



Fifth Session - Thirty-Fifth Legislature

of the

Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

(Hansard)

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Speaker*



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MANITOBA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
Thirty-Fifth Legislature

Members, Constituencies and Political Affiliation

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

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Thursday, June 2, 1994

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

PRAYERS

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

PRESENTING PETITIONS

Manitoba Historical Society Incorporation Act

Mrs. Shirley Render (St. Vital): Mr. Speaker, I beg to present the petition of Douglas Taylor, William J. Fraser and Lily B. Stearns praying for the passage of an act incorporating the Manitoba Historical Society so that the activities of the Manitoba Historical Society may continue as they have since its legal dissolution by virtue of the repeal of an act to incorporate the Historical Society of Manitoba on November 14, 1990.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Committee of Supply

Mrs. Louise Dacquay (Chairperson of Committees): Mr. Speaker, the Committee of Supply has supported certain resolutions, directs me to report the same and asks leave to sit again.

I move, seconded by the honourable member for La Verendrye (Mr. Sveinson), that the report of the committee be received.

Motion agreed to.

TABLING OF REPORTS

Hon. Leonard Derkach (Minister of Rural Development): Mr. Speaker, I would like to table the Annual Report for The Surface Rights Board of Manitoba, 1993-94.

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): Mr. Speaker, I would like to table notes for a presentation I made to the Special Joint Committee Reviewing Canadian Foreign Policy meeting yesterday in Winnipeg.

* (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 Vincent Massey High School fifty-five Grade 9 students under the direction of Ms. Ruth Lang. This school is located in the constituency of the honourable Minister of Health (Mr. McCrae).

Also this afternoon, we have from the Greenland School twenty-five Grades 8 and 9 students under the direction of Mr. Randy Warkentin. This school is located in the constituency of the honourable member for La Verendrye (Mr. Sveinson).

From the Calvin Christian School, we have thirty Grade 9 students under the direction of Mr. John Buikema. This school is located in the constituency of the honourable Minister of Family Services (Mrs. Mitchelson).

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

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

Royal Canadian Legion Headgear Policy

Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, later today, by leave, all the members of this Chamber have agreed to celebrate and commemorate the 50th Anniversary of D-Day, a resolution that is placed before this House by the member for St. Johns (Mr. Mackintosh) which will pay tribute to our veterans and forces in the Second World War.

Unfortunately, this same time this week, we have some major public controversy dealing with the whole issue of the Royal Canadian Legion's decision to ban headgear in legion facilities, which obviously impacts on our communities here in Manitoba.

I would like to ask the Premier, what position has the provincial government on this issue in terms of either the human rights act of Manitoba or the Human Rights Act of Canada?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): Mr. Speaker, like all members of the Chamber, I am sure, we find it regrettable that a private organization would set those kinds of discriminatory rules. I personally certainly disagree with the position they have taken.

Having said that, it is not a matter in which the province has jurisdiction in a private organization, and we cannot force them, against their will, to change the position they have taken.

Mr. Doer: Mr. Speaker, all of us have paid tribute to the tremendous community work that legions perform in all of our constituencies right across Manitoba. I think last year I was mentioning the milk program for the Duke of Marlborough School in Churchill as a tremendous—one of many thousands of contributions that have been made by those very same legions to our communities.

But, Mr. Speaker, we have a Manitoba Human Rights Code dealing with religious tolerance and religious practices. I wonder if the Premier has any legal opinion about this issue dealing with the whole issue of religious rights and religious tolerance as it applies to the Manitoba human rights act.

Mr. Filmon: Mr. Speaker, I am sure the member knows that this is an issue in which the legion itself is very divided. There are varying very strong opinions amongst its members, many of whom do not agree with the position that has been taken by the majority. There is no question that it is an emotional and difficult issue.

We have not got a legal opinion on the issue, and that is not a matter that I can comment on because I do not have a legal opinion.

Mr. Doer: Mr. Speaker, Manitoba has always been a leader in religious tolerance. It has also been a leader in volunteerism and community participation, and the legions, of course, have exemplified that in our province.

Has the government looked at taking a leadership position in Manitoba to deal with this challenge, to have religious organizations in Manitoba meeting with the government and with the legions here in our province to try to resolve this in a co-operative way, consistent with our principles of religious tolerance on the one hand and respect for the tremendous work that our legions perform to our communities on the other hand?

* (1340)

Mr. Filmon: Mr. Speaker, I think this is a decision that had been taken by the national body of the legions in Canada, so it is not a matter that is just a provincial issue. I believe that legion members will be subject obviously to the commentary of society, and the commentary of society has not been kind or supportive of what they have done.

Under those circumstances, I am sure that they will be searching their own souls to determine whether or not this is a matter that they can leave untouched or whether or not they ought to reconsider.

Goods and Services Tax Replacement

Mr. Leonard Evans (Brandon East): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance.

It appears that the Liberal government in Ottawa is about to renege on its election promise to eliminate the hated GST. It looks as though all we are going to get from the Liberals is a name change and a continuation of the regressive tax that Canadians and Manitobans detest.

My question is, has the Minister of Finance a position on this matter, and has he relayed it to the federal Minister of Finance?

Hon. Eric Stefanson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I thank the member for Brandon East for that question. We had a question a few weeks ago on this issue and we indicated, we, like most provinces in Canada, are awaiting the report of the House of Commons committee that was mandated to review the GST. They are scheduled to report, now, I believe, on June 20, and that report is going

to be one of the agenda items when we meet at the end of June. Finance ministers meet at the end of June. That item is on the agenda. When we met as western and territorial ministers during the Western Premiers' Conference, again we discussed that only one province had actually gone and made a presentation.

This is a federal tax. It is a commitment, as the member said, of the federal Liberals in terms of replacing the GST. There have now been media reports and rumours in terms of what they really are intending to do with the GST, but we, like so many Canadians, are awaiting that report, and that will obviously impact the decision we make.

We have some fundamental principles that we think are absolutely important to any replacement for the GST in terms of accountability, in terms of fairness, in terms of transparency, that any tax that a government levels should be transparent and should not be hidden, Mr. Speaker. Those are some of the principles, as well as dealing with overlap and duplication and so on.

Those are principles that we take to that meeting, Mr. Speaker, that will impact how we judge whatever the federal government comes up with in terms of replacing the GST or changing the GST.

Mr. Leonard Evans: Mr. Speaker, that is fine, but when the Minister of Finance attends this meeting of federal-provincial Ministers of Finance, will he stand up for Manitoba consumers and insist that the Liberal government live up to its election promise?

Is he prepared to put forward other proposals, and I am sure he is, for fairer taxes, including the elimination of tax loopholes for the rich and ending the exemption of taxes on family trusts?

Mr. Stefanson: Mr. Speaker, we always stand up for Manitobans, and we will be doing that again at the Finance ministers' meeting at the end of June. I enunciated for the member the kinds of principles that were going forward in terms of any replacement with the GST, and those are absolutely critical.

As well, when we met as Finance ministers for western Canada, we said we want many tax issues

on the table when we discuss this with the federal Liberals, because provinces, for many years, have had many tax issues. We have talked about a tax on income instead of a tax on tax. We have talked about one single tax collection agency for all of Canada to eliminate duplication and overlap in terms of what consumers and individuals have to file—many principles.

It really is indeed ironic, Mr. Speaker, that those issues seem to continue to be pushed to the back burner, and one issue that was a Liberal campaign commitment and promise gets elevated to the top. We are going there with a series of tax issues that we feel are important to Manitoba. We expect them all to be addressed during those meetings.

Harmonization

Mr. Leonard Evans (Brandon East): I appreciate the minister's comments, and I suggest to him he could bring up the issue of family trust exemption. There is \$1 billion alone from that issue, on that one particular measure, that the Government of Canada could obtain. So that is something the minister could do very positively, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to ask my final question to the minister. Are the minister and his staff now in consultation or discussion with the federal government Ministry of Finance on the possibility of harmonizing the provincial sales tax with the GST? I would add, Mr. Speaker, this would be a move that would be bad news for Manitobans, however rational some people may think it is, and would leave Manitobans to be even more cynical about governments.

* (1345)

Hon. Eric Stefanson (Minister of Finance): The short answer, Mr. Speaker, is no, we are not in any discussions with the federal government on harmonization. We, as the member for Brandon East knows, opposed harmonization, that taxes are not harmonized here in Manitoba. I believe only one province in Canada has, in fact, harmonized, and unless we see good and valid reasons, that will continue to be our position.

We will await to see what this report does bring forward from the House of Commons committee, but as I have already indicated, it has to represent fairness for individual citizens of Manitoba and Canada. It has to have accountability; it has to have transparency.

I will say again, Mr. Speaker, that we oppose any kind of a hidden tax, that we are finally getting away from hidden taxes so that consumers and the public are aware of what kind of taxes they are paying. Any step by the federal Liberals to go back to hidden taxes, from our view, would be regressive.

I want to conclude, because I took that matter on family trusts as notice when the member for Brandon East brought it up the other day, we do have a position that trusts should not provide a vehicle to escape income taxes on capital gains in perpetuity. That is the concern with the issue the member brought up, because there was a 21-year freeze and there is now this extension of another 21 years, so that is a concern of ours.

As he knows, it is a federal jurisdiction. It is an area of federal responsibility. I will be corresponding with my counterpart the federal minister on this issue, and I am sure we will have an opportunity to discuss it when we meet at the end of June.

Royal Canadian Legion Headgear Policy

Mr. Paul Edwards (Leader of the Second Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I listened closely to the initial questions today from the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Doer) and the responses of the Premier. I want to follow up with a further question on the issue of the recent decision taken by the national council of the Legion.

I want to ask the Premier in view of his response, he did mention that the province did not have a legal opinion at this point, I believe, and he also indicated, I believe, that he felt the Manitoba human rights act would not apply to this private organization.

Mr. Speaker, I believe—[interjection] Well, if I am misquoting the Premier, he will certainly correct me.

Can I ask the Premier, has he, in fact, has the government sought any legal opinion from counsel—and there is counsel from the government assigned to cover human rights issues—to specifically give advice on whether or not this would potentially qualify as a breach of that act, Mr. Speaker?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): Mr. Speaker, I certainly at no time said that the human rights act would not apply.

I stated my regret at the decision, my disagreement with the decision, and certainly the human rights act is there and has various provisions that might indeed be used in a challenge. Any Manitoban could put forth a challenge under the human rights act that would be reviewed by the Manitoba Human Rights Commission.

Mr. Edwards: Mr. Speaker, again, for the First Minister, he has indicated publicly here that obviously the government does not support that decision.

Has the Premier communicated that directly on behalf—because obviously there is three-party agreement in this House on that issue—of his government to the National Legion Council in the wake of this decision, that this is a regrettable decision in view of his government?

Mr. Filmon: Mr. Speaker, I am informed that a complaint has already been filed before the Manitoba Human Rights Commission, and that that complaint is now being dealt with and the process will prevail.

I have not conveyed my views at this point to the legion, but certainly have no hesitation in doing so.

Mr. Edwards: Finally, I would obviously, in view of my former question, suggest that that would be an appropriate thing to do and leave it to the Premier to follow up on his commitment.

Finally, to the Premier, Mr. Speaker, there was some suggestion in the wake of this decision that certain provincial wings, regional wings of the

legion, would, in fact, be revisiting the question on a local level where they felt that perhaps the majority in that particular area did not agree with it because, of course, this was a national delegated convention.

Has there been any discussion with the Manitoba branch with respect to whether or not they will be seeking to revisit this issue for this particular region of the country?

Mr. Filmon: I have not had an opportunity to have that sort of discussion but would certainly encourage the provincial representation to make their own review of it and perhaps change the position that their national organization has taken.

Private Personal Care Homes Operating Agreement

Mr. Dave Chomiak (Kildonan): Mr. Speaker, the minister has stated that the government is doing a review of personal care homes and that he has set up a task force to do that, and that means about 96 committees studying health care in one form or the other, but who is counting?

Mr. Speaker, we welcome a review of personal care homes, but we would ask the government to function much quicker. My question to the minister is with respect to private personal care homes. Can the minister advise this House whether the government has concluded an agreement with the private personal care homes that would have them operate either independently or arm's length of the provincial government?

* (1350)

Hon. James McCrae (Minister of Health): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased the honourable member would raise a question today about personal care in Manitoba, especially since earlier today the honourable member's colleague and many others from the Icelandic community and others in Manitoba joined with us at the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Betel home, which is going to be built over the course of the next year. That will provide care for a hundred additional Manitobans and provide many, many health care jobs in that part of our province.

The honourable member spoke of numerous committees, and I certainly can acknowledge that we have numerous committees at work. I am glad the honourable member said that, Mr. Speaker, because day after day he says we do not consult. Well, how can he come in here today and complain that we have 96 committees in health care?

We have health care professionals of all kinds helping us with health care renewal issues. We are proud of that, and we are going to be listening to a lot of that advice. We have health care consumers involved in this process. We have doctors, we have nurses, we have technicians, we have union members, we have all kinds of people involved in this process, and I am very pleased about it.

With respect to the honourable member's question about some kind of an agreement with respect to proprietary personal care, I will take that question as notice.

Mr. Chomiak: Mr. Speaker, the minister knows full well there is only 6 percent representation by nurses on those committees and only 4 percent representation by consumers. In fact, the Deputy Minister of Health, with his \$4,000 salary increase, probably is better represented on those committees.

My final supplementary to the minister: Will the minister, when he takes this question as notice, confirm whether or not the government is in the process of concluding an agreement or has concluded an agreement with private personal care home operators that would see them function independently or arm's length of government?

Mr. McCrae: Mr. Speaker, I can only repeat what I said before about the operation of various task forces and implementation committees, committees to provide good advice to government. We are pleased to have that input, and we will take all of that input very seriously. I think it is because we have done it that way that there is virtually unanimous approval and support for the health care renewal program that we embarked on in the spring of 1992. It is because there was all of that consultation.

The honourable member cannot credibly come along today and suggest that all of that

consultation is for naught, because it is not. We are making very quality improvements in our health care system in this province so that the people in the gallery today and the people throughout Manitoba of the next generation will have a health care system in the future, as opposed to the one they would not have if we follow the advice of honourable members opposite.

I said I would take the honourable member's question as notice, and I will do that.

Mr. Chomiak: Mr. Speaker, my final supplementary to the same minister: The minister is probably familiar with Mr. David Paskoe. Can the minister, when he looks up this information and tries to determine what is going on in the private care nursing homes, can he confirm whether or not Mr. Paskoe has been hired by the private care nursing home operators to prepare a presentation to government that would have private care home operators operate their own homes with their own standards, arm's length from government?

Mr. McCrae: I told the honourable member I would take notice of these questions, and I will do so, but I remind the honourable member that a review that is looking at all of the changes in personal care in Manitoba is underway. We expect that review to complete its work and to give us the kinds of recommendations we will need to ensure that the highest standards of safety achievable will be achieved in Manitoba.

I remind the honourable member of the report put out by the Manitoba Centre on Health Policy and Evaluation, however, that says that personal care in Manitoba is of a very high quality, and I am very pleased to be able to say that to all of the seniors and all of those who need personal care in Manitoba and their families.

* (1355)

**Louisiana-Pacific Co.
Emission Controls**

Ms. Rosann Wowchuk (Swan River): Mr. Speaker, when the Louisiana-Pacific proposal was first announced, the Minister of Environment promised that he would put in place guidelines that

would result in a state-of-the-art plant with state-of-the-art emission controls.

I want to ask the Minister of Environment why he has not insisted that Louisiana-Pacific install state-of-the-art pollution control equipment, namely regenerative thermal oxidization incinerators, which the EPA has found to be much more efficient than the E-Tube emission controls which this government has allowed and which are being replaced in the U.S. plants which are being refurbished.

Hon. Glen Cummings (Minister of Environment): Mr. Speaker, the member might not recall that The Environment Act that we are operating under was introduced first by the members of the party of which she is part. It is very site-specific and it is very much dependent on information being provided at the Clean Environment Commission. The recommendations and the discussion that flow from those hearings determine the precise regulatory format that we require the industry to operate under, given the site-specific requirements.

That is the process that we are entered into. Those are the requirements that we will make Louisiana-Pacific fall under. I think she should appreciate that this is now going into a process that is open, is public. If she has those kinds of concerns, let her go there and say so.

Ms. Wowchuk: I can assure the minister that I will, but I would ask this minister that he would show some leadership. This is an opportunity for this government to set some standards that will be amongst the best in the country, in North America.

Why will they not insist on and set guidelines in place that will result in the best possible emission controls in this plant and be a leader in this country?

Mr. Cummings: Mr. Speaker, we will be setting the best standards in the country, and we will be the leaders.

Ms. Wowchuk: I would like to ask the minister, will he insist that the RTO equipment be installed in this plant, which controls much more of the pollution; in fact, will eliminate 95 percent of the particles material and 90 percent of the volatile

organic compound, much more than the E-Tube equipment will remove? Will they insist on that when the plant is finally built?

Mr. Cummings: Mr. Speaker, I do not wish to reflect on any member of this House, but I put my trust in the process we are embarking upon where all these questions will be answered in front of the Clean Environment Commission by the corporation. They will either provide the correct answers or they will not operate.

Hepatitis C Virus Blood Supply Tracing

Hon. James McCrae (Minister of Health): Yesterday, the honourable member for Kildonan (Mr. Chomiak) asked some questions about hepatitis C contamination in the blood supply, and the Deputy Premier (Mr. Downey) kindly took the questions as notice. I have a very brief response to the honourable member.

Currently, Manitoba Health, through the Manitoba Advisory Committee on Infectious Disease, will be discussing this issue at its June 24 meeting. We are awaiting the outcome of a June 13 meeting being held by the Red Cross at a national level.

In the meantime, we are supporting the public health message that individuals who have been transfused prior to 1990 should be screened by their physicians to see if they are infected. This is particularly important if an individual is unwell.

There is a national study being conducted by the Laboratory Centre for Disease Control, and the results of that study are expected to be available by July of this year. A further policy will be forthcoming from Manitoba Health when these and other consultations have been completed.

Legislative Building Wheelchair Access

Mr. Gregory Dewar (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin by tabling a letter requesting the Minister of Government Services to make the front of this building accessible to wheelchairs.

My questions are for the Minister of Government Services. Has the minister reviewed

his position concerning the construction of the ramp at the front of this building? Will he meet with Manitobans with Disabilities who are requesting him to change his position?

Hon. Gerald Ducharme (Minister of Government Services): Mr. Speaker, first of all, I think the member is asking me to ignore approximately 30 other locations throughout Manitoba that have no access, no access whatsoever. We in '88-89 started that program, and we have established doing those types of programs that have no access. This particular building has two accesses to it.

To give you an idea, in 1988-89, we spent \$148,000; '89-90, \$426,000; '90-91, \$864,000; '91-92, we spent \$187,000; '92-93, we spent \$249,000 in this particular building; in '93-94, \$181,000; and we are anticipating spending a further \$792,000 again in '94-95, doing the buildings that have no access now.

That is the responsibility we have to make sure all our buildings throughout Manitoba and Winnipeg have access, that access requirement.

* (1400)

Mr. Dewar: Mr. Speaker, the minister failed to answer my question. My question was, would he meet with individuals who are concerned about this issue, Manitobans with disabilities? Will he meet with them and explain, apparently, his position on this issue to individuals who are requesting the minister to change his position on this issue?

Mr. Ducharme: Mr. Speaker, prior to the expenditure of \$181,000 on the building, '93-94, we had full consultation with the society for disabled Manitobans, as well as the Human Rights Commission. This all took place prior to the construction to make sure that people in the gallery could come here, to make sure that we looked after the ramp that was close to the many parking spots that are made available to these people to make sure they have easy access in and out of this building.

Mr. Dewar: Mr. Speaker, it is unfortunate the minister is saying no to these individuals.

On May 31, in answer to one of my questions, the minister said this work was not just a repair, and I would assume that this work does fall under the City of Winnipeg's building code by-law. As such, why is he not making the front accessible as any other builder or contractor in this province would be required to do?

Mr. Ducharme: For the information of the member across the way, there is no front or back to this building. It is east, west, north and south, and two of them have accessible locations to this building—two—and very, very nice access to the west side of this building, Mr. Speaker.

Child and Family Services Psychiatric Services

Ms. Norma McCormick (Osborne): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Family Services (Mrs. Mitchelson).

I have been informed that there is a young girl, 17 years of age, with severe psychiatric problems who had been sent out of province for treatment when she became a young offender. Child and Family Services brought her back to Winnipeg, and while she was awaiting placement, she offended again. She is now in the Remand Centre and has been there for several weeks.

While the minister may not be able to provide an answer with the details of the situation, is it her department's policy to use the Remand Centre as a holding facility for adolescents with severe psychiatric problems?

Hon. Rosemary Vodrey (Minister of Justice and Attorney General): Mr. Speaker, again, I would not want to speak about any specific case, and any remarks that I make should not be attributed to any case. However, where there is, as a result of abusive or destructive behaviour, an inability for the safety of the individual to maintain them at the Youth Centre, then, yes, they will be moved to a facility in which we can look after that individual's need.

Ms. McCormick: My second question is for the Minister of Family Services.

Child and Family Services brought this child back to Winnipeg, and while she was awaiting placement with her mother, she re-offended.

Is it the practice of Child and Family Services to send troubled children who have serious psychological or psychiatric problems and adolescent offenders out of province for treatment because Manitoba facilities are inadequate?

Hon. Bonnie Mitchelson (Minister of Family Services): Mr. Speaker, as the Minister of Family Services, I do not believe it is my role or within my ability to speak about individual circumstances and individual cases.

I would have liked the information or particulars that my honourable friend might have brought to my attention in a manner in which I could look into those instances and provide as much detailed information as possible within my ability and under the legislation that I am bound by.

Ms. McCormick: My final supplementary is to the same minister.

I will provide her with the information, but I would like to know, in addition, why this child has not been placed in a more appropriate setting, such as the special ward at Health Sciences, which is PX3.

Mrs. Mitchelson: Again, I must reiterate that I do not believe it is within my mandate to talk specifics about any individual case, especially on the child welfare side of things.

Mr. Speaker, I will endeavour, with any further information that my honourable friend has, to investigate and ensure that appropriate decisions have been made in the best interests of that child.

Building Products Labour Dispute

Ms. Jean Friesen (Wolseley): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Labour.

Employees at Building Products have repeatedly indicated their willingness to continue negotiations. Could the minister report to the House what active steps he has taken in the past year to bring the employer to the negotiating table

and to seek an end to a strike which is now entering its third year?

Hon. Darren Praznik (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, we appointed some time ago a mediator to this particular dispute who has been in place and who has communicated with both sides on a regular basis.

