facilities, particularly the private plastic surgery and cataract surgery clinics that I have referred to. The minister has argued, and he seems to be still arguing, that there is a difference, that the Morgentaler Clinic is in a different category than the other two types of clinics I have mentioned. Yet the bylaws governing such facilities state that the same requirement holds for all of them. I am wondering how the minister then, now given that, justifies singling out the Morgentaler Clinic from other clinics who are all regulated in the same way.

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Deputy Chairman, we can go through the argument many, many times. I will never satisfy my honourable friend because my honourable friend wants to fully ensure services at the Morgentaler Clinic. That is consistent with the New Democratic Party philosophy because just two weeks ago that is what her confreres in Ontario did. They fully ensured abortion clinics in Toronto. They did not exactly do it with—I can bring in the paper to show my honourable friend, because there was some dismay by everybody that it was done in secret behind closed doors and only leaked out a week or 10 days later. You do not want to swear that it was not an NDP government they were talking about, with the openness we hear urged on us all the time by the NDP here. Basically, my honourable friend is a member of the New Democratic Party where they believe that Morgentaler should be paid under the Manitoba health plan.

(Mr. Jack Reimer, Acting Chairman, in the Chair)

Mr. Acting Chairman, we have established a regulation which is consistent with the Canada Health Act which provides access and service

availability and which we believe protects the health of women. You know, I make no apology for wanting to have those goals in place. We are philosophically different in terms of how the NDP would proceed in this issue and, you know, I admit that. Ours is driven with the overriding concern of safe health procedures being provided, and we believe we have met that goal for women in this case. We will continue to meet that goal. We will not, however, undertake a funding proposal like Ontario.

Ms. Wasylycia-Lels: If the minister would like to get down to the real reasons for this decision, I would appreciate it because, I think, he has tried several routes and they have not held up. He has tried to make the case there is a safety issue, and, in fact, I think if he checks with the registrar of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, he will be told that the Morgentaler Clinic was licensed because it can provide safe procedures in a free-standing clinic. He has tried the argument about it being a private clinic, but we know that this government has not deinsured services provided in private plastic surgery and cataract surgery clinics.

That having failed, he has tried the argument that only physicians in the Morgentaler Clinic have to have admitting privileges to a hospital, and now we know that is not the case. I refer him specifically to bylaw 3.(d) of The Medical Act, which has a bylaw applying to all nonhospital facilities. I refer him to Schedule 2 of this document, which indicates clearly: No person may be granted privileges under the schedule unless currently provides similar privileges in acute care hospitals. It lists gynecology, plastic surgery, ophthalmology, so that argument does not work.

It is clear, I think, that it has to do with a philosophy and policy of the Progressive Conservatives which is basically antichoice. The way it is translated in policy is to deinsure a service that is hurting women and denying access to women. If that is the case, I wish the minister would just say it openly and we can have the philosophical debate.

I am wondering if the minister can justify putting in place a two-tiered health care system, particularly in view of the limited therapeutic abortion services available in hospitals, particularly given the long waiting lists at the Health Sciences Centre and the limitations in terms of 14 weeks, how he can justify denying this service to so many women and putting in place a two-tiered system.

* (1620)

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Acting Chairman, we have denied service to no woman on this issue. Let my honourable friend not try to make that phony case, and I am sorry if she wants to attempt to make it. It is not accurate. If services were being denied, we would be challenged under the Canada Health Act, so my honourable friend is not accurate when she says that.

I know my honourable friend would use, one in cabinet would do different than we have done, and she would pay or ensure Morgentaler's Clinic—I know that—but my honourable friend would not do it from the standpoint of improving access to service but from a philosophical standpoint, because we are providing the service in a number of hospitals at no cost to women who wish to undergo a therapeutic abortion. We are not denying services as my honourable friend says.

My honourable friend would want us to insure the Morgentaler Clinic. If the Morgentaler Clinic met an unmet need in the health care system, then that consideration or that opportunity could be made, but that is not the case. There is access in a number of locations in Manitoba and the service is provided in a much more timely fashion than most other medical procedures. In fact, the "waiting lists" are very, very, very small for therapeutic abortions compared to other medical procedures that are undertaken routinely throughout our hospitals. There are no service provision restrictions that my honourable friend talks about. There is no denial of service. There is no necessity for my honourable friend's accusation of a two-tiered system, because we will provide the service at no cost in a number of locations in Manitoba. So my honourable friend cannot make that case. If my honourable friend could make that case, we would have been challenged under the Canada Health Act.

Ms. Wasylycia-Lels: The minister has not won his court case yet. The court case has not even started. I do not know if he wants to make such predictions that he is entirely within the question of full access and equal access, then he has every right to make that. I think that whole question is very much up in the air, and if I was a betting person I would probably bet that this government is going to waste a lot of taxpayers' money in order to fight a needless and useless court case.

The minister says he is not denying access to anyone. Well, I think the fact that over 1,000 women go to the Morgentaler Clinic for therapeutic abortions and must pay, unless of course that clinic is willing to waive the fee for that therapeutic abortion, is clearly putting in place a two-tiered system. I think the minister should know that most of those women are there for therapeutic abortions and must pay for that service because the waiting period is so long at the hospital.

The minister may compare the waiting period for this procedure to others, but that is certainly not a fitting way to handle this issue. A month-and-a-half-long wait in terms of gestation is a long period of time, unless the minister of course is suggesting that having an abortion after the third month and thereafter is an easy thing to do.

He should know that for women, making a decision about an abortion is a difficult decision at any time and the more time that goes on the more difficult it is. He should know that it is precisely because of long waiting lists—particularly at the Health Sciences Centre, which provides the greatest number, the bulk of therapeutic abortions in the province in terms of hospitals—he should know the waiting lists, and he should know that is the reason for the significant number of abortions done at the Morgentaler Clinic. He should realize that is a denial of access and that is the establishment of a two-tiered system.

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Acting Chairman, I suppose my honourable friend and I could argue back and forth on that point and we would never convince each other. My honourable friend also knows when she puts her numbers out that a fairly significant number of the procedures at Morgentaler are not Manitoba women; they are from out of province. -(interjection)- I do not know what my honourable friend indicates by "some." We do not have, I suppose, as accurate statistics here as we could have, but indications are it is close to 40 percent are out of province.

If my honourable friend is accurate in her presumptions, then I suggest to her that the courts will so decide. I do not believe my honourable friend is accurate in her presumptions, and I will not convince her of the correctness of government's policy and I suppose vice versa.

Ms. Wasylycia-Lels: I do not want to drag out this issue. I know we have been over it many times.

I would just say we have had a long discussion on women's health, and for the record I want to say that I think when it comes to women's health, women make good decisions. They make good decisions about their reproductive health and I do not think we need to have those decisions being made by this government, by the courts. I think the minister could have left well enough alone and ensured that full choice was available through our medicare system and he would have seen that women would make very good decisions about themselves and their families.

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Acting Chairman, with all due respect, my honourable friend in saying that government has forced choices, that is not accurate, because, as I have pointed out to my honourable friend, the access to the service of therapeutic abortions is not narrowed in Manitoba to the Morgentaler Clinic. There are a number of hospitals in Manitoba to which access to the service is provided.

There are some hospitals that do not provide therapeutic abortions. St. Boniface is one of them, for religious grounds, and Misericordia for similar grounds and Grace Hospital also for religious grounds, but other hospitals provide the service. It is not as if Morgentaler's clinic was the only place the procedure could be performed. So for my honourable friend to say that we are forcing choices is wrong, on Manitobans. That is not accurate for her to say that.

Ms. Wasylycia-Lels: Just one quick comment and question before I pass it over to the member for The Maples.

It is true that the Morgentaler Clinic is not the only facility providing therapeutic abortions. I never suggested it was, but it is also true that very few hospitals now do the procedure. The bulk are done at the Health Sciences Centre. Seven Oaks might do a handful; Brandon, a handful; I believe, if I am not mistaken, Misericordia does a few but, outside of that, we are now down to almost very limited service in hospitals, and women are left with fewer and fewer choices. The deinsurance of this service, the Morgentaler Clinic, has added to the stresses and strains that women face and has really denied access.

I just wanted to, since the member for The Maples is coming after me, put on the record, I have equally strong concerns about Liberal policy in this area as

I do the present government's policy. I think it is absolutely a red herring for that party to keep suggesting it cannot support the Morgentaler Clinic because it does not provide the full range of therapeutic or reproductive health services.

I think the member for The Maples should take a visit to that clinic and realize that a full range of services are provided, that very good counselling services are provided and that it is very sensitive to the needs of women and their families.

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Acting Chairperson, I just want to go back a few lines, what the member for St. Johns and the minister were discussing. It is a very important issue in terms of the reproductive technology, and there were a lot of concerns, and one of them the minister has raised regarding IUCD and breast implants, but other issues are going to come. Some of them the minister has outlined quite well in terms of the new technology and how they would implicate not only other parts of the health care industry, so to speak, but also particular attention to women's issues.

* (1630)

There was supposed to be a royal commission. I am not up to date on that information. I am asking the minister, the royal commission was supposed to look at very specific areas that deal with the technology plus the other legal and jurisdictional problems as well as in terms of the reversal of sterilization, the in vitro fertilization and the legal responsibility for surrogate mothers and some other issues.

I would like the minister to tell us whether any presentation from the Department of Health has been made to this royal commission?

Mr. Orchard: Yes. Women's Health Directorate did make a presentation to the royal commission and, in my notes, I did not realize this, but I guess the royal commission received an extension of its mandate from reporting in October of this year, a year extension, to report in October 1992.

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Acting Chairperson, could we have a copy of the presentation which was made by the Department of Health to this particular royal commission?

Mr. Orchard: Yes, we can make that available. It was distributed last Estimates but I can give it to you again.

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Acting Chairperson, I think it is extremely important some of the areas of concern in terms of the reversal of sterilization, in vitro fertilization and the question of artificial insemination, in terms of basically saying in lay language, who is the owner of sperm and ova and how those things have an implication for the legal system in the long run. It is a very broad issue and that is why I want to have some input from the minister in terms of—they have a lot of research, what kind of research they did and what presentation have they made on the issue.

I just want to go to the next issue, if the minister wants to comment on that.

Mr. Orchard: As my honourable friend has identified, those are very, very complex issues and they are with in vitro fertilization and other techniques that may become more successful. Policymakers are going to be challenged to deal with how they handle technology. Technology in this area is very rapidly growing. That, I guess, is the whole reason why the federal government established the royal commission to seek wide opinion on those specific areas, because you are not only into the medical—how would I put this—the technical capabilities of medical technology in this area, but you are getting very much into the issues of ethics and moral issues involved around some of the questions my honourable friend has just asked. Let me assure you, any time you get into legislators trying to come to grips around issues which have ethical and moral implications, you open one massive raging debate. I think the federal government has probably been pretty astute in establishing the royal commission to seek pretty broadly based opinion and consultation around those issues.

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Acting Chairperson, I will look for the copy of the research document and also the presentation so that I can at least update my knowledge on the issue.

My next question, as the member for St. Johns (Ms. Wasylycia-Leis) has said about the issue of therapeutic abortion, I think it is important that—I will just first ask the minister a question before I put myself into any further trouble. The counselling done at the Morgentaler Clinic, just giving a name, is that counselling also covered? I am not asking about the therapeutic abortion as such. Is the counselling covered?

Mr. Orchard: I think any counselling they might do at the Morgentaler Clinic is part of their staffing costs, which are supported from their operational budget which we do not participate in.

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Acting Chairperson, our position is very clear. It is that we must have a wider range of services in terms of precounselling, postcounselling, adoption services. All the avenues must be explored. That should be the last avenue in terms of looking at a very broader issue. I think it just meets the human need in the way it should be, rather than going to a clinic and asking for a particular procedure without knowing what other services are there. It is a very stressful time during that period and people sometime can make a decision which they may repent their whole life.

That is why I think, from a realistic point of view, you must give them all the services and if those services are covered in any clinic, it does not matter whether it is clinic A, B or C, that is the way it should be. I think it is a position which is very reasonable and a very practical position. I would just want to reinforce our position that was taken in '88 and '90, and that is the way it is going to be. My question is to the minister—he said there is practically no waiting period for services in the hospitals. I am not sure that is probably a correct statement.

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Acting Chairman, I cannot answer what the counselling services available at the Morgentaler Clinic are, but I will indicate to you that the counselling services that are supported by the Ministry of Health are nondirectional and we provide support funding to a number of agencies through which they provide nondirectional counselling. They will, as my honourable friend indicates, try and inform women with unwanted pregnancies of what the range of options are, but not directional in any fashion.

There are a couple of agencies that we fund that recommend all range of procedures with the exception of therapeutic abortion, so that we think we try as much as possible to provide full advice, and also a full awareness of the procedure, what it involves, what some of the potential repercussions may be in terms of post-procedure, so that the individual can make as informed a choice as possible.

Mr. Cheema: Can the minister tell us if there are any specific counsellors available in each and every hospital through the Department of Health?

Mr. Orchard: I think that the hospitals within their budgets, they have their counsellors as part of their employee complement, if you will.

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Acting Chairperson, it is very interesting, because I think there is definitely a waiting period for counselling services in some of the institutions and I am not 100 percent sure about the time frame, how long you have to wait for the counselling services, and I would like the minister to get some information for us, so that we know whether that is for a fact or not. People sometimes have told us it is a long waiting period and you cannot get some of the services at times.

* (1640)

Mr. Orchard: Let me bear in mind that the hospitals themselves provide counselling. That is within global budget, but we have a number of funded agencies, from Planned Parenthood, Youville Clinic, Serena and, I suppose, directly through the department in terms of our regional services, so that the "hospitals" are not the only place where there is counselling. Indeed, physicians, I think, with few exceptions, will provide counselling to women with unwanted pregnancies as to what their options are, so I think there is quite a range of counselling opportunities.

A major emphasis for a number of years in government has been the telephone, toll-free line, which, on a confidential basis, can be accessed so that advice, again nondirectional, and range of options available, is provided to individuals who are seeking that kind of advice and counselling.

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Acting Chairperson, can the minister tell us for sure that each and every physician has those kinds of resources available to refer individuals if they want any counselling services?

Mr. Orchard: I can indicate that the physicians have all received the materials, but, of course, I do not know to what degree they have used them and have read them and availed themselves of it. Certainly, the availability to them has been assured.

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Acting Chairperson, can the minister make sure that the physicians are aware of these resources so that the individuals can have access to all the precounselling?—because I am not 100 percent sure that every person who goes to a physician's office and being referred to a counselling service is. I just want the minister to be

aware of that and make sure such services are available.

The other issue here is in terms of, not on just therapeutic abortion, but I just want the minister to be aware of the situation for breast implants. The federal minister, the new federal minister, I think he was very wrong when he failed to take action when he knew that there was some problem with the breast implants. Then the reports came and he had to change his mind. I do not know how many people in Manitoba had breast implants from that point of view.

Can the minister inquire if they have assisted the federal government to find those individuals so that they can have at least the benefit to go and get whatever obligation from the company who has issued those breast implants. Even though I am aware that some of the physicians who have done those services said there was no problem, I think we have to make sure the individuals having used the breast implants are satisfied.

Mr. Orchard: Yes, I hear what my honourable friend is saying. I am not sure what process is in place and I certainly cannot tell my honourable friend right now as to how many Manitoba women might, if any, have received the implant.

Therein lies the classic dilemma of a Minister of Health. My honourable friend indicated that the federal minister may have been in part at fault because he had some information which would have indicated less than satisfactory potential outcome here, yet went ahead. I mean, that is the same issue that challenges me right now with the mammography program, because we have the same kind of similar concerns expressed by professionals as to the efficacy of that procedure.

Yet on one hand the push is there that we have to have it: We have a second-class health care system. We are denying services. We are going to have women die if we do not do breast cancer screening through a mammography program, and then if we do and we find out that we have increased the incidence of cancer thereby, the same criticism would be made of me by some future Health critic sitting around this very table.

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Acting Chairperson, the discussion about this issue was very extensive. I think it was, as far as I remember, in early March or so. There was a fair discussion in the House of Commons and there was ample warning to the

minister then. He had enough information to warn the individuals who had the breast implants. I think even though the minister has said some of the technology could be helpful, these individuals were given all the assurance and it was cleared by the federal department that everything is okay. I think they must make sure that those individuals are notified so that they can get the proper legal and medical advice for their benefit.

Mr. Orchard: You know, I have to apologize to my honourable friend, but let me, before I get into—on the numbers of women, the way our commission records are kept, we do not have a way of tracking who received the Meme. It is under cosmetic surgery procedure as an insured service, but it is not identified as this kind of an implant. The only way we know is that the physicians themselves know and would have the responsibility. I believe they have probably been forewarned by the college to undertake, you know, contacting their patients who may well have received that.

This is one of those issues where we do not have knowledge to go direct and rely on the physician-patient relationship because patients themselves—I think that is part of the national awareness campaign that hopefully will have those individuals who may have been recipients of this transplant, contact themselves. Certainly if anyone were to contact the ministry and the Women's Health Directorate, we would refer those women on to the appropriate authorities who can assist them.

Mr. Cheema: Can the minister tell us if they have, from his department, communicated with—there are only five or six plastic surgeons who do that kind of surgery so that there is a communication between the Department of Health and the physicians who are involved in this kind of surgery so that they can notify those patients and then finally the minister's office is clear that they have done whatever was supposed to be?

Mr. Orchard: Yes, I am informed that the plastic surgeons have all been notified.

Ms. Wasylycia-Lels: I have to make one more point here while we are dealing with reproductive health. I sense the member for The Maples is coming around a bit and I think he should know and maybe he can help deal with this issue: not only has this government brought in deinsurance of therapeutic abortions in free-standing clinics, it also on that date of July 1988 made a decision not to

cover the cost of examining the products of conception from the Morgentaler Clinic or, for that matter, for any free-standing clinics, should a clinic enter or begin to do the therapeutic abortion service.

Mr. Acting Chairperson, that is where we see ideology coming in the way of good healthy public policy, plain common sense and human compassion.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Reimer): Item 2.(c) Women's Health: (1) Salaries \$415,200—pass.

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Acting Chairperson, can the minister give us an update on the postpartum hypertension program and the pregnancy-induced hypertension program?

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Acting Chairman, I am going to have to provide that information to my honourable friend the next time we meet.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Reimer): Item 2.(c)(2) Other Expenditures \$555,600—pass; (3) External Agencies \$569,800—pass.

Item 2.(d) Healthy Child Development: (1) Salaries \$2,194,900. Shall the item pass?

* (1650)

Mr. Cheema: Can the minister give us an update? I think that this issue has been brought to the minister's attention at least ten times, I would say, inside the House and in the Estimates process, the whole issue of preschool speech pathology program and how that program is having a serious impact on some of the children who were unable to receive service and have simply outgrown that age. Can the minister tell us the numbers of preschool children who are waiting at Health Sciences Centre and St. Boniface?

Mr. Orchard: I cannot give you those figures, but we will make sure we have them when we discuss the hospital programs, because both of those I would have to have Mr. DeCock or some of his staff to provide those. I will make sure we have them for when we get into the issue.

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Acting Chairperson, can the minister also get the information, during the period of May '88 until today, how many preschoolers were not able to access the services because simply they have outgrown the age from, say, when they went to a clinic it was three years and it took them two years of waiting and now they are in the school system?

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Acting Chairman, I will attempt to get that information if we can provide it as requested and do that at the same time as I present the waiting list issue.

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Acting Chairperson, it seems like then we will wait for the whole issue until the—

Mr. Orchard: It does not matter. We could do it either way. We can discuss it now, but I cannot give you the information, specially on St. B and HSC, until I have that information, which obviously I do not have right now.

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Acting Chairperson, can the minister tell us about the number of full-time positions at St. Boniface and Health Sciences Centre?

Mr. Orchard: Yes, we will provide those.

Mr. Cheema: That means that we have to wait for the whole section probably, because those are the crucial questions I wanted to ask. I do not want to go into some of the philosophical things and how it should be done. I just wanted specific information because the minister has tried to make his own case that they have done well and I have tried to make my own case that things were not, to some extent, as they should have been.

We will argue on that issue, because I am very much concerned about the number of preschoolers who are not able to get services simply because they just went from three years to five years and by the time we have the services—definitely there were two more positions at the Health Sciences Centre. We know that for sure, but the issue has not gone away. It is a very important issue. It will save money in the long run, no question about that, the capability of the individual as a child—the minister knows full well how the development could affect that. That is a very crucial period of a person's life and you will probably at least try to achieve the best possible for a child and also save the family from so many hassles and a lot of emotional turmoil. I think it is an issue which probably has been ignored for a number of years. Some improvement has been made with two more positions, but I just wanted the minister to be aware of some of the numbers.

I would also ask him to find out about the waiting list for the Hearing Conservation Program for children as well, because some positions were fired, in the rural communities, I think; a question was asked by the member for Swan River (Ms.

Wowchuk). I just want the minister to get information on that aspect and also, give us the waiting period between the preschooler, schooler and also for the adult population as far as the hearing is concerned.

Mr. Orchard: The positions and all of the information on the Health Sciences Centre I will get when I have staff here who can provide that information. With the advance notice we will make sure we have it here.

Mr. Acting Chairman, let us deal with the issue, because my honourable friend says we are not doing anything. I am making the point that yes, there is a waiting list for preschool children. There are a couple of things that I want to explain to my honourable friend. In 1988, when we came into government, there were so many children being served as preschool children. We have a relatively steady population of preschool children. It is not as if the preschool children numbers have doubled. Today we are serving more preschool children for speech language services than when we came into government in 1988 because we have increased the resources available.

Now, my honourable friend and I can argue about how much is enough, and I will accept arguments from my honourable friend because my honourable friend has not had the luxury of being in government, but I will not accept too much criticism from the New Democrats, because we have treated more preschool children in the three years we have been government than they ever thought of doing. It may not be enough, but then the argument is always, what is enough?

What I am trying to find out, and we are attempting—because my honourable friend brought the waiting lists up again. We have the phenomenon of steady numbers of children, not growing numbers of children. We have more resource being focused at preschool children, not only at St. Boniface, but at Health Sciences Centre and other areas which I will provide, in the hospital system, and we have growing waiting lists.

So I am asking, what constitutes placement on a waiting list, and how are waiting lists prioritized? Are people with severe speech disabilities remained at No. 499 because in terms of their time line of accessing the service, they were 499th and they stay there? That is not the way we triage emergencies, and I want to know what the waiting

list is, what the problems are and how they deal with, how they manage, the demands in the system.

As I have said often before, as the Minister of Health, I do not put people on the waiting list. It is professionals who do that, and when professionals use the waiting list in conjunction with those advocates for increased service as a sign that we are not doing enough, I want to know what we are doing with increased resources on a relatively stable number of children, because I have to know that to know whether I should take then monies from elsewhere in the system and focus on this.

I want to tell you, since I came in this is one of the areas where I have attempted to focus some additional time, effort, resource and outcome, and we have done that. It still remains to be a problem. It crops up once in a while when we talk about waiting lists.

The second area I want to talk to my honourable friend—here is to me where the largest opportunity for resolution comes about. I believe fully and completely that preschool service delivery is the way government ought to focus its resource. Earlier intervention makes for faster cure and better cure of any speech problems. The same thing applies to hearing problems.

The ministry of Health has a partial stake in this. We are not the only player in the speech language or audiology service, but particularly the speech language. The other major player is the school divisions and, in the city of Winnipeg—I will provide my honourable friend with the number of speech language pathologists who are on staff with Winnipeg School Division No. 1 helping children from ages five and up.

I have had these discussions with the association of speech language pathology. I believe that government, and I am working with my colleague the Minister of Education (Mr. Derkach), and it is a very difficult problem to bring two solitudes, two departments together, but do you know what I sincerely believe? I believe that if we took all of the resource that was in Education, focussed that resource on preschoolers, we would have an adequate level of service delivery in Manitoba, and we would serve children well before they get to the school system and are disadvantaged when they get there. I recognize that, but the moment we start to refocus the system, do you want to know what the first hue and cry is going to be? You are cutting

back in the school system. Cutback, cutback, cutback.

I can hear the language already. No, I am not saying from my honourable friend, but I can just hear the criticism when we try to bring the system around to focus it where it is most effective. That is a process that will take some time, but I want to tell you that is the second aspect of discussion and negotiation that I want to get some direction and some resolution around. That is what we have started to do in audiology and already the cries are there of cutback, cutback, cutback.

* (1700)

What we have done in audiology is refocus the program so that we can intervene preschool at an earlier age. Bear in mind that the Department of Health is not the only place where you can access hearing services. We provide a service, yes, through the hospitals and through the regional services, but we are not the only service. The audiometrists who are no longer with the department as a result of budget decisions, primarily worked within school divisions, but it was the teachers who delivered the screening program.

It was an elementary screening program, if I can use that language. That may not be appropriate technical language. It was not the sophisticated test. It was screening so that any student who appeared as if they had a hearing difficulty, would automatically be referred to seek more professional help, ranging from audiologists who are still in the employ of the Ministry of Health and within other areas of government, and also a reference to physicians who are specialists in identifying and attempting to remedy hearing problems.

The whole initiative that we are trying to do in audiology is focus on preschool and that is where I want to be in speech language pathology. In the case of speech language pathology, we have to bring two departments together, two service delivery departments, Education and Health. I think we can offer Manitobans one heck of a good service if we bring the two together, focus the resource where we can get our most appropriate outcome, i.e., preschoolers.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Reimer): The time is now five o'clock, time for private members' hour. Committee rise.

SUPPLY—INDUSTRY, TRADE AND TOURISM

Madam Chairman (Louise Dacquay): Order, please. Would the Committee of Supply please come to order. This section of the Committee of Supply is dealing with the Estimates for the Department of Industry, Trade and Tourism. At this time I would like to invite the honourable Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism to deliver his opening remarks.

Hon. Eric Stefanson (Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism): Thank you, Madam Chair. With those comments I originally was intending, if there was unanimous consent, to table my comments and have copies made and circulated to both opposition parties and maybe just to very briefly highlight a couple of the main points, and then the members of the opposition would get copies and have the benefit to look through them as we are going through the process and ask any questions as a result of my comments that they may have. If I could have that consent?

Madam Chairman: Is there unanimous consent to have the comments tabled and then will appear in Hansard as tabled? Agreed? Agreed and so ordered.

Mr. Stefanson: Madam Chairman, I certainly welcome this opportunity to present the Estimates of the Department of Industry, Trade and Tourism for the fiscal year 1991-92 and to review the events and activities on which these Estimates are based.

Madam Chairman, as you are no doubt aware, these are not the best of times from an economic perspective. The challenges that we, as Manitobans, face are many and varied, but not insurmountable. I am confident that Manitoba has the capacity to weather this current recessionary storm and my department is committed to working with Manitoba business to bring about a recovery as quickly as possible.

Creating jobs is a primary goal of this government's economic agenda. My department will continue to work with the private sector to create long-term jobs that will provide a foundation for the future.

My department will continue to facilitate the efforts of industry to secure niches in the research and development of technical products and to create an investment climate that is attractive to

entrepreneurial initiatives. Specific economic sectors have been identified as being key to the province's future growth, development and prosperity. These sectors include aerospace, information processing and communications, the health industries, tourism, sustainable development and the environment.

This year, as part of a concerted effort to foster economic renewal, we will place increased emphasis on major strategic development initiatives in Manitoba. We have made organizational adjustments that will intensify the focus and co-ordination of these initiatives through the formation of the Strategic Development Initiatives Division. Building on the successful experience in the health industries and aerospace strategic initiatives, similar development strategies will be developed in other sectors.

A development strategy in the communications field, including a cost-shared agreement with the federal government on communications technology, will encourage the creation of new employment in the sector and foster development in both Winnipeg and rural Manitoba.

There will be increased efforts to advance an environmental industries development strategy and strengthened activities in information processing.

Madam Chairman, Manitoba's economic future is directly linked to the province's innovative abilities—the abilities to adapt, create and apply new ideas to create goods and services that are competitive in international markets. We must rededicate ourselves to innovation, to the development of new products, improved production technologies and to advanced management techniques.

Excellence and innovation will be the cornerstones of Manitoba's technological strategy in the '90s. Efforts will be directed to building the Manitoba economy through innovation and technological strength and will be led by a Manitoba Innovations Council. Primary to the innovations council's goals is the belief that special measures, focused on expanding and supporting innovation in Manitoba, need to be identified and implemented if Manitobans are to generate sufficient wealth to keep our economy buoyant and dynamic. The Manitoba Research Council has been called upon to provide advice on the development and implementation of the Manitoba Innovations Council.

The Manitoba Centres of Excellence Fund will continue to provide additional support to researchers who were successful under the Federal Networks of Centres of Excellence Initiative.

Under the Manitoba Aerospace Technology Program, staff will continue to promote the reactivation of the Churchill research range. In addition to increasing participation by local firms in the Canadian Space Program, efforts will also be directed to pre-positioning the industry to benefit from procurement under major federal and international space activities.

To simplify the process for access to departmental funding sources, the Manitoba Business Development Fund has been created to consolidate several programs of financial assistance into a common pool of funds from which all Manitoba manufacturers-processors will be able to access financial assistance. It is intended that this new initiative will become a catalyst by which Manitoba industry will be encouraged to seek out new markets, modernize, produce consistently uniform products within tolerance and become more profitable. The fund will provide grant and loan support to secure industrial benefits from a variety of economic development activities, such as technology commercialization, manufacturing adaptation and feasibility studies or cost-shared business support projects promoting import replacement and research.

Creating a climate for investment in target sectors will help Manitoba to face the growing challenge posed by the emerging global economy and the new technological world order.

We will continue to work to attract offshore investment in Manitoba. We expect that with the changes coming in Europe in 1992, there will be increased investment interest in the North American market. Hence, we have retained a contract agent based in London. Similarly, an agent for Manitoba based in Hong Kong is promoting our interests throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

The energy intensive investment initiatives of the Manitoba Energy Authority will be incorporated into the department, making the overall promotion effort more effective. We will continue to promote Manitoba's low cost, secure, hydro-electric power to international investors and the establishment, development and operation of industries that are energy dependent.

My department places a high priority on export development and through a variety of programs and services works closely with the business community to increase their export awareness and to pursue opportunities in the United States and in other foreign niche markets, particularly in Europe, the Far East and the U.S.S.R.

Recently I have been consulting closely with the members of the business community to assess the potential impacts of a Canada-U.S.-Mexico Trade Agreement. We will continue to monitor developments on this issue in the coming months.

The Business Resource Centre will continue to serve entrepreneurs who are operating or starting a small business through the provision of counselling, information and management development programs. My department will continue to operate the successful Business Start Program which provides access to financing and business education opportunities to assist in the establishment of small businesses.

Madam Chairman, my department supports the development of talented young people who will take Manitoba industry into the 21st Century. We are committed to providing financial support to the five-year development plan put forward by the Faculty of Management at the University of Manitoba, the objective of which is to establish national standards of excellence in management education.

The tourism industry makes an important contribution to Manitoba's economy. Recognizing the importance of the tourism industry and its increasing competitiveness, funding has been enhanced to support marketing and promotional efforts. We will continue to seek partnerships with the industry through co-operative ventures in marketing and development.

To better serve visitors to the province, three new Visitor Information Centres will be opened this year: on the Trans-Canada at the Manitoba-Saskatchewan border, on the Yellowhead Highway at the Manitoba-Saskatchewan border, and on Highway 75 at Emerson.

We will work on negotiations with the federal government to develop a cost-shared agreement on tourism which will address the promotion and development of Manitoba's industry.

Madam Chairman, we have realigned financial programs, targeted sectors with the greatest

opportunities for growth and development and, as a department, are operating within the realities of necessary fiscal restraint.

With that, Madam Chair, ours is a responsible course of action that will result in positive economic benefits for all Manitobans in the years ahead.

I look forward to hearing the other opening comments, Madam Chair, and responding to specific questions. Thank you, very much.

Madam Chairman: We will now hear from the critic from the official opposition.

Mr. Jerry Storie (Flin Flon): Madam Chairperson, the fact of the matter is the words of the minister, I think, are heartening. Unfortunately, like many of the words that we hear from across the way, they are not matched by their actions. There is no better evidence that the minister's words are simply that—words—and if you look at the bottom line for the ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism, we are looking at an overall reduction in funding that is available to his department of approximately 11 percent.

That does not speak very well of the government's intentions with respect to attracting investment. It certainly does not speak very well of the government's understanding of its importance as a player in developing the economy of Manitoba.

Madam Chairperson, the government all too often talks about its partnership with the private sector. The private sector is not the only participant in the economy of Manitoba. Certainly it is significant, perhaps plays the dominant role, but it is not the only player. The nonprofit sector plays a role, the government plays a role certainly, and labour plays another important role in the province of Manitoba.

It is very fine and good to talk about the importance of attracting investment from offshore. It is very nice to talk about the investment climate, but, of course, the minister has not spoken at all about the need to have a trained and educated work force: the need to have training and education facilities in the province of Manitoba; the need to have a stable work force, one that is not plagued by strikes as is very common in other parts of the world and other provinces of the country, as a matter of fact.

The Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism undoubtedly has used, on many occasions, the fact that Manitoba has had relative labour peace

historically to attract or to attempt to attract people to this province. In fact, up until 1988, we had probably the fewest days lost due to strikes than any province other than Prince Edward Island. I do not think the minister is going to be able to stand up and tell this House that is the case in 1991. In fact, we have, and we are faced with a number of other potentially serious and disruptive labour disputes.

Of course, we began the year with a major dispute in the government sector with the nurses in the province of Manitoba. That strike had a tremendous impact, as do other strikes, on the economy of the province, not to mention the economy of individuals.

So I want to begin by saying, Madam Chairperson, that while we are talking about the Estimates of the Department of Industry, Trade and Tourism, the fact is that the repercussions of not only the perspective that this minister and this government bring to this department, but their actions have repercussions much beyond the interests of the private sector, the interests of the few business people that this minister has so far communicated with in any direct way.

I think that it behooves this minister to broaden his horizons and thereby broaden the horizons of the government and start really talking about a partnership that includes not only the private sector, in other words, the MacLeod Stedmans and the Royal Trust company, but in fact the much broader economy of the province of Manitoba which plays a very important role on retail sales, housing starts, the cost to government through social assistance, unemployment insurance and you name it, Madam Chairperson.