As I am sure members opposite would appreciate, in order for mediation to work, there has to be a desire on the part of both parties to want that process. To date, that has not been the case.

Ms. Friesen: Would the minister undertake to investigate the working conditions of the replacement workers at Building Products, particularly the hours and the rates of pay, and would he report back to the House?

Mr. Praznik: Mr. Speaker, the Employment Standards branch regularly investigates complaints that are made with respect to hours of work and conditions of employment. If a complaint is made, we will undertake to make an appropriate investigation as we would do in any other case.

Workforce 2000

Ms. Jean Friesen (Wolseley): My final supplementary is to the Minister of Finance.

I would like to ask him to explain to the House, or at least to bring a response at a later time to explain why Building Products received a Workforce 2000 payroll rebate this year. Could he tell us whether, in fact, that payroll rebate training grant was used to train those replacement workers?

Hon. Eric Stefanson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I will, in fact, take that question as notice.

As the member knows, Workforce 2000 is directly under the responsibility of the Department of Education, but there is an element, because of the payroll tax credit system, that does provide some of the training funds. So I will take the particulars.

Wine Boutiques Start-up Costs

Mr. Jerry Storie (Flin Flon): Mr. Speaker, more than a year ago, we on this side put the government

on notice that their intention to introduce specialty wine boutiques would cause problems not only for the Manitoba Liquor Commission, but for the taxpayers of the province of Manitoba.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday in committee, the minister responsible acknowledged that they have now hired a consultant and are paying the consultant some \$25,000 to review the questions that were asked about a year ago. Yesterday, as well, we reviewed the Crown Corporations Council report in which they identify the fact that the province is going to lose money as a result of the introduction of specialty wine boutiques.

My question to the minister is, is the consultant going to answer the question, how much money is this novel idea going to cost taxpayers?

Hon. Harold Gilleshammer (Minister charged with the administration of The Liquor Control Act): Mr. Speaker, the member for Flin Flon had an opportunity to sit through part of the committee earlier this week to review the wine stores and the MLCC Annual Report. I indicated at that time that government was aware that the MLCC had employed an outside consultant, about which we had a chance to discuss some of the details.

The consultant particularly is looking at the discount rates at which the product will be passed along to these particular entrepreneurs. As a result of that, they are bringing back a position to the government, and certainly, as the experience is in some of the other jurisdictions, if there is a modest increase in the amount of product sold, there will be no impact to government revenue.

Mr. Storie: Mr. Speaker, in the paper today, we have one of the people or a couple of people who are interested in wine boutiques talking about the government dithering. The government continues to dither, and this minister is compounding the problem by refusing to answer the question.

The question, Mr. Speaker, to the minister is simple. Will the consultant be asked to identify how much this is going to cost the government in lost revenue from the Manitoba Liquor Commission to the Consolidated Revenue? How much?

Mr. Gilleshammer: Mr. Speaker, I am sure if the member would listen, his question had been answered. I had indicated if there was a modest increase in the amount of product that is being sold, there would be no impact to the revenue of the province.

* (1410)

Public Consultations

Mr. Jerry Storie (Flin Flon): Mr. Speaker, one of the recommendations that the Crown Corporations Council also made was the suggestion that this consultant's report be reviewed thoroughly.

My question to the minister is, will we finally get a chance to review in a public way both the recommendations and the report of the consultant whom the government has hired and to have public consultation hearings on this matter before the government finally implements something that is going to cost the taxpayers money?

Hon. Harold Gilleshammer (Minister charged with the administration of The Liquor Control Act): The member did not indicate in his preamble that the report that was tabled from the Crown Corporations Council did endorse the fact that government is asking an outside third party to take a look at this.

I have indicated that we are anticipating that report from the consultant in the near future, and certainly, we will follow the direction given by the Crown Corporations Council.

Northern Flood Agreement Cross Lake—All-Weather Road

Mr. Daryl Reid (Transcona): Mr. Speaker, Recommendation 25 of the Lake Winnipeg, Churchill and Nelson River Study Board report reads that an all-weather road be built connecting Cross Lake community road network with the Jenpeg access road. This recommendation was incorporated into the Northern Flood Agreement through Article 17.1. On December 16, 1993, Arbitrator MacLean ruled that the agreement upon terms has not been met for an all-weather road from Provincial Road 373 to Cross Lake.

My question is for the Minister of Highways and Transportation (Mr. Findlay) or the Minister responsible for Northern Affairs or Hydro. What steps has the minister taken to meet the specific requirements of the Northern Flood Agreement that were required as a result of the agreement between this government, the Government of Canada, Hydro and the bands?

Hon. Darren Praznik (Minister of Northern Affairs): To hear a question come from the New Democratic Party benches about the Northern Flood Agreement, it is absolutely incredible because I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, we all know, of course, it has been a long and difficult set of negotiations, and we hope to have them completed at some time in the future.

I can tell the honourable member opposite that the real work in resolving the issues of northern flooding and proper compensation have been done by Progressive Conservative governments in this province, and the New Democrats continually ignored the interests of settling those agreements.

Mr. Reid: Mr. Speaker, the vast majority of agreements were concluded long before this government came—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. This is not a time for debate.

The honourable member for Transcona, with your question.

Mr. Reid: Mr. Speaker, this ruling by the arbitrator took place in December of 1993. It is now June of 1994. What has this government been sitting on? Why has it taken them six months to make a decision on whether or not they are going to appeal this ruling? Why are they delaying this action?

Mr. Praznik: Mr. Speaker, the members opposite when in government sat on this for 16 years. We continue—

Point of Order

Mr. Jerry Storie (Flin Flon): Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, the Minister of Northern Affairs knows that what he is putting on the record is absolutely blatantly, patently, false.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The honourable member does not have a point of order. That is a dispute over the facts.

Mr. Speaker: The honourable Minister of Northern Affairs, to finish with his answer.

Mr. Praznik: Mr. Speaker, this government, particularly under the leadership of the Deputy Premier (Mr. Downey) as the first Minister of Northern Affairs in this government, moved farther to conclude the agreements with each community. We are continuing to do that, and it is our intention to resolve those agreements and not take the northern native vote for granted in Manitoba, as the New Democrats have done decade after decade.

Mr. Reid: My final supplementary to the same minister: Can this minister then explain why the Northern Flood Agreement said there will be no appeals except based on the question of law or jurisdiction? Why is this government then appealing the decision of their own appointed arbitrator in this matter?

Mr. Praznik: Mr. Speaker, I can tell the member this. It is a very complicated set of negotiations that people are involved in. There are hosts of issues involved.

The member opposite pulls one piece out and says there is some problem, but I can tell the honourable member, we have advanced farther in real positive ways than the members of his party has ever contemplated. We will get into those issues and the specifics of them in Estimates, and I look forward to that debate.

Government Departments Protocols—Information Sharing

Ms. Avis Gray (Crescentwood): Mr. Speaker, as soon as the caucus heard about this young woman who was in the Remand Centre, my colleague from The Maples contacted the Remand Centre. We were referred to the Minister of Justice's office yesterday. We have not received a call.

My question is for either the Minister of Health (Mr. McCrae), the Minister of Family Services

(Mrs. Mitchelson) or the Minister of Education (Mr. Manness).

Can one of these ministers tell us when we are going to finally receive a protocol about how the government departments, the three of them, handle these particular individuals so that young girls such as this and other individuals do not fall through the cracks and end up being placed inappropriately? When are we going to have some protocols? We have been waiting for two years, and we have not seen anything.

Hon. Rosemary Vodrey (Minister of Justice and Attorney General): Mr. Speaker, again, both my colleague the Minister of Family Services (Mrs. Mitchelson) and myself have said that we are not able to speak about that individual case. In fact, it would be wrong for us to speak about that case which the member continues to reference, having been told that anything we say should not be attributed to a single case.

However, as I answered in this House earlier, the protocol which was suggested by the Manitoba Teachers' Society and the Manitoba Association of School Trustees has been reviewed by government. The ministers involved are making progress, and I expect this very, very shortly.

Mr. Speaker: Time for Oral Questions has expired.

NONPOLITICAL STATEMENTS

Mr. Speaker: Does the honourable Deputy Premier have leave to make a nonpolitical statement? [agreed]

Farm Family of the Year

Hon. James Downey (Deputy Premier): I thank you, Mr. Speaker, and members of the House.

I would like all members to join with me in acknowledging and congratulating Ron and Pat Rutherford from Melita, Manitoba, neighbours of our families. They have been selected as Farm Family of the Year for the Red River Ex this year. It is extremely important this Year of the Family that we acknowledge and recognize family farms and the operators of those farms.

Ron and Pat have three children who are part of their operation. They farm approximately 1,300 acres in the Melita area. Ron is, as well, a graduate of the University of Manitoba in the diploma course and has also been instrumental in the forming of the Sandy Lands Soil Management Program and has encouraged tree planting, minimum tillage, and has been a member of many farm organizations, particularly the Manitoba-North Dakota Zero-Till Association, Manitoba Pool Elevators, the Western Wheat Growers, the Keystone Agricultural Producers and, in fact, is a leader, you may say literally, in the field of agriculture.

Let me say as well, Mr. Speaker, that Pat plays an extremely important role on the farm, as well as working in several businesses in the community, as well as being involved in the Evening Guild Hospital Aid and local church organization.

I ask all members to join me in congratulating Ron and Pat and their family in being selected family farmers of the year for the Red River Ex. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Does the honourable Leader of the official opposition have leave to make a nonpolitical statement? [agreed]

Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Opposition): I would like to join the Deputy Premier and member for Arthur in his tribute to the Rutherford family and the awarding this year of the 1994 Farm Family of the Year award.

I know this is a very important presentation and award, a very important milestone in a family's life. I know it means a lot because of the great challenges that producers now have in western Canada dealing with crisis and costs and other challenges that people have to maintain this vital part of our Manitoba industry, the agricultural component of our province.

I know what an honour this is. I know, previously sitting in a caucus with the previous winner, Clarence Baker, how important it was for his family to have this award. When you drive down to the Brokenhead communities in that constituency and see the sign very, very prominently placed on the family farm, Farmer of

the Year, I know it means a lot to both the family that received it and his or her neighbours.

We congratulate the Rutherford family on this tremendous award they received this year. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Does the honourable Leader of the second opposition party have leave to make a nonpolitical statement? [agreed]

Mr. Paul Edwards (Leader of the Second Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I want to join comments with the Deputy Premier (Mr. Downey), as well as the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Doer), in congratulating the Rutherford family on this very important award.

I also want to indicate, as the Leader of the Opposition has, that farm families across this province are clearly in very challenging times and in a time in our country's and our province's history when farm families have to really face new challenges that were not even contemplated in prior generations, all the more reason to celebrate and honour those families who are leading in terms of making sure that the family farm does survive and indeed it prospers in our economy. That is all of our job here, but obviously, we very much congratulate and look forward to having a chance to personally congratulate this family on this outstanding achievement.

Mr. Speaker, I do want to add that I know that there were many, many other families in the farming community who were considered for this, and I am sure that most, if not all of those, were deserving, as well. Clearly, this family has risen above, and we share with them our congratulations on this very important occasion. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Does the honourable member for Broadway have leave to make a nonpolitical statement? [agreed]

Philippine Heritage Week

Mr. Conrad Santos (Broadway): Mr. Speaker, the individual members of the Philippine community and many of its component-organized groups shall be celebrating the Philippine Heritage Week starting with a flag-raising ceremony at the City Hall quadrangle this Sunday, June 5, followed

by three different events in the evening happening in three different places: Hawaiian Night at the Filipino Seniors Hall at 49 Euclid Street; a musical presentation at the Mennonite Brethren Collegiate at 180 Riverton Avenue; and a National Council of Filipino-Canadian Association Youth Workshop at the Philippine Centre at 88 Juno Street.

Tuesday, June 7, will be the interfaith church services at 88 Juno Street, followed by the Filipino Seniors Night at the Philippine Centre. On Wednesday, the Manitoba Association of Filipino Teachers will have a cultural presentation of songs and dances at Wellington School at 690 Beverley Street, which is within the Broadway constituency, followed by Thursday's Philippine Youth Breaking the Edge conference at the West End Cultural Centre at 586 Ellice Avenue.

On Friday, June 10, at 6 p.m., is the Philippine Association of Manitoba-sponsored Filipino-Canadian Friendship Night, which used to be called the traditional Philippine Independence Ball, at the Centennial Ballroom, International Inn at 1808 Wellington Avenue, corner of Berry Street.

On Saturday, June 11, the Manitoba Association of Filipino Teachers will have a Rondalla musical presentation at the Prairie Rose Theatre and a community picnic on Sunday at Assiniboine Park at 2809 Roblin Boulevard.

Mr. Speaker, may I say something in my dialect?

Mr. Speaker: As long as you provide Hansard.

Tagalog spoken.

Mr. Santos: On behalf of the Manitoba New Democratic Party caucus in the Manitoba Legislative Assembly, we wish the entire Filipino-Canadian community all the best in their week-long celebration of the Philippine Heritage Week. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Does the honourable member for Inkster have leave to make a nonpolitical statement? [agreed]

Mr. Kevin Lamoureux (Inkster): Mr. Speaker, the member for Broadway (Mr. Santos) has brought to the attention of the House a week full of activities that once again the Filipino community is

going to be making available, not only for members of the Filipino community but for members outside of the community to be able to experience first-hand, as I have over the last six years, in terms of what sort of Filipino hospitality is out there and to get a better appreciation and understanding of the culture and heritage that this particular community has brought and contributed to Canada. I would encourage members of the Legislature to go out and attend a couple of these events.

This is something, as I say, that they have done on an annual basis. I have had the good fortune to be able to participate in them in the past, and I look forward to participating in it again this year, and you will witness first-hand the literally hundreds of volunteers that make this week possible. It is a pleasant experience and, again, I encourage all members to get involved and participate in the Filipino Independence Week.

Mr. Speaker: Does the honourable Minister of Culture, Heritage and Citizenship have leave to make a nonpolitical statement? [agreed]

Hon. Harold Gillehammer (Minister of Culture, Heritage and Citizenship): Mr. Speaker, recently the United Nations declared again what all of us in this House are well aware of, that Canada is the finest country in the world to live in. Events such as the ones that the member for Broadway (Mr. Santos) has indicated will be taking place over the next week, which all members of the House, I am sure, will make an effort to attend, symbolize the manner in which Canada has grown and welcomed people from all parts of this world as citizens of this country.

I am pleased that our caucus would like to join with all other Manitobans to participate in the celebration of the Filipino community, some 35,000 here in Winnipeg, and we look forward to participating in it.

Committee Changes

Mr. George Hickes (Point Douglas): I move, seconded by the member for Burrows (Mr. Martindale), that the composition of the Standing Committee on Public Utilities and Natural

Resources be amended as follows: Thompson (Mr. Ashton) for Interlake (Mr. Clif Evans) for Thursday, June 9, at 10 a.m.

I move, seconded by the member for Burrows (Mr. Martindale), that the composition of the Standing Committee on Municipal Affairs be amended as follows: Rossmere (Mr. Schellenberg) for Elmwood (Mr. Maloway) for Tuesday, June 14, for 10 a.m.

I move, seconded by the member for Burrows (Mr. Martindale), that the composition of the Standing Committee on Public Utilities and Natural Resources be amended as follows: Transcona (Mr. Reid) for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie) for Tuesday, June 21, at 10 a.m.

Motions agreed to.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

House Business

Hon. Jim Ernst (Government House Leader): Mr. Speaker, would you canvass the House to see if there is unanimous consent for the withdrawal from the Order Paper of Bill 6.

Mr. Speaker: Is there leave of the House to allow the honourable government House leader to withdraw Bill 6 from the Order Paper?

Some Honourable Members: Leave.

Mr. Speaker: Leave. It is agreed to. I would like to thank all honourable members.

* (1430)

Mr. Ernst: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Minister of Environment (Mr. Cummings), 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 Agriculture; and the honourable member for Seine River (Mrs. Dacquay) in the Chair for the Department of Justice.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY (Concurrent Sections)

AGRICULTURE

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

When the committee last sat, it had been considering item 5. Regional Agricultural Services (a) Northwest Region (1) Salaries and Employee Benefits on page 17 of the Estimates book. Shall the item pass?

Ms. Rosann Wowchuk (Swan River): Mr. Deputy Chairperson, yesterday when we adjourned, we were discussing the amount of time that Ag reps and other people in the Ag office were spending on the implementation and completion of forms on the GRIP program, and I was asking the minister how that was calculated, what amounts of time the different employees had put in, and how that money was recovered from the federal government.

Hon. Harry Enns (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Deputy Chairperson, as I indicated just in closing last evening's session of the committee, it is important for financial reasons for the department to keep a pretty careful log on the hours that staff were seconded to work on the GRIP program because of the federal support in paying some of these salaries. So I can give her, first of all, in some global figure for the year '93-94, some 44,724 hours were actually attributed to the GRIP account for a total expenditure value in dollars of slightly in excess of a million dollars, \$1,118,100.

It may be of interest to the honourable member simply to note how that would break down in a particular area or region. My regional director from the Northwest has indicated the situation in the Swan River area, for instance, where we had our livestock specialist dedicate some 32 days; our home economist, some 34 days; our farm management specialist, 37.5 days; the Ag rep, as you would expect, devoting quite a bit of his time, 44 days; and the secretary also down for 50 days.

So that kind of accounting was taken throughout the province by the different offices and turned into central administration so that these work credits could then be forwarded on to Agriculture Canada for the cost-sharing formula.

I am advised that the cost-sharing formula was 50-50. In other words, it would be appropriate, then, to tell the committee that half of that \$1,118,000 was recovered from Ottawa as their support for the administrative work in the installation of the GRIP program.

Ms. Wowchuk: Just for clarification, then, does that show up as some of what we see as recoverable under this section where we see Recoverable from Other Appropriations? Is that what that money is, money that is coming back from the federal government, reimbursement for time allocated to GRIP?

Mr. Enns: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, the honourable member is correct. I am advised that is the case.

* (1440)

Ms. Wowchuk: As we look at new technology and the information highway that we hear so much about, I would anticipate that this will change the way in which communications are made across the regions. I would have anticipated that this would perhaps result in additional cost to the department to equip the offices with the necessary equipment. But I see that when we look at each of the regions, in fact, the communication costs in each of the departments are down, except for the eastern and Interlake region.

Can we have some indication as to why there would be a decrease in communication costs? Does the minister anticipate with the new technology and information that are becoming available, that there will be a need to install additional equipment into the various offices throughout the region?

Mr. Enns: Just again from having had the opportunity to visit a number of operations in different parts of the province during my short period of coming back into the ministry, the office landscape is changing. We see farm management courses being provided on new computer

technology. I am advised that a considerable amount of this is taking place throughout the area.

The specific question that the member asks when noting the decrease in the item Other Expenditures under Communication is a result of some \$15,500 plain reduction in printing costs due to electronic handling of certain communications and publications, a further \$6,000 reduction due to some planned implementation of some preferred telephone packaging of costs, which is partly because of the event of competition coming into the telecommunications process. I am sure the honourable member is aware that MTS is actively pursuing and making more attractive, particularly commercial packages, for the business community, including the Department of Agriculture, in their telecommunications costs.

I am sure, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, that the department could and will be looking for some additional funds as we upgrade and move along into the electronic age. That is where some of the challenge of managing comes in: it is to try to do with less. We have put perhaps even more pressure on the department by making every attempt to maintain employee and staff people because of the kind of work that we do.

Our mandate with the farm community of Manitoba is very often a very direct and personal one. I suspect that over the last several years there has been, if anything, a directive to look as hard as possible at all other costs and other expenditures as we attempt to accommodate valuable employees in redeployment positions, as we attempt to maintain staff levels in the various functions that the department carries out at close to optimum levels.

Ms. Wowchuk: The minister indicated that we now have competition within the telecommunications industry. Is the department now buying services outside the Manitoba Telephone System, in any of the regions?

Mr. Enns: No. I see the senior management shaking their heads; that is not the case. We are quite pleased to continue working with MTS, and I imagine we will. It just came to mind because I was somewhat surprised to receive a call at home on the farm from an MTS employee, salesperson,

advising me of the fact that on examination of my own personal monthly telephone bill, if I signed on to a particular program, I would be eligible for some modest reductions of \$4, \$6 or \$7 a month. They had taken a computer readout on the monthly billings that I incurred at home on the farm.

That was my first personal contact with the fact that MTS is out there actively pursuing and offering some discount packages based on your level of long distance calls that your phone was being used. I am assuming they are doing that, certainly, with their prime business customers, and, certainly, the government would be included in that category.

To answer your question, no, we support and use the services of MTS.

Ms. Wowchuk: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I want to go on to the Crown Lands Branch. There is one of the areas that is the Crown Land Sales Program. I want to ask, first of all, is there a move to dispose or acquire more Crown lands? I recall a time a few years ago when there was an attempt made to purchase Crown land that was in close proximity to a mountain, and, I think particularly around the Duck and the Porcupine Mountains where there was an exchange program where a farmer owned some land close along the mountain and was able to exchange it for other land.

Is the department actively pursuing to purchase any additional Crown land to straighten out some of those borders along the mountain, or are there any attempts made to speed up the process of disposing of Crown land that is dispersed amongst the agriculture land?

Mr. Enns: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, the question would be probably more appropriately directed to the Department of Natural Resources, which is and has the principal responsibility as custodians of Crown lands in the province.

I am aware, not that directly anymore, but I am aware that from time to time, particularly through their Parks branch, recommendations come up or shifts in department for some additional purchase of Crown lands in some instances to straighten out park boundaries or from some instances as well where there are lands that have been particularly

designated that perhaps for other reasons other than parks, Endangered Spaces Program, et cetera, or for the Ecological Reserves program. Different classifications for different levels of protection, if you like, sometimes are floating about within the Department of Natural Resources.

Representatives from Agricultural Crown Lands just inform me that is not our function. We administer the lands once they have been designated as appropriate for agricultural purposes, and then they come into our shop and work under the regulations that the Agricultural Crown Lands division of the Department of Agriculture imposes on it.

Ms. Wowchuk: Earlier in the week we discussed the increased amount of activity in the hog and the cattle industry, and with the increased amount of cattle, there will be more demands on Crown lands. People are looking for pasture land, leased land.

I wonder if as a result of this there has been any change in the fee structure, any reclassification of the Crown lands in that area. Has there been any change in the rates of rent, and are those rates consistent across the province?

Mr. Enns: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, to answer the last question first, there have been no changes with respect to this year's charges on the leasing of Crown land. I would not want to make that commitment for anything more than the present.

I think there is a review committee in process or has been looking at it in conjunction with the Crown Lands advisory board that helps us in this matter as well.

* (1450)

The honourable member is correct. There is considerable pressure or increase—and we are noticing increasing pressure on the use of Crown lands for livestock purposes for several reasons. Our beef herds are growing. They have grown upwards by 4 percent, 5 percent and 6 percent in Manitoba in the last few years, and that is, quite frankly, a welcomed development.

Some of us believe that we could sustain a considerably larger beef herd. It would be of

interest to some members that our herds used to be larger. In the early '70s, mid-'70s, our beef herd was in the order of 600,000 or in that range, and we had dropped down to some 450,000, and are only now, because of the strong prices that we have had in the past five, six years, seeing that herd coming back to the size that we enjoyed in the early '70s.

My personal belief is that we could and should set as an objective for having a million beef cows in the province. Again, it is part of the overall—

An Honourable Member: Like the beaver, one for each.

Mr. Enns: Well, a little bit like the beaver. If we could have a million beavers, we should have a million cows. It fits into the overall strategy of the Department of Agriculture to have levels of livestock within the province that provide alternative uses for our feed grains, so we are not held to ransom on what the international community is prepared to pay for our feed grains or for our barley. Particularly, as I said earlier, if it is going to be more costly to move our feed grains into export position, then we should be looking to these kind of developments.

Again, just to come back, we do have a Forage Lease Rental Review Committee in operation. Committee members are Mr. John Neabel, who, by the way, I might inform the committee, has just recently retired as director of the Agricultural Crown Lands division. We have Mr. Lavern Elliott from Grandview. We have Mr. Gil Lahaie from Dominion City, Mr. Brent McCannell from Dauphin, Mr. Mark Emilson from Vogar, from the Manitoba Cattle Producers' Association, and Mr. Bill Gardiner from Dauphin, who is a representative of Agricultural Crown Lands.

This committee is reviewing the practices and, specifically, the level of charges for various classifications of leased land and no doubt will be making recommendations to me in due order. No changes are contemplated for this year, of course, because the notices have long gone out and the land is under contract.

I have just a bit more specific information that I may put on the record. Manitoba's 10,000 cattle producers at a total of 563,000 cows and

replacement heifers on the farms on July 1, 1993. This is an increase of some 8 percent from a year earlier, so we have been increasing at 6, 7, 8 percent in the last few years. A further increase of at least 7 percent is likely as forecast for the year '94, bringing the potential breeding herd up to just in excess of 600,000, only slightly below the record number of 612,000 that were in the province in July of 1975.

So we are just now coming back to where we were in 1975, and I think if the prevailing stability in cattle pricing, in cattle marketing continues then I would look forward, and I would challenge, my Animal Industry branch would challenge the Department of Agriculture, would challenge these 10,000 Manitoba beef producers that there is room for additional expansion in the beef industry.

Whether k.d. lang thinks that meat stinks, I think she stinks, and I know my colleague the member for Arthur (Mr. Downey) agrees with me.

Ms. Wowchuk: The minister has answered some of the questions I was going to ask with regard to committee, and we will, I am sure, when the committee reports, the minister will provide us with that information in due course as to what the committee recommends as far as changing and uses of Crown lands, I would anticipate, and changing fee structures. We will await that report.

As the minister indicated, the competition to acquire Crown land leases is increasing, and I wonder what kind of guidelines the board, or whoever makes the decision on letting the lease go, what kind of guidelines they follow, and in particular, if an existing operator or a family has had a piece of land they have been leasing and there is interest from another family or another operation in the area, does that piece of land stay with the family that has it?

If a lease is signed, I would assume, for several years, is there a risk that someone who has established in the area stands a chance of losing it, or are there guidelines that protect the person that already has the land?

Mr. Enns: Well, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, the honourable member is correct, there is increasing competition for some of this land, not solely

brought on by the increase in the beef herd that I have just mentioned, but the member is again fully aware that these cows are running into more and more horses on the range. The PMU herd, which is in the range of 35,000 to 40,000, requires pasture land as well.

I am advised by departmental staff that upwards to 5 percent of the clients who deal with agricultural Crown lands are, in fact, PMU or horse operator people. There are and have been for a number of years—and I do not think these have changed much over the last number of years—specific regulations that deal with eligibility to acquire and/or to hold agricultural Crown land under lease or permit, and there are different categories of leases, of course, a long-term lease versus annual or a several-year permit. Some of the criteria, I would just maybe remind the committee members, are that the applicant must be of the full age of 18 years and not over 65. However, they may continue to permit the land over the age of 65 until other arrangements are made.

Applicants shall fulfill these further requirements. They must be Canadian citizens or have landed immigrant status, be a Canadian corporation or be a resident of Manitoba. All of those things are further requirements. The person or the corporation applying is not acting as a trustee for a person who is not a Canadian citizen.

In other words, it is not permissible for a non-Canadian through somebody else to acquire and hold on to large tracts or any tracts of Crown lands. The applicant shall be actively involved in the management of the farm or ranch and shall in conjunction with his or her family supply the majority of the labour. That is sometimes a difficult requirement for the branch to rule on. I think the honourable members will permit that.

In farming, as the member put on the record just a few days ago, all too often farm operators, members of family farms, have to find off-farm income in order to maintain the farm. That is of course the case. Now too rigid an application of this rule can cause some difficulty for the branch and their interpretation then. That is a flavour of the kinds of regulations that are applied.

There is this question, who provides or who gives their lease land to whom. That is a departmental function by Crown Lands. If there is a dispute or an argument arises, then the decision by the department can be appealed and looked at by the Crown Lands advisory appeal board which is by and large given the same kind of criteria instructions. They, as all appeal boards, are there for a second look or a second opinion and indeed to give the appellant an opportunity to present his case for consideration for the leasing of land.

* (1500)

Ms. Wowchuk: With the increased demand on this Crown land for leases, have there been many cases that have been challenged by other producers in the area, and have those cases all been dealt with?

Mr. Enns: As a lessee of land myself, I have a reasonable familiarity with the program that is offered by the department. I have no doubt that there are challenges from time to time, and there have been a number of allocation appeals. For instance, in '92, there were 14; in '93, there were six. Number of the allocations upheld—in '92, it was nine; number of allocations changed, you know, two and five.

Again, just to give you a flavour, I would think in the main the allocation as originally made by the department has proven to be correct and sound and even under appeal is, in most instances, upheld. There are occasions when other information comes to light or information that was provided to the department, to the branch, did not always perhaps stand up to full scrutiny, and that brought about a change in the allocation.

We have, of course, different types of leases—as I said earlier, the long-term, what we call kind-of ranch lease, lifetime lease to age 65 with certain specific conditions attached to it. We have special forage leases that deal more specifically with the production of forage crops of hay, and we have the more casual permits for our shorter period of time that the department can provide.

Ms. Wowchuk: Is this the appropriate section to ask a question about community pasture or does it fall somewhere else?

Mr. Enns: I think we could provide some information about community pastures, but the honourable member is aware that the community pasture program is of course a federal program. The information so provided is not meant to speak on their behalf, but we do have, you know, some basic information with respect to, for instance, the number of animals that have been pastured in community pastures, the charges that they—

Ms. Wowchuk: So community pastures is a federal branch; this department has no involvement with community pastures then. If that is the case, I will just leave that one then.

Mr. Enns: Staff advises me that what we do is we are in touch with the operators of community pastures. We provide a liaison between the two land administrations, I guess you could call them. Again, I know from my earlier days in the Department of Natural Resources, these community pastures, since they are very often fairly substantial blocks of land, provide, in some instances, some very interesting land for potential wildlife studies of different kinds. There are some moves afoot, for instance, by the grouse people, who would like to do some controlled burn or in some way or other take back some of the mature bush that has, poplar stands that have been allowed to develop in these large community pastures that no longer provide the habitat for the very desirable species, the grouse and the chicken. That has come about partly because of man's interference with nature.

We do not have the raging prairie fires anymore that used to regularly appear on the landscape. Our fires are much more controlled, particularly in agro Manitoba. The land, of course, is in itself divided with natural fire barriers like roads and ditches, so that what used to be a fairly common prairie phenomenon, have a forest fire go through thousands and thousands of acres, and that would bring on fresh growth, change the habitat, and this was all very part of nature. That is not occurring now again, and there are some moves afoot that I am aware of, particularly with some of the community pastures, to try to emulate nature by knocking down or indeed controlled burn, to bring back some of the more—or try to renovate or

rejuvenate the natural habitat so that it could be more inductive to bird production.

Mr. Neil Gaudry (St. Boniface): Mr. Deputy Chairperson, it is in regard to Crown lands in the Ste. Rose area. I do not know whether this, maybe the minister would not want to discuss it. I do not know whether it is in court or not. It is in regard to the Thibert family. Has this been resolved, or what has been the result?

Mr. Enns: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I am advised that with that particular piece of property, Crown land, the individuals involved are in the midst of a transfer request or hearing. I am further advised that later on this month, the 25th, to be specific, of June, a hearing—now, I do not want to overly emphasize: this is not a formal hearing; this is an in-shop, in-house hearing by senior staff of the department. We will be looking at the situation with respect to that land, and the parties will be informed.

Mr. Gaudry: Some of the concerns that they had expressed were other farmers bringing cattle out of province. I know we were talking about free trade and everything else between provinces—[interjection] I believe so. I was wondering, what are the policies of Crown Lands in regard to bringing cattle from other areas of the province or from other provinces?

Mr. Enns: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I kind of indicated a little earlier to the honourable member for Swan River (Ms. Wowchuk) that there is a requirement in the act that the applicant, the holder of the lease, provide the main labour and management and for his use fairly exclusively, but it is—and I recognize it, I travel the province and I asked the department certainly to use this with some judiciousness. There are circumstances where the question of ownership of cattle is a question. When cattle are brought in, it is sometimes difficult for the branch to determine, has an actual transfer of ownership occurred or are they in fact simply pasturing cattle for somebody else, perhaps somebody from out of the province?

There is a requirement, I think, in all these leases that the operator of the Crown land, if there is some deviation from something like that, should

contact the Crown Lands people. In most instances, it may be a situation where for economic reasons or something like that, the lessee holder has less than the optimum cattle on that land, but our Crown Lands people appreciate being visited and having some idea of a farm business plan that would, in most instances, satisfy Crown Lands.

We would not act in haste to necessarily change a leasing arrangement, but the system does not allow for extended abuse of the kind of thing that I am talking about. If, in fact, it can be determined—and I am assuming that the department will be taking just that kind of a hard look at this particular situation—the original intent of the leases must be followed. While some leeway may be granted in terms of timing or something like that, if it can be determined that—and I appreciate that there is a fairly sizable piece of Crown land involved that the honourable member is questioning about. I am aware that there are other adjoining and neighbouring cattle people, ranchers, who are operating cattle operations and who could perhaps use some of this land. They are making those requests. So we will have to see what occurs on June 25.

* (1510)

Mr. Gaudry: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, it will be my only question on Crown Lands. I know yesterday we were going from various pages here. I had to leave early last night. I had a question in regard to the straw under Soils and Crops.

On the news the other day, there was money to be made from straw, it said. It has brought an international tug of war between Findlay, North Dakota and Elie. A Toronto-based company is considering building a plant in Elie to manufacture particle board using straw—it mentions about all the jobs and everything else—but the Manitoba government has given the company \$23,000 for a feasibility study.

Can the minister tell us if the feasibility study is finished?

Mr. Deputy Chairperson: Before the minister's answers, is there leave then to revert to Soils and Crops for just a few questions? [agreed] Thank you.

Mr. Enns: We had a brief discussion about it the other evening in your absence, and I do not have any problem in revisiting the issue. The honourable member will, of course, appreciate that I have—and I want to declare it—a very direct personal interest in the proposal, particularly with its potential of being sited in and around the community of Elie, which, the honourable member will know, is an aggressive and important part of the constituency of Lakeside.

The proposals that I had before me at that time—and I read them into the record. There are a number of different proposals. The one that he refers to is the potential of creating particle board out of wheat straw. There is another very significant effort being made by another gentleman, a Dr. Wong, who has talked and visited through a significant number of parts of rural Manitoba about the potential of making some paper and paper product out of a combination of wheat straws and flax straws. That gentleman received fairly significant amounts of money, I think, upwards to \$150,000. He is beyond the feasibility study. He is doing researching.

He has made arrangements at a paper plant in Vulcan, Alberta, where shipments of straw have already taken place to that plant, and it is being broken down into a pulp. They had contracted with that paper mill in Vulcan, Alberta, to do trial runs of paper making from this product.

There are also a number of initiatives that are looking at straw as a source of energy, compacting it in pellet form, the potential of using it for various forms of supplying heat energy in different operations.

Of course, this is quite a remarkable turnaround in the sense that up until now, and traditionally, straw was viewed in all too many instances as a nuisance, as a waste. Of course, as 58 farmers experienced this past summer when we ticketed them for illegally burning straw, it has become more than just a nuisance.

As Minister of Agriculture I would be pleased if we could end up with a situation where you could add value to the straw. The primary producer can always use that. It would probably do away with

burning of stubble to a very significant degree in the sense that the straw so taken off is really the extra straw, the extra residue that sometimes farmers, even though they know it is not the best farming practice soilwise, feel they have to burn because of the difficulty to work it into the land. If left just with a stubble, there would be very little stubble burning in my opinion, and that would be good soil husbandry and, at the same time, provide some additional dollars for the farmer and, if a plant like that should be located in a community like Elie, create some badly needed jobs.

Mr. Gaudry: Where are we as far as negotiations, because it says here: If the plant does go to Elie, construction could begin as early as August. Are we that far advanced in the feasibility study, in negotiation of who is going to get the plant?

Mr. Enns: That question probably would be more appropriately directed to my colleague the Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism (Mr. Downey), whose shop is actively involved in pursuing these kind of developments. I am sure our agricultural representatives in that Elie area are providing all the kind of back-up support, technical information as to the amount of acres that are potentially available for production of straw, the kind of yields that might be available from that area. Indeed, if it moves to a point—I know that there is actually a kind of a committee formed—I would have no doubt that the agricultural people in that area would be helping to co-ordinate, helping to pool together the delivery of straw to a plant should it come to fruition.

My understanding is that this is a long way off the simple idea and drawing board phase, that a major supplier of the equipment involved, which happens to come from Germany, is actively in discussion stage. I think some equipment may already have been purchased. There is the final determination as to site. Of course, as a Manitoban I would like to, and I am sure honourable members of the committee would agree with me that we of course would like to see it be located in Manitoba.

We would therefore have to—but I take this opportunity. Mr. Deputy Chairperson is going to start giving me the sign: top it off, I am speaking

too much. When we speak, when the Minister of Finance (Mr. Stefanson) and when my Premier (Mr. Filmon) speak about the importance of being competitive in a global scale, I do not know what the minimum wage requirements are in North Dakota, but I bet ours are considerably higher. I do not know what the corporate tax structure is in North Dakota, but I bet ours are considerably higher. I do not know what other labour laws impact on a development. That will all come under scrutiny by this firm as they decide where they should locate.

I do know one thing, the landscape is much the same across the border in North Dakota. They have large, vast fields and produce essentially the same crops, you know, wheat, barley, that we produce over here.

So it really is a question of business climate that could make that determination. Even if we impose on ourselves and our employees, we may be prepared to do that. We do not mind paying a higher level of income tax, considerably higher than anybody else, because we say to ourselves, well, we have some benefits from that. We have a good health care system, and we have better other social services.

Again an income tax rate that is too far out of sync with our major trading partner like the Americans means that plant operating here in Manitoba has to pay at a considerably higher level so that the take-home pay for those employees are such that he can attract them.

These are the conditions that I am sure are currently being looked at. I would like to believe the initiative was started by us quite frankly, and I give full credit to those who were involved. This kind of was born, you know, the necessity is said to be the mother of invention or innovation, and this is a typical case.

* (1520)

When faced with the actual force of law that started making straw burning illegal and face the kind of year that we had last year, the kind of difficult harvest conditions which really created a problem for our primary producers, people really started to think, but there has got to be something

we can do with this excess straw. And lo and behold, they have gone out and done it. Whether all of these proposals will come to fruition they likely will not, but even if just one or two of them make it to a final new development, it will be a substantial breakthrough.

Mr. Deputy Chairperson: We are on item 5.(a) Northwest Region (1) Salaries and Employee Benefits \$1,985,600—pass; (2) Other Expenditures \$633,600—pass.

5.(b) Southwest Region (1) Salaries and Employee Benefits \$1,957,800—pass; (2) Other Expenditures \$462,700—pass.

5.(c) Central Region (1) Salaries and Employee Benefits \$2,105,500; (2) Other Expenditures \$529,500—pass.

5.(d) Eastern/Interlake Region (1) Salaries and Employee Benefits \$2,389,200—pass; (2) Other Expenditures \$712,500—pass.

5.(e) Agricultural Crown Lands (1) Salaries and Employee Benefits \$1,285,500—pass; (2) Other Expenditures \$569,900—pass.

5.(f) Less: Recoverable from Other Appropriations (\$653,100)—(pass).

Resolution 3.5: RESOLVED that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$11,978,700 for Agriculture, Regional Agricultural Services, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1995.

We will now move on to item 6. Policy and Economics (a) Administration (1) Salaries and Employee Benefits \$116,600.

Mr. Enns: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I am joined again by some staff that I have already introduced: Assistant Deputy Minister of Policy Mr. Craig Lee; along with Mr. Gordon MacKenzie, who looks after our marketing, who is the Director of Marketing, Support Boards; Mr. Greg Fearn, Acting Director of the Program and Policy Analysis branch for the Department of Agriculture. Who have I got here? Lorne Martin—I am sorry—also from the Policy branch.

Ms. Wowchuk: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, the department apparently spent quite a bit of time developing the document that is entitled Vision for

the 1990s, and then the following document that came up, Moving Toward the Vision.

There were several meetings held throughout the province and a lot of work put into those documents. Can the minister give us some indication on how much money was spent by the department? Is there a figure that can be indicated that was put into—I am not talking about the printing of the document but the meetings and the developing of that document. Is there any idea?

I guess what I am looking at is I know that there were some meetings. There was a meeting at Portage la Prairie that was held that was a large meeting. I am not looking for specific dollars but whether there were other meetings that were held with other groups and a length of time that was spent in developing this document.

Mr. Enns: I would like to think, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, that what the department has done here, and I certainly commend them for doing so, is that they view this as part of their ongoing challenge of providing direction, not only for the department as a whole and the minister, but as a document that within the department and its various diverse branches and sections brings together some co-ordination, you know, some thread that binds the entire thrust of the services provided by the department to some specific objectives, to some specific goals that they have formulated as a result of talking with their many clients, their many people that make up the agricultural community, whether it is in the value-added processing industry, whether it is in the specialty and diverse crops areas or whether it is in the more traditional red meat area.

Those, the honourable member will find under the different types of headings in the document. These are general statements of principle. We are constantly told that we should be putting much more attention, we should be focusing on value-added, we should be focusing on diversification, and so we have just put it into words as a means that the department can respond to.

I know that critics of my government, although they take sometimes a less than serious attitude about our commitment to sustainable

development, this government and my Premier in particular takes that very seriously. We have been instructed by the very senior policy level of this government to develop and build sustainable-development concepts and principles into our everyday programming within the department, so that it is not just a mere buzzword that maybe sounds good at annual conferences where we hug trees, and, well, I better not get into that category.

We understand now—this may not read well for the member for Swan River—when we talk about the requirement of accepting the fact that competitiveness, global competition is there. It is not for us to engage in a philosophical debate as to the rightness or the wrongness of it, it is there. If we want markets for our products, if we want to sell our pork, if we want to sell our beef, if we want to sell our grains, we have to compete, and that is another principle that is in the document.

You will notice that there is a considerable focus on the whole question of consumer awareness and the role of the consumer that is of increasing importance in agriculture. It is not, quite frankly, good enough for the farm producer to toil away on his farm and say, this is what I want to grow because I like growing this, and whether anybody likes it or not, it is not really his business. That is not the way it works anymore.

We are constantly having to adjust farm production through plant genetics and through research to focus the food production in the area that the vast majority, usually urban consumers, are asking us to do, whether it is providing different oilseed products that have more acceptable types of fat content, whether it is bringing down fat contents or what is deemed to be—although it is a very faddish kind of thing, one week it is this, and the next week it is that—but in terms of what should make up from a nutrition point of view, the basic ingredients of our dairy products, and so forth.

All of these kinds of things are contained in this document.

* (1530)

Ms. Wowchuk: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I guess what I was looking for was, I know that some of

the meetings were—and I think about the Gate to Plate one, they were invitational meetings and a few of the other ones were invitational meetings, and I was looking for what the department has done—whether there were any additional meetings besides the specific organized meetings that were quite highly publicized—to reach more of the grassroots people on these issues.

I want to comment on some of the things that the minister said. The minister said the farmer no longer can grow just what he wants. I do not believe farmers ever have grown just what they want for the sake of growing it. Farmers are business people and they may grow one year a product that there is no market for, but certainly it is a matter of their livelihood and putting food on their table and they are going to adapt or change. They always have and they always will. It is not a direction that this government has taken or the global market has taken farmers. Farmers know, and I give them a lot more credit than just growing what they want. They know that they are trying to make a living.

(Mr. Bob Rose, Acting Deputy Chairperson, in the Chair)

The minister talked about sustainable development, and certainly a sustainable development in the rural area is very important, and those are some of the things that we continue to remind this government of. We want development in the rural area. We want the environment to be protected. We want the soil to be protected, whether it be in growing crops, whether it be in raising cattle or hogs or whatever. We want to see long-term sustainability. The minister has made this comment several times, implying that we do not support economic development in rural Manitoba. That is not true.

When we ask questions about what direction the government is going in as far as protecting the soil, protecting the water tables, that should not be taken as negative. I think that it is our job as opposition members, as members representing people in rural Manitoba, to see that the environment is protected so that future generations can continue on the path of making a living in rural

Manitoba in a healthy environment as they have in the past. So I do not think that the minister should take it as negative. I think that we all want a sustainable environment, and we want to see agriculture proceed in such a way that it will be a benefit and will protect the rural community and allow it to develop and have the extra economic growth there that we need very much.

Back to the question of whether there was input from—consultation and opportunity for the average or the ordinary, I am not sure which the right word would be, if there was any input from people across the province besides the specific meetings that I referred to at Portage, which were the Gate to Plate Conference, and those kinds of meetings that were organized for people to have input. I am looking for how the department reached out to the average Manitoban for their views when they were developing this vision.

Mr. Enns: Mr. Acting Deputy Chairperson, I do not know whether the honourable member has before her—this was the original document that was prepared for the start of the '90s. I am sure she has it in her file some place. What we have here really and will continue to have as we move along through the '90s is a kind of a report card about how we are living up to and meeting some of the original challenges that my predecessor in the Department of Agriculture produced for the '90s in this Vision statement, if you like, and it is important to note the extensive partners, if you like, strategic partners, in the documents.