* (1440)

I also want to spend some time—and the minister did not touch on some of the broader policy issues which are going to be important to the province of Manitoba. Madam Chairperson, we have argued in this House on numerous occasions that this government has to take a more serious look at the implications of free trade on the province of Manitoba.

To simply continue to bury your head in the sand and say, there is no problem with free trade, everything is going well, does a disservice to the business people whom this minister wants to support and the people of Manitoba.

The Council of Canadians, which is probably the only legitimate group who is reviewing the

implications of the Free Trade Agreement, at this point released their latest report on what is happening to Canada and by implication Manitoba as a result of the Free Trade Agreement.

There are Manitobans listening today. They have a right to be concerned about what is happening, because here are the facts. As a result of the Free Trade Agreement, the Council of Canadians' report card says we have a net job loss of 315,000; a decline in gross domestic product; increasing foreign takeovers; an increase of 100 percent in permanent plant closures in Ontario alone; textile manufacturing down by 30 percent; clothing manufacturing down by 18 percent; steel manufacturing down by 30 percent; auto parts manufacturing, 23 percent; 656 trucking companies closed; 16 straight defeats under the dispute settlement mechanisms in place under the Free Trade Agreement, with one victory as a result of an extraordinary challenge by the United States. That does not speak very well of an agreement that is working in the interests of the province of Manitoba.

I would be the last one to suggest that this minister or this government, by itself, on its own, independently, can resolve all of the problems that we are going to face as an economic entity as a result of the Free Trade Agreement. What I have asked repeatedly is for two things to happen. I have asked the Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism (Mr. Stefanson) to establish an independent group to research what is happening in our economy, why it is happening, to determine what the implications of the Free Trade Agreement are and what we might do about it to make this province a better place, a more secure place to invest.

It is easy for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism to get up and ignore questions and wax eloquent about the government's record when we talk about the Tupperware decision. I want to spend a minute talking about the Tupperware decision to move its manufacturing plant out of Manitoba to South Carolina and Tennessee—160 jobs.

Let us look at the facts. The fact is, that manufacturing plant had only been in Manitoba since 1979. In fact, there was government money involved in relocating and supporting the location of Tupperware into Manitoba and, when the decision was made to move, to relocate the manufacturing that was done here back into the United States, the company said that they were only at 40 percent production. They refused to acknowledge that the

reduction in tariff from 13.5 percent to 9.6 percent, or 13.6 to 9.5, approximately 30 percent reduction in tariff, had anything to do with it. They refused to accept or suggest that the fact that they could now produce and ship and would be able to ship in the very near future back into Canada with no tariffs had anything to do with the decision. The fact is that the company called it and the government wants to call it a rationalization.

No one at any point in this discussion, not from the Tupperware, not from the government or anywhere else, suggested that this company was not making a profit. It was a question of becoming more profitable. More profitable at whose expense? The people, 160 families in Morden, that is whose expense.

Madam Chairperson, I am not saying that we could have solved all of the problems that Tupperware faced to make that plant more productive. It is quite clear that they made a corporate decision because of their interests in improving their bottom line, not in the interests of Canada, not in the interests of Manitoba. That is what we predicted would happen under the Free Trade Agreement.

As New Democrats, we were never satisfied to have a branch plant economy, never satisfied. Most people would accept the premise that it is better to have a branch-plant economy than a no-plant economy, which is what we are going to end up with.

The manufacturing sector is not the only one that is being affected. The fact is that there has been a 250 percent decline in food processing exports since the introduction of the Free Trade Agreement.

The food processing industry is going to be hammered by the Free Trade Agreement. The community of Portage knows that already, as do some others where there have been food processing plant layoffs. We in Winnipeg have also seen our share of consequences as a result of the Free Trade Agreement. They include a list of companies, food processing companies: Ogilvie Oats, Paulin's Interbake, Campbell Soup, of course, in Portage, and there are going to be other casualties.

(Mr. Jack Penner, Acting Chairman, in the Chair)

Mr. Acting Chairperson, what we need is some sort of strategy to deal with this inevitable process, and it is an inevitable process. The minister, this

minister and the previous minister and this government have refused to acknowledge that a level playing field simply is not possible. The dynamics, the economics, the geography of our country is different. The social policies that are in place in our country are different, and we have to develop a strategy to maintain our independence, our sovereignty, our economic sovereignty, at the same time as we learn to compete.

I do not believe and most people across Canada do not believe we have to sacrifice being Canadians. We have to sacrifice our sovereignty to develop this level playing field. Most Canadians could not, simply could not, work for the kind of wages that are paid in Florida on a regular basis, \$3 an hour to a person who is trying to raise a family. It might work in Florida where you can live in a camper trailer all year round, but it does not work in Canada where you have to have shelter from the cold and you have to have money to pay for the energy to heat your home. It does not work.

In fact, in Florida or in Georgia or Tennessee where there are no benefits—and if the minister had seen a 60 Minutes report on the state of health care in the United States some year ago which showed a trailer park in Georgia with literally hundreds of families, both of whom were working full time, existing without medical insurance, he would have known that what we have here is worth defending.

That level playing field that this minister continues to talk about and this government, and the competitive edge that they are looking for, is going to be achieved, if they have their way, at the expense of that caring society that provides health care for its needy as well as it provides it to those who have everything they could want.

The same is true of the education system which is publicly supported. I do not think we have to trade off those things. This minister is the Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism, but he also has an obligation to those hundreds, thousands of other people who work in the province of Manitoba, who live here, who have a stake in not only our economic well-being, but our social well-being. Those two things, Mr. Acting Chairperson, we have always said are linked, and this government and this minister continue to enunciate a vision which attempts to separate them, which attempts to say that what is good for Inco, or what is good for Great West Life, or what is good for MacLeod Stedman, is what is good for the province of Manitoba. That is not

always the case. It never has been and it never will be. The same as what is good for Esso or Shell is not necessarily good for the province of Manitoba.

The government has a role to play in making sure that there is a balance—and that is the key word—that the interests of the corporations to be profitable can be maintained in the province of Manitoba, but we do not ensure that they are more profitable at the expense of average people, people for whom there is no other advocate except the government of Manitoba.

The Minister of Energy and Mines (Mr. Neufeld) says we need exports. Well, of course we need exports, and the Minister of Energy and Mines, if he does not know should know, that our exports as a country have continued to improve since 1920. The level of exports has continued to increase. They increased in the '70s and the '80s, without free trade.

* (1450)

The only increase, interestingly enough, in exports that we have seen under free trade has been an increase in our natural resources. We are shipping millions more gallons of oil, millions more cubic feet of natural gas, more lumber, more raw materials than ever. Our manufacturing base, which we used to pride ourselves on in Manitoba, is being decimated. All I am saying is, where is the strategy to make sure that we can maintain our base, that we do not rely on the boom and bust cycles of our primary industries, agriculture, forestry, mining, et cetera? We have to

—(interjection)—
The member for Portage la Prairie (Mr. Connery) wants to have his two cents worth, and he is certainly entitled to ask questions of the minister or make comments as he sees fit, but I remind him that the economic growth in the province of Manitoba and the capital investment in the province of Manitoba during the NDP years far surpassed what this government can claim is a record. So we do not need to take any lessons from the member for Portage la Prairie.

Mr. Acting Chairperson, there are a number of specific questions that we will want to raise with the minister in terms of the programs of the department. I want to begin by asking the minister how he intends to deal with this last statistic, or if he has any comments. Manufacturing shipments in the province of Manitoba in the first quarter of 1991 were down some 25.6 percent. Is the minister

concerned? What does the minister have planned? What does his department have planned? How are we going to stem the tide of our deteriorating manufacturing base. —(interjection)— I did not say that, never have.

Mr. Neil Gaudry (St. Boniface): Mr. Acting Chairperson, it gives me great pleasure to rise. Firstly, I would like to congratulate the honourable member for being appointed Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism (Mr. Stefanson). I might not be as positive as I go along, but I will just congratulate him maybe on his pay raise, because it gives him a pay raise—he is elevated as a minister.

As we have agreed that we were going to try and pass these Estimates, and I think time is of the essence at this time because there are still quite a few Estimates that have to be passed and then we look at the hours that are left, it is important that I be brief.

I have three pages of comments here, but I will reserve them as questions rather than expressing them at this time. Our concern, of course, is the economy of Manitoba. I think it is a concern of all the members of the Legislature. I have to share the concerns of the critic from the NDP in regard to the Free Trade Agreement.

We look at the jobs that have been lost in Manitoba in the last three years and again last week with the announcement of Tupperware in Morden, and yesterday, of course, we see again in the paper, they say they are temporary job losses at Motor Coach Industries, but it would be interesting to see what the minister has done, whether he has met with Motor Coach Industries to address some of these problems. I know in the paper you read they say, well, they have to sell buses to keep their employees working.

In this time of recession, we can see it is not only in Manitoba, it is across the nation and it is easily seen. I think, as the Minister of Industry and Trade, it is important that he meets with these industries and that they are not lost to the United States. We look at the Free Trade Agreement between Canada, the U.S. and Mexico and I think it is quite clear what happened last week.

If we see Tupperware going to North Carolina and Tennessee, where will they draw their labour force? It is quite clear because of our high rates here in Manitoba and the labour rates that come out of Mexico and the job loss. I think it is important that

they be addressed at all times and that we share the concerns. This is what we are concerned about with the Canada-U.S.-Mexico trade agreement.

The minister indicates that he will be sharing some of the studies or the concerns. I hope that it will be done very shortly and that it is tabled in the House, so we can share with them and express our concerns also before it is too late. Like I said, I am going to be very brief. I have a lot of questions to be asked of the minister. I will conclude by saying, again, congratulations and we look forward to responses to our questions. Thank you very much.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Penner): At this point, I would ask the minister to stand and ask his staff to join him.

Under Manitoba practice, debate of the minister's salary is traditionally the last item considered for the Estimates of the department. Accordingly, we shall defer consideration of this item and now proceed with the consideration of the next line, Item (1)(b).

* (1500)

Mr. Stefanson: Mr. Acting Chairman, I would like to introduce the staff who have now joined me: Mr. Hugh Eliasson is the Deputy Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism; Val Zinger, our Director of Finance and Administration; and Mr. Neill Allison, our Director of Strategic Planning.

Mr. Storie: Mr. Acting Chairperson, I concluded my rather lengthy introductory remarks with a question to the minister about the strategy of this government, and perhaps the minister can respond to that final question. If he does not have any comment, I have a further question dealing not with Item 1.(b) but with Item 1.(e).

Point of Order

Mr. Storie: Mr. Acting Chairperson, just on a point of order. Are the staff just making this strategy up now, or do we have one in place?

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Penner): There is no point of order.

* * *

Mr. Stefanson: Mr. Acting Chairman, what we were sorting out was that the question actually touched on two or three issues at one time, and one aspect of it was the concern with the decrease I gather in the numbers of jobs in the manufacturing sector.

The honourable member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie) likes to suggest that the single and only reason often for that is the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement, whereas I think anybody who has looked at the situation recognizes that there are many factors which have affected that.

Without going into a long description of the recession that has hit Canada in the last year or year and a half and has impacted provinces across this nation, that certainly is one factor, amongst others, amongst increases in changes in technology, and unfortunately in some industries machinery doing some things that human beings sometimes did. Probably, of all sectors, the manufacturing sector has been hit the hardest from that particular perspective in terms of those particular jobs, but realizing that increased technology does lead to jobs at potentially another end, in terms of marketing, or sales, or service end, or whatever.

There is good news on the horizon, Mr. Acting Chairman, certainly in terms of the manufacturing employment numbers in Manitoba. As the honourable member has heard me suggest before that now in May of 1991, we are estimated at 55,000 persons, which is up 4,000 people in terms of employment from May of 1990, and this was an increase of 7.8 percent which is the third best in Manitoba. So, while all of Canada has been hit in terms of problems, in terms of manufacturing employment, certainly Manitoba is on the upswing in terms of those kinds of numbers.

I would like to at some point maybe touch on the shipment element and other aspects, but we do have a Trade section here as well that we will be into and we certainly will have the opportunity to address that as we go on.

Mr. Storie: Mr. Acting Chairperson, just for the minister's information, I do not know whether we can agree, that my intention is to finish today, and my preference would be to float, to ask questions. My couple of colleagues, including the member for Crescentwood (Mr. Carr) has indicated he has some questions on Tourism, but he is in a meeting for some time and I said he could ask them whenever. I am hoping that is satisfactory. We are not going to be looking, I do not think, for too specific a detail, and it will just facilitate getting through today.

With that, I had a question a little further down on the Faculty of Management grant of some \$770,000 which, in terms of the budget of this department, is

a staggering proportion, a political payoff to a discredited, in my opinion, faculty dean, and I wonder how the minister responsible to the province of Manitoba, to business people, can justify a grant of this magnitude to the Faculty of Management?

Mr. Stefanson: Mr. Acting Chairman, in terms of the justification, there would be several reasons and two of the most important would be, No. 1, that this is all part of a five-year commitment, an agreement that was struck with the Faculty of Management at the University of Manitoba. Certainly we feel it would be unrealistic and unfair to pull the plug on that agreement when there have been initiatives taken by the university, there have been commitments made by the university itself, by the private sector and so on, in terms of contributing to this whole development program. So that is certainly a very important part of why the commitment is being fulfilled.

Secondly, the honourable member himself touched on the very importance of education and training of the young people and the people of Manitoba, how important that is in terms of economic opportunities and so on. Unquestionably this is a part of doing just that. Certainly business, business knowledge, business understanding, business capabilities are very important in terms of generating jobs and economic opportunities in our province. This program is certainly very much geared to do just that and, once again, I could go on, but I think that gives the member some of the reasons why the commitment is being fulfilled, and the commitment was this increase in the original agreement.

It is a five-year agreement. It spells out the dollar amounts over the five years, so this particular funding level, while it is a significant increase, is abiding by the agreement that was struck two years ago.

Mr. Storle: I am not sure whether I can read between the lines if the minister would be interested in renewing this agreement or not. Obviously, I am not going to hold this minister accountable, because he was not a part of the government; he was not in the government, I should say, when this agreement was first concocted.

It certainly is an unusual one and, when you consider that the department's budget is some \$8.2 million, a \$700,000-plus, almost \$800,000 grant to the Faculty of Management to offer a Ph.D. program

and some other supposed improvements is a rather, I think, from a public perspective, ludicrous investment. At the same time, of course, this dean is stripping the Faculty of Management of its industrial relations program and many public policy courses, courses which are being reintroduced and introduced in other faculties of management across North America.

Mr. Acting Chairperson, I am wondering whether the minister can indicate whether the Faculty of Management has, in fact, lived up to its agreement with the Province of Manitoba in terms of introducing new staff, and I am talking about new staff above the staff base which existed prior to this agreement being signed, whether the minister can confirm that the faculty has not lived up to its agreement in terms of new positions and that the province is not getting any value for its money in this instance.

Mr. Stefanson: Mr. Acting Chairman, while this is the third year development grant, due to the late start of the implementation of the plan there actually has only been one full academic year, but in terms of some of the accomplishments that the honourable member is looking for, nine faculty persons have been hired; 10 distinguished scholars, senior business executives, have been a part of visiting and assisting with the faculty; the Ph.D program development is in process for implementation in '93-94; \$21,000 of databases for research has been purchased; 25 additional places for undergraduate program were created for the upcoming '91-92 and so on. That was the first full year. We are now currently in the process of doing the evaluation of the '90-91. I have had a preliminary meeting with the dean, and the department is in the process of reviewing the performance now for the second full calendar or academic year of the faculty.

Mr. Storle: Can the minister tell me whether he is aware that the Faculty of Management requested an accrediting agency from the United States to come up and provide accreditation under their system to the Faculty of Management? In fact, they were not accredited, they did not receive accreditation. This was some time after the dean of the Faculty of Management has had his way with the faculty and included their new faculty development plan.

* (1510)

Mr. Acting Chairperson, I also want the minister to put on record the nine staff hired are not new staff. They are nine staff hired into existing staff years, that

in fact there may be one additional staff, I am not certain of that. In fact, much of what the dean of the Faculty of Management promised would happen as a result of this, has not happened. The only thing that has happened is that the scope of the Faculty of Management education has narrowed and that students are now paying higher tuition and the dean is busy building himself a reputation, if he can. The minister should tell us, perhaps, whether he believes that what has happened so far is worth \$500,000.

Mr. Stefanson: Once again, Mr. Acting Chairman, there were two or three parts to that question. Certainly in terms of the issue of accreditation, that is something I have asked about and received some information on. I think the honourable member asked something about that in the Estimates last fall.

The accreditation review that he referred to occurred prior to the implementation of this development plan, and it did identify some shortcomings in terms of inadequate financial support, staffing problems, insufficient number of faculty members regularly engaged in research and so on. Many of the concerns, this development plan is, in fact, meant to address. Therefore it is my understanding that the faculty may try for accreditation at its next review, which I understand now does not take place until '96-97, in terms of how the process works.

The honourable member also asked about the nine faculty positions, in terms of being hired, and has suggested that they are not necessarily new positions. Certainly, I will take his comments as notice and follow up. My understanding is that they are, but certainly that is something I can undertake to follow up on.