That includes all kinds of associations: Canadian Seed Growers' Association; Canadian Special Crops Association; Eastern Manitoba Holstein Club, for the dairy input; Keystone Vegetable Producers' Association, of course; soil conversation organizations; Manitoba Sheep Association; Manitoba Rural Youth Organization.

Now, in addition to that, in the regular course of the operations of the department, in our various forums, particularly in our farm management courses, we have a host of marketing clubs throughout the province. We use all these occasions to do precisely what the member for Swan River is—to talk to real producers, to talk to

ordinary, everyday producers, as the member calls for. But equally important to us is to co-ordinate all of that thinking in with the processing and with the consumers, and that maybe is the important element of this document.

We do not look at food production as stopping at the farm gate. The member refers to the Gate to Plate forum that was held at Portage. It was precisely to bring a greater understanding on the part of the producer, on the part of the farmer, that producing that food product does not just end at his gate, that he has to have some understanding of following it all the way down through the retailer down to the consumer, and then also we begin to look at our whole agricultural industry. We are part of the food supply system, somewhat differently than perhaps in the past.

What the documents and subsequent documents with respect to this initial Vision document are, in fact, as my deputy points out, you know, a report card as to how the department, how Manitoba Agriculture is meeting some of these visions and objectives, if you like, goal posts, signs, whatever terminology you want to use, that we feel are the appropriate ones for agriculture and food production in the 1990s.

Ms. Wowchuk: I thank the minister for that answer, and I will move on to a few more questions that I have in the area. We are hoping to finish up the department today, so if we could just move, cover a few other areas off, then we will be able to—at least for my part, we would like to pass the department. So, if we could get through a few of them, if the minister would bear with us, moving quickly through a few of the issues, then we would be able to pass the department.

I want to touch on a few of the—particularly The Farm Lands Ownership Act at this time. I want to ask what has been happening. Last year, we raised the matter that it appeared that many more pieces of property were being approved for sale to foreign owners, and, in fact, very few were being rejected. The previous minister had indicated that things had been maybe a bit lax at the board and that there were going to be some changes in the structure of members on the board. Can the minister give some

indication, have there been changes in the Farm Lands Ownership Board? At the same time, have there been many applicants, is it a pattern that most of the applications that are being made now are being approved, and that we are having an increase in the number of properties that are being sold to foreign owners?

Mr. Enns: Mr. Acting Deputy Chairperson, I am advised that there is no fundamental change occurring. For her information, in the year '92-93, the board dealt with 243 applications for exemptions, of which 238 were approved and five were denied. This past year, in '93, much in the same order, 263 applications for exemption were received and a total of 260 were approved, only three being denied.

I am advised that the fact that so many of the applications are being approved does not designate any fundamental change in policy. People who are not eligible simply are not applying. What many of these applications involve are very often children passing on the land to children, who need to be reviewed by the board because they may not be residents of Manitoba.

* (1540)

It is certainly our intention to enable that to happen and exemptions occur. I have personal difficulty with this act. The member was not in the House when it was passed. I suppose it is fair to say that we have some ongoing philosophical troubles with this act. This act was brought in at the time when there was a very heightened degree of interest by foreigners in Canadian farmland and it was passed.

My experience has been that the ebbs and flows over different time spans on the Canadian scene, the farmland never leaves our fair province, but there are restrictions that in my judgment create some problems for us here in Canada. It is a subject matter, for instance, that has come up at Premiers' conferences as being one of the trade barriers with interprovincial trade.

I find it unacceptable. I only have two sons; I would like to leave my farm to my sons. I cannot, because of this act, because they choose to live in British Columbia and in Ontario. Unless they

come to this board and apply for an exemption, and I think that is nonsense that I, as a Canadian, born and raised in this country, have to come to a board of people who are appointed, that I may not necessarily agree with and seek their permission to leave my farm to my two sons. I think that is nonsense, but that is a personal preference.

I am told that many of the exemptions that make up these totals are these kind of exemptions. An operation like Ducks Unlimited buys some land for the purpose of wetland development. They, because they are not farm operation, have to come to this board to seek an exemption, which is fine. I know we do that, but I ask myself, why do we clutter up our lives with this kind of additional red tape and bureaucracy, with all due respect to my bureaucrats here.

Ms. Wowchuk: Mr. Acting Deputy Chairperson, I guess we have to look back at the time when the act was brought in. As the minister has indicated, I was not around at the time, so we will have to look at it. As I have been told by other people, there were some very good debates on the issue.

The minister indicates that the majority of the applicants are from family members. However, in my constituency I have had brought to my attention, or had people raise to me, that in fact the land that is being transferred is not being transferred to families, and that it is people outside the country who are buying the land. That is causing some concern for farmers in the area who would want to buy the land, and perhaps the reason that it is sold to another owner is people outside the country might have access to more money than some of these young farmers who are getting started. This has been brought to my attention by some of the young farmers in the area. I ask the minister, of those 260 pieces of property that were approved, how many of them went to foreign owners? Is that possible to separate?

Mr. Enns: Mr. Acting Deputy Chairperson, I am advised that the specific incident that the member draws our attention to was a situation where these American owners had land there prior to the passing of this legislation, which in fact was grandfathered under the legislation. So although

the appeal for some—and it is apparently the intention of a son or something like that to come and farm there, whether that happens or not.

But the additional acquisition of land that she specifically refers to was initially denied by the board, but upon appeal was—and the presentation was reviewed and granted on the basis that this was in the community's interests. It would provide for the eventual farming base of the son, at least so the story went to the appeal board, and it was granted for this occasion. It is one of the, one or the only, parcels of land that was provided that kind of an exemption in the exemptions here that we speak of.

Ms. Wowchuk: So the minister is indicating that it was only the—there were two deals in the Swan River area. It was only those two deals that were of these 260 applicants that went to a foreign owner out of the country. The rest were other family members within Canada.

Mr. Enns: I am advised, as far as senior staff is aware of, that that is the case, yes.

Ms. Wowchuk: We will leave that one for now. Just on it, I guess with that particular issue the reason there was concern by people in the community is that this land was being bought up, and there is no family moving in to operate it. It would have been preferable for the economy of the rural area to have the land go to another family that would live in the area and contribute to the economy. That was where, perhaps, we differ in our opinions on how the land was sold, but we will leave it at that. If further issues like that arise then we will discuss it with the board.

* (1550)

The other area that comes under the Boards and Commissions is the Milk Prices Review Commission, but there has been a constituent who is concerned with the discrepancy in milk pricing across the province and suggests that there should be more equalization, that rural people are paying too high a price for milk. That makes a little bit of sense. The milk is produced in rural Manitoba and it ends up being a cheaper price for the people in the city and a higher price for rural Manitobans. I do not know how it can be addressed, but I bring

that to the Milk Prices Review Commission's attention and ask whether there is anything that can be done or whether any consideration is being given to that matter which I know has been brought to the commission's attention.

Mr. Enns: I am advised that the department has, in fact, written to and contacted directly an individual in the Swan River area that has registered a concern or complaint in this regard, and we will be meeting with him in the next little short while. There are, you know, certain parameters of taking freight and distances and minimum—there are no minimums, it is only maximum price where competition is a factor. No doubt that has a role to play in terms of the pricing of products.

I understand the situation is such that it is somewhat priced higher in Swan River than the product price across the border, maybe in Saskatchewan, and I understand the level of concern. But I have asked Mr. MacKenzie and he tells me that people from the Boards and Commissions shop will be discussing this issue directly with the complainant.

Ms. Wowchuk: The minister mentioned that there is no minimum pricing on milk, and that minimum pricing was removed just in the last few years. Is that one of the things that has a bearing on the variation in prices, and is that one of the reasons that there is a difference of price in some of the communities? I am asking for clarification because I do not quite understand why there is such a difference in price.

Mr. Enns: Mr. Acting Deputy Chairperson, all members will of course recall that there are only maximums set, I believe. There were minimums and they have been removed, is my understanding. Is that not correct? Yes, senior staff acknowledge that is in fact the case. And the honourable member will recall at that time there was considerable controversy about it.

We had one particularly aggressive retailer here in the city of Winnipeg by the name of Joe Cantor that made for great headline news and discussions with our radio talk-show hosts, Peter Warren and the likes of that. He persisted in his policy of

believing that he ought to be able to use milk as a loss leader, I suppose, in his promotional efforts for his store, and there was genuine concern being expressed by different interests in that area that the minimum pricing structure regulations ought to be maintained, for whatever reasons.

(Mr. Deputy Chairperson in the Chair)

I do not dodge the issues, but I was not Minister of Agriculture at the time. The minimum pricing regulation was in fact dropped, and that allows for greater variation of milk prices across the province. When you couple that together with some of the regulations that are in effect with respect to some of the arrangements that I have with the Boards and Commissions in terms of mileage that take into account freight costs, that take into account overall maximums that are allowed, because they are tied directly to the whole structure about the setting of prices for the product, the setting of prices for what the producer, the dairy farmer receives, the regulation of course is intact.

With the minimum regulation drop, the member and customers can expect a variation of milk prices in different parts of the province. I may just indicate to members of the committee that there have been no requests from the industry that we have received in the department in the past year to reintroducing the minimum price control regulation. It seems to be reasonably well received.

Ms. Wowchuk: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, getting back to the specific individual who wrote to the commission from Swan River, that would appear to be part of the problem. Because he is a smaller operator, he is not purchasing at the same price as people who are purchasing in volume and he is not able to sell at the same price as them because the minimum price has been removed. The larger operations can sell below him and in fact it is true, there is an impact by the removal of minimum prices on some of the smaller stores such as corner stores who only buy in small volume.

Mr. Enns: I am advised that that situation really was in place with the minimum regulation in place. There was always a volume discount available to the volume purchaser of the product. It may not

have been to the same extent, but certainly that was in place. I cannot offer any further advice to her constituent in this regard other than to repeat the obvious that that is how the milk drop droppeth or the cookie crumbles or some such other thing.

Ms. Wowchuk: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I will take that advice back to my constituent if it is accurate that there was a discounting price before. I had not researched that, but that was not the information that he had provided for me. He had indicated that—

Mr. Enns: I will further just undertake to ask senior staff to provide the honourable member with some report or correspondence in the outcome of having had a chat with the party involved. It may not be possible for us to resolve the issue, but I think everybody is deserving of the fullest explanation of how the rules and how the regulations apply.

Ms. Wowchuk: I will look for that information. I in fact have a copy of the letter that went to the corner store in Swan River.

Mr. Enns: I have you on my list. You never will be missed.

Ms. Wowchuk: Well, thank you very much and if you will keep me on your other mailing lists for information, I will have to ask far less questions than I have to ask right now.

Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I want to ask the minister about the Agriculture Producers' Certification Agency. I know that many of the farm organizations have been lobbying the minister to change the act to allow for an up-front checkoff on commodities and that has created a lot of discussion. I want to ask the minister what direction is he going in this. Is he bending to the farm organizations that are looking to have this act reopened or is it going to remain as is now?

Mr. Enns: Yes, I have had considerable representation made to me for consideration of changes, amendments to the act. I want to further indicate to members of the committee that the recommendations for legislation in this general area is not exclusive to the organization that she refers to, the Keystone Agricultural Producers' organization.

There have also been representations from different commodity groups. Principally the canola growers have requested a separate checkoff, if you like. There have been one or two other groups that have also requested—I stand to be corrected. It is the canola organization, the only organization that has made a formal kind of request of the department and visited in my office shortly after I came into the ministry. I have, quite frankly, not resolved the issue. I think the honourable member realizes some controversy surrounds it, particularly now I am speaking about changing or opening the act for the farm organization, for the Keystone organization.

I have strong general support for these kind of levies. I was a strong supporter of providing necessary legislation for the cattlemen's association checkoff. I prefer to have, and I see in most instances, an option clause that makes it less mandatory where a person with a conviction does not wish to be part of that organization or contribute to that organization can do so by specifically writing in to the organization and then receiving a refund for any levies taken off that party.

* (1600)

I feel that it is important and it serves the welfare of agriculture to have strong farm organizations, or strong commodity organizations, but I just had not—you know, as the member knows, there are several different directions going on the Keystone question. I have indicated to them that I would not be making any changes to the legislation during this coming session.

Ms. Wowchuk: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, indeed it is a very complicated situation that could result in a change of legislation.

With the method that is being proposed with the checkoff at elevators, and that has not proven to be successful with Keystone, many people are opting out. I think that what is being proposed by the canola growers could also end up being cumbersome with having to check off through the point of sale.

I am sure that there will have to be a lot of consideration given before there is any change

made to the legislation, and I appreciate knowing that there will not be any new changes made during this session or during this year.

On the Boards and Commissions, we look at the number of staff years, and there is a reduction. I look at the note, and some of those reductions are on the Farm Lands Ownership Board, and there has been a combining of positions. What positions are eliminated? What is going to be the impact of the board's operation of having those positions eliminated?

Mr. Enns: What was brought to my attention, as we were developing the set of Estimates for the coming year, was that in both of these two operations, the Mediation Board, the level of work has considerably decreased. That is a welcome sign, which is my hope that the need for that board would disappear and that we could say farm families in Manitoba are not getting themselves or facing the kind of financial problems that there was the original reason for establishing both our Manitoba board by the previous administration and the federal board.

Also, the level of work activity, after an initial flurry, also dropped off considerably at the Farm Lands Ownership Board and was dealing essentially with a fairly mundane kind of applications that did not require a great deal of administrative work. So it was my decision, partly for the simple reasons of prudent use of dollars and under the pressures of budget restraint, to amalgamate those two boards.

What we have done, in effect, is the farm members of the board of directors who were on the Farm Lands Ownership Board, their terms had all expired, and I was faced with the decision of having to either reappoint them. I chose rather to thank them and in fact suspend the entire board, and have appointed members of the Mediation Board as the new members for the Farm Lands Ownership Board. That has resulted in a savings of staff, of secretarial staff. There is one major person who was retired, Mr. Osborne, and the amalgamation of the functions of those two boards, the Farm Lands Ownership Board with the

Mediation Board plus the staff reduction that I just referred to result in the savings that you see.

Ms. Wowchuk: To look at, that seems like a very reasonable move, and I commend the minister for taking that move. If there are boards that are in existence that are not having any role to play, certainly that would be a good move. The indication is that the Farm Mediation Board meets about 12 times a year. Is this going to mean with the Farm Lands Ownership Board, with the combination of it, is it going to mean additional meetings, or is it going to mean that they will all be able to be co-ordinated at the same time?

Mr. Enns: I have asked them, and knowing the personnel on the board, they will be using the one coming together for the one purpose, to do the business of both boards at one meeting. They will possibly be doing some longer hours when they have these meetings, but the savings will be there.

Ms. Wowchuk: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, we look forward to hearing the results of the combination of that board.

Speaking of the Farm Mediation Board, the minister has indicated that there is a drop in applications, and that seems reasonable, considering that the revenues of some farms have increased somewhat, and probably most farmers who were in difficulty had gone to foreclosure or written down their operations over the past years, when the difficulties were far more serious than they are right now.

Can the minister indicate how many applications there were in the past year under the farm lands protection act, and how many of those resulted in foreclosure?

Mr. Enns: Allow me just to have the privilege of introducing another senior staff member, Mr. Henry Nelson, Executive Director of the Manitoba Mediation Board, who joins us at the table. He will be again providing some service, I take it, to both boards in again, I think, a wise coming together of available resources to still provide the service, still look after the requirements of the legislation, but to do so in a more efficient manner.

Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I have indicated earlier through the Manitoba Agricultural Credit

Corporation's discussion during our Estimates that the board dealt with a total of 87 situations this year. That, for instance, compares to 161 last year and 194 the year before, 300 the year before that. So that shows you the very dramatic decline which I think we talked about a bit the last time. Things are looking brighter on the farm and on the landscape and that is being reflected by these figures.

* (1610)

Mr. Deputy Chairperson: Item 6.(a) Administration (1) Salaries and Employee Benefits \$116,600—pass; (2) Other Expenditures \$23,300—pass.

6.(b) Economics (1) Salaries and Employee Benefits \$804,600—pass; (2) Other Expenditures \$171,000—pass.

6.(c) Boards and Commissions Support Services (1) Salaries and Employee Benefits \$247,900—pass; (2) Other Expenditures \$192,900—pass.

6.(d) Agricultural Research - Grant to the University of Manitoba \$784,000.

Ms. Wowchuk: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, we talked about the type of research that was being done in the various regions in southern Manitoba with various crops and irrigation under the federal-provincial agreement. Can the minister give us some indication of how much financial support goes to the Glenella research station? What types of projects are being researched there?

Mr. Enns: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I am advised that we do not have that kind of information. We provide this grant more or less as a block grant to the faculty of agriculture as our support to the faculty. I suppose it is obtainable from the university sources, what it was, but I do not have that information here.

Allow me just to take a moment to say that it is with considerable pride and considerable satisfaction—

Ms. Wowchuk: I was just going to commend you.

Mr. Enns: Okay, I will let you do that.

Mr. Deputy Chairperson: He wants it on the record, Rosann.

Ms. Wowchuk: Go right ahead with your answer.

Mr. Enns: I was saying that those who are familiar with the facilities at the faculty of agriculture will realize that they were in sore need of not just repair, but replacement. They were literally falling apart. It is just not acceptable that we were asking our agricultural grads, both in the degree course and the diploma course, not to speak of the staff and the research, to work under those conditions.

It was with some considerable pleasure that this little minister was instrumental in getting a \$6.75 million restoration program for the faculty of agriculture. I acknowledge that with the support of the federal government and the infrastructure program, the province and the university, which has had for a considerable time a large bequest. A family by the name of Newman had left a bequest of in excess of a million dollars for that precise purpose. It had difficulty in getting the priority rating on the campus, and we were able to push that together. That will be a refurbishing, a major rededication of the importance of agriculture at the campus, and we will continue to have a flow of well-trained, well-educated people not just to service themselves in various forms of occupations, but to continue to be able to provide a stream of support staff in the Department of Agriculture. It does give me great satisfaction that has happened this time.

Ms. Wowchuk: Indeed, I am very pleased also to have the funds dedicated to refurbishing and rebuilding the buildings within the Department of Agriculture, a very important industry in our province. I am sure this will take some time, but I hope that when the buildings are done that—

Point of Order

Mr. Enns: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, will you request the rabble at the end of the table to cease and desist so that we can continue this intellectual discourse with my honourable colleague from Swan River (Ms. Wowchuk) in a more civilized manner?

Mr. Deputy Chairperson: I want to thank the minister for that.

Could I ask the honourable members wanting to carry on a conversation to do so in the halls so we can hear each other think at this end of the table.

Hon. Albert Driedger (Minister of Natural Resources): The point of order is that it seems like there is a private dialogue going on between the critic and the minister. The people are discriminated at this end; we cannot hear properly. We have to keep checking to see whether we—

Mr. Deputy Chairperson: Order, please. The honourable minister did not have a point of order. If he wants to hear, there is a hearing piece at the end of the table that he can use.

Ms. Wowchuk: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, agriculture is an important industry in the province, and I am pleased to see that the research centre will be extended and improved in standards. I am sure it will attract many more people to do their research here in Manitoba.

I hope that, when the building is completed, this government, or whichever government is in power, will find it reasonable to add research funds because I know this government has cut back on research funds. To have a building improved, and if we hope to do the research that is necessary, I hope we will also see those funds go into research to go along with this building. Although it is great to have the building improved, we also have to have the funds along with it to do the research in this province, which is very important to not only our economy but the economy of the country.

Mr. Enns: I thank the honourable member for Swan River for those comments. I do want to indicate to her that recently in attending the graduating classes of the diploma students this year, Dean Elliot reported that in both the degree courses and in the diploma courses, enrollment is rising this year, and that kind of reverses a trend that was going the other way in the past. So I think that kind of all augurs well with the kind of new look that the faculty of agriculture will be receiving in the next few years.

There were comments about maintaining the levels of support, I heartily endorse and agree with.

Our problem is we have to sometimes reassign some of the monies that are flowing to that centre in questionable basket weaving, social engineering-tinkering courses into the fundamentals of life like agriculture, and we would have the necessary monies that that faculty deserves.

Mr. Deputy Chairperson: Shall the item pass? The item is accordingly passed.

6.(e) Manitoba Farm Mediation Board (1) Salaries and Employee Benefits \$201,500—pass; (2) Other Expenditures \$403,100—pass.

6.(f) Less: Recoverable from Other Appropriations (\$94,300)—pass.

Resolution 3.6: RESOLVED that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$2,850,600 for Agriculture for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1995—pass.

Item 3.8. Income Insurance and Support Program (a) Administration \$179,900.

Ms. Wowchuk: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, we have touched on some of the funds from the stabilization program earlier on in other lines—we discussed the Tripartite Cattle Stabilization program—and the minister had indicated that some of those funds that would be saved by the province would be going to an industrial development fund. But there are other funds, and I know that the cattle producers have indicated that they are interested in taking part in the NISA program or in the new program that is being designed.

I want to ask the minister at what stage that is. Are the cattle producers going to be able to participate in the existing NISA program, or are they going to have to wait until the new program is designed? Also, at the same time, what is the plan as to what funds that are being saved by the province will be put in a start-up for cattle producers? As I understand, this is something that the department is looking at, to have some incentive for the cattle producers to get into the NISA program. So can the minister give us an overview of what is happening with those funds, and also I would imagine, if the same plan is in place for hog producers, for the Hog Stabilization fund?

Mr. Enns: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, staff advises me that cattle and hogs, treating those two items, in the first instance, have requested that they be part of a national program, across-Canada type of program. Understandably, that maintains level playing fields and places equal amounts of responsibility in all jurisdictions to level support for that industry. Those decisions really are being moved ahead and will likely come to some decision making in a month's time at the Agriculture ministers meeting here in Winnipeg that I have several times referred to. The federal minister Mr. Goodale is working hard to that end.

* (1620)

We have a large committee of producers and staff people from all provinces working towards that end. That is what we call the national safety net program, and they have requested all of us, cattle and hogs, to be included in an enhanced or in a NISA type program, eligible for the taxation year '94, for this year. However, there would be no requirement for funds flowing, that is, from us in the province, until the next budget year of '95. So there is no provision made for that in these sets of Estimates.

First of all, we do not know precisely the level, and as I have indicated earlier, I was not in a position to simply park money while we come to that decision. There were too many other demands, the Ministry of Finance, all I could do was place the caveat on the fact that although it looks like a substantial savings if she looks on this line from last year, \$1.4 million to the \$150,000 this year, that in fact was given back to Finance for redistribution in the other priorities of government.

The government is well aware, however, that when we become full participants in the national plan as devised by the provinces and the federal government, that amount will of course be considerably different. In the meantime, as I referred to earlier, we have agreed to putting some of the money that we had heretofore spent on the beef industry's behalf into that industry, industrial development proposal, and that is a three-year commitment by Manitoba: \$150,000 the first year,

\$208,000 for the following two years, for a total of some slightly in excess of a half-million dollars.

Ms. Wowchuk: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, the minister has indicated that he has made a commitment to an industrial development fund for the beef industry, and other provinces have made commitments, I understand, to a pork industrial development fund or some sort of fund. Are there any plans or any lobbying to commit funds for a pork industrial development fund from the beef stabilization program?

Mr. Enns: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, my understanding is that only Saskatchewan has specifically opted to take virtually all of their dollars that prior went to support under the tripartite support programs to the hog industry into some form of an industry development fund. As I think I may have alluded to earlier, that ought to be paid some attention to by us here in Manitoba in terms of the ability that that gives the Saskatchewan government to directly intervene in the search for and the enticement and luring of an additional hog-processing facility to Saskatchewan. There is no question about it that there is a very aggressive role being played by the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture, supported totally by the government, Premier Romanow, to substantially increase Saskatchewan hog production.

The other provinces have all opted to use, and I am now speaking for hogs, for the NISA type program, and they are pressuring their governments to use the monies that were allocated this year for the program as a kind of a prepayment into the NISA accounts. We have not made that decision here in Manitoba. We have made the decision to participate for the following nine months at a level—I am advised that those decisions have not been made yet, we are still in negotiations with them.

Ms. Wowchuk: So there still is the possibility then that some of those funds could be used to set up NISA accounts for the hog producers, as has been done in other provinces?

Mr. Enns: Yes, it is a challenge to the staff to merge these programs together, because we do

have some 2,069, which I would suspect represents a very significant portion of the hog producers in Manitoba who are already enrolled in the NISA program for grain. So this would not be a new concept for them. They are looking for us to roll in similar kinds of benefits for their hog portion of their farming enterprise. Those discussions are underway.

They are, of course, the same situation with the cattle producers that are looking to come into a NISA type program, and, quite frankly, I have to leave it on the record. It will be a major issue for myself, as Minister of Agriculture, to see just what kind of resources there will be available in the overall monies available to this government to what level we can participate. That is why at this juncture I have not been authorized or I have not got the clear signals from my government as to what level we can support future safety net programs.

Ms. Wowchuk: I would just like a little bit of clarification on the Hog and Cattle Stabilization programs. The government is not going to have to put money in this year, but am I correct in assuming that there is a pool of money, a surplus of money that has been left in both the Cattle Stabilization and in the Hog Stabilization programs, and if that is accurate, does this government have any influence on how that money that is in a surplus is distributed? Can the minister give any indication on the amounts of money and what will happen to it, the surplus accounts?

Mr. Enns: Well, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I am advised that essentially when these programs are winding up, any surplus accounts accruing as a result of producer contributions, in fact, are returned to the producers. The surplus accounts, you know, paid by governments, return to governments.

There is, of course, a strong belief out there among the producers that governments maintain their commitment of dollars at the same support levels as represented by these programs. That really never was in the principle of the programs. We matched not to the maximum amount that

government may have provided dollars but to the need, to the draw, to the claims of the given year.

Then there are some of the smaller accounts which were left with deficits. The white bean account was left with, for instance, a \$2,481,000 deficit. The other-coloured beans—white beans, two million; coloured \$453,000 deficit. Kidney and cranberry had a very small deficit—pardon me, that is a surplus account, so on these three little programs, there is just about a \$3-million deficit, a \$2,931,000 deficit.

On the other hand, in the cattle tripartite support program, there was a \$136,000 deficit with the slaughter cattle, an \$860,000 surplus in the feeder account and a \$2,796,000 surplus in the cow-calf account, so that the Cattle Stabilization fund, as terminated on December 31, '93, had a surplus situation of \$3,520,000.

* (1630)

The lamb situation is somewhat different. It has a deficit fund of some \$134,000. In the hog situation, we end up with, without getting too extended, a total surplus of \$1,841,000. Then there are a few other support programs that are still carrying on. The sugar beets has another year to advance, but that gives the member some indication of the kind of dollars that are available.

The surpluses that I am reading out are the government surpluses. The member will recall these are tripartite support programs which generally called for just about equal support from the three partners: the producer themselves, the provincial governments and the federal governments. So these numbers that I read out that represent the government share of the surplus would be just about identical to those for the other two partners, including the producer.

Ms. Wowchuk: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, if I read the minister's comments correctly, the producer's share, which is in the cattle industry, approximately \$3.5 million, will be returned to the producers. It is the hope of the producers that the government's shares, an additional close to \$7 million, the producers feel that because that money was designated for them, for their programs, that that should go back into some sort of account for

them and perhaps redistributed through the NISA program or whatever program is set up for them. There appears to be some difference of opinion as to how much of that fund should then be reimbursed to the producers.

Mr. Enns: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I think the member has correctly captured the essence of where we stand, that there is a determination yet to be made by government as to the scale of the program and the level to which we will support. I want to say as strong as I can as Minister of Agriculture for the province of Manitoba, I will do everything I can to ensure that Manitoba cattle producers are supported in the same level as other producers across the country.

As I indicated initially when we started this discussion, there is a general request, both in cattle and hogs, that we work towards a national program, that the level of support be the same in Quebec or in Alberta or Saskatchewan as it is anywhere else in the country. It will be my challenge, quite frankly, as minister, to persuade my colleagues that whatever that level is at, that Manitoba is a full participant in that support program.

Ms. Wowchuk: I believe the minister indicated that this will be a subject of discussion at the Agriculture ministers' conference. I would encourage the minister to work towards having a national program where farmers across the country are treated equally, rather than a varying program for each province. I think that by working towards a national program, we will avoid some of the difficulties that we have seen in other programs.

We have talked about the cattle and the beef stabilization program and we see those programs being phased out. We see that the sugar program and the honey program, there is an increased amount of funds. Those programs are not coming to an end, or how long will they be in place? What is the reason for an increase in that? Is it more participation, or what is happening here?

Mr. Enns: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I am advised that the honey producers are right at this particular time making a decision among themselves as to whether or not they wish to terminate the program

or carry on. My guess would be that they likely will come to a decision much as some of the other commodity groups that move out of the old programs of support and position themselves to be in a program, not unlike some of the other commodity groups, in some form of NISA or enhanced NISA-type program.

The reasons for the sugar beet allocation being somewhat higher is because last year the new agreement had not been—the support program had not been formally in place by the time the Estimates were printed. They are now in place. They are working and reflect a somewhat higher rate of support, and that is what accounts for the increase in the appropriation here.

Ms. Wowchuk: So I take it then that that means, although it was estimated in the last year that \$350,000 would be spent for the sugar stabilization program, that was an underestimation and a lot more than that was spent.

Mr. Enns: There was an additional level of support supplied by the Department of Industry, Trade and Tourism over and above the 350 that was provided by this department to bring that to that level as part of the deal that was arrived at to secure the ongoing operation and safeguard the jobs of the Manitoba Sugar Company.

Ms. Wowchuk: I am sorry, I did not hear the minister. He had said that additional money came from I, T and T to top up to the \$350,000 level? Okay. Thank you.

I am sure that I have missed the section that I am supposed to have asked this question, but since we are talking about sugar—it has nothing to do with the stabilization program, but I hope the minister will bear with me.

I would like to ask whether any attempts—and I should have asked this under Policy, I realize that—have been made to pursue a national sugar policy. This is something that sugar beet growers have been asking for, but we have not seen or heard any announcements or any activity. Is the department pursuing any activity in that direction to give long-term security to the sugar producers?

Mr. Enns: I want to tell the honourable member that I can recall 27, 28 years ago that I had

occasion at a ministers of Agriculture meeting in Ottawa to speak in support of that very same proposal, because I happen to hold a personal belief that I think a commodity like sugar, which can be very volatile in its price where for some reasons international interruptions in the trade takes place, there is I think—it would be good prudent policy to have, for instance, the capacity of producing 25 percent of our own sugar requirements. That would give us a cushion, if you like, for this commodity.

* (1640)

However, over the intervening years we have lost a considerable amount of our sugar industry. Some of the plants in Quebec, some of the plants in Ontario have been reduced to where we now only have two beet-producing sugar plants, one in Alberta and one in Manitoba here. The vast majority, 90 percent or in that order, of sugar comes to us off shore from cane sugar supplies.

The issue was looked at and reviewed, I am advised by staff, two years ago when we looked at the whole question of the levels of support for the sugar industry including asking that question: Should we have a national sugar policy? The proponents, as represented by the processors and consumer interests, won the day. They viewed that an imposition of a kind of national sugar policy would reflect negatively on sugar which comes to us, by and large, from more cheaper sources, cane, though those sources dry up on certain occasions.

Certainly when there was a sudden shift from the sugar supplies that a country like Cuba provided, a major source of sugar for the United States and for Canada, when they made just a sudden policy shift to tie up all their sugar production with the Soviet Union for their own reasons in exchange for energy, for oil, that dislocated sugar markets and we had sugar prices increasing by tenfold in a very short space of time. I, for these reasons, tend to support the concept of a kind of national sugar policy. I am not saying that we should not deny ourselves our processors from the sugar that is available to us off shore from cane for less dollars. We have to trade. We trade other goods with those countries; those countries have to live by trade.

My position at that time was the position that I still hold. If we determine that it is in the interests of the country, Canada, to have a capacity to produce X number percent, 15 percent, 10 percent, 18 percent of our domestic needs of sugar, then any support prices should be tied to that figure and not above that. We should not be, you know, supporting—but if we could make that kind of a national determination. My feeling is that time has passed for those kinds of visionary statements, visionary policies with respect to the future for the sugar industry, and we will do our best to maintain what we have.

Quite frankly, some of the more encouraging signs of sugar production increases would be to look harder at closer association with some of the owner-owned sugar co-op producers just immediately across the border that express some interest in a closer working relationship with our sugar beet producers. Whether or not anything will come of that, that remains to be seen.

Again, it does disturb me, I would like to see—we have some increased sugar. We were hoping to plant 30,000 acres into sugar beets this year. My understanding is that despite the labour difficulties, upwards of 28,000 have actually been planted. Across the line in the state of North Dakota they plant 400,000 acres into sugar beets and get a better price. The farm producer gets \$78 Canadian for sugar beets; our farmer gets \$38 for our sugar beets.

So I ask myself, there ought to be some opportunities there that perhaps need to be investigated. I want to say this with the greatest respect to Rogers' sugar, who is the owner of our sugar company, but they are also very major importers of cane sugar into the Canadian market, it is not always a truism that the corporate or the company's interest is necessarily the interest of the province or of the producer.

Ms. Wowchuk: The minister mentioned the importance of the sugar industry, and certainly there was a risk this spring that because the company chose to lock out the workers from the plant, even though the workers were quite prepared to work and be sure that the crop went in,

the company chose to lock them out, and because of that dispute, there was a risk that we might lose the industry. I know that growers in southern Manitoba have indicated that they are looking at establishing a processing plant that is a co-operative-owned plant, similar to what the minister has talked about across the lines.

I wonder whether the department is doing any work with those producers, whether any research is being done on the viability of such an operation and whether any funds, if not from the Department of Agriculture, from other parts of government are being set aside to research the possibility of another processing plant for sugar beets in this province.

Mr. Enns: It is only a short week or 10 days ago that the sugar beet growers had a meeting in my office with myself and several other members of the government, including my colleague, Mr. Penner, who himself is a sugar beet grower and represents a considerable number of sugar beet growers in that southern part of the province.

They have made a specific request. I have not as yet transmitted it to my senior staff in a formal way, that we assist them in drawing up a kind of application to perhaps the REDI program for modest support to do precisely what the member for Swan River asks, that we look at some of the economics at play and to do some investigation about how the sugar beet runs across the line, to look at the question of whether or not the concept of a grower-owned, close to the same as a co-op, could be feasible for us.

In other words, a feasibility program of the kind that the member asks will be done. We will support the growers in pursuing this, but I want to make it very clear, these are just very preliminary and ought not to be taken out of context. I hope that the company that we have, with the 150 employees, mushrooms up to over 200 employees when they are going full swing in the winter months processing the beets, and that they come to an equitable solution of their labour problems.

They are talking about an extended contract of upwards to nine or 10 years which guarantees no lockouts and a no-strike kind of situation. That is,

quite frankly, what the sugar beet industry requires, is stability, and then we will see our acreages increase.

Mr. Deputy Chairperson: Item 8. Income Insurance and Support Program (a) Administration \$179,900—pass; (b) Tripartite Cattle Stabilization Plan \$150,000—pass; (c) Tripartite Hog Stabilization Plan \$1,698,200—pass; (d) Tripartite Sugar Beet Stabilization Plan \$674,700—pass; (e) Tripartite Bean Stabilization Plan, zip; (f) Tripartite Lamb Stabilization Plan \$24,000—pass; (g) Tripartite Honey Stabilization Plan \$158,300—pass; (h) Net Income Stabilization Account \$12,910,000—pass.

Resolution 3.8: RESOLVED that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$15,795,100 for the Department of Agriculture, Income Insurance and Support Program, for the fiscal year ending the 31st of March, 1995.

Item 9. Lotteries Funded Programs (a) Agricultural Societies Grant Assistance (1) Operating \$274,900—pass; (2) Capital \$99,000—pass.

9.(b) Keystone Centre Grant Assistance \$150,000—pass.

Resolution 3.9: RESOLVED that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding 523,900 for the Department of Agriculture, Lotteries Funded Programs, for the fiscal year ending the 31st of March, 1995.

The last item to be considered for the Estimates of the Department of Agriculture is item 1.(a) Minister's Salary on page 15.

At this time we ask the staff to leave the table.

Shall the item pass?

Mr. Gaudry: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I wrote a letter to the minister on May 11, and I got a letter from him in regards to the farm and rural stress line that I guess all the MLAs in the Legislature have received. The special assistant acknowledged the letter, but saying that it was the Minister of Health (Mr. McCrae) that would be looking at that. To this date, I have not received a reply from the Minister of Health. I am just wondering, what is the Department of Agriculture doing in regards to

discussing it with the Minister of Health and the Minister of Rural Development (Mr. Derkach) maybe.

Mr. Enns: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I am pleased to report to the honourable member, as I reported to the honourable member for Swan River (Ms. Wowchuk), that request has been met with favour by my colleague the Minister of Health, and a one-time source of funding has been provided to the rural stress line from the Ministry of Health. I would encourage the honourable member to take the matter up directly with the Minister of Health for further details.

Mr. Gaudry: I have a couple more questions. In 1988 Mrs. Evelyn Anderson lost her leg below the knee in a farm accident. As the minister knows, most farm members of a family, most often wives and children, are a significant part of the operation; however, when injured, they are rarely protected by any form of insurance. They are not covered by workers compensation, nor does the occupiers' insurance act provide them with protection.

When they take a case to the court, as in the case with Mrs. Anderson, it is all too often dismissed because of their relationship to the farmer and the exclusions found in most insurance policies. Can the minister tell us what review is underway in his department to examine this inadequate coverage for the farmers?

Mr. Enns: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I can tell the honourable member that I have met not so long ago with organizations like the Manitoba Safety Council. We recognize that farm accidents are extremely high and at an unacceptable level. It is the nature of farming, the kind of equipment that is used and regrettably all too often, not under the greatest of supervision, particularly if youngsters are involved.

However, on the other hand, that is the big lure of farming. We choose to stay out of that web of regulations and supervision that you live under when you work in an organized, industrialized workforce. We are independent, self-employed operators. Changes have been made—operators can and I certainly encourage them to do and we through our extension work to voluntarily enroll

into various insurance programs including the Workers Compensation program. They can sign into coverage protection for accidents, work-related accidents with our Manitoba Workers Compensation program, but I readily admit that the take-up on this is very low. The premiums are perhaps an obstacle, but other than that, there is not really much more that I can do or that I am aware that the department is doing.

Mr. Gaudry: So is there any way that amendments to The Workers Compensation Act or The Occupiers' Liability Act are going to be contemplated by your department?

* (1650)

Mr. Enns: I just do not know whether we can contemplate any further action other than the ones that we are doing without using some forms of mandatory legislation which would be met with considerable resistance in the farm community.

Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Energy and Mines): Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I just want to take this opportunity on the Minister's Salary to congratulate him for his visionary approach on a number of fronts.

The faculty of agriculture at the University of Manitoba has been a very, very key and instrumental faculty in bringing to the province of Manitoba the quality of graduate both in the diploma and the degree course and in post-graduate training, the quality and talented individuals in the research supported at the faculty of agriculture that has placed Manitoba enviably in the lead of all provinces in terms of development of special crops that are innovative and world-leading in terms of their market opportunities, and whether that be canola, the very significant Cinderella crop that was pioneered in research at the faculty of agriculture, plant science division, by Dr. Baldur Stefansson.

Manitobans deserve to be very, very proud of their faculty of agriculture and its significant contribution to this province, and I think the minister and those who work with him, to have the upgrade of the faculty buildings included in the infrastructure program was a very, very significant

recognition of the opportunity that agriculture represents for Manitoba into the future.

The minister has identified on numerous occasions in the Question Period some very significant opportunities in the red-meat industry, where our hog industry has the opportunity to be a vehicle for the creation of 8,000 to 10,000 additional jobs in the province of Manitoba all dedicated to the export of some of the finest meat products in the world, and for that, an achievement of that, all Manitobans can benefit and can take some pretty significant comfort in knowing that they are helping to feed the starving in the world with some of the best food products in the world. It is not going to be an easy time to accomplish all of these very significant new initiatives because there are lots of people who would, for varying reasons, try to oppose them.

But I want to urge this minister to continue to put agriculture at the head of industries for growth and for vision.

Ms. Wowchuk: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I would like to take the opportunity at this time to thank the minister and his staff for the material they provided us with and the answers they gave us in these Estimates. I am sure at some point it was frustrating for the staff because we tended to move from one item to cross over sections, but I want to thank the staff for their co-operation.

There were a few questions that we asked, I think particularly of one question that I asked under MACC for some documents, and the minister has indicated that he would provide us with that information. I hope that we can be provided with that very soon so that we can pursue those particular issues.

There are many other issues that we could have raised in these Estimates. Unfortunately, time restraints and other Estimates that come up result in our having to leave those, particularly the one that the member for St. Boniface mentioned, farm safety. I am particularly concerned with the number of people who continue to have to work off the farm to supplement their farm income, and I hope that we can see a growth in the farm income. We see articles such as we saw in the paper the

other day, where farm incomes have gone up, but those figures look very good until you start to look at the bottom line, and really farmers are really no farther ahead than they were.

There is a tremendous opportunity here in Manitoba, and I think that we have to work together to educate the public on the value of agriculture, although there are some areas where we disagree on, and there are areas we disagree in the direction the department should be going. I think that there is an opportunity and that we should be working very much to protect the environment and the sustainability of the rural community so that future generations can also make a living in rural Manitoba.

So I thank the minister for his answers in these Estimates, and I have to indicate that they have been quite enjoyable.

Mr. Gaudry: Quickly, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, just to say thank you to the minister and his staff for the information that was passed along. Like the member for Swan River mentioned, the time restraint is important, but on behalf of my party I would say thank you to the minister again.

Mr. Deputy Chairperson: Shall the item pass? The item is accordingly passed.

Resolution 3.1: RESOLVED that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$2,451,700 for Agriculture, Administration and Finance, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1995.

That concludes the Department of Agriculture.

* (1700)

The hour being 5 p.m., committee rise.

JUSTICE

Madam Chairperson (Louise Dacquay): Order, please. Will the Committee of Supply please come to order. This section of the Committee of Supply is dealing with the Estimates for the Department of Justice. We are on item 2.(e) Victims Assistance, page 111, of the Estimates manual. Would the minister's staff please enter the Chamber.

Item 2.(e) Victims Assistance (1) Salaries and Employee Benefits.

Mr. Gord Mackintosh (St. Johns): Madam Chair, I have some questions about the Women's Advocacy program, now known as WAP. What is the allocation to WAP in the fiscal year both in terms of salaries and other?

Hon. Rosemary Vodrey (Minister of Justice and Attorney General): I am informed that the number we have is the global allocation for Victims Assistance which deals with both Women's Advocacy and Child Witness. So we would undertake to get that information for the member as soon as possible. We just do not have it here right now.

* (1430)

Mr. Mackintosh: When the minister gets that information, would she also provide the comparable data for the previous fiscal year, in '93-94 and the current Estimates that we are studying.

Mrs. Vodrey: Yes, we will provide both year-over-year funding. The member, I understand, would like it broken down in terms of administrative costs and program costs.

Mr. Mackintosh: I understand that there is one lawyer and four counsellors currently on the staff of WAP. I wonder what changes are contemplated to the SY complement of WAP given the pending expansion?

Mrs. Vodrey: In the Women's Advocacy program the staffing is as follows: one lawyer, three counsellors, one administrative support, for a total of five. There will then be an additional three counsellors; one counsellor for Thompson, one counsellor for Brandon, one counsellor for The Pas. However, it should be noted that those counsellors in rural Manitoba will provide counselling services both for Women's Advocacy program and also counselling for Child Witness.

Mr. Mackintosh: Is the reason that there is an expansion to The Pas, Thompson and Brandon of WAP because the family violence court is being expanded in those cities and towns?

Mrs. Vodrey: No, there is not at this time a proposed expansion for the family violence court to those three areas. However, the courts in those

three areas, Brandon, Thompson and The Pas, prosecute domestic violence cases, and so this was an effort to support the victims in those domestic violence cases with the services that are currently available in Winnipeg.

Mr. Mackintosh: It is my understanding that there is a great deal of services provided to aboriginal women, in particular by WAP, and I want to ask some questions about whether these services are culturally appropriate and whether the victims are comfortable with the staff. Are there any aboriginal counsellors or workers at WAP?

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chair, I am informed that of the counsellors in the Winnipeg area, one of those counsellors is an immigrant woman, and that for the counsellors who will be hired in Thompson and The Pas, the expectation is that they will be aboriginal women.

Mr. Mackintosh: Has the department made an application to the Human Rights act or taken other measures to hire on an affirmative basis in Thompson and The Pas?

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chair, I am informed, in those ads, though they did not specify aboriginal, they did specify affirmative action and they did specify experience in being able to work in the Cree language.

Mr. Mackintosh: When does the minister expect the WAP offices in Thompson, The Pas and Brandon to be fully operational?

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chair, we expect that the Brandon office will be open by mid-July, no later than late July, and we expect the offices in Thompson and The Pas to be open in September.

Mr. Mackintosh: Will the minister advise whether the entire source of the funding of WAP comes from the Victims Assistance Fund? If not, what other funds or pockets does it come from?