I think his last question touched on the value of the program. I think part and parcel of it being a five-year agreement was that we will do the ongoing monitoring that we are doing, and as I have indicated, we have done one full academic year. Based on that first year, we are satisfied but I think the honourable member can appreciate that an educational development program like this is a longer-term program. We are optimistic about what it will accomplish and we will continue to evaluate on an ongoing basis, but I think the real proof will be as the program comes through to completion.

Mr. Storie: Mr. Acting Chairperson, I will not require this minister to continue to defend something that he did not do and I believe would have the wisdom not to involve himself in, had he been in the position to make the decision.

I want to now quote the minister from his statement that he did not read, but he did table: "This year, as part of a concerted effort to foster economic renewal, we will place increased emphasis on major strategic development initiatives."

I want to ask the minister how that squares with page 15, item 1.(c) Strategic Planning, a decrease of approximately 15 percent in Strategic Planning?

Mr. Stefanson: The comments that the honourable member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie) refers to are probably more appropriately directed as we get into—although we are going to cover them more or less all-encompassing, but those comments refer to the strategic initiative section which is further on in the Estimates. Clearly, they are initiatives in the areas that I touch in terms of specific initiatives in health, in the aerospace, in communications, sustainable development, tourism and so on.

The Strategic Planning section, which I believe is the one he has indicated the reduction in, Strategic Planning is really, as it suggests, the section that provides some policy, research and so on for our department, which is quite different. Strategic Planning in that sense is providing our department with the kind of broad policy issues and research at that level as opposed to the very specific strategic initiatives which come further on in the Estimates where we have dollars allocated and we do very specific things to attempt to attract and develop business in those particular sectors that I referred to. I hope that clarifies it for the honourable member.

Mr. Storie: No, Mr. Acting Chairman, that did not clarify it at all. The minister has raised a very interesting point, and perhaps he can now tell us what strategic policies this group was developing over the past year or what strategic policies this group will be developing. For example, we ask questions about the implications of free trade. Has this department, the group involved in Strategic Planning, reviewed the implications of free trade? Is there any information the minister can provide us today in terms of what results they might have found, if in fact they did study this issue?

Can the minister indicate, for example, whether this government has done any review of the tourism stats of the last two years which have included decreasing numbers of visitors to the province of Manitoba and increasing export of tourism to the United States? Can the minister indicate whether his department has reviewed the cross-border shopping issue and has anything to report as a result of this recent phenomenon and its impact on our local economies?

Mr. Stefanson: The honourable member for Flin Flon is asking questions that include about six or seven subquestions within his question. I am certainly prepared to attempt to answer all of them if I can recall all of them.

This particular department does interact with other departments on many of the issues that he has touched on. The free trade, for instance, this department will play a role, but a lot of the research and legwork performed will be specifically done by the trade section, which we get to later.

In terms of some of the issues, to give him a flavour of some of the policy-type issues that this Strategic Planning department would be involved with, they do get involved in preparing background and support material for the minister and others in areas like intergovernmental conferences and meetings in terms of western ministers' working groups, in terms of the Western Trade Barriers Reduction Agreement.

They do have a role to play in terms of assessing national and international economic circumstances, once again interacting with a line department, but on globalization and our business climate and again sustainable development and workplace alienation, a lot of the issues that the honourable member and I have discussed in the Chamber before. This department does have a role to play in terms of providing some of the policy suggestions and recommendations. In terms of the actual specific detailed analysis that is often done, it is done by the department that is more hands-on, on a day-to-day basis. So I think he can appreciate the difference between the two functions.

He asked very specific questions about cross-border shopping. I think he is well aware that our department has been very involved on that issue on a whole series of fronts with the Manitoba Chamber of Commerce, with the Retail Council of

Canada, and that it is not a problem that is unique to Manitoba. It is a problem facing most of Canada.

The Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) and myself met with the Honourable Otto Jelinek when he was in Winnipeg some weeks ago to look at solutions to the problem. Some of them affect tourism, in terms of looking at the issue of a nondeclare line at the Manitoba border to make it easier for tourists to come into our province. We looked at initiatives that will make it easier for tourists to receive their rebate on GST and PST being paid in our province. Otto Jelinek talked about an awareness campaign geared at making consumers aware in terms of issues like pricing, in terms of issues like warranties and so on.

I think we would all agree that for many Canadians who go down to the United States there is a misconception in many instances that they are getting bargains on some of the products that they buy. I think some people unfortunately think that everything is cheaper down there. Well, that is not the case. There are many products that are cheaper in Canada. There are many products that are available in Canada that have very specific warranty provisions that are very important and so on. So that certainly is an issue that we are very involved with.

* (1520)

Some of the more specific questions that the honourable member has, I would be pleased to answer. I think that gives him a flavour for what this department does as it relates to the other departments under Industry, Trade and Tourism.

Mr. Storie: Mr. Acting Chairperson, the minister's answer I do not think really answered -(interjection)- No primping in the chair, please.

The minister's answer really is not satisfactory, because the question was—I mean I would like to assume and I think Manitobans would like to assume that government is making its decisions based on some objective facts, that in fact the strategic planning group is presenting the minister with the facts of cross-border shopping, how much we are losing, what people are saying about why they are going down there, how much they are spending, what items they are buying. I think most people would like to have control of those facts so we would know what in fact we have to do.

An Honourable Member: Lower the taxes.

Mr. Storie: The minister responsible for The Pines says from his seat, lower taxes. Well, that is the kind of simplistic suggestion that is being given by the Conservatives in Ottawa and the Conservatives across this country, which is in fact driving people to the United States. The minister, quite ironically, after telling Canadians for five years that he should go down to the States because it is cheaper and there is lower taxes, and Manitobans and Canadians start doing it, Otto Jelinek says, well, wait a minute, now the taxes are not so bad in Canada that I remember.

Mr. Acting Chairperson, the fact of the matter is that is the kind of simplistic, subjective thinking that we are getting from this government. The question that I asked is, who in the Department of Industry, Trade and Tourism, if it is not this group, then who is providing the minister with some substantive overview of these problems? Can we have copies of that information? Can the minister tell us what the department is telling him specifically about the kind of people who are fueling this increase in cross-border shopping? What goods in particular are they looking for? What is the price differential?

There are literally hundreds of questions that should be being answered by this department if we are going to in fact get a satisfactory solution. We cannot just have the Minister of Housing (Mr. Ernst) sitting at the back say, well, it is taxes and say that is going to solve the problem. Clearly it is not. It is not that simple and the Minister of Housing knows that. Now, having the minister responsible for Revenue Canada coming along and saying, we are going to have an awareness campaign to remind people that there is a very good reason for the tax differential in our two countries, and they support a different social system and a different economic system—is a little bit too late; believe me, the horse is long out of this particular barn.

Mr. Acting Chairperson, what I would like to know from this government is what their analysis shows them, what objective analysis they have done and how they intend to respond. Saying, well, we are talking generally to the Chamber of Commerce about this problem, does not tell us very much about what the problem is or what the government is really doing about it. -(interjection)-

We did not have a Berlin Wall two and a half years ago before free trade. The problem has increased manyfold since that time. The New Democratic Party were not in government. The Conservatives

were in government, federally and provincially. The question is now: What are you going to do to this problem that you have created?

Mr. Stefanson: Mr. Acting Chairman, I would be pleased to provide the honourable member with some of the background material we have recognizing and analyzing the problem.

I think the more important aspect of it is you do not have to be a rocket scientist to realize that there is a problem. I think everybody in Manitoba, everybody in Canada recognizes that there is a problem and more importantly what are the solutions to the problem.

The honourable Minister of Urban Affairs and Housing (Mr. Ernst) is absolutely correct when he refers to taxes, that anything that you have read, any consumer reports, any comments through the media suggest that one of the major concerns is this is in fact a form of tax revolt. There are other parts to the problem, but I have outlined already some very specific initiatives that are going to address the problem.

There have been other ideas put forward and I would certainly welcome any suggestions that the honourable member has. He mocks the awareness campaign and mocks some of the initiatives that are being done. One suggestion has been that provincial sales tax be charged at the border on everything coming in. Is that something that the honourable member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie) supports and recommends?

I would be more than interested and we, as a government, would certainly welcome any positive suggestions that might come from the other side of the House. We would certainly do a thorough review and look into any suggestions that come forward. So I would welcome those from the honourable member.

We are taking some very specific initiatives. I think we all in this House recognize that it is a problem. We are on the road to some initiatives. I would certainly welcome any constructive comments that the honourable member might have.

Mr. Storie: Mr. Acting Chairperson, of course I would like to have access to the information that the minister has. Perhaps I would like to have access to additional information the minister does not yet have. I think it behooves the minister to ask the right questions. That is part of his job as well, to say why is this happening and what can we do to solve the

problem? If the minister provides me with the information, if he does not want to make some decisions, I certainly will.

The minister continues to talk about the taxes, and I certainly do not want to discourage the minister from doing that. Yes, taxes are a concern to Canadians. They are a concern to consumers. Certainly, the imposition of the GST, which this government supported, has played a part in developing a psychology that created an additional surge of cross-border shopping.

(Madam Chairman in the Chair)

Madam Chairman, I want this minister to acknowledge publicly that the issue of taxes is not the only issue in cross-border shopping. In fact, the report—he talks about cross-border shopping. I refer to the report prepared by the Canadian Federation of Independent Business in which it says—and I will read it into the record again for the members opposite and the minister responsible—that their analysis, CFIB, shows that payroll taxes are higher in the U.S. than in Manitoba, that corporate income taxes are similar and that the provincial sales tax systems are in fact similar as well.

Madam Chairperson, the only -(interjection)- Not selective reading, page 13. I want to refer the minister responsible and the member for Portage (Mr. Connery) to the graph prepared by the Canadian Federation of Independent Business, which shows that the culprit—to the extent that there is a culprit in this—is the property tax, the municipal tax imposed in this case by the City of Winnipeg for both small and large business.

I am not even going to comment. Far be it from me to reflect on the minister and many of his colleagues who formed the city government for most of the years while this tax problem was being created. -(interjection)- The member for Portage (Mr. Connery) wants to ask the question, who is to blame? Well if the NDP were part of the problem that this minister sees, then the City Council of the City of Winnipeg was part of the problem that the CFIB has identified in its report.

The real problem with this argument is that—and it raises the question. If in fact the payroll systems, the taxes are the same or are higher in the United States, if corporate taxes are similar and if the provincial sales tax systems are similar, if the only significant difference in all of that is municipal taxes,

my question is -(interjection)- Ah, the minister wants to raise the issue of wages. So now the former Minister of Labour is now putting the crux of the matter on the table. This minister wants wage parity with the United States. He wants us to roll back our wages, lower our standard of living. That is what the agenda of this government is.

Madam Chairperson, the point I make here is that if the only culprit in cross-border shopping is taxes and if, underlying that, the only significant difference between what the business people in Fargo pay and what the business people pay in Winkler or the city of Winnipeg is municipal taxes, realistically how much of a difference in price can be attributed to the few thousand dollars or the tens of thousands of dollars, even for larger businesses, that are paid by our retailers in Manitoba? Realistically, is that difference alone fueling cross-border shopping? Can the minister tell us whether he has any, you know, statistics, evidence, research to support that contention?

* (1530)

Mr. Stefanson: Madam Chair, just a couple of comments made by the honourable member that I have to correct. He indicated that our government had supported the GST. He is incorrect with that statement. We did not support the implementation of the GST. He also insinuated the honourable member for Portage la Prairie (Mr. Connery) was suggesting driving wages down in Canada to wage parity with the United States. He did not suggest any such thing. So I wish the honourable member would be accurate with his preamble.

In terms of the cross-border issue, which is how he started this particular discussion, taxes are certainly a very important part of it. Once again the honourable member, I think, was somewhat selective when he read from the CFIB report. Having read the summary, I think he knows very well that the summary concludes that taxes at all levels are too high, including municipal, provincial and federal. The director of the CFIB and the national director both complimented this particular government in terms of the job we are trying to do controlling provincial taxes. I am sure he saw those remarks through the local media recently. So taxes are definitely one element. The value of the Canadian dollar is certainly another element that affects cross-border shopping, and we can certainly debate the monetary policy of the federal government in terms of the level of the Canadian

dollar. Unquestionably that has an impact on cross-border shopping. I am sure there might be others, but certainly taxes and the monetary policy of the federal government both do have an impact on this issue, unquestionably. Talk to the people. See the comments that they are making, and they do refer to those two very important issues, Madam Chair.

Mr. Storle: Madam Chairperson, I yield the floor to the member for St. Boniface.

Mr. Gaudry: Madam Chairperson, I know the question was asked and it was not answered in regard to 1.(c) Strategic Planning. The staff, professional and technical—there are still six staff years and it has dropped 60,000 in one year. What accounts for this drop of \$60,000?

Mr. Stefanson: Madam Chair, for the year ending March 31, 1992, one of the staff years has been left in place in the Estimates, but no dollars have been allocated to it, basically suggesting that for this particular year that position -(interjection)- That is right, that position most likely will not be filled.

Mr. Gaudry: The Strategic Planning is a significant area of the department. Has any initiative been considered in the pursuit of reduced interprovincial trade barriers?

Mr. Stefanson: Madam Chair, I thank the honourable member for that question. I think, as he knows, our government and certainly our Premier (Mr. Filmon) have been leaders in that whole area in terms of interprovincial procurement.

The western ministers, back in March of 1989, signed an interprovincial agreement breaking down the barriers on the purchasing of goods, services and construction materials.

At the national level, on the whole issue of the purchase of goods, there is agreement now amongst eight of the 10 provinces and agreement with the territories; two provinces to date have not signed the agreement; the Province of Quebec has indicated that they would abide by it but are not prepared to sign it; and one other province is still considering signing it. Certainly, in my opinion, excellent progress has been made in that whole area with the co-operation of the western provinces and now at the national level on the whole issue of the purchase of goods.

Mr. Gaudry: Yes, I know that the minister has discussed cross-border shopping but, especially in

reference to B.C. and Saskatchewan, where the federal government has agreed to collect taxes in return for harmonization, what are the views of the minister?

Mr. Stefanson: Madam Chair, I think the honourable member will recall that after the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) and myself met with the Honourable Otto Jelinek that immediately the Minister of Finance indicated that the whole issue of harmonization was not discussed in relation to the cross-border shopping issue. The Minister of Finance has indicated that the issue of harmonization is under review by his department, and he will be coming forth at some appropriate time with a recommendation on that issue, but it was not addressed specifically in relation to the cross-border issue.

Mr. Gaudry: Why was it not addressed at that time? I think it would have been an opportunity to do so.

Mr. Stefanson: I think the honourable member for St. Boniface would recognize that the harmonization of the GST and the PST is a much bigger issue than solely addressing the cross-border shopping issue. There are many elements that affect that particular decision, and it certainly is one that would never be taken lightly and requires an awful lot of research and analysis. That is being undertaken and performed by the Minister of Finance.

Mr. Gaudry: Yes, Madam Chairperson, your report refers to collected intelligence of the department and its usefulness in a quick response to issues. What is the deal on continued job losses in Manitoba, especially referring to Tupperware last week closing in Morden and moving to Tennessee and South Carolina?

Mr. Stefanson: Madam Chair, I think the honourable member has certainly heard myself and members of our government express concern and disappointment whenever we have a situation where there are job losses in our province. I like to think that we have good lines of communication with businesses and the citizens of Manitoba in terms of when those issues do occur.

I want to touch briefly on the Tupperware decision. I think they issued a very detailed package for the benefit of everybody, their employees, for the benefit of people in this Chamber, for the benefit of Manitoba in terms of why they made their particular decision. I would like to

think that people in this Chamber and elsewhere would take them at face value when they say unequivocally that their decision had nothing to do with free trade. They said as well in terms of actions of our government, they said in their opinion there was nothing else that our government could have done to preclude them making the decision that they made.

I certainly, rather than go into it now, would gladly sit down with the honourable member and share all of the information that I have received on the Tupperware decision. I have had a discussion with the vice-president and controller; I have had their plant manager in to meet with me; I have had the individual who is now involved with the whole transition for the employees in to meet with me. There is a wealth of information I think that would certainly help the member for St. Boniface (Mr. Gaudry) develop a good understanding of why that decision was made.

* (1540)

The reality is we are faced with a recession certainly in Canada and elsewhere. There are business decisions being made and rationalization being made in operations. Tupperware, not unlike many companies, had a difficult decision to make.

I want to touch on the other that we as a government recognize there are many elements to attracting and developing businesses in the province. Certainly part of it—and the honourable member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie) and I have discussed it on some many occasions—is the climate you create, the economic climate you create in terms of taxation levels, in terms of your legislation whether it be labour or other, and then in terms of specific initiatives and having a plan. I like to think we have a very good plan in terms of targeting what we think are opportunities for Manitoba. I have touched on some of the sectors.

There are tremendous opportunities in the health field. There are tremendous opportunities in aerospace. There are opportunities in communication. There are opportunities with sustainable development. There are opportunities in tourism. We have very specific marketing initiatives, and then we have financing programs and so on available for the appropriate business. We have had some good-news announcements of late which the honourable member is aware of, be

it Royal Trust or Western Glove or MacLeod Stedman or others.

Certainly I like to think there are many positive things being done. Manitoba has a lot to offer, and we are working aggressively in terms of promoting that, Madam Chair.

Mr. Gaudry: I can appreciate that he takes credit for the trust company moving to Manitoba, but I think I would give credit to the Ontario NDP that they are chasing investments out of Ontario and moving into Manitoba.

My next question, in regard to Tupperware: I know the minister has done a fabulous job in meeting with them right away, but there was an indication that there were three warehouses that were to open across Canada. Two of them, there was a decision. Has there been any reply whether Manitoba will be one of them, or the third one?

Mr. Stefanson: Madam Chair, no decision has been made at this point on that particular issue. Certainly, we will be working and communicating very closely with Tupperware. They have retained a local consulting firm, Deloitte & Touche, to look at their Morden operation in terms of putting together a prospectus and then looking at other economic opportunities for that facility. They will be working closely with our department. There certainly is a role for us to play, and we will be aggressively pursuing to ensure that one of those three warehouses is, in fact, located in Manitoba.

Mr. Gaudry: Madam Chairperson, I thank the minister for his answer.

Grant Assistance-Faculty of Management, I know the increase is part of a five-year development plan. Why does the department participate with the Faculty of Management, and does this same participation occur with other faculties?

Mr. Stefanson: Madam Chair, I think I answered this at some length when the member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie) asked the question. Certainly it is nothing new. The government entered a similar arrangement with the Faculty of Engineering back, I believe, in the early '80s in terms of their accreditation program. So in terms of an initiative of working with a faculty at a university, this is not the first time that a government has undertaken such an initiative. I think, as I outlined earlier, that this is part of a five-year commitment to the faculty that we are honouring and we are continuing to evaluate the success of the program.

Mr. Gaudry: Yes, one final short question in this. I notice in 1.(b) Executive Support, all salaries have gone up modestly and likely it is under the wage agreement, while Other Expenditures have reduced by 22,000. You give a note at the bottom. Are there any details available for that explanatory note?

Mr. Stefanson: Madam Chair, as the honourable member indicates, under the Executive Support section, salary increases approximately 14,000 are as budgeted for previous minister's staff. The staffing levels are the same but include merit increases and the employer's share of the superannuation. In Other Expenditures, it is all part of the recognition of the fiscal restraint being exercised and primarily relates to areas such as transportation in terms of recognition that we can get by with somewhat less in terms of some of the transportation requirements, communication in terms of telephone and electronic mail and some of the supplies and so on. So under the operating budget section, it is a recognition that we feel we can still provide the level of support in service for this section required with that reduction.

Mr. Storle: Madam Chairperson, I wanted first of all to comment on the minister's suggestion that somehow I was not presenting the CFIB's research report in the proper light. I think that the graph on page 15 illustrates quite, if you will forgive the pun, graphically what I was saying, that the only significant difference, both for large and small firms in terms of the tax structure, is the municipal taxes paid. In fact, the payroll taxes are, by this graph, less and the commodity taxes appear to be very close to the same. Income and capital taxes appear to be a little bit higher, marginally. I want to say as well that the municipal taxes that are paid also reflect the offloading of taxes by this government onto school divisions, onto other municipalities. So the government is not completely free of blame either when it comes to that question of taxation.

The real question I wanted to ask was whether the government has any statistics to indicate where we now stand as a province in terms of our cost of doing business. I recall the argument that somehow our taxation regime was so much out of line back in about 1983 or '84 and the Department of Finance, I believe, along with the federal government did a study of the relative competitiveness of Manitoba as a place to do business. We were ranked very well, not only in terms of Canada, major cities, but we

were ranked well in terms of other places, certainly, internationally.

(Mr. Ben Sveinson, Acting Chairman, in the Chair)

I found an interesting article in The Globe and Mail dated June 20, 1991. It talked about world competitiveness ranking. Canada, surprisingly, ranks fifth currently out of 23 OECD countries, ranks fifth, ahead of countries such as Austria, The Netherlands, Denmark, Finland, Britain, Sweden, Ireland, Norway, France, Australia, New Zealand, to name just a few.

* (1550)

What I wanted to ask the minister then was, in creating this investment climate that the minister talks about so glowingly, so reverently, what factors is the minister talking about and what research does the minister have that could give some sort of base-line data of where we currently stand? I had always understood that in terms of manufacturing wage, obviously, which would be an important consideration in any manufacturing firm considering locating here that we ranked relatively low, that our average weekly manufacturing wage was very modest, that if you compared us with Minnesota, we actually have a lower average industrial or a manufacturing wage than say does Minnesota.

Where do we stand in terms of all of the taxes and charges that corporations would face given that, for example in Ontario—or not in Ontario any longer, but in Alberta certainly, large companies pay health premiums, in effect, pay a payroll tax. How are we doing? When the minister talks about improving the investment climate, what factors is he looking at, what needs improving, and does he have base-line data?

Mr. Stefanson: Mr. Acting Chairman, about three and a half years ago there was a study—I think it was undertaken by the Department of Finance—that showed, factoring in all of the issues that the honourable member referred to in terms of trying to compare Manitoba to every other province in Canada, that Manitoba ranked second highest. My understanding is now, after the recent budgets of all of the provinces, that Manitoba ranks fifth. Certainly, with the budgets just being completed within the last couple of months, again, that is something that we are in the process of looking at, and certainly will be undertaking to tabulate and be sure we are comparing apples to apples when we are comparing Manitoba to other jurisdictions.

My understanding is that we are now fifth. The reason we are fifth is because of some of the decisions taken by this government over the three years in terms of not only holding the line, but reducing personal income taxes, increasing the threshold on the payroll tax and doing some very positive things in the areas of taxation, while other jurisdictions were continuing to increase taxes.

Certainly, once we have completed the detailed analysis comparing the situation today, I would be more than pleased to share that with the honourable member for Flin Flon, as I would with all members of the House, so that he can see for himself where we are currently positioned relative to other provinces in Canada.

Mr. Storie: Mr. Acting Chairperson, again, the minister continues to fixate on taxes. I was also the Minister of Business Development and Tourism and the Minister of Energy and Mines. I had an opportunity to meet potential investors to the province of Manitoba, and I can tell the minister that in virtually all of the meetings that I had with, in some cases, major investors, the question of taxes was not the primary consideration. I think most businesses recognize that taxes come and taxes go and taxes increase almost inevitably regardless of where you are.

What would be interesting to have, because the minister keeps talking about this global environment—according to *The Globe and Mail*, we are more competitive than Austria, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Ireland, New Zealand, Portugal, you name it. Certainly, Mr. Acting Chairperson, it says we are not as competitive as Germany, for example, or Japan or Switzerland. If the minister is going to do these comparisons, if he is going to hang his hat on the competitiveness of our tax rate as the sole indicator of whether someone comes to the province of Manitoba to invest or not, then let us do a real comparison.

Tell me whether a company doing business in Germany pays higher taxes than doing business in Manitoba, and I can tell you without any fear of contradiction that they do. They pay higher taxes. That does not mean they are not competitive in Germany. Likewise, they pay higher taxes in other countries, including Sweden. The issue of taxes is not the sole determinate of whether a corporation decides to establish in Manitoba. I was hoping that the question of economic climate would be broader than simply a question of taxation, and I think it is.

Mr. Acting Chairperson, the minister also raised the question of a study that was done a number of years ago in terms of taxation. I believe that review was a question of personal taxation. Certainly all of the information that the government has presented in the last little while continues to talk about the high personal taxes that we pay in the province of Manitoba, which in some cases is quite true. On the other hand, of course, this government, and perhaps this minister, continues to ignore the fact that the income tax system or the tax system generally, inclusively, is much more progressive in Manitoba than it is in some other provinces.

The budget of Saskatchewan, the 1990 budget of Saskatchewan produced a table that showed that if you had a family income of \$20,000 you were best off in Manitoba when you consider all the taxes and charges, including the credits that were provided by the provincial government. You were better off in Manitoba. If you were a family earning \$40,000 you were second best off in the country.

I am anxious to see this comparison that the minister is talking about, and I hope it will reflect the benefit that companies get by locating in Manitoba from our input into the health care system, from our input into the education system. I hope, as well, the minister will tell us what other factors the department is reviewing when it is talking about the investment climate.

Mr. Stefanson: Mr. Acting Chairman, the last question the honourable member asked me was very specifically about taxes in Manitoba, as Manitoba compared to other provinces, and that is what I attempted to answer. I do not think I indicated in that response that I viewed taxes as the sole indicator in terms of attraction of business or business development in your province. Certainly, we recognize there are many other aspects of that decision-making process.

For some reason when I talk about taxes and the comparison, I strike a sensitive note with the member for Flin Flon. I do not know if it is because of the performance of their government from '82 to '88 or what causes that but we do recognize there are many factors and there is very much of a role for us to play. I touched on some, whether it be in the whole area of regulations, or whether it be in the area of your labour legislation and so on.

In terms of marketing the province of Manitoba, there are all kinds of factors that come into play in

terms of what you market for the province and in terms of attempting to interest businesses to locate or develop in your province. What we recognize is three of four fundamental principles that you certainly ultimately, want a business decision to be made on, sound business practices. We have to recognize what Manitoba's strengths are and build on them and promote them.

We are doing just that in terms of the kinds of businesses that we are attempting to attract to either expand or relocate to Manitoba, and we think we have something very much to offer in areas such as communications with our central time zone. We have something to offer in transportation with our central location. We have businesses that require electricity and so on. There is, again, an attractiveness to Manitoba because of our hydro-electric, the quality and pricing of that particular resource.

Fundamentally, I think you look at your province not unlike you look at marketing a product and say, what are our strengths and what is our market? We have recognized that fundamental principle. We are certainly well on the road to doing that, I think, doing it very well. Some of the results that we have seen in the last short while point to that, so I certainly do not want to leave the indication that taxes and taxes alone encompass your economic climate. There are all kinds of decisions that we make as a government and other decisions made within our community that affect the economic climate you create. I have touched on some of them, and I certainly hope the honourable member appreciates that.

* (1600)

You know, going back to taxes, he talked about his history as minister of economic development. I also was fortunate to serve on the task force in the development of Winnipeg 2000, and we retained a professional consultant, Price Waterhouse, to prepare a report in terms of looking at the economic climate of the city of Winnipeg. Once again, it came through loud and clear from both their analysis. Not only that, their communication and meetings and discussions with people attempting to do business, either currently in our province or people who have looked at doing business and have not come to Manitoba, in terms of what were some of the factors that affected that decision making, and continually taxes came up. The taxes that came up most often, unfortunately, were the taxes brought in under the

previous NDP government—the payroll tax, the tax on your net income and the corporation capital tax, all taxes that have been very regressive. We have at least made steps in improving some of those.

Mr. Storie: Well, we will not spend too much more time on taxes but the minister has had four budgets. If he believed that the payroll tax, which the CFIB says is greater in the United States, which is paid in Ontario and now Newfoundland and Quebec and paid indirectly in Alberta through health care premiums, if he believes that is the bug-a-boo that is preventing investment, because this government has the worst record in the country on private investment, the worst record in the country—I think it bears repeating—the fact is that the small moves they have made, the adjustments they have made in the payroll tax, for example, have not created a stir of investment. They have had four budgets to redress whatever problems they see in the taxation system. I think it will be noted that they have made very few changes.

Certainly, they have made no changes which would affect companies like Royal Trust who are bringing, supposedly, 200 people to the province of Manitoba, or perhaps to the MacLeod Stedman deal, both of those companies, I believe, would still be paying the payroll tax. There has been effectively no change for them, although there may have been some minor adjustments. The fact is that the province of Manitoba has not fared very well in terms of investment under this government and there must be some reason.

Moving on, I wonder whether the minister could now indicate what policy the government has with respect to research and development and its role in, I guess, spurring on new manufacturing and new investment in the province?

Mr. Stefanson: Mr. Acting Chairman, I did not lose a page in my briefing book, but there is just so much material that I do not know when to begin on this, and I know we are attempting to be fairly timely in dealing with this.

There are many initiatives through our industrial technology and through the Manitoba Research Council, and I will highlight certainly some of them. Delivery of the Manitoba Aerospace Technology Program, the Manitoba centres of excellence contribution that we made, the Technology Commercialization Program are certainly some of the particular programs. The Manitoba Research

Council, the contribution we make to that organization, and what they are doing both in technology transfer and research and development. Of course, the honourable member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie) is aware of the pending development of the Manitoba Innovations Council, and we have budgeted a contribution in this particular budget of \$500,000, I believe, to that particular development.

Certainly in that whole area we recognize the importance of it in terms of science and technology and research and development. Unquestionably, that is a very important part of economic development for the future. The regions and countries and provinces that can develop their own technology will create tremendous economic opportunities in their regions. We as a province recognize that.

We will continue to be supportive of some of the initiatives I have touched, and I will be more than prepared to share the abundant background written material that I have on the various programs that we are involved with, the various discussions that were taken place in terms of utilizing the Churchill Rocket Range. In terms of some of very specific initiatives, there are tremendous opportunities in this province in the whole field of science and technology.

So I certainly do not want to leave this particular member with the impression that we do not recognize the tremendous importance and the tremendous opportunity, and once again, I think we are on the road to benefiting from some of the very specific initiatives that we are pursuing, Mr. Acting Chairman.

Mr. Storie: Again, Mr. Acting Chairperson, I am just struck by the minister's glowing words on the importance of research and development. It reminds me very much of his glowing words on the importance of tourism, and what we find is that their actions do not speak quite as loudly as their words. The fact is that the budget shows a \$714,700 drop in contributions to the Manitoba Research Council, and I am not going to blame this minister or necessarily this government for some of the, I guess the indifference, that has been shown research and development over the past 20 years in the province of Manitoba, because clearly while we were government I do not think we made significant enough contribution to research and development either.

But I think there is ample evidence from other jurisdictions and from other countries that in fact we are failing as a country and as a province in not providing additional research and development support to industry and to our universities. The changes that the federal government made in granting to our research, through the research councils to universities, I think is going to work against the interests of the province of Manitoba and probably other provinces, save perhaps Ontario, perhaps Quebec.

I think the cutbacks in research, the hiving off of some funds for the Innovations Council, I do not think is a legitimate response to the need for research and development. The fact is that we may be creating another body; other bodies have been created in the past to do the same kinds of work. The fact is that we need, first of all, a strategy, we need a strategic approach, and perhaps this department is getting to that.

After we have developed that strategic approach, we need some commitment of dollars to support the research that is going to take the ideas from paper into some sort of manufactured product. I am not sure that this government is seriously committed to that process. At a time when I think everyone recognizes that if we are going to be competitive world-wide, the research and development side of this equation has to be addressed seriously. We are falling further and further behind, which is tragic, and I am wondering whether the minister is going to tell us how we are going to be more competitive in this competitive environment by reducing the money available for pure research and research support.

Mr. Stefanson: Mr. Acting Chairman, I think for maybe the only time today the member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie) and I might agree on something, that over the last many years the governments of Canada have not necessarily paid enough attention to this very important area.

Certainly I was fortunate to develop very much of a sense of that when I attended my first Science and Technology Ministers meeting about six weeks ago at Saskatoon. At that time we were one of many provinces that supported the national action plan put forward by the federal government, and that was after we had utilized the Manitoba Research Council to do a consultation process and a review of that national action plan. If the member has not seen it, I certainly would be more than prepared to provide him with a copy. It is a major step by the federal

government and the provinces of Canada in terms of the recognition of what has to be done in this very important area.

* (1610)

The tradition of Canada has been that we have not necessarily been innovative; we have been more adopting and adapting to other technology development of other parts of the world. There is a recognition, unquestionably, that to survive very well economically, we as a country have to become more innovative.

Specifically in terms of the Manitoba Research Council and the reduction of the funding, the funding we provide I believe represents less than half of their total budget, that the rest is developed through fees for service and so on. Really what was done with the reduction and the review that is now taking place at that organization and the excellent job I feel that the board we have there now is doing under the chairmanship of Mr. Russ Hood is to put that organization on a realistic and sound financial operating foot and to set some very clear directions in this whole area of science and technology.

The reduction is really mostly in the vicinity of administration and, in terms of relating this to what we are doing in the Innovations Council, what the past practice of the Manitoba Research Council has been is to really focus more on technology transfer and that aspect, as opposed to the real research and development. We see that as a very important function and part of the rationale for the development of the Innovations Council. How those two bodies ultimately interact, whether they become one or two single bodies will be determined over the next short period of time. I want to assure the honourable member that certainly I as minister recognize the importance of this area and the tremendous opportunities that exist in this area. We are working with the board of the Manitoba Research Council and this reduction does not in any way reflect on our commitment to that whole issue. It is more a reflection of the need to be very efficient in terms of how you run your operation.

Just throwing more money or dollars at something, I would hope the honourable member appreciates, does not always mean success. I mean, it is ultimately the quality of decision making and the direction that organizations take that will lead to success. Therefore, I hope the honourable member is not suggesting that everything has to be

geared on the amount of dollars. Certainly, \$2 million is a significant sum, and another \$500,000 in the Innovations Council is a significant sum. We recognize the work that needs to be done in those areas and I can assure the honourable member that we are undertaking that.