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chair, I am informed that all of the funding comes from the Victims Assistance Fund.

* (1440)

Mr. Mackintosh: Will the minister advise whether that is the same for the previous fiscal year?

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chair, I am informed that the process is that the spending for the expenses of the Women's Advocacy program is spent from general revenue and then cost-recovered from the Victims Assistance Fund so that, in finality, it is then paid for totally by the Victims Assistance Fund. That is what will be done this year, and that was what was done last year. The recovery, however, took place after the act had been passed—I beg your pardon, the amendment had been passed to the act.

Mr. Mackintosh: I would like to talk in general then about the mandate of WAP. I think there is great potential for an organization such as this. I am just wondering if WAP has put forward proposals, or if the government is considering proposals to change its mandate and provide further services to abused women.

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chairperson, the program is monitored by the department. At the moment we do not anticipate any program changes. What we did this year was expand the service.

Mr. Mackintosh: I notice on the Other Expenditures aspect, Transportation, there has been a significant reduction in allocation. I am just wondering what that represents, what those cuts represent.

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chairperson, I am informed that in the past, there was a worker, a counsellor from Winnipeg who travelled very frequently up to Sandy Bay and also made a number of trips to the North, because there was not a program offered in the North. Now that we have expanded the service into the North, we will not be needing to have that counsellor travel north from Winnipeg.

Mr. Mackintosh: So it is WAP that is being affected by this cut, I understand.

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chairperson, again this is—how it can be characterized as a cut in terms of the overall service surprises me. It is a result of the expansion of the service that we will have an individual who will be available to serve the North. The person who did the travelling in the past, however, did work with the Child Witness

program, and now the worker in the North will be assuming that responsibility.

Mr. Mackintosh: Just to clarify the answer, is it the WAP transportation budget which is changing here? I will leave it at that.

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chairperson, this budget represents a total budget for all of the Victims Assistance programs. It includes WAP and Child Witness Support, and the budget, I am informed, previously included travel from Winnipeg into the Sandy Bay area and into the North. Now that we have expanded the service into the North area, we will not be looking at the transportation costs from Winnipeg, therefore the reduction.

Mr. Mackintosh: At a minimum, can the minister assure the committee that the cutbacks in transportation budget in the Child Witness Support program and WAP will not be reduced at least until the Thompson and The Pas offices are fully operational?

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chairperson, I can tell the member that the money that is available in the Estimates is money which will not cause any jeopardy to the service which is being provided. Again, I would point out to him that in fact there will be an expansion of the service for the northern areas by the fall.

Mr. Mackintosh: Would the minister advise what the travel budgets are, if any, for the Thompson and The Pas offices?

* (1450)

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chairperson, at the moment I do not have available the travel budgets or the transportation budgets which will be allocated to the northern offices. The budgeting is done by and large in a global budget. However, when the offices are open, we will then have an allocation available to those offices. So at that time, perhaps, I can provide the member with some more detail.

Mr. Mackintosh: The accessibility of WAP in particular to all Manitobans, and I can say particularly to women on northern reserves, is critical for the WAP program to fulfill even part of its function then.

I want to just put on the record my concern about the need for an adequate transportation budget. Even as The Pas and Thompson office is open it will be necessary for, and I hope it will part of the mandate, the counsellors in those offices to be accessible and reach out to northern communities.

From what I am aware of northern transportation costs, I think that a reduction on this line represents an unfortunate reduction.

Having said that I, at this time, have no further questions under Victims Assistance.

Mr. Gary Kowalski (The Maples): I just wanted to put some comments on record in response to the closing remarks from the minister last night about community-based programs, when there are pilot programs, that the opposition would have these pilot programs automatically become permanent programs thereby causing an ever-escalating bureaucracy.

I do not think that was ever suggested. What was suggested was that the original purpose of the act was to recognize victims as much a part of the justice systems as the police, as the accused, as the judges and the lawyers.

They are all part of the system. Yet here in this one element to the system, some might argue one of the most important parts of the justice system, are treated differently in that if a pilot program shows that it is a benefit to the system, if it was to continue to fulfill that service, that it has to go and find funding in the community. Well, maybe the correction system should be going out to find funding in the community. Maybe the prosecution branch should be funded by volunteerism and that. It is the principle.

I think what was being suggested was when community-based programs, pilot projects are shown to be very effective, they do become part of the justice system and treated on an equal basis as all other parts of the system. So I just wanted to leave no impression that this opposition are spendthrifts and are just looking for an ever-increasing bureaucracy in the justice system.

Whoever forms the government after the next election will be working with the same bureaucracy, the same staff, probably within the

same parameters within the budget, and it will be just the principles that will be applied.

The principle that will be applied from this party is that victims are as equal a part of the justice system as all other parts and should not be treated differently. That is my only comment on this line in the budget.

Madam Chairperson: Item 2.(e) Victims Assistance (1) Salaries and Employee Benefits \$518,700—pass; (2) Other Expenditures \$784,600—pass; (3) Grants \$517,400—pass.

2.(f) Criminal Injuries Compensation Board.

Mr. Mackintosh: Accessibility is a big issue for me today. I just discovered my name in the phone book under the letter G. Nice big print, too.

Last year an unfortunate decision was made by the government to deindex benefits payable under the Criminal Injuries Compensation scheme. I ask the minister, what impact has resulted from this deindexing?

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chair, I wonder if I could ask the member to clarify his question in terms of impact. What information was he wanting to receive in that area?

Mr. Mackintosh: First of all, have there been appeals and a heightened level of complaint as a result?

Mrs. Vodrey: I am informed there have been no appeals that we are aware of. However, we will undertake to check with the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board just to make certain that is the answer.

Mr. Mackintosh: I wonder if the minister would more fully explain the negative figure of \$550 that is footnoted No. 1. Is that because there has been a reassessment of a future liability?

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chairperson, I am informed that this is a line which speaks to the reduced number or reduced amount of accumulated liability, that the province elsewhere in the Manitoba accounts has a line which accounts for this liability. Over the past three years, we have not awarded lifetime pensions, and so as a result of not awarding lifetime pensions and also some of the recipients having died, then the amount or the

liability then is reduced, and that is what this line reflects.

Mr. Mackintosh: Does this line also reflect the savings to the compensation board as a result of deindexing?

Mrs. Vodrey: The answer is no.

Mr. Mackintosh: Would the minister advise of the amount that the government has or the board has saved as a result of deindexing?

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chairperson, I am informed that last year we undertook to find that amount, and that was given, and we will give the same undertaking this year, that we will find that amount and provide it to the member.

Mr. Mackintosh: Is it the policy of the compensation board to attempt to make lump-sum payments wherever possible rather than lifetime pensions?

* (1500)

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chairperson, I am informed that since 1992, the lump sum awards have been offered.

Mr. Mackintosh: Would the minister advise why—she can see my assumption in this statement—the lump-sum payments are cheaper than the lifetime pensions? Can the minister advise when lump-sum payments are made, rather than lifetime pensions? What circumstances are considered?

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chairperson, I am informed that since 1992 the lifetime pensions have not been offered. Since that time, it has been a lump-sum settlement. However, there are lifetime pensions that are being paid because those were in place before 1992 and so those will be seen to the finish.

Mr. Mackintosh: Does the recovery of \$550,000, therefore, represent the move from lifetime pensions to lump-sum payments as a policy?

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chairperson, I can tell the member that is true in part in that the existing pensions, their actuarial value is declining and there have been no new lifetime pensions since 1992. So the assumption the member has made is accurate in part.

Mr. Kowalski: In regard to compensation for victims that are over the age of 65, are there any special provisions for people who are receiving a pension, a CPP pension or an Old Age Security? Is that taken into account in any way as far as the compensation they receive from the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board?

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chair, I refer the member to Section 14(1) of the act which speaks specifically to this. Just reading from the act: Subject to the regulations, in determining the amount of compensation, if any, to be awarded to an applicant, the board shall deduct (a) any amount paid or payable at the time the award is made (i) to the victim or (ii) to his dependants in respect of the disability or death of the victim under The Workers Compensation Act, the Canada Pension Plan, the Unemployment Insurance Act or any other act of Parliament or the Legislature. So it is a balance.

Mr. Kowalski: I just want to understand the rationale. If someone is getting compensation from the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board and they are also able to get some income from another source, such as they are still able to continue to work part time, that would not be deducted off their compensation, but if they were getting a pension, it would be. Is that correct?

* (1510)

Mrs. Vodrey: The purpose of the act is to ensure that there is no undue financial hardship to the individual. The purpose is not to provide damages. The purpose, then, is to replace losses, and the pensions are based on the person's earning or minimum wage and would be reduced as the person was then able to begin to work.

Madam Chairperson: Item 2.(f) Criminal Injuries Compensation Board (1) Other Expenditures \$2,362,900—pass; (2) Less: Reduction in Actuarial Liability (\$550,000)—pass.

Resolution 4.2: RESOLVED that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$63,487,800 for Justice, Public Prosecutions, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1995.

Item 3. Justice (a) Administration and Special Programs (1) Salaries and Employee Benefits \$128,700—pass; (2) Other Expenditures \$23,000—pass.

3.(b) Civil Legal Services.

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chair, I would just like to introduce to the committee two members from the Department of Justice. I would like to introduce Mr. Ron Perozzo, who is the associate deputy minister of Justice, and Mr. Tom Hague, who is the director of Civil Legal Services.

Mr. Mackintosh: I wonder if the minister would advise what the policy of Civil Legal Services is respecting the contracting out for legal services to private firms.

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chairperson, we do not contract out. We do, however, retain outside counsel in some circumstances, and the type of circumstances are: first of all, the type of legal services required is of a very specialized nature, and it would be more cost-effective to retain an outside specialist rather than having in-house counsel take the time required to develop expertise in the area in question. Secondly, in areas where it would not be appropriate for government counsel to act. For example, it would not have been appropriate for government counsel to act as counsel to the Aboriginal Justice Inquiry. Also, where it is more effective to have—where it is more cost-effective to have counsel act. This is most frequently arising when it is necessary to provide a limited amount of legal services in the northern area. Fourthly, where the matter is one of such magnitude that it would not be possible to provide the necessary legal services and still meet the ongoing needs of clients for legal services.

Mr. Mackintosh: In the event that outside counsel is retained, what process does the department have to determine what counsel should be retained?

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chairperson, the selection of counsel is based on who is the most qualified to do the service, past experience that we might have had with that counsel. We consult the client department as to counsel that they might recommend, and then in the final analysis we determine who would then be the most

appropriate, and they are retained on a formal letter of retainer.

Mr. Mackintosh: Does the government have a policy whereby there is an invitation from a certain number of firms or individuals so that it resembles, in a sense, a tendering or an open process?

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chairperson, in the area of Civil Legal Services, we have not tendered in the way the member has asked about. The reasons are that usually it is a very specific type of service which is required and tends not to lend itself to that particular kind of process.

Mr. Mackintosh: I now want to talk briefly about two areas that I think appropriately come under this area. The first is with regard to a very current issue and that is the matter raised in Question Period today, the decision made by the central command of the Royal Canadian Legion and the role of the Human Rights Commission of Manitoba in dealing with that. I understand from the First Minister's (Mr. Filmon) remarks in the House today, that a complaint has already been lodged with the Human Rights Commission.

I am wondering if the minister intends or would consider meeting with the commission to determine if that particular complaint could be expedited so that we can have some national leadership on this issue and nip the problem in the bud.

* (1520)

Mrs. Vodrey: I know that this is an important issue; however, it would be best covered under 6.(a), which is the Human Rights Commission, the line for the Human Rights Commission, and best dealt with when the executive director of the Human Rights Commission is available.

Mr. Mackintosh: I have no problem with that and just as well that the minister is on notice with my concern.

I also want to touch briefly on the fall-out of the Immigrant Investor Program, and I believe this does touch on this area. I had asked the minister in Question Period some days ago whether the government has been put on notice of any claim or pending claim by any party as a result of the

Immigrant Investor Program and, in particular, any claim with respect to the Winnipeg Renaissance partnership?

Mrs. Vodrey: I am informed that to the best of my knowledge and the staff who are present today that we have not been served with any civil claim, though we can check with the client and we can check our records.

Mr. Mackintosh: I would ask the minister to do that. I also ask whether she would advise or check, if she does not have the information now, as to whether there has been any lawyer's demand letter, a demand letter sent or received by the government?

Mrs. Vodrey: Yes, we will undertake to do that.

Mr. Mackintosh: Has the minister or any other minister of the government sought legal opinion as to the potential liability of the province regarding the Immigrant Investor fund, and particularly the Winnipeg Renaissance partnership? I certainly do not want to know the content of any opinion for obvious reasons, but has such an opinion been sought?

Mrs. Vodrey: I am advised that the client department is being advised by outside counsel, and so we do not have any knowledge of opinions sought or received.

Mr. Mackintosh: I take it that is the Department of Industry, Trade and Tourism?

Mrs. Vodrey: That is correct.

Mr. Mackintosh: I asked the minister whether at this time she currently has any role with regard to the Immigrant Investor Program, given that she advises she is not aware of any claim having been served, at least as of today, not aware of any demand letter having been received.

Mrs. Vodrey: My role was to ensure that the client did receive legal advice, and so it made the arrangements for them to receive advice from the outside counsel that they are currently using.

Mr. Mackintosh: Would the minister advise who the outside counsel is?

Mrs. Vodrey: The outside counsel is Taylor McCaffrey.

Mr. Mackintosh: I am interested in knowing what outstanding claims currently exist against the people of Manitoba, the Province of Manitoba. I wonder if the minister has such a list and the total value or the breakdown of the value of the claims. Because I am not aware of what volume may exist, perhaps the minister would first of all respond to that question in general as to whether a listing is available and, if it is available, how extensive that is.

Mrs. Vodrey: I am informed that we have a list of ongoing litigation. It is not quantified by value, but we certainly can provide the member with the list of litigation.

Mr. Mackintosh: I would appreciate that list at the minister's earliest convenience.

Mr. Kowalski: It is not a question on this line, but I need some information. A colleague would like to ask some questions about the Maintenance Enforcement branch, and I am not too sure if it would be under line 3.(e) Family Law or if it would be under Court Services. Where would be the appropriate place to ask questions in regard to Maintenance Enforcement?

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chairperson, I believe that the kinds of questioning that the member's colleague would like to ask would be asked under Court Services. There would obviously be some opportunity under the line in Family Law, but I think the details that that individual is asking would best be covered under Court Services.

Madam Chairperson: 3.(b) Civil Legal Services
 (1) Salaries and Employee Benefits \$1,835,400—pass; (2) Other Expenditures \$249,800—pass; (3) Less: Recoverable from Other Appropriations (\$2,085,200)—pass.

3.(c) Legislative Counsel (1) Salaries and Employee Benefits \$1,317,500—pass; (2) Other Expenditures \$383,600—pass.

3.(d) Manitoba Law Reform Commission.

Mr. Kowalski: The board fees, I notice a reduction in board fees. What is that attributable to? Under Other Expenditures, from 43.6 to 36.8.

* (1530)

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chairperson, I am informed that the actual for 1993-94 was 33.1. So what we have done is adjust this year's Estimates in line with the actual of the previous year.

Mr. Kowalski: I would like some information on the make-up of the commission, the numbers and individuals, if that is possible, who make up the Law Reform Commission.

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chairperson, the commissioners of the Law Reform Commission are Mr. Cliff Edwards, who is the president; Eleanor Dawson, member of the commission; John Irvine, member of the commission; Pearl McGonigal, member of the commission; and Justice Gerald Jewers, member of the commission.

Mr. Kowalski: How often does the commission meet, and what is their per diem rate?

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chair, the Law Reform Commission members do not have a per diem rate but instead are given a flat remuneration for the year. The president of the Law Reform Commission receives \$12,000 per annum. The members of the Law Reform Commission receive \$7,500 per annum except for Justice Jewers who receives no remuneration.

I would just like to take a moment to introduce to the committee Mr. Jeff Schnoor who is the executive director of the Law Reform Commission.

Madam Chair, they also meet as required. I am informed that recently they have a number of projects, and they are meeting frequently now.

Mr. Kowalski: How many times did the commission meet last year?

Mrs. Vodrey: I am informed that the Law Reform Commission had 26 meetings in the year '93-94, and under most circumstances they would meet about every three weeks, but I am informed that this year they are meeting, at this point, weekly.

Madam Chairperson: Item 3.(d) Manitoba Law Reform Commission (1) Salaries and Employee Benefits \$281,900—pass; (2) Other Expenditures \$144,500—pass.

3.(e) Family Law.

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chairperson, I would just like to take a moment to introduce to the committee Joan MacPhail, who is the director of the Family Law branch.

Mr. Mackintosh: I notice there is a reduction of 3.5 percent this year over last and represents, I calculate, \$17,600. I understand that is relating to a legal staff position. I wonder if the minister can clarify what that reduction represents.

Mrs. Vodrey: I can explain the changes by, first of all, a minor decrease of 4.5 due to the merit and benefit increases being paid to a more junior counsel. There was a more senior counsel and then we hired a counsel to replace that individual. That person was hired as a more junior counsel. And then 13.2, a minor decrease arising from reduced maternity leave costs.

Mr. Mackintosh: I understand this division provides the legal services to the Maintenance Enforcement office. Is my understanding correct, I ask the minister?

Mrs. Vodrey: Yes, that is correct.

Mr. Mackintosh: Are there counsel that are specifically assigned to assist the Maintenance Enforcement office?

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chairperson, there is one lawyer whose primary duties are maintenance enforcement and then two articling students whose primary function is maintenance enforcement, and then as necessary other lawyers in the area will also provide services such as attending court.

Mr. Mackintosh: Has there been any change over the last three years in the level of the SY of legal services for a maintenance office?

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chair, I am informed that over the past three years, there has not been a reduction in the area of service provided to Maintenance Enforcement. I believe that was the specific question.

* (1540)

Mr. Mackintosh: Has there been any increase?

Mrs. Vodrey: No, there has not been an increase in SYs.

Mr. Mackintosh: Could the minister advise us the name of the lawyer that serves the maintenance office?

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chair, the lawyer is Tracy Morrow.

Mr. Mackintosh: Could the minister advise what the Child Support Guidelines Project is?

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chair, at the request of the Ministers of Justice from across Canada, the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Family Law Committee has been examining the issue of child support and the feasibility, advisability of guidelines, and the director of the Family Law branch sits on this committee.

The work of the committee—discussion papers regarding policy issues of June '91 and economic implications of various child support guidelines May '92—was circulated to numerous community organizations. At a February '93 meeting, the committee considered the public consultation results. They narrowed the possible formulae and directed additional economic research. The committee met in November '93 and April '94 to discuss the federal government's preferred approach to child support and the draft report to deputy ministers.

In Manitoba, an interdepartmental committee is examining the formulae options and the policy considerations to ensure that the concerns of affected departments would be taken into consideration. The formulae under consideration will provide guidance as to appropriate support awards at certain income levels, and it is hoped that the report on the recommendations to deputy ministers can be presented by the late summer or the early fall of this year. So there has been progress made in that area, and it is continuing.

Mr. Mackintosh: So this is guidelines for the judges. Is that right?

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chairperson, guidelines for judges and for parties negotiating.

Mr. Mackintosh: Are there any public documents available from the project?

Mrs. Vodrey: I am informed that the discussion papers which I mentioned in my introductory remarks are all available.

Mr. Mackintosh: So I can get these documents either through Ms. MacPhail or the minister's office.

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chair, we will undertake to provide them. We may have to request copies of them because, as the member knows, one goes back to 1991. We may have to request additional copies from the federal government. So we will undertake to provide them to both members.

Mr. Mackintosh: I wonder if the bench in Canada has been involved through any representation on the project.

Mrs. Vodrey: I am informed that most judges have felt that it was not appropriate to give their opinion on what is primarily a policy issue. I am also informed, however, that the federal government, federal representatives have met at least once with representatives of the bench, but I understand that that meeting was more as a way to advise the bench of the progress as opposed to seeking input specifically.

Mr. Mackintosh: Just to clarify, is the minister intimating that the guidelines will be available to the bench across Canada in late summer or early fall?

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chairperson, no, I am pleased to clarify that point. We are looking for the report from that working group to be submitted to Deputy Ministers of Justice for their consideration by the late summer or early fall.

Mr. Mackintosh: Is a further public consultation process with final draft contemplated?

Mrs. Vodrey: I am informed that we are not sure if that will be a possibility. I understand that there has been extensive consultation in the process, and I am also informed that the federal Minister of Justice is committed to the child support guideline project. So whether there will be another opportunity for consultation is not yet known.

Mr. Mackintosh: It must be a tremendous task to put together guidelines to cover the expanse of Canada and all the different regional variations of

the different costs that different Canadians experience. I think just in Manitoba alone, the different costs associated with living in the North as compared to the south—have the regional variations in the cost of living been taken into consideration?

* (1550)

Mrs. Vodrey: I am informed that the working group most certainly is taking all of these issues into their consideration.

Mr. Mackintosh: Could the minister describe what The Reciprocal Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Act project is doing or what its objective is?

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chair, this working group, I am happy to say, came about at the recommendation and the suggestion of Manitoba and our representative to the provincial, territorial and federal group. The group is looking at the enforcement of orders and the ability to obtain orders in other jurisdictions, for instance, other Canadian provinces, most U.S. states, other countries in Europe, Africa and Polynesia.

At the moment, problems with the REMO are interprovincial and international. REMO has a number of problems including delays, lack of enforcement action on Manitoba orders sent to other jurisdictions, and a lack of a complete reciprocity in the legislation such as the ability to vary or to change orders.

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

A subcommittee of the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Family Law Committee is examining presently the REMO issues, and, again, that was at the recommendation of Manitoba looking at the REMO issues and the problems. We hope that they will be able to report to the deputy ministers of Justice across the country this year.

The subcommittee is examining problems relating to administrative issues, Canadian-provincial REMO legislation, international REMO cases. I can say that since 1992 alone, the Family Law branch has initiated contact with over a dozen countries broaching the possibility of REMO

arrangements, unfortunately, there has been little response.

However, we have received recently correspondence from West Virginia, Norway and the Czech Republic wanting to establish Reciprocal Enforcement Maintenance with Manitoba. The maintenance and enforcement legislation from those states and countries will be examined to see if reciprocal arrangements are feasible.

Mr. Mackintosh: This is so important to me. Are there any publications available from this project?

Mrs. Vodrey: No, there are no publications available at this time.

Mr. Mackintosh: I am interested in knowing what options the project is looking at to ensure that orders can be enforced outside of Manitoba. I wonder if the minister can canvass some of those with the committee, the leading options, the ones that are more fully developed.