Mr. Gaudry: Mr. Acting Chairperson, I would ask the minister about some throne speech initiatives of October 1990. There was some mention of an import profile and an Industrial Capabilities Registry. What are these?

Mr. Stefanson: Mr. Acting Chairman, in terms of the Industrial Registry referred to by the honourable member, we certainly recognize that as a valuable and important document, and we are currently in the process of updating that registry. I think the first part was the import replacement—

An Honourable Member: Import profile.

Mr. Stefanson: Import profile? My understanding would be the Import Replacement Program that we announced as part of the throne speech, and that is currently something that we are working with Winnipeg 2000 on. There was a great deal of preliminary work that was actually done by the original task force on that in terms of preparing a resource base, and we are currently negotiating with Winnipeg 2000 in terms of the role they can play working in conjunction with our department in development of an effective Import Replacement Program.

Mr. Gaudry: Mr. Acting Chairperson, would the import profile replace statistical data on goods entering the province from Saskatchewan and Ontario and the U.S.?

Mr. Stefanson: That Import Replacement profile is tracing of goods and the procurement of goods whether they be from Manitoba-based companies or outside of Manitoba, not tracking of people.

Mr. Gaudry: Is this in conjunction with the Manitoba Bureau of Statistics, and when will the profile be implemented?

Mr. Stefanson: The Manitoba Bureau of Statistics identifies the manufacturing capabilities of some 1,500 organizations in Manitoba and therefore will definitely and does have a role to play in terms of the industrial registry.

Mr. Gaudry: In the investment promotion, how does the department arrive at the figures of 1,100 full-time jobs created and the attraction of \$450

million in capital investment? I assume these are goals to be achieved, but on what analysis were they established?

Mr. Stefanson: The numbers referred to by the honourable member for St. Boniface are the targets for '91-92, the 1,100 full-time jobs in attracting \$400 million in capital investment. Our department continually tracks and monitors all of the performances so we can base our projections, in part, on what was accomplished in previous years as well as what we anticipate in the coming year, and then, of course, we will track the actual performance that occurs in '91-92.

Mr. Gaudry: Can the minister tell us where he is with his projection at this time?

Mr. Stefanson: Mr. Acting Chairman, I do not have that information available, but I will certainly undertake to provide it to the honourable member. If the member from Flin Flon (Mr. Storie) wants the same - (interjection) - By all means, okay.

Mr. Gaudry: Yes, Mr. Acting Chairman, on the topic in the same section here, investor class immigration, how are these initiatives administered?

* (1620)

Mr. Stefanson: The business immigration investment promotion initiative is, I think, as the honourable member knows, a federal program with the province having an advisory role. There are two aspects to it, there are the entrepreneurs and there are the investors. Just to provide him with some information on the status of those programs since the investor program was first introduced in January of 1986, 15 Venture Capital funds, with some \$194 million of potential and 18 specific commercial projects worth about \$135 million target have been approved.

To date, approximately \$64.5 million in Venture Capital funds have been subscribed and are in the process of placement in Manitoba businesses and, in addition, approximately \$55.7 million have been invested and subscribed for specific projects.

In summary, Mr. Acting Chairman, 33 projects and/or funds have been approved by the federal government with a potential maximum of approximately \$325 million investment in the province.

Mr. Gaudry: What safeguards are there to protect against activities, especially such as Claro Paqueo, and also how are these funds accounted for?

Mr. Stefanson: There are at least two aspects of the initial approval process which, as I indicated, the business immigration, while it is a federal program we do have an advisory role so we receive the information on either the project or the fund. We do an analysis and, of course, part of that is legitimacy of the consultants involved and, as well, the federal government does an analysis.

There also is ongoing monitoring—the federal government has developed a computer program to monitor the investors as the programs go along. We also receive specific information on any projects within a fund in terms of that particular development. Certainly, between our department and the federal government, there is a review and there is a monitoring process. Part of that review unquestionably is the whole legitimacy of the people involved with the project; but while we have a very important role to play, the ultimate responsibility is with the federal government if there is action required in terms of any abuse of a fund or a project.

Mr. Gaudry: Mr. Acting Chairperson, again I refer back to the throne speech of October, 1990. The government promised a task force to establish a dynamic capital market in Winnipeg. Where is the task force and when will it begin?

Mr. Stefanson: Mr. Acting Chairman, that particular question affects more than just Industry, Trade and Tourism. It certainly affects the Department of Finance, and I will undertake to get a response to that question in consultation with at least that department—and I think it might even affect other departments—and respond back to the member for St. Boniface.

Mr. Gaudry: One final question—maybe it will add up to the same thing, but is the investor class immigration initiative expected to produce this capital market?

Mr. Stefanson: Mr. Acting Chairman, no, that is quite different. The question that the honourable member asked about the capital markets in Winnipeg really related to the strengthening of the stock exchanges in western Canada, which is quite different than the Immigrant Investor Program, so they are entirely different.

Mr. Storie: Mr. Acting Chairperson, I have a couple of other questions. My colleague for Crescentwood (Mr. Carr) has a number of Tourism questions, so I will try and keep my questions brief if the minister will try and keep his answers brief, and we will not

have to carry this over, for the sake of staff, until next week.

The first question: I note that the minister and the government on a number of occasions used the Industrial Opportunities Program, and the most recent one was to support an operation in Portage la Prairie. I am wondering if the minister can perhaps, if he can, table the criteria that are used, if there are any standard criteria in assessing whether funds should flow from the Industrial Opportunities grant program and whether there are any criteria which are always attached to an application, criteria that cover numbers of people employed or continued employment, length of time of commitment to involvement in the province, et cetera. Can the minister indicate what that is?

The second questions I had relates also to information that I would like to have. It deals with the Vision Capital program, and if the minister can just perhaps explain to me how that program works and how many firms have taken advantage of that program to date.

Mr. Stefanson: Mr. Acting Chairman, on the Manitoba Industrial Opportunities Program, I will certainly provide the honourable member with criteria. In a general sense it is geared certainly to job creation, minimum number of 50 jobs, so there are conditions attached from 50 on upwards in terms of job creation, repayable secured loans. The kind of support offered will range in terms of an interest-free period in terms of the payback on that loan. That is, in the general sense, how the program works, but I will certainly provide the member with the criteria.

On the Vision Capital, the fund is currently capitalized at about \$17.7 million. I think, as the honourable member knows, the Vision Capital Fund has a private sector advisory board that makes the ultimate decisions in terms of investments and that the day-to-day activities of the fund are managed by a management company. The fund reviews investment proposals on an on going basis and makes sure that the investments meet the various criteria that have been approved and laid down by the advisory board.

* (1630)

In terms of the shareholders, I am not sure if that was part of the question, I think the shareholders in Vision Capital, I have a listing of about 10 organizations. I could very briefly read them:

Investors Syndicate Ltd., Barclays Bank of Canada, Teachers' Retirement Allowances Fund, Megill-Stephenson Co. Ltd., Canada Trust, Cargill Pension Fund, Great-West Life Properties Ltd., Inter-City Gas Corporation, Civil Service Superannuation Board, Manitoba Development Corporation, Shelter Corporation of Canada, Toronto-Dominion Capital Group Ltd. are some of the shareholders in the Vision Capital Fund.

Certainly I would be prepared to provide -(interjection)- in terms of dollars?

In terms of the equity, Mr. Acting Chairman, the province has slightly less than half of the equity. I believe it is approximately \$1.25 million in equity. As I indicated, the province is committed to advancing \$15 million under the loan agreement, with the second \$15 million advance being subject to a review of the fund and so on before any additional advances would be made. Between the equity, we are slightly less than half but there is a commitment to advance up to \$15 million from the fund.

Mr. Storle: Mr. Acting Chairman, just one additional question in that area and that relates to the government's monitoring—not the Vision Capital Program but the Industrial Opportunities Program. Perhaps the minister can tell us how he monitors, and on what basis he monitors, the terms of those agreements.

I have one other question. My colleague from Transcona has one before the next couple of minutes, but the other question I had was on Tourism.

The minister again has talked about the importance of tourism. We know that the last couple of years have seen a decline in tourism traffic, particularly from the United States into Canada. The minister has, I believe, been negotiating a new tourism agreement valued at approximately one-third the value of the previous agreement.

I notice, as well, in the Department of Tourism that the province has eliminated the quality assurance staff component, three staff years. I am wondering if the minister can tell us how all of this squares with a genuine concern for tourism in the province.

Mr. Stefanson: Mr. Acting Chairman, in terms of the first question, I was not clear whether it was Vision Capital or the Industrial Opportunities.

An Honourable Member: Industrial Opportunities.

Mr. Stefanson: In terms of the Industrial Opportunities Program monitoring, we still have the Manitoba Development Corporation which really forwards the funds, receives the financial information and does the monitoring of the particular loan. They then forward that information to our department, and our department would then follow up on any of the conditions that are not being met.

In terms of the second part of the question, the member is absolutely correct. We are in the process of negotiating a new five-year agreement with the federal government for some \$10 million in total. I am optimistic that will be agreed to within the next few weeks, hopefully.

He asked about the Quality Assurance Program. While there are some standards being developed nationally, we see in the Quality Assurance that there is very much of a role potentially to play for organizations and/or the private sector. Through our assistant deputy minister, we have had meetings with some of the organizations that have expressed interest in potentially taking over that Quality Assurance Program, and we are in the midst of those discussions.

There might very well—not unlike other provinces, rather than the province administering that Quality Assurance Program—be a role for some of the organizations that are very involved in tourism in our province to play that particular role.

We have allocated some resources for the transition for this particular budget year, and we are optimistic that we will work out an arrangement with organizations interested in tourism in our province to take over that function, Mr. Acting Chairman.

Mr. Daryl Reid (Transcona): Mr. Acting Chairperson, I would like to ask the minister a few questions, if I might, about the agreement between the province and Palliser Furniture Ltd. It was an Order-in-Council, No. 171, that had been signed between this government and that company.

In 1989, there was a change. Of course, there was an earlier agreement between the provincial government and this company, Order-in-Council 1138, and I will try and combine all of my questions into one here to make it as convenient as possible for those concerned.

There has been a change between the two agreements, between the two Orders-in-Council.

The original loan was for \$1.5 million from the province under The Manitoba Industrial Opportunities Program to this company.

The first question I have is, there was a schedule of job creation that was supposed to have taken place. Can the minister give me an indication and the numbers, if possible, of the jobs that have been created according to the schedule in Order-in-Council 171, and why was there a change between the two documents, Order-in-Council 1138 and Order-in-Council 171, where paragraph 8 was deleted? I will read it: failure to adhere to the job creation schedule specified in paragraph 7 is defined as default, and it goes on from there. I would like to know why that paragraph was deleted by the difference in Orders-in-Council.

Mr. Stefanson: Mr. Acting Chairman, I am not sure if there is some confusion between the fact that there were two separate loan agreements with Palliser or the change that the honourable member is referring to does affect one of them. On that very specific question, in terms of the deletion of clause 8, I will have to get back to him and will undertake to certainly do that with the specifics.

On the job creation and numbers, he can appreciate that very specific information on all of those is not always made public for some obvious reasons, but in terms of these particular loans, I can assure the honourable member that they have met the job-creation commitments that were undertaken in the agreement.

* (1640)

Mr. Reid: Mr. Acting Chairperson, to the minister: Unless we know that these jobs have actually been created, by the minister tabling some documentation to support that, we have no way, as critics of the departments, to ascertain these facts. That is why I ask specifically for the information that these jobs have been created, and they list the job numbers, usually 40 jobs per year for a five-year period. That is why I want to know, because if these jobs have not been created and this paragraph for failure to adhere to the job creation program has been deleted between the two Orders-in-Council, then there are no sanctions that could be imposed by this government upon that company for failure to create jobs within the city of Winnipeg and the community of Transcona.

Mr. Stefanson: Mr. Acting Chairman, on that question, I mean, certainly we can provide the

information as to whether or not the conditions have been met. I have indicated and I will absolutely confirm that with each of those whether or not they have been met.

I will take your question as notice. I have to admit some concern with the sensitivity of what can become public and what cannot with many of these agreements. I know you have the Order-in-Council showing the target, but I am saying if it is not met I would be standing here telling you that the condition was not met and what we would be doing to impose it. I am telling you it has been met, and I am not so sure that, if their numbers go well beyond that, that is information that we necessarily are at liberty to share. That is all I am saying, that I should check out to make sure that in terms of the agreement we have with Palliser, or any of the other organizations, if I can share it in terms of the legal precaution, and so on, I will certainly gladly do that and undertake to do that. If there is a legal impediment to going beyond indicating to you whether or not the conditions have been met, then I will also convey that to you, but I will certainly get back to you with as much information as I can on that.

Mr. James Carr (Crescentwood): Mr. Acting Chairman, I am glad to participate in the first set of Estimates for the new minister. I wish him well. The minister may know that he is now responsible for the fastest growing, and the No. 1 industry in the world, that is the industry of tourism. That is why we were unhappy upon reading the details of the budget, that the government's commitment to invest in tourism is actually less this year than it was in the past.

I would like to start my questions by asking the minister if he can give us a status report on how well we are doing. We know that Statistics Canada monthly, or maybe not quite as often as that, gives us an indication of tourist traffic across borders. We know from east and west on the Trans-Canada Highway, and we know south from the United States, and the trend line has been very poor as more and more Manitobans cross the border to the United States for a whole host of reasons, only some of which can be laid at the feet of this government. Fewer and fewer people are staying in Manitoba, and this is a good time to be talking about tourism. Anyone who has been outside in this magnificent province over the last three weeks knows that there is hardly a better place in the world to be than right here now.

Who are we telling, and how are we promoting ourselves? How effective are we in the promotion of what is so wonderful and special about our own province? So how are we doing, is my question to the minister. Can he enlighten us by giving us the most up-to-date figures on transborder traffic and traffic across the country to Manitoba?

Mr. Stefanson: Mr. Acting Chairman, I thank the honourable member for his opening comments. I am pleased to be a part of this process and pleased to be a part of the responsibility for tourism in our province.

I have some very specific information, the most recent for the month of April, which I am sure the honourable member might have seen, but, if not, I will provide him with a copy. He is right that we do receive statistical information. This was just received in the last day or two and that is one of my concerns. Grant it that is about a two-month period, the honourable member suggested monthly, and I would tend to agree that it is the kind of information we should be getting on a very timely basis.

For the month of April it shows marginal increases, it shows U.S. residents entering Manitoba by auto were up 3 percent for the same day travel, and up 1 percent for overnight travel, as compared to April 1990, but I think the honourable member knows very well, he asked me a question in the House about the first quarter, it was down somewhat in terms of travel into Manitoba. Again, traditionally those first three or four months represent a small portion of the total travel to our province. Obviously the vast majority of it starts to occur May, June, July, August, so those numbers will in part dictate how we are doing for the entire year.

In terms of what is happening, though, one of the initiatives we have is this Tourism Manitoba card which to date—and again I will provide detailed information. We are very pleased with the level of interest and the take-up on that particular card, and I think it is showing very positive signs for what we can anticipate occurring in Manitoba. In the first quarter, travel was down somewhat. April, it was on the rise, heading in the right direction. I am optimistic we will do at least as well in 1991 as we did last year, hopefully better. I would be pleased to get into some of the very specific initiatives.

I guess, just in closing, very briefly, Mr. Acting Chairman, while the honourable member suggests

spending is down in terms of looking at where spending is down, it has primarily been in areas such as administration or where we are getting out of an area like the quality assurance that we think can be done by other organizations in our province. The dollars allocated to marketing and promotion, which are extremely important—I think we recognize the importance of that—are actually up somewhat from the previous years. I think we are still recognizing the importance and the priority of tourism, but it is a matter of where we spend those dollars.

Mr. Carr: Mr. Acting Chairman, no one in this House aspires to a different objective. The objective is to attract as many tourists to Manitoba as is possible. The next obvious question to the minister is: What is he doing? What is the strategy of the government to achieve that objective? Where is the concentration of tourism promotional material? -(interjection)- Pardon me? Are we concentrating our efforts on the tri-state area, on northwestern Ontario, on Saskatchewan? What events are we promoting? What is the heart of the government's strategy?

The minister admits that the figures are not particularly encouraging, so we have to ask him: How is he using the power of his office and the resources given to him by his government to maximize the use that can be made of the limited resources available, and how is this strategy working so far?

Mr. Stefanson: The honourable member and I certainly agree with the importance of a very focused and specific strategy. Whether we will agree on the one that we are undertaking remains to be seen. He is right that we are focusing primarily on, first of all, Manitoba, certainly very importantly on Manitoba, making sure that Manitobans, as much as possible, continue to holiday right here in our province. I think we all recognize the tremendous opportunities of holidaying in Manitoba at all times of the year but certainly at this time of the year in terms of whether you enjoy our beaches or our other outdoor activities or our fishing out at St. Laurent or wherever.

There are tremendous opportunities in Manitoba, and we recognize that a main objective is to keep as many Manitobans in Manitoba to get an appreciation for what we have. Beyond that, our market is really very much the geographic area that the honourable member touched. It is North

Dakota, Minnesota, parts of Saskatchewan and northwestern Ontario that really we have traditionally done very well in those areas. We anticipate that we can continue to do very well by again being very focused in terms of what we are promoting, in terms of some of these outdoor adventures that I just highlighted, in terms of some of the Motor Coach tours that want to come to Manitoba whether it be at Folklorama or during other events or just to appreciate what we have in this province.

Of course, there are the meeting and convention opportunities in terms of that market in the geographic area that again is represented there.

*(1650)

So certainly I agree entirely that we have to target where we think we have the greatest likelihood of success. We feel it is within our own province and those areas that I have outlined, and we have some very specific initiatives in terms of going after that, whether it be the Travel Card or some of the angling opportunities, in terms of some of the events we are being a part of in Fargo and in other communities in North Dakota and Minnesota, promoting Manitoba at those locations.

I think we are probably in agreement in terms of what our market is, and there also will be other initiatives encouraging Manitobans to stay in Manitoba, not only necessarily in Winnipeg, for Winnipeggers to go out to parts of rural Manitoba and obviously vice versa, for rural Manitobans to come into Winnipeg. We have some very specific programs to attempt to encourage Winnipeggers to get out to rural Manitoba.

As well we have worked with the community of Brandon, highlighting and promoting some of the very significant events they have, such as the Royal Winter Fair. I think there are many very positive things we are doing. I am certainly open to any suggestions that the honourable member would have, where he thinks we could be even more effective.

Mr. Carr: Mr. Acting Chairman, we do have specific suggestions. As a matter of fact, we made them during the last set of Estimates with the now Minister of Urban Affairs (Mr. Ernst). One particular suggestion was that we capitalize and be boastful of the very rich cultural life we in Manitoba have. The minister said that he would have a look at the possibility of taking some initiative.

We have in Manitoba some of the finest cultural organizations in the region, including the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra and the Manitoba Theatre Centre and a number of others, perhaps somewhat less known. It made sense that we would package these exciting cultural events, make them known to people within 500 miles or even beyond, and to sell Manitoba as a place where one can be enriched by access to some of the finest cultural organizations in the region. Can the minister report any progress at all in capitalizing on the strengths we already have as a way of attracting more people to come to our province?

Mr. Gaudry: Just a quick comment, to say that we have agreed to pass the Estimates today. There are a lot more questions that could have been asked, but it is just in co-operation with the minister who wants to go to a convention early next week. We appreciate doing that in co-operation with the government.

Mr. Stefanson: Mr. Acting Chairman, as part of the promotion of Winnipeg and of Manitoba, a very important element of that is the cultural aspect of our communities, and it does play a very important part of our promotion of our province. I think, as I have touched on, we are targeting the regions that we have already discussed and part of that is to focus on the cultural aspects, the festivals and events that occur not only in Winnipeg but in rural Manitoba, utilizing the Manitoba vacation card publication that outlines many opportunities.

We are also having a significant involvement through the media with publications and support services, so once again I think unquestionably the honourable member is correct in terms of the cultural community being an important marketing tool for us as a province, and we recognize that and will continue to build on that.

Mr. Carr: Mr. Acting Chairman, I would like to ask the minister about the coupon book which has been distributed presumably to some border stations across the province and marketed by Safeway. We have had a number of people upset about the way in which the coupon book has been distributed, because they see it as a way in which Safeway can do a favour for its customers rather than a way in which the province can market some of the tourist attractions to people who are visitors to our province.

Has the minister received any complaints? Does he believe there is something to them, that is, rather than distributing these coupon books to tourist operators and all around the province and beyond the province, that what we have done is concentrated the effort in the city of Winnipeg at Safeway stores, so that people are accessing discounts who perhaps have no indication at all or no interest at all in the tourism industry per se? Is the minister aware of those concerns that have been raised, and does he intend to do anything about them?

Mr. Stefanson: Mr. Acting Chairman, no, I have received very few, if any, complaints about the distribution network. Beyond the Safeway location, I think, the honourable members know there are other methods of distributing it through the toll-free inquiry and through mail inquiries through our Visitor Information Centres.

We are distributing it through publications on an as requested basis. I know, I have received one through a publication in my home. I think, it is very important, the building of the partnerships in terms of the availability of a distribution network, not only that but the financial contributions that the private sector is prepared to make to work in co-operation with the government.

Certainly Safeway is contributing some \$150,000, as Kodak is contributing some \$50,000. In terms of the development of the package, I would suggest that we would be very interested in initiatives, ideas coming from individuals and/or the private sector in terms of promoting tourism in Manitoba.

I think we all have the same objective and, certainly, as a government, we are open to suggestions from the private sector in terms of what involvement they have and what dollars they are prepared to bring to the table. I think, with the limited resources, that is a very important way to access more dollars.

Mr. Carr: In a fit of co-operation, the opposition has agreed to stop questioning of this minister in about two minutes. I just want the record to show that had we more time there would be a whole host of questions that we would want to explore with the minister in Estimates.

Since we will not be allowed to do that, he should expect that questions will be raised in Question Period and in other forums to talk about, for example, the way in which the Tourism Industry

Association and other industry associations in Manitoba are going to be able to cope, when the government has decided in its wisdom to curtail grants to those associations. How is that slack going to be picked up? How is the province promoting tourism outside the city of Winnipeg in particular? What does the government have in mind to nourish the possibility of world-class tourist attractions for the province so that we expand that market beyond North Dakota and Minnesota and Saskatchewan, really, to people across the country and indeed all over the world, so that the wonders of Manitoba can be shared with all? So we put the minister on notice that those questions if not asked today certainly will be asked, and we hope that he gives them consideration and at the time full, complete and meaningful answers.

Thank you, Mr. Acting Chairperson.

* (1700)

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Sveinson): Item 1. Administration and Finance (b) Executive Support: (1) Salaries \$338,000—pass; (2) Other Expenditures \$50,100—pass.

1.(c) Strategic Planning: (1) Salaries \$353,300—pass; (2) Other Expenditures \$211,900—pass.

1.(d) Finance and Administration: (1) Salaries \$656,500—pass; (2) Other Expenditures \$207,400—pass.

1.(e) Grant Assistance - Faculty of Management \$770,200—pass.

2. Industry and Trade Division (a) Industry and Trade Administration: (1) Salaries \$188,200—pass; (2) Other Expenditures \$8,100—pass.

2.(b) Industry: (1) Sectoral Development \$931,600—pass; (2) Investment Promotion \$926,100—pass.

2.(c) Financial Programs: (1) Salaries \$576,100—pass; (2) Other Expenditures \$38,600—pass; (3) Programs \$10,449,100—pass.

2.(d) Trade: (1) Salaries \$966,900—pass; (2) Other Expenditures \$636,300—pass; (3) Grants \$195,500—pass.

2.(e) Business Resource Centre: (1) Salaries \$630,100—pass; (2) Other Expenditures \$424,800—pass; (3) Grants \$30,000—pass.

Resolution 88: RESOLVED that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$16,001,400 for Industry, Trade and Tourism for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1992.

Item 3. Strategic Development Initiatives Division (a) Administration: (1) Salaries \$97,100—pass; (2) Other Expenditures \$10,000—pass.

3.(b) Health Industry Development Initiative: (1) Salaries \$431,000—pass; (2) Other Expenditures \$309,200—pass; (3) Grants \$1,200,000—pass.

3.(c) Industrial Technology: (1) Salaries \$383,400—pass; (2) Other Expenditures \$406,900—pass.

3.(d) Manitoba Innovations Council \$500,000—pass.

3.(e) Information Technology: (1) Salaries \$303,400—pass; (2) Other Expenditures \$87,400—pass.

3.(f) Grant Assistance - Manitoba Research Council \$2,000,000—pass.

Resolution 89: RESOLVED that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$5,728,400 for Industry, Trade and Tourism for the year ending the 31st day of March, 1992.

Item 4. Tourism Division (a) Administration: (1) Salaries \$210,300—pass; (2) Other Expenditures \$24,700—pass; Grants zero—pass.

4.(b) Marketing: (1) Salaries \$792,100—pass; (2) Other Expenditures \$3,135,900—pass.

4.(c) Development: (1) Salaries \$347,400—pass; (2) Other Expenditures \$309,200—pass.

4.(d) Quality Assurance: (1) Salaries zero—pass; (2) Other Expenditures \$60,000—pass.

4.(e) Corporate and Community Relations: (1) Salaries \$108,500—pass; (2) Other Expenditures \$275,400—pass.

Resolution 90: RESOLVED that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$5,263,500 for Industry, Trade and Tourism for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1992.

Item 5. Canada-Manitoba Tourism Agreement 1985-1990, (a) Salaries \$227,300—pass; (b) Other Expenditures \$312,400—pass.

Resolution 91: RESOLVED that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$539,700 for

Industry, Trade and Tourism for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1992.

Item 6. Manitoba Horse Racing Commission, (a) Grant Assistance \$5,174,100—pass.

Resolution 92: RESOLVED that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$5,174,100 for Industry, Trade and Tourism for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1992.

Item 7. Manitoba Bureau of Statistics, (a) Salaries \$394,100—pass; (b) Other Expenditures \$45,500—pass; (c) Less: Recoverable from Other Appropriations \$60,000—pass.

Resolution 93: RESOLVED that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$379,600 for Industry, Trade and Tourism for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1992.

Item 8. Expenditures Related to Capital, (a) Capital Grants: (1) Canada-Manitoba Tourism Agreement 1985-1990 \$4,970,600—pass.

Resolution 94: RESOLVED that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$4,970,600 for Industry, Trade and Tourism for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1992.

Item 1. Administration and Finance, (a) Minister's Salary \$20,600—pass.

Resolution 87: RESOLVED that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$2,608,000 for Industry, Trade and Tourism for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1992.

The hour being 5 p.m., and time for private members' hour, committee rise. Call in the Speaker.

IN SESSION

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

Committee Changes

Mr. Edward Helwer (Gimli): Mr. Speaker, first of all, I would like to withdraw the changes I made earlier today to the Industrial Relations Committee.

I move, seconded by the member for Niakwa (Mr. Reimer), that the composition of the Standing Committee on Public Utilities and Natural Resources for Thursday, the 8 p.m. sitting, be amended as follows: The member for Assiniboia (Mrs. McIntosh) for the member for Ste. Rose (Mr. Cummings); the member for Sturgeon Creek (Mr. McAlpine) for the member for Gimli (Mr. Helwer); the

member for Fort Garry (Mrs. Vodrey) for the member for Rossmere (Mr. Neufeld); the member for Riel (Mr. Ducharme) for the member for Turtle Mountain (Mr. Rose); the member for St. Vital (Mrs. Render) for the member for La Verendrye (Mr. Sveinson).

Mr. Speaker: Agreed? Agreed and so ordered.

Mr. Doug Martindale (Burrows): I too rise to rescind the changes made earlier today when it was moved by the member for Point Douglas (Mr. Hickes), seconded by the member for Wellington (Ms. Barrett), that for Public Utilities and Natural Resources, Burrows (Mr. Martindale) for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie).

Also, it was moved by the member for Point Douglas (Mr. Hickes), seconded by the member for Wellington (Ms. Barrett), Industrial Relations, Elmwood (Mr. Maloway) for Thompson (Mr. Ashton) and Transcona (Mr. Reid) for Swan River (Ms. Wowchuk).

I move, seconded by the member for Transcona (Mr. Reid), that the Standing Committee on Public Utilities and Natural Resources be amended as follows: Elmwood (Mr. Maloway) for Point Douglas (Mr. Hickes); Transcona (Mr. Reid) for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie). That is for tonight at 8 p.m.

I move, seconded by the member for Transcona (Mr. Reid), that the Standing Committee on Public Utilities and Natural Resources be amended as follows: Point Douglas (Mr. Hickes) for Elmwood (Mr. Maloway); Burrows (Mr. Martindale) for Transcona (Mr. Reid). That is for next Tuesday at 10 a.m.

Mr. Speaker: Agreed? Agreed.

Mr. Kevin Lamoureux (Inkster): Mr. Speaker, I move seconded by the member for Osborne (Mr. Alcock), that the composition of the Standing Committee on Public Utilities and Natural Resources be amended as follows: Inkster (Mr. Lamoureux) for St. James (Mr. Edwards); The Maples (Mr. Cheema) for Crescentwood (Mr. Carr).

Mr. Speaker: Agreed? Agreed and so ordered.

Committee Report

Mr. Ben Sveinson (Acting Chairman of Committees): Mr. Speaker, the Committee of Supply has adopted certain resolutions, directs me to report the same and asks leave to sit again.

I move, seconded by the honourable member for Gimli (Mr. Helwer), that the report of the committee be received.

Motion agreed to.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

DEBATE ON SECOND READINGS—PUBLIC BILLS

Bill 22—The Manitoba Energy Authority Repeal Act

Mr. Speaker: On the proposed motion of the honourable member for Crescentwood (Mr. Carr), Bill 22, The Manitoba Energy Authority Repeal Act; Loi abrogeant la Loi sur la Régie de l'énergie du Manitoba, standing in the name of the honourable Minister of Industry, Trade & Tourism (Mr. Stefanson).

An Honourable Member: Stand.

Mr. Speaker: Stand? Is there leave that this matter remain standing? Leave? Agreed.

Bill 23—The Manitoba Intercultural Council Amendment Act

Mr. Speaker: On the proposed motion of the honourable member for Inkster (Mr. Lamoureux), Bill 23, The Manitoba Intercultural Council Amendment Act; Loi modifiant la Loi sur le Conseil interculturel du Manitoba, standing in the name of the honourable Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness).

An Honourable Member: Stand.

Mr. Speaker: Stand? Is there leave that this matter remain standing? Leave? Agreed.

Bill 24—The Business Practices Amendment Act

Mr. Speaker: On the proposed motion of the honourable member for St. Boniface (Mr. Gaudry), Bill 24, The Business Practices Amendment Act; Loi modifiant la Loi sur les pratiques commerciales, standing in the name of the honourable member for Osborne (Mr. Alcock), who has seven minutes remaining.

Mr. Reg Alcock (Osborne): Perhaps I can just take a minute to close my portion of the remarks on this particular bill.

I think, if I recall, when we were last debating this bill, the issue that was outstanding here was

whether or not employees, who worked for corporations or small businesses who notice that the business is operating in an unethical, if not an illegal manner, and bring that to the attention of the appropriate authorities, have any kind of protection.

Certainly, that is something that we want to see offered to employees in such corporations. The majority of corporate citizens in this province function effectively and well and do good business and they should be respected for that. In certain circumstances, all too often we note that people are not behaving in such a forthright manner, and we feel that the employees who do not want to be tainted with that particular scandal or charge should be protected when they come forward to make known that a corporation is not functioning appropriately.

I think the member has spent a fair bit of time consulting with members of the business community and discussing the ramifications of such legislation. I think it is something that it is about time we moved on, and so I would recommend this bill to the Legislature and hope that we have an opportunity to get it before the committee.

I would be interested, though, in hearing the reaction from the Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism (Mr. Stefanson) and the member for Charleswood (Mr. Ernst), who is known as having a great deal of experience on the whole issue of small business management and the relations with employees, and has a very fine singing voice, if I might say so, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

* (1710)

Hon. Glen Cummings (Minister of Environment): I move, seconded by the Minister of Urban Affairs (Mr. Ernst), that debate be adjourned.

Motion agreed to.

Bill 25—The Environment Amendment Act (2)

Mr. Speaker: On the proposed motion of the honourable member for St. James (Mr. Edwards), Bill 25, The Environment Amendment Act (2); Loi no 2 modifiant la Loi sur l'environnement, standing in the name of the honourable Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard).

An Honourable Member: Stand.

Mr. Speaker: Is there leave that this matter remain standing? Leave? Agreed.

Bill 26—The Environment Amendment Act (3)

Mr. Speaker: On the proposed motion of the honourable member for St. James (Mr. Edwards), Bill 26, The Environment Amendment Act (3); Loi no 3 modifiant la Loi sur l'environnement, standing in the name of the honourable Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness).

An Honourable Member: Stand.

Mr. Speaker: Is there leave that this matter remain standing? Leave? Agreed.

Bill 31—The Ombudsman Amendment Act

Mr. Speaker: On the proposed motion of the honourable Leader of the second opposition party (Mrs. Carstairs), Bill 31, The Ombudsman Amendment Act; Loi modifiant la Loi sur l'Ombudsman, standing in the name of the honourable Minister of Urban Affairs (Mr. Ernst).

An Honourable Member: Stand.

Mr. Speaker: Is there leave that this matter remain standing? Leave? Agreed.

Mr. Reg Alcock (Osborne): Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to put a few words on the record relative to this act. I think it is time that this comes before us, because there are several things relative to the function of an Ombudsman that I think are worth discussing.

What this act purports to do is to take the same sort of protection for citizens that was made available through the City of Winnipeg amendments last year and the establishment of an Ombudsman's office relative to the city, and make that same thing available to the municipalities. I think it is so good for the citizens of Winnipeg, then it should be good for the citizens throughout the province.

The problem is in how we structure that relationship and what we do to support our existing Ombudsman. It seems that as concerns grow about the actions of the government, everybody wishes the Ombudsman to be called in to support their particular issues, their particular causes. I think we have to look seriously at the support and the resources that are given to that particular office.

We have repeatedly over the years asked the Ombudsman to take on additional responsibilities, to take on additional functions, and we have done little to expand the scope or the resources available

for that office. We have done nothing to recognize the fact that the Ombudsman is indeed taking on more scope in his responsibilities and a far greater workload than he has to date. I think it is only fair that we begin to examine in a realistic way the compensation that is made available to the Ombudsman as an employee of, not this government, but this Legislature.