Mrs. Vodrey: Mr. Acting Chairperson, I am told that it is really very early to be specific about the options that are being examined by the committee, but speaking very broadly, the committee is looking at administrative procedures. Some of those are very technical and I am not able to be specific about those today. They are also looking at legislative amendments to make REMO acts consistent across Canada. I understand they have found that there have been some differences and there is an effort to want to look at those being consistent.

Then thirdly, the committee is very hopeful that the federal Liberal government will play a role with foreign countries to enforce the payment from those countries. My understanding is that Manitoba has quite a good track record in enforcement on behalf of other countries, but that it is not always reciprocal on their part. So we are looking to the federal Liberal government to assist in those payments.

Mr. Mackintosh: What is the likelihood and the advisability of a federal enforcement act of a truly co-operative effort so there is a national scheme? It has been done in other areas where the provinces have delegated to the federal government powers

in certain areas and vice versa, and I am wondering if there has been any movement in that regard.

Mrs. Vodrey: Mr. Acting Chairperson, I am told that part of the child support guidelines project relates to a national strategy for maintenance enforcement, and that at the moment there are some things which can be done federally—garnishee some funds which would be advanced by the federal government and also federal locates.

I understand that some of this is being done today. Some of it is available, but we are certainly looking to see that the federal government will continue to look at assisting the provinces, particularly in some of these areas.

Mr. Mackintosh: When did this particular project get underway?

* (1600)

Mrs. Vodrey: I am told that this project got underway in 1993.

Mr. Mackintosh: Who represents Manitoba on the project?

Mrs. Vodrey: The representative is the director, Joan MacPhail.

Mr. Mackintosh: Would the minister advise how the project is structured in terms of how does it meet, when does it meet?

Mrs. Vodrey: I am informed that this is a subcommittee of the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Family Law group, that meetings are held concurrent with that particular group. The REMO subcommittee is a smaller group, and it does have representation from provincial enforcement programs, that the meetings have been concurrent, again, with the family law meetings where the legal issues have been considered. There has also been conference calls, and then a first major meeting was held in August 1993 in conjunction with the enforcement conference.

Mr. Mackintosh: Are there any other national family law projects that are ongoing by the committee?

Mrs. Vodrey: The other major project is a custody and access project. The consultations for that particular project closed December 1993.

Mr. Mackintosh: What is the objective of that group?

Mrs. Vodrey: The object is to look at issues in custody. There was a discussion paper. That discussion paper is available. It is looking at issues such as the criteria for awards and the enforcement of awards.

Mr. Mackintosh: Just in the event that the paper is not available through the library, I wonder if the minister can provide a copy.

Mrs. Vodrey: We will undertake to provide copies of that paper to both critics.

Mr. Mackintosh: Can the minister advise what her or the government's position is on the taxation of support payments?

Mrs. Vodrey: At the moment I am not able to provide the member with that position because we are waiting for the parties to frame the issue to go before the Supreme Court, and when we see how they have framed the issue then we will be able to look at our position.

Mr. Mackintosh: Is it the minister's intention to make an intervention motion before the court?

Mrs. Vodrey: It is a little early for us to make that decision because we have not seen the question.

Mr. Mackintosh: Pass.

The Acting Chairperson (Mr. Reimer): Item 3.(e) Family Law (1) Salaries and Employee Benefits, \$396,800—pass; (2) Other Expenditures, \$84,000—pass.

3.(f) Constitutional Law (1) Salaries and Employee Benefits, \$578,200. Shall the item pass?

Mr. Mackintosh: The only hot spot I recognize on the numbers here is the dollar amount on the Professional/Technical line. I am wondering what that represents.

* (1610)

Mrs. Vodrey: Just before I answer that question, I would like to introduce to the committee Donna Miller, who is the Director of the Constitutional Law branch.

This represents just the general increase as a result of increments. There are no additional SYs.

Mr. Mackintosh: Pass.

The Acting Chairperson (Mr. Reimer): 3.(f) Constitutional Law (1) Salaries and Employee Benefits \$578,200—pass; (f)(2) Other Expenditures \$120,300—pass.

Resolution 4.3: RESOLVED that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$3,458,500 for Justice for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1995.

Item 4.(a) Administration (1) Salaries and Employee Benefits \$675,900.

Ms. Becky Barrett (Wellington): Mr. Acting Chairperson, I am wondering if the minister could advise me when in this particular area I should ask the questions that I have around programs for abusers in the Corrections system, both in while the person is incarcerated and in probation, and the second area is training for correctional and probation personnel.

Mrs. Vodrey: Those questions should probably be addressed under two lines, lines 4.(b) and 4.(d). They would be questions dealing both with Adult Corrections in the institutions and also Community Corrections.

The Acting Chairperson (Mr. Reimer): Item 4.(a) Administration (1) Salaries and Employee Benefits \$675,900.

Mr. Kowalski: I have a question in regards to deputy ministers of the different branches of government. I understand there has been a joint committee working for a number of years in Family Services, in Justice and a number of areas, a co-ordination of services. Is there any information on what is coming from that committee? Have there been any results? Is there going to be a report? What has come out of that co-ordination committee?

Mrs. Vodrey: There has been work done both, and I have gone through—there are several steps and groups of people who are working on this, but it does involve deputy ministers, as well, who are looking at issues of co-ordination. This has been an ongoing effort. I do not have a date that I can give to the member specifically as to when a report or recommendations will be released, but there has been work done both at the staff level and working groups. There has been work done, reports then to

the deputy ministers, and ultimately reports and recommendations will come to ministers, decisions will be made and then there will be information released.

So I can confirm with the member that, yes, there is this group, but I am not able to give him a date as to when the information will be available.

Mr. Kowalski: How long has this group been meeting, since when?

Mrs. Vodrey: I am not sure if I can answer the member exactly when the meetings began to occur at the staff level, the deputy ministers' level and the working group level. It has been an issue of concern, I know, over the past year or so. It stemmed from a report which came as an integrated report of the Manitoba Association of School Trustees, and the Manitoba Teachers' Society, and I believe there was also another group which was involved with that report.

As government was looking at the best way to deal with it, then this committee and ultimate working group was formed.

Mr. Kowalski: So the instigators of this working group or of this committee was the Manitoba Teachers' Society and the Manitoba Association of School Trustees. It was not the government who instituted this committee. Do I misunderstand the minister?

Mrs. Vodrey: Yes, although it could well have been the way I provided the explanation. There was a report which was given to government which indicated that it would be useful to have communication and an information flow among departments. Certainly, that information does flow, but what was being recommended specifically was perhaps greater co-ordination to people outside so that they would understand that the information flowed among and between departments.

So it was as a result of a request to look at that issue of co-ordination that government decided to act upon how it best could achieve that, and in looking at ways to achieve that, this working group was set up and also a committee of deputy ministers.

Mr. Kowalski: When did the government receive that report, what year?

Mrs. Vodrey: I would be guessing to give the year of the report. I am sorry, I do not know offhand exactly when that was. I understand it was submitted to the Minister of Education, but I am sorry, I do not know the year exactly.

Mr. Kowalski: Was it while this government was in power?

Mrs. Vodrey: Yes, it was during the time of this government, it is my understanding, but I do not know the year exactly.

Mr. Kowalski: At the—not the working group level, but the deputy ministers, how often do they meet to discuss this co-ordination of delivery of services, and how often have they met?

Mrs. Vodrey: As the member knows, the Deputy Minister of Justice is fairly new to his position, so I cannot tell the member how frequently and regularly this has been meeting over time. I know that there was a point last year that the committee was meeting—it was not actually meeting quite frequently. The working group committee was meeting quite frequently and then reports were given to the deputies at that time. But the deputies do not meet as frequently as the working group meets.

Mr. Kowalski: So in the past year how many times have the deputy ministers met to discuss this?

* (1620)

Mrs. Vodrey: If I could just take a moment to introduce the two members of the staff of the Department of Justice who have joined us. I would like to introduce to the committee Mr. Don Demers, who is the assistant deputy minister of Corrections, and Mr. Ben Thiessen, who is the executive director of Youth and Community Corrections.

I am informed that the ADMs' group, the assistant deputy ministers' group, which would be part of the working group, meets monthly, and that is the group who looks at what would be the day-to-day issues and then they would report to the

deputy ministers. I am informed that my deputy has been able to attend approximately twice so far.

Mr. Kowalski: In the working group, can you tell me the make-up of the working group, how many assistant deputy ministers, from which ministries, and who else is involved in this working group?

Mrs. Vodrey: Mr. Acting Chair, I am informed that the four departments are Justice, Health, Education and Family Services, and on the working group and attending the meetings of the working group are the ADMs from those departments and also executive directors.

Mr. Kowalski: I am one who believes in the old adage that the amount of time to take a task goes up with the amount of time allotted to it, and I am wondering, without a completion date, without a goal, this committee has been discussing this over a long period of time. Possibly, if there were a completion date, a goal to achieve the result, everyone's efforts could be more focused, and a priority would be given to this.

Mrs. Vodrey: Mr. Acting Chair, I suppose, looking at it from the outside, it would seem that it was taking a very long time, but each department also has matters of confidentiality and bars to exchanges of information that have to be worked through in exchanging information with other departments. So these are some of the issues that are more complex in nature. It is not just a matter of easily passing information one to another. It is to find the mechanism to pass information and what part of the information can be passed that does not violate the ethical rules or the laws which govern each department.

Mr. Kowalski: Did the proposed amendment that was passed by the federal Liberal government in Ottawa today as far as the sharing of information and records, will it make the work of this committee easier?

Mrs. Vodrey: I believe, from the Justice side, if and when that amendment is actually passed by the federal Liberal government, yes, it should make some difference from the Justice side, but as the member knows, there are also three other departments who have to look at, by the statutes governing them, what information they can share.

Mr. Kowalski: I understand that the proposed amendments would make it clear that information of young offenders can be shared between professionals, between police, school officials, child welfare agencies. The court would also be able to authorize the release of information on young offenders to affected members of the public when there is a risk to their safety. So my reading of the proposed amendment is that it covers more than just the Justice department. It enables people in education, in child welfare and other groups to share information more readily.

Mrs. Vodrey: Mr. Acting Chair, as I said, these amendments—let us hope the federal government does have the political will to pass them. We do not know that they will. We hope they will, but if they do have the political will to pass them, then yes, it will assist in the sharing of information about young offenders, but it does not necessarily obligate mental health to share their information or schools to share their records. So that is really the issue that the committee has to work with: How do they deal with the statutes that govern their work, and how, with those existing statutes, does it require the federal government to make amendments such as we hope they will make to the Young Offenders Act.

Mr. Mackintosh: Just one question, because the administration division oversees, it appears, and is a policy analyst or maker for the other areas that we are going to cover under Corrections, I just want to be assured that we will not be excluded from dealing with any correctional issue, having passed this item.

Mrs. Vodrey: Mr. Acting Chairperson, no, and I think details particularly of some of the program issues and so on and policy issues as they relate to programs do come up under the other lines also.

Mr. Mackintosh: There is just one issue, a very brief item, I want to deal with. It does appear to come specifically under this, and that is the provision of medical services to inmates. Particularly I want to ask the minister what her position is about the provision of medical services by a male doctor only to the Portage la Prairie institute for women.

(Madam Chairperson in the Chair)

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chairperson, my understanding is the medical doctor who attends at the Portage women's correctional institute has in fact worked on a yearly contract with that institute and that there had not been any complaints about his attending, but I gather recently this issue has been raised.

Our understanding is that there are not female practitioners in the local area who are available to do this. However, at the time of the next contract, we would not have a problem looking to see if there was a female practitioner who, under the conditions of the contract, would be willing to serve the Portage Women's Correctional Institute.

Mr. Mackintosh: When does the current contract run out?

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chairperson, it runs out at the end of the fiscal year, which would be March 31.

* (1630)

Mr. Mackintosh: Is the minister committed to looking for a woman practitioner even though there may not be one in the immediate vicinity?

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chair, as I said in an earlier answer, we will certainly be prepared to have a female practitioner attend, provided they were willing to attend under the conditions of the contract, and that is at the MHSC rate per diem for doctors. Sometimes that becomes a condition which causes people to accept or not accept the contract.

Mr. Mackintosh: Well, it is quite a ways until the end of the fiscal year. I am wondering if the minister would not consider now some intermediate action to ensure that there is a choice of gender for the inmates at that facility.

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chair, we have a medical doctor who is currently under contract to work at the Portage correctional institute. Obviously, this doctor does, in the course of his practice, see both male and female patients so it would—in this year, I am not sure that we would be able to change the terms. However, I should tell the member that, where there is a serious issue or where there is a

certain need for a specialist, then we would remove the inmate from the institution and see that they receive the kind of medical treatment that was required by that individual.

Mr. Mackintosh: Well, I urge the minister to do whatever she can to ensure that there is a woman doctor available at this institution. I do not think it is a matter of one losing rights to such a basic service. One certainly loses the right to the doctor of one's own choice, but that does not exclude, I do not think, the right to fairness on this issue. It is just a fundamental rights issue, I think, and one that can certainly be accommodated within the budget of the government.

Mr. Kowalski: I see one of the activities is to co-ordinate policy development and divisional planning. Prior to the policy of establishing boot, wilderness, whatever, correctional camps, what research was done into this type of facility? [interjection] No, just the general one.

Mrs. Vodrey: I can tell the member that government made a policy decision to move towards this rigorous confinement and, following that decision, Corrections was then charged with the work of getting the information that was necessary and developing the model that was made in Manitoba, based on the kinds of research that were available and also based on the principles that were set out by the government of Manitoba in our movement towards this kind of incarceration.

Mr. Kowalski: I see another activity here to co-ordinate medical and forensic offenders' services. For young offenders who are in need of psychiatric treatment while in custody, what is the policy and what facilities are available?

Mrs. Vodrey: There is a co-ordinating medical-forensic committee doing an ongoing review with Mental Health in terms of the kinds of forensic services that are required and are being offered.

I am told that there will be a significant change in delivery, that Children's Forensic will become part of children and adolescent psychiatric services.

Mr. Kowalski: I want to thank the minister for that information, but what is the present situation right now? Where can a young offender, in need of

treatment, who is in custody—what options are available?

Mrs. Vodrey: At the moment, there is a forensic service at the Youth Centre, and if the behaviour is such that it is as serious as a psychotic episode, then that person would be treated in one of the psychiatric units for adolescents.

In these cases, always the diagnosis has to be carefully done somewhat differentially and has to be determined, is it in fact, in some cases, an escalation and a psychotic episode or does the psychiatrist believe that in this instance it may be a behavioural issue as opposed to a psychotic episode. So it is the professionals and the psychiatrists who operate the Forensic Services who will make the determination about the placement of the young person.

* (1640)

Mr. Kowalski: In the proposed amendment to the Young Offenders Act that the federal Liberal government brought in, I notice that it would authorize a court's request that a psychological medical assessment be done for chronic and serious young offenders and would repeal the provisions in the Young Offenders Act that requires young offenders to consent to treatment. Will this better serve the justice system in Manitoba?

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chair, I understand that at the moment the courts do not use that provision very often because the difficulty is that the young offender could withdraw from the treatment program, and, because they could voluntarily withdraw, then it was not really a very useful section because it did not really have any teeth.

Mr. Kowalski: Now that the amendment will repeal provisions that require a young offender to consent to treatment, will that be of benefit to the justice system in Manitoba?

Mrs. Vodrey: There is a potential for that to have an effect. We would have to monitor it, but the psychiatrist or the mental health professionals have to agree, and I think the member would agree that to force someone into a kind of treatment tends to have a very minimal effect in terms of that young person.

Mr. Kowalski: As I read this, it indicates that, with authorized court request, psychological or medical assessment be done for chronic or serious young offenders also. So it is not only in the treatment, but the assessment now will not require the consent of a young offender. Will that be helpful to the justice system in Manitoba?

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chairperson, as in each of these areas, yes, there is the potential for this one certainly, to help the judges, but of course, it will all be dependent upon the political will of the federal Liberal government to actually proceed and to go beyond simply the proposals which we saw today.

Mr. Kowalski: Well, I am glad to hear that the Justice minister supports the federal Liberal government in Ottawa's positions that—

Point of Order

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chairperson, on a point of order, the member should not be attempting to put words in the mouth of the Minister of Justice. He should not be attempting to make those assumptions, and at very best, I would say we are only part way there. The federal Liberal government has only gone part way. They have fallen short.

Madam Chairperson: The honourable Minister of Justice does not have a point of order.

Mr. Kowalski: I am glad the Justice minister sees the potential for these amendments put forward by the federal Liberal government in Ottawa to improve the justice system in Manitoba, and I am heartened to hear that she sees the potential for improvement, and I will end my comments there.

Madam Chairperson: Item 4.(a) Administration (1) Salaries and Employee Benefits \$675,900—pass; (2) Other Expenditures \$263,900—pass.

Item 4.(b) Adult Corrections.

Ms. Barrett: Madam Chairperson, yes, I have some questions in Adult Corrections basically in two general areas, the first being programs for abusers in corrections and the second being

training for correctional officers. These are the same two general areas that I will be asking questions on when we come to the Community Corrections area as well.

These series of questions arise out of the Pedlar report of August 1991, and two of the themes that Dorothy Pedlar talks about in her report and two themes that I think are very important are the issues of programming for convicted abusers and training for people who work in all of the systems, but in this case, the corrections and probation system.

I would like to ask the minister first if she can tell me what programs in the corrections system are available for individuals who have been convicted of domestic violence and other crimes of abuse that would be covered under the Pedlar report.

Mrs. Vodrey: In Adult Corrections in the institutions there is programming and treatment available both in group and in individual treatment. In the area of group and adult corrections, I can tell the member that there were 38 groups offered and it served 465 men. There is also treatment for sexual offenders within—the sexual offenders program is an intensive program and that is at Headingley institution, and at Headingley there is a 40-bed separate unit which has been established. In addition to the regular security staff there is a full time psychologist and a social worker committed to the operation of the unit and the program delivery. The program in the area of treatment of sex offenders includes a special assessment, individual counselling and group therapy.

Ms. Barrett: Under the adult groups, the first category that the minister talked about, there were 38 groups held working with 465 men. Can the minister tell me where these groups were located and how long the duration of the groups were?

* (1650)

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chair, I am informed that this particular program for offenders in the area of domestic violence is a group. The group program lasts a week and it is a duration of 24 hours. It is offered in the adult institutions across the

province. That is Headingley, Brandon, Milner Ridge, Dauphin and The Pas.

Ms. Barrett: The individual programs, how many sessions? How many men were seen in the individual programs, and if you can give me an average duration of time, or some sense of the length of the counselling that took place with the individuals?

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chair, I would just like to say that for the adults in the institutions convicted of domestic violence crimes, first of all, all of those offenders go through group. Then following group, there is a control plan which is set up which forms the basis of individual counselling and interaction, and that follow-up within the institution on an individual basis with the control plan carries on until the end of sentencing.

The contact may vary. It could be as frequent as daily or it may be in the area of once a week specifically around the control plan.

Ms. Barrett: Madam Chair, the sexual offenders program in Headingley, is there a wait list for this program? There are 40 beds. Is there ever a wait list, or are individuals able to be dealt with immediately upon incarceration?

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chair, the treatment for sexual offenders is that there is a 40-bed unit which is a residential placement. To our knowledge there is not anyone waiting outside of that 40-bed unit who should be there and is placed elsewhere in the institutions.

When they go into that particular unit, there are groups, but their entry into the unit may not coincide at the exact start time of a group. The groups are six months in duration and the groups start every three months, so while an inmate may be within that 40-bed segregated unit, they may not yet be a part of the group because it may be operating. So while they are waiting, they receive individual counselling and then enter into the group at the start time.

Ms. Barrett: Can the minister explain to me why there is a one-week fairly intensive program group for inmates who have been convicted of domestic violence, and then the control, I understand, the individual follow-up as seen as needed when the

sexual offender's program is a six month very intensive one?

I have no quarrel with a six-month program at all, but I am wondering if there is not a need for at least some of the domestic violence offenders to have more than the one-week program. We all know that the cycle of violence and the behaviours and the attitudes and the feelings that the perpetrators, the abusers, have are things that require a very intensive and long-term programming to really make a difference. So, while there may be people in for domestic violence crimes who, because there is a range of domestic violence crimes—but I am sure some of those domestic violence crimes are the kind that would require or should require a more intensive long-term program. I am wondering is there any sense that the government is looking at a range of programming other than the individual follow-up to the group for those inmates as well.

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chair, I am told that we previously had a long-term group for domestic violence offenders, but at the moment the curriculum, the protocol, of that particular group is being evaluated and redeveloped. So it certainly is our goal to move back into a long-term group setting, but at the moment we are working on the protocol.

Ms. Barrett: Madam Chair, could we call it five o'clock, because in the interests of expediency I have a series of questions and, seeing as how it is almost five o'clock, perhaps we could call it five o'clock and begin again with—

Madam Chairperson: Is it the will of the committee to call it five o'clock?

An Honourable Member: Five o'clock.

Madam Chairperson: Okay. The hour being 5 p.m. and time for private members' hour, committee rise. Call in the Speaker.

* (1700)

IN SESSION

(Mrs. Louise Dacquay, Deputy Speaker, in the Chair)

Committee Report

Mr. Jack Reimer (Acting Chairperson of Committees): 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 St. Vital (Mrs. Render), that the report of the committee be received.

Motion agreed to.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Hon. Jim Ernst (Government House Leader): Madam Deputy Speaker, I think if you would canvass the House you would find unanimous consent for us to bring forward Resolution 75 for consideration today, the Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of D-Day.

Madam Deputy Speaker: Is there unanimous consent to move Resolution 75 forward to be dealt with today, Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of D-Day? [agreed]

Res. 75—Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of D-Day

Mr. Gord Mackintosh (St. Johns): I move, seconded by the honourable government House leader (Mr. Ernst), that

WHEREAS the liberation of northwest Europe from fascist aggression began 50 years ago with the landing of Canadian and Allied troops on the beaches of Normandy on June 6, 1944; and

WHEREAS Winnipeg is the only city in Canada to have had two regiments, the Fort Garry Horse and the Royal Winnipeg Rifles, fight their way onto the mainland of Europe on D-Day; and

WHEREAS uncounted numbers of Manitobans served in other regiments, corps, arms and services on that fateful day on or above the shores of France and in the English Channel in the struggle for a just and lasting peace; and

WHEREAS many Manitobans of both the reserve and regular elements of the Canadian army are now risking their lives serving on active operations in the ongoing struggle to guarantee peace in all parts of the globe.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba honour the heroism and self-sacrifice of the D-Day veterans in the search for a just, lasting and democratic peace; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Assembly commend Manitoba's reserve and regular soldiers today for continuing the tradition established by Canadians on the beaches of Normandy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Assembly call on the citizens of Manitoba to participate in the various appropriate ceremonies marking the 50th anniversary of D-Day and offer support and encouragement to Canadian Forces overseas.