I was a little astounded, frankly, and I note that recently there was a debate at City Council about the use of the Ombudsman as an avenue of—what?—complaint resolution, as an avenue of investigation, as an avenue for advocacy on behalf of citizens within the city of Winnipeg, that one of the things that the Ombudsman was empowered to do under his legislation was to go forward and negotiate with the city to establish an office of the Ombudsman for the city and to provide Ombudsman services to the citizens of the city of Winnipeg. He negotiated an agreement with the City Council that allowed for the city, on a fee-for-service basis, to provide some of the very things that we as a Legislature should have been providing to that office over time, provide for some additional staff to take on the extra workloads and the additional clerical staff to handle the data processing, word processing functions that are necessary in order to produce the documentation that he functions on and, indeed, to provide, too, some additional compensation to the Ombudsman himself.

I noticed that when this came to the floor of council I was astounded to see Mr. Mitchelson from the northeast corner of the province referencing concerns about the compensation paid to our Ombudsman by the City of Winnipeg. I am wondering what consultation took place between a city councillor and this government relative to this particular issue. I think that we have an Ombudsman in this province who has done excellent work, who has proved to be a true advocate for the people of this province, has proved to be impartial and deserves to be recognized for that.

I also note that in the current Ombudsman Act there is a process whereby the Attorney General can simply order, through the issuance of a certificate, the Ombudsman to cease an investigation. I think that, as we look at the legislation that governs our Ombudsman, we should begin to look at removing some of those

impediments. We have a government which seems to be only too willing to stifle debate to prevent the coming forward of legitimate grievances and to not hear the complaints from citizens in this province. I think the Ombudsman is a vehicle that they have that people should be encouraged to use. I think they should be encouraged to use that and allowed to use that in a completely unrestricted manner. We are the only province in this country that limits the freedom of investigation of the Ombudsman in this manner. I think it is something that we should see is removed immediately.

What the member is proposing, what my Leader is proposing through this bill is simply that we allow to the citizens of rural Manitoba the same access to an advocate and an investigation, an independent, nonpartisan investigation on their behalf that we are proposing to allow to the citizens of Winnipeg. I think it is overdue, I think it is something that will improve the quality of municipal governance and is something that this Legislature should act on immediately.

We will have to consider, however, and I think the municipalities will have to consider how they are going to resource that, and that is something that could be done in the same way as it is now with the city of Winnipeg: municipalities negotiating contractual arrangements with the office of the Ombudsman in order to fund this service. This also allows them the ability to enter into these agreements as they so desire and to reflect the unique circumstances that may affect their particular community.

So with those few remarks, Mr. Speaker, I would like to recommend this bill to the House.

Mr. Speaker: As previously agreed this matter will remain standing in the name of the honourable Minister of Urban Affairs (Mr. Ernst).

Bill 62—The University of Manitoba Amendment Act

Mr. Speaker: On the proposed motion of the honourable Leader of the second opposition party (Mrs. Carstairs), Bill 62, The University of Manitoba Amendment Act; Loi modifiant la Loi sur l'Université du Manitoba, standing in the name of the honourable Minister of Urban Affairs (Mr. Ernst).

An Honourable Member: Stand.

Mr. Speaker: Stand. Is there leave that this matter remain standing? Leave? Agreed.

SECOND READINGS—PUBLIC BILLS

Bill 16—The Motor Vehicle Lemon Law Act

Mr. Jim Maloway (Elmwood): Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the member for Broadway (Mr. Santos), that Bill 16, The Motor Vehicle Lemon Law Act; Loi sur les véhicules automobiles défectueux, be now read a second time and be referred to a committee of this House.

Motion presented.

Mr. Maloway: Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to speak to this bill on second reading and once again try to convince people in this House of the importance of considering and passing such a bill.

The automobile industry in this country and on this continent, in fact worldwide, has an interest in convincing people that defects in their cars are the fault and problem of the people who purchase the cars. They probably would have a much easier time of things and make life easier for themselves if they were simply to accept the fact that when a manufacturer manufactures any number of a product, 1,000 products or a million products, there is bound to be one or two faulty nonconforming products in that batch. I think that stands to reason.

We all know that in any product we buy or we have ever bought that while our neighbours or friends may have bought a product that has worked well for perhaps 20 years another person we know may have bought that same product and it in fact did not perform the way the other products did.

That is basically the test that is used when one determines what a so-called lemon vehicle is. The sad part about this is the car companies take the view that they are not to admit liability. They attempt to convince the aggrieved purchaser that in fact it is the purchaser's fault, that they are mishandling the vehicle, that there is nothing wrong with the vehicles, they all come out the same when they come out of the assembly line from the car company. Time is proving that is not the case.

What has happened over the last few years, particularly in the United States, is that 45 states of the United States have brought in lemon laws. In fact the person who is in charge of the Florida lemon law, which is one of the toughest in the United States, has his Ph.D. in lemon laws at university. So that will give you an indication of the fact that this

is not something that has just come up in the last couple of years.

I see the Conservative members opposite laughing, and my point to them was that this is not something that just developed in the last one, two or three years. This has been a problem for years and years and years. In fact Florida brought in this law 10 years ago. What they did was they updated it in 1987 to bring it into being the toughest in the United States at that time, and our law here is patterned on that Florida law. There have been a couple of states that have come in with even tougher laws, I believe, New York being one of them.

* (1720)

Well, the advantage of looking at a lemon law that has been in place for a while allows one to take a look at the Annual Report, which is published every year, which indicates what the results are of the program. Here, what we have, as of last week, is a copy of the 1990 Annual Report which shows a much-improved picture and acceptance of this procedure than what we saw in the year before.

In fact, last year, in 1990, there were \$11 million in awards and settlements for 1990, and this represented a 377 percent increase over the \$2.9 million recovered by consumers in 1989. How can any car company tell you that they do not make lemons when the state of Florida's Attorney-General's department through its lemon law arbitration program in its Annual Report say, not only have the car companies been lying about the fact that there are no lemons, but they are saying they are here.

In fact, we have the stats to prove that there are lemons, because we have forced the car companies to pay out \$11 million last year alone, and once again, that is a 377 percent increase over the year before. Goodness knows what it is going to be for the next year, as more people become aware of what constitutes a lemon car and on what basis actions can be taken.

For example, there are a number of court cases and examples in the back of the report which would indicate to people that perhaps a nonconformity may be a vibration problem, that a nonconformity may be a transmission problem, that a vehicle's electrical windows could constitute a nonconformity—these are all things that perhaps the average individual would not necessarily see as something that would apply to their particular

vehicle, which they are not sure they can actually call a lemon yet—overheating problems caused by defective installation of air conditioning, a nonconformity, transmission noise problems, malfunctioning air conditioning, steering and handling problems, and on and on.

We have the example of Florida. We have the example of 44 other states who have such laws, who have had such laws now for a number of years. We have the evidence from their Annual Reports which indicate that people, aggrieved parties, can go to an independent source and can get a judgment on that car, that it is a lemon, that this is what is wrong with it and that there is a remedy. The remedy is that the person gets a new car subject to a deduction for wear and tear or they get their money back.

There are nice pie graphs in the annual report, the annual report this year, and I have last year's as well. This year's is 53 pages, and it has nice pie graphs showing the percentage of people who opted for a replacement car versus the percentage of people who took the cash settlement. For example, 37.9 percent last year took replacement vehicles; 50 percent asked for refunds.

There are also graphs showing which cars tended to be the biggest lemons. They have a formula for telling that, because obviously you may have a manufacturer like General Motors who has the largest share of the market and so by sheer numbers would and should produce the most lemon vehicles. When you do the calculation, you find that General Motors does, in fact, not have the distinction of being one of the worst of the companies. In fact, Ford and Chrysler, particularly Chrysler, who have a much smaller percentage of the market, have a much more significant percentage of the lemon-law cases.

These are all very interesting things that are in the annual report that is available to the minister and this government. I can assure you, the minister has never shown any interest to hear about these things, because if she had or the government had, they could simply contact the Florida Lemon Law Arbitration Program, and they would be sent a copy of this annual report. They could talk to Dr. Philip Nowicki, the Executive Director of the lemon-law program in Florida, a man who has his Ph.D. in lemon law, which I had indicated before, and has authored lemon law into a dozen states.

The members laughed when I mentioned about the Ph.D. I was simply using the point to illustrate that this has been around a long time, because it is common Tory strategy when it comes to lemon law, when they want to defend their friends in the car industry to say, oh, well, that is too new; no one has ever heard of that. Well, let me tell you, somebody has heard of it. It has been around for a long time.

Now another misconception that the people over there—and I do not believe they are that stupid, that they do not understand; I think they just do not want to understand—is the misunderstanding they perpetrate as to how onerous this is going to be on the car dealers. Lemon law has nothing to do with car dealers. It has to do with car manufacturers because they are the people who are going to have to replace the car or replace the money.

When I hear the president of the Manitoba Motor Dealers Association or the Consumers' Association making shrill off-the-wall comments about it affecting adversely car dealers, it is an absolute lie. There is no other way to describe it. It is not telling the truth, because the law in the States, the law as we drafted it, has nothing to do with car dealers.

As a matter of fact, if I was a car dealer, I would welcome this law because I am not contributing anything to it, and I would be happy to have a satisfied clientele out there, who when they do run into a lemon car, I can give them over to the arbitration program. I get them out of my hair, and they are happy that Ford or General Motors or Chrysler is going to make due on this bad car. I would think that would be an excellent idea. If there is a complaint that someone has in the insurance business, I am very happy to be able to refer them to the superintendent of insurance. I am glad he is there because he can handle those problems that perhaps an agent cannot properly handle or are more of an aggravation to the agent.

The car dealer, a smart car dealer, I submit, would find benefit in having a lemon-law program because while he or she, the car dealer, is fixing these cars these innumerable times, they are, in fact, making money every step of the way and they are billing the manufacturer. Every time you go in to have the nonconformity fixed, the dealer is making money, but after the period of time when the car has to be replaced or the money has to be given back, that is not the dealer who is going to be doing it. That is the manufacturer.

Mr. Speaker, I wanted to clear that up. I have had to do this constantly, because of a deliberate misrepresentation on the part of the front bench over there and the people whom I mentioned before. I am hoping that this is going to come clear in their minds, because if it does not, eventually the press coverage hopefully will sink through sooner or later.

I do want to also talk about an individual who came to me yesterday. Her name is Aida Izaqu and she lives at 47 Baffin Crescent in St. James. She had a story to tell that would bring a tear to the eye of anyone who was sympathetic to her cause.

* (1730)

This woman with a couple of young children—and I believe she has a job and her husband has a job—but on December 22, just a few months ago, she bought a new car, and with it all the dreams that one buys with a new car with 65 kilometres on it, from Winnipeg Jeep Eagle, the 1990 model. She bought this from the president of the company, Costas Ataliotis. On December 22, the day she bought it, she filled up her gas tank at Domo at St. James and Ness, and she drove home to Baffin Crescent. It is only a mile or two. In that two miles, the car had consumed half a tank of gas, and black smoke was coming out of the back. The rpms were racing at 6000.

This is a brand new car and we have to admit that one in every thousand cars or 10,000 or whatever turns out like this. The car company should recognize that. It stands to reason. They did some testing on this car, and while the gas mileage is supposed to be 23 miles per gallon or something like that, it is getting around 11 miles per gallon. On January 20, her husband went out and drove the car a short distance—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The honourable member's time has expired.

Is the House ready for the question?

Mr. Edward Helwer (Gimli): I move, seconded by the member for Fort Garry (Mrs. Vodrey), that debate be adjourned.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Speaker: Are we proceeding with Bill 17 (The Consumer Protection Amendment Act: Loi modifiant la Loi sur la protection du consommateur)?

An Honourable Member: No.

Mr. Speaker: No? Okay. Are we proceeding with Bill 27 (The Health Services Insurance Amendment Act (2)); Loi no 2 modifiant la Loi sur l'assurance-maladie)? No? Okay.

DEBATE ON SECOND READINGS—PRIVATE BILLS

Bill 32—The Mount Carmel Clinic Amendment Act

Mr. Speaker: On the proposed motion of the honourable member for St. Johns (Ms. Wasylcia-Leis), Bill 32, The Mount Carmel Clinic Amendment Act; Loi modifiant la Loi sur la "Mount Carmel Clinic", standing in the name of the honourable Minister of Energy and Mines (Mr. Neufeld).

An Honourable Member: Stand.

Mr. Speaker: Stand? Is there leave that this matter remain standing? Leave? Agreed.

Bill 66—The Winnipeg Canoe Club Incorporation Amendment Act

Mr. Speaker: On the proposed motion of the honourable member for St. Vital (Mrs. Render), Bill 66, The Winnipeg Canoe Club Incorporation Amendment Act; Loi modifiant la Loi constituant en corporation "The Winnipeg Canoe Club," standing in the name of the honourable member for Inkster (Mr. Lamoureux).

An Honourable Member: Stand.

Mr. Speaker: Stand. Is there leave that this matter remain standing? Leave? Agreed.

PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS

Res. 28—Professional and Technical Accreditation

Mr. Conrad Santos (Broadway): Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable member for Elmwood (Mr. Maloway), Resolution 28 on Professional and Technical Accreditation as follows:

WHEREAS there are some new Canadians who settled in Manitoba and elsewhere in Canada who brought with them professional and technical education, skills and training which they are unable to use in Manitoba and in Canada; and

WHEREAS there are institutionalized structures in Manitoba and in Canada of well-established self-governing groups of professional and technical persons who collectively are exercising almost absolute autonomy, to the extent that the federal, provincial and municipal levels of government have practically abdicated inherent public regulatory power of the Crown over the education, training, internship, admission, disciplining and other related processes connected with the creation, organization and operation of professional and technical associations, societies and organizations; and

WHEREAS the utilization of the professional education, skills and training of the new Canadians would be beneficial to Canada in general and to the province of Manitoba in particular.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba recommend to the government that it consider, adopt and implement an enlightened policy of formal recognition and accreditation in meritorious cases of the education, skills and training brought into Canada by new Canadians; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Assembly consider holding public hearings to elicit the opinions and views of Manitobans, including the new Canadians, on the desirability of forming formal governmental accreditation and licensing boards for each of the various now self-governing, inward-looking, self-seeking professional and technical associations, societies, and organizations; which boards are to have memberships, the majority of whom are to be drawn from respective and related professional or technical groups, from the government, and from lay members of the general public to ensure that members of such boards shall be acting as trustees for the general public interest of all.

Motion presented.

Mr. Santos: Mr. Speaker, despite our democratic ideals of equality of opportunity for everyone, the actual decisional structures in our social system, particularly in the trade organizations and in the self-governing professional associations, societies and organizations operate in such a manner that it superficially ameliorates or ignores the institutionally imbedded subtle discriminatory practices against well-educated, skilled, trained and experienced people, trades people and

professionals among the newly arrived immigrants, even among fully naturalized Canadian citizens.

To be specific, and with due regard to high standards of performance, why cannot an accountant from Santiago, Chile, who has been engaged in accounting work for 10 years, who has been here and already become a Canadian citizen, why can he not practise accountancy in Winnipeg? Are the numbers in Santiago any different from the numbers in Winnipeg? Are the additions and the subtractions and the balance sheet formula different from those countries? Why is a lawyer, who is licensed in the Philippines, who has studied common law in an American law school, not permitted to write law admission examinations in Canada on the grounds that she is not a graduate of a Canadian law school?

Why cannot a carpenter from Lisbon, who had been engaged in carpentry for 10 years, who came here and who already became a naturalized Canadian citizen, why can he not practise carpentry in Winnipeg? Are the saws and chisels in Lisbon any less effective in cutting and shaping lumber in Winnipeg? Why cannot a barber from Manila who had been doing that line of work for almost his lifetime, who came here and who already became a naturalized Canadian citizen, why cannot he practise as a barber in Winnipeg? Is the hair in Winnipeg any less different to cut, to trim or to shave than the hair of the people in Manila?

These are just problems, Mr. Speaker, of the barriers to the entry to the various trades and

professions and to the various occupations in Canada experienced by our new Canadian citizens.

There have been two basic traditions that have been observed in this country. These are the self-regulation, self-governance of the trades and the professions, and the second practice is the peer review in their own members of the education, training, admission, disciplining and conduct of their members.

Point of Order

Mr. Kevin Lamoureux (Second Opposition House Leader): Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. Can I have a quorum count, please?

Mr. Speaker: Will all the members take their places, please. We are going to have a quorum count. Take your place. Order, please. Will all the members please rise.

Mr. Clerk (William Remnant): Honourable Mr. Manness, Honourable Mr. Cummings, Honourable Mrs. Mitchelson, Mr. Santos, Mr. Chomiak, Ms. Barrett, Mr. Lamoureux, Mr. Alcock, the Honourable Mr. Rocan.

Mr. Santos: Will I reserve my right to speak?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. When this matter is again before the House, the honourable member for Broadway (Mr. Santos) will have 13 minutes remaining.

Due to lack of a quorum, this House is now adjourned and stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow (Friday).

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Thursday, June 27, 1991

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