Motion presented.

Mr. Gord Mackintosh (St. Johns): Madam Deputy Speaker, it is a great honour for me to introduce this resolution. On the 50th anniversary of D-Day, we pay tribute to all the men and women who participated in this very important event in our history. We particularly honour the two Winnipeg military units who participated in the D-Day invasion.

Winnipeg is unique and it is the only Canadian city to have had two major military units involved in the invasion, The Fort Garry Horse and The Winnipeg Rifles, of course.

Both regiments made great contributions on this day of invasion. Although the battle was intense and fighting was difficult, our regiments made substantial gains. A Canadian Press reporter filed the following report from the front on June 6, 1944: Bloody fighting raged all along the beaches, on the right the Winnipegs had to battle their way past five major concrete casements and 15 machine gun positions set in the dunes commanding a long sweep of beach. From dune to dune, along the German trench systems and through the tunnels, these Manitoba troops fought every yard of the way. They broke into the casements, ferreted out the gun crews with the machine guns, grenades, bayonets and knives. The Canadians ran into crossfire, they were shelled and mortared even in the German positions, but they

kept slugging away at the enemy. After a struggle that was bitter and savage, the Winnipegs broke through into the open country behind the beach.

As Canadians, we are extremely proud and thankful for the bravery and fortitude of these units and the countless other Manitoba soldiers who fought in other units. On D-Day alone there were over 350 Canadian fatalities and 541 wounded Canadian soldiers, and there were many more who gave their lives in the 11 months of battle that followed this invasion.

D-Day is important, not only because it marks the beginning of the end of the Second World War, but because the operation of the invasion itself teaches us many important lessons about leadership and teamwork.

D-Day was the largest seaborne military invasion in history. It included over 7,000 ships and landing craft; 12,000 planes, 1,500 tanks; 150,000 people.

Special equipment and weapons were designed for the assault, and troops were subjected to months of special training in such areas as clearing mine fields, carrying out demolitions and scaling obstacles.

The operation of the invasion required a great co-operation between the different military units: destroyers were required to hit beach targets, while artillery units were transported onto the beach to lay down barrages. At the same time, bombers attacked points along the shore and rocket craft blasted the beach strip.

Regiments made up of people, mainly from Canada, the United States and Britain, and in the British regiments many people from other commonwealth countries, and regiments made up of varied ethnic and racial and class backgrounds—all came together and overcame artificial barriers that exist to deal with a common cause. This demonstrates the tremendous potential of human endeavour.

As we discuss this resolution, it is important to recognize that we are not celebrating war or the violence or the losses that war creates; rather, we are honouring those who participated in the forces, their bravery and heroism. We are recognizing the

important sacrifices they made so that others could be free.

D-Day also reminds us that there are currently many Canadians active in peacekeeping operations across the globe, and we must commend their efforts and remember their sacrifices for the hope of preserving peace.

There are a number of events scheduled for this weekend, including a military parade on Sunday. The parade will involve over 1,000 troops and will be the largest military parade since the Second World War. After the parade, there will be a reception here at the Legislature.

Over the weekend, there will also be open houses and barbecues featuring performances from military bands.

On Monday, the anniversary of D-Day itself, there will be a memorial service held at HMCS Chippewa.

I thank all those involved, and we commend them for their hard work and dedication in organizing these events. Thank you.

Hon. Jim Ernst (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Madam Deputy Speaker, in reflecting on this, the 50th anniversary of D-Day, you have to wonder what went through the minds of individuals sitting on ships in the English Channel 50 years ago waiting to go ashore in what had been an impregnable fortress for some years.

The German army of that time, Madam Deputy Speaker, was unequalled in terms of its ability to move about almost at will to overrun country after country in a very short period of time. They had the best equipment. They had excellent training.

The people coming from North America to participate in D-Day and participate in the freedom of Europe were somewhat less trained, I think, and certainly did not have the battle experience that the German troops had under their belt, that they would face on the beaches of Normandy.

So what would go through the minds of those people sitting on a ship out in the English Channel? Weather had been bad. They were worrying about whether to postpone the event or not, what they should do. In the meantime, they see

these troops sitting in the English Channel probably getting seasick, probably having stabs of fear in their hearts, but ready to go ashore and ready to do the job that had to be done.

Madam Deputy Speaker, those people went into the D-Day invasion into Normandy, having experienced a real setback at Dieppe not much earlier. That had been kind of the first bloodying of the Canadian army in Europe and their, I suppose, concern or fear or whatever for their own lives and for the success of the activity that they were going to take part in. However, nonetheless, they went ashore—Canadians, Americans, Australians, British, free Dutch, the Poles, Norwegians—and fought their way through onto the beach, established the beachhead and, of course, began the freeing of Europe.

We also have to respect, I suppose, those who were members of airborne regiments. It is one thing to go ashore on a beachhead when hundreds or even thousands of troops have gone ahead and you follow on, the breakthrough having been accomplished, but to jump out of an airplane into enemy-held territory with no or very little hope of having any safe haven once you landed took even more courage, I think, Madam Deputy Speaker. Nonetheless, all of the people who participated—from the pilots, the glider pilots, the infantry troops on the ground, the people who supplied them on a regular basis—because how much can you carry on your back when you go ashore into a foreign land with virtually no supplies to sustain you over a period of time—all of those people participated in an enormous event that changed the course of world history and for which all of us here, of course, are grateful.

I do not think anybody here in the Chamber is old enough to have participated. Many of their fathers and uncles and so on may well have been participants in the war in Europe, but as indicated earlier, Madam Deputy Speaker, it is ours to salute that heroism today. Thank you.

Mr. Paul Edwards (Leader of the Second Opposition): Madam Deputy Speaker, it is my great pleasure to rise today on behalf of the Liberal

Party and our members in the Legislature to speak in support of this resolution.

I feel it is appropriate that we take the time of this House set aside today by agreement between all parties to honour and comment on the participation of Canadian forces in the final campaign of World War II that began with the Normandy invasion. Fifty years ago, on June 6, 1944, the 2nd Canadian Armored Brigade and the 3rd Canadian Infantry Division took part in what was termed Operation Overlord, commonly referred to as D-Day. The Canadians landed at Juno Beach on the Normandy coast, and after a day of fierce fighting had penetrated nine kilometres inland from the beaches. Canadian forces suffered 18,444 casualties during the Normandy fighting. One unit, the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion lost over 300 officers and men.

Canadian veterans and armed forces personnel are now, as we all know, in Normandy participating in the 50th anniversary ceremonies of this great invasion. For a few days this June, veterans returning to the familiar battlefields and the youngest members of our armed forces are jointly taking part in honouring those who remain in the Canadian cemeteries throughout Normandy and the rest of Europe.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I think I am expressing the views of all members of this House when I say that we have all learned a valuable lesson from the battlefields of Normandy, and that is that the means of maintaining strong international relationships and peace is found through people, the people who participated in the horrors of war and the people who sacrificed their lives to maintain peace and democracy.

To all the Canadian veterans and the families of those who died in our service, we offer our thanks and God's blessing for your valuable, indeed immeasurable, contributions of 50 years ago.

I want to conclude by reflecting on one of the statements in the resolution which we are discussing this afternoon, specifically indicating that we in Winnipeg, we in Manitoba have a particular reason to remember this day and to remember the sacrifice of all Canadians, but in

particular those citizens of our city and our province because we were the only city in Canada that had those two regiments, the Fort Garry Horse and the Royal Winnipeg Rifles, participating in that infamous day back 50 years ago on the beaches of Normandy.

Madam Deputy Speaker, on behalf of all of the members of our party, we wish all of the participants in this celebration, both in Europe and here in Canada, well on this day, and we honour and celebrate with them the memory of so many thousands of Canadians who died in that famous battle so that we might live and prosper in a country like Canada and in a province like Manitoba and have the benefits of all that they held dear and fought for and indeed died for.

Thank you.

Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Opposition): Madam Deputy Speaker, I too want to rise and speak to the resolution before the Chamber today, and thank all parties for agreeing to have this resolution before us in a timely way to commemorate the tremendous contributions made by Canadians and Canada and the allied forces and the men and women from the province of Manitoba and the city of Winnipeg.

As the member for St. Johns (Mr. Mackintosh) has pointed out and previous speakers have pointed out, we are particularly honoured in Winnipeg and in Manitoba for the fact that we had two units that participated in this D-Day operation on June 6, 1944. We are unique as the only Canadian city that had the two units, the Fort Garry Horse and the Royal Winnipeg Rifles. The heroism of all of our forces involved in this military operation to liberate Europe from the totalitarian and fascist government that had invaded Europe and parts of other countries has been well documented, including the example of the Canadian troops and the Winnipeg units in that major operation.

Madam Deputy Speaker, 350 people died on that first day. It is hard to imagine how many families are affected by just those amount of casualties on one day alone on this one operation. It is almost seven times the members of this Chamber in terms

of the human suffering and casualties that took place in terms of the human dimensions of this battle. The success of this battle on a military basis follows the failure of a previous attempt at Dieppe where many, many hundreds of Canadian troops were slaughtered virtually in that operation and left too behind families and communities with the loss of life, the tremendous loss of life and suffering that went on with that operation as part of the liberation of Europe from the fascist forces.

* (1720)

We are very proud to join in this resolution. I think Canada has always played a tremendous part in past battles and past military operations in terms of providing freedom and providing for democracy around the world. We continue to be a major force, as this resolution notes, in terms of supporting peace throughout the world and providing men and women to provide United Nations support in peaceful efforts across our beautiful globe. Madam Deputy Speaker, I am sure that a lot of people over this weekend will be participating, and I want to salute the volunteers that are participating and setting aside the many events that will allow us to pay tribute to our forces locally, and of course there will be many tributes internationally.

I just know, on a personal level, that I have talked to many of my own personal relatives that were involved in the Second World War, including my parents who met during the Second World War, through armed forces activities, and I know on a personal level, anytime they would play a Vera Lynn record at home, tears would come to their eyes about not only their emotional feelings about meeting each other in the war but the many friends that they lost that were veterans or many people that were lost as casualties in this war. I know there will be a lot of celebration and a lot of international celebration this weekend, a lot of activity locally, but I know there will be a lot of families that will be listening to Vera Lynn records and thinking back to their friends and relatives and family members that were lost in this battle and lost in the battle to liberate Europe.

My commemoration goes to the great success of the Canadian forces, the great success of the

Manitoba units and the great sacrifices that have been made by so many people before us to provide and allow us to have this great democratic country, and allow us to live in freedom.

Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Energy and Mines): Madam Deputy Speaker, it is very appropriate and fitting that a Chamber of parliamentary democracy would pass this resolution, bring it forward with unanimous consent, and pass it this afternoon to commemorate the 50th anniversary of D-Day. It is a remarkable event in history that we are really reflecting on, and for many of us in this Chamber it is an event that happened before we were born. The tremendous effort that it required for nations to mobilize, to accomplish a successful invasion of fortress Europe in 1944, and it took a superb, combined effort of the troops who were there and actually fought the battles, but a tremendous support by many people at home to provide the war matériel to support that effort.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I have, as all of us have, very personal attachments to that effort. In the Second World War, three of my uncles served; two of them returned, and one did not. I suspect that is reflective of many, many families. I have had the opportunity with a very great amount of emotion to be present at ceremonies in Europe, at Vimy on Remembrance Day to present a wreath in honour of those who served in the First World War, but what is remarkable to me is, as I have taken the opportunity to visit cemeteries, that when you visit cemeteries in Europe and you read the names and the ages, it really comes home to you just how incredible an effort was undertaken on behalf of all of us in this country and in the free world by those men and women who soldiered and fought for us. Many ages are 18, 17, 19, 20, 21. My son just celebrated his 21st birthday, and I cannot help but reflect that were this 50 years ago, he might well be celebrating that 21st birthday hitting the beach and facing a very formidable fortress that was defended against the Allies.

I think that we have to reflect on why those men and women took that tremendous risk, and they took it because they believed they were on the side of a just and right cause, and they were not afraid

to make that kind of knowing commitment and ultimate sacrifice potentially. They did it because they believed, I think, that they were stopping tyranny in the world, because there was an incredible tyranny in terms of Nazi Germany and what they did to citizens of Europe and the Baltic states.

They served because they wanted to preserve democracy, and I think they served because they wanted to assure that peace would return to the world. More importantly, probably they all wanted to serve because they wanted to preserve opportunity for future Canadians. I think this Chamber represents those future Canadians, and if there is one thing that can adequately say thank you to those who served and returned home and to those who served and did not return home and became one of many, many thousands of casualties in World War II, I think a fitting reminder of how successful they were in preserving those four objectives happened again earlier this week, where, for the second time in three years running, Canada has been chosen by the United Nations as the most desirable nation in the world in which to live.

I think if there is one thing that I want to express in terms of contribution towards this resolution, it is a thank you to the men and women who made Canada that kind of a favoured nation and to simply remind all of us that those sacrifices do not come easily. They can be squandered easily, and if all of us have a duty to preserve, it is to be ever vigilant that we maintain the kind of lifestyle in Canada that people sacrificed lives for. Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker.

Mr. Neil Gaudry (St. Boniface): Madam Deputy Speaker, I would like to put a few comments in French, and I will provide them to Hansard rather than ask for Translation to come back for a few minutes.

Il me fait plaisir d'avoir l'opportunité d'adresser cette auguste assemblée afin d'apporter mes commentaires au sujet de cette résolution.

C'est pour moi un honneur de participer aux célébrations du 50e anniversaire du Jour J. Il est à mon avis, très important de reconnaître le courage

et dévouement que nos anciens combattants ont démontré afin d'assurer une paix juste and durable pour leurs pays.

D'innombrables Manitobains se sont battus au sein d'autres régiments, corps et services sur les rivages de la France and dans la Manche en ce jour fatidique, et je crois qu'il est important d'encourager les citoyens et les citoyennes du Manitoba à participer aux diverses cérémonies marquant ce jour.

[Translation]

It is indeed a pleasure to address this noble Assembly with my comments on this resolution.

It is an honour for me to participate in the celebrations commemorating the 50th anniversary of D-Day. I believe it is very important to recognize the courage and commitment demonstrated by our veterans to ensure a just and lasting peace for our land.

A great number of Manitobans fought in various regiments, corps and services in the Channel and on the shores of France on that fateful day. I believe it is important to promote the participation of the citizens of Manitoba in the various ceremonies in commemoration of that day.

[English]

Madam Deputy Speaker, as the representative for the provincial constituency of St. Boniface, it is for me a singular honour to speak on the resolution that is before this House. In particular, I would like to make special mention to the veterans who will be celebrating this evening at the St. Boniface City Hall the 50th anniversary ship's reunion of the HMCS St. Boniface. Their valour and bravery brought glory not only to the country under whose flag they fought, but also to the city their ship's name so proudly bore. St. Boniface is a community rich in 175 years of history of western Canada. Their vessel and its crew stand as proud memorials to this history.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I take this opportunity to salute one of their colleagues and my most worthy predecessor as MLA for St. Boniface, the Honourable Larry Desjardins. His service as a defender of democracy in war and in peace will,

without a doubt, mark the annals of our history and St. Boniface shall be forever in his debt for his distinguished record of service.

I also would like to mention the Honourable Senator Gildas Molgat who is at this time in France with the Royal Winnipeg Rifles who landed in Normandy on D-Day in 1944. I have a group of veterans and family going with the colonel of the regiment.

Mrs. Shirley Render (St. Vital): Madam Deputy Speaker, it is a pleasure to be able to rise and support this resolution today. I was very fortunate to have been a guest speaker at the 45th annual convention of the Royal Canadian Air Force Association a number of months ago. I had the opportunity to talk to airmen who had been involved in D-Day. I have also had the opportunity and the pleasure to talk with others who have served behind the scenes. For instance, I talk about the airmen; somebody had to get the aircraft from the factory to the squadrons. Women ferry pilots did this.

* (1730)

I have to tell you that sometimes, when I would be speaking and meeting with these people and listening to them tell their stories and looking at their logbooks and looking at the comments they made after a particular flight, I would get goose bumps running up and down my spine, because it was just as if I had been transported back in time and I was with them when that particular event had happened.

But how many of us have the opportunity or indeed the privilege of speaking with those who played such a vital role in ensuring that later generations, people like us, our children and our grandchildren, would have the freedoms and privileges that we enjoy here in Canada?

That is why I think it is so important that we remember, and today we are commemorating D-Day. It all happened on a 24-mile stretch, a beach along the Normandy coast of France, and of course, D-Day is the code name that was given to the invasion of Normandy, the day that was chosen by the Allied commanders to liberate France and

other European countries which had been overrun by the German armies.

Of course, on that day, the tide turned, because the successful invasion of Normandy forced the Germans to fight in France, and from that day on, the Allies gradually enlarged their bridgehead and built up strength. They went on to liberate France and Belgium and the rest of occupied Europe, and of course, within the year, the war was over.

But today, we are remembering the people who played a role in that, and we must not forget, we must remember those who fought and died on land, on sea and in the air.

We must also remember the men and women who perhaps were not overseas, maybe were back here at home, who rallied to support Canada's war effort in the home and in the factory and in the school.

I think that when I listen to everybody here today, and indeed when we go out to some of the celebrations, if they can be called celebrations—maybe commemorations would be a better word—I think all of us at times have to understand the causes and the consequences of war, the price of an enduring peace, and we sometimes have to ask ourselves the hard questions that surround that whole concept of duty and patriotism and sacrifice.

But again, I would just like to say, I feel honoured to be able to speak to this. But most importantly, I think all of us here today have saluted the men and women who played such a role in preserving the freedoms, the democracy, what we just take for granted, and I think we must all say, more than once, thank you to those men and women who fought or who worked behind the scenes to preserve what we have here today.

Mr. Steve Ashton (Thompson): Madam Deputy Speaker, I consider it a privilege today to speak on this resolution, also something of an obligation as well because I believe in many ways what we are talking about today is not just an event but a period in history in which very much of the future of the world was in the grasp of young men and young women who went, whether it be to the beaches of Normandy or to Italy or the many campaigns in Southeast Asia, or who served in the navy or

merchant navy, the RCAF, and in many ways held the future of certainly Europe in their hands, but in many ways the future of civilization as well.

Of all the things, of all the times I have had as someone in public life for the last 12 years that I treasure the most, has been the opportunity to talk to veterans. The aboriginal veterans in northern Manitoba, a remote northern community, left their communities to go and fight in a land so far away for freedoms that, perhaps not until recently—in fact, in many ways, perhaps they are still seeking to attain here in Canada for themselves and, in effect, their grandchildren now.

Or the veterans on Remembrance Day sitting down across the table. I still remember one individual, who is since deceased, who never said anything on Remembrance Day. He always had a tear in his eye. I asked someone who knew him well, and he said that anybody who had been through what he had been through and seen so many colleagues die in active service, seen so many friends lost, Madam Deputy Speaker, would understand.

In talking to those who went through that, as was said earlier, often at a very young age, 18, 19, 20, I am cognizant of the many different reasons they went, the many different views, ideals, characters and personalities they had. I, too, have been in Europe and seen those gravestones, and it never ceases to impact on me the tremendous sacrifice they made.

Madam Deputy Speaker, one thing I notice when I do travel to the scene of many of those battles 50 years ago is that one thing has always held me in good standing: it is being Canadian, and I suppose when I see those gravestones with the Maple Leaf and the insignia of so many other allied countries, I realize why, when I travelled as a university student, everywhere I went I was welcomed in Europe. When I travel now, I find the same thing. Perhaps it brings back to mind when I see that Maple Leaf on those brave men and women who are serving now as peacekeepers in such countries as Yugoslavia, a country I know quite well personally, where history is, unfortunately, repeating itself.

I realize that what happened 50 years ago is happening today, and it is going to require, in many cases, the commitment, indeed in some cases the sacrifices of our young people who are serving in our armed forces, and that is something, Madam Deputy Speaker, that we just cannot repeat enough.

Every Remembrance Day I have been to, I talk to those who served and those perhaps of my generation who avoided the war but know many people—I know my own parents, probably both of whom are lucky to be alive today. Both of them had bombs land in their back yards in Britain that did not explode. I know so many relatives who either served in the war or know of relatives who did not return.

The question is asked whether people will remember. I think there is hope yet. As I was driving even to the Legislature today, I drove by Dieppe Street, and my son, who is nine years old, asked me if this street was named after the war, the battle in the war, and you know, for a fleeting moment the connection came between this motion and him from another generation. I think that is the key Madam Deputy Speaker, that we not forget.

You know, I find that today, if anything, people are remembering more and more, perhaps because, as the member for Pembina (Mr. Orchard) pointed out, because occasionally we sit down and we recognize just how lucky we are, how much freedom we have in this country, and truly this is probably the best country in the world to live in.

As I said, this is about symbols perhaps. Perhaps D-Day and this particular day that we are celebrating will be seen as a symbol the same way that the 11th of November is every year in terms of Remembrance Day. What a symbol, the Maple Leaf! All those people from remote northern communities, from farming communities, from here in the city of Winnipeg, who went to a country many of them did not even know of, many countries, and liberated them and gave them and gave us so much of the freedom that we enjoy today.

It is a symbol, Madam Deputy Speaker, but it is a symbol we must not lose. Thank you.

Mr. Gerry McAlpine (Sturgeon Creek): Madam Deputy Speaker, I am honoured to be able to stand today in this House and representing the members and the people, the constituents of Sturgeon Creek, to speak on this resolution. I think that we cannot do nearly enough in recognition of the sacrifices that men and women before us have made, and especially on this occasion of the 50th anniversary of D-Day. I feel it somewhat of a privilege to have a number of members whom I have talked to who had served with Fort Garry Horse and the Winnipeg Rifles, and I think that, as the member for Thompson (Mr. Ashton) has indicated, it is really important that we remember the efforts that these people made and the contribution that they made to this country. It is really hard to imagine the contribution or what they went through on June 6th and the days leading up to that, what was going through their minds.

* (1740)

In talking to some of these members in my constituency, they had indicated that too often many of them do not wish to talk about this because it was something that they wished to forget, but I think there are a few of them that do realize that it is something that they have to communicate for the benefit of us today because we could not have an appreciation for what they did go through if they did not communicate that.

I really feel honoured in being able to pay tribute to these men and women because of what they have done in terms of their achievements, and I think that there were many sacrifices, not only the people who died on the beaches, the people who were wounded, but the people who were at home. I can well imagine with our own young people—the member for Pembina (Mr. Orchard) suggested his own son going at 21 years of age and celebrating his 21st birthday there. Well, there were many of the families who served with the Winnipeg Rifles and the Fort Garry Horse that really had a lot to endure in wondering what was happening with their loved ones and not being able to have contact with them for not only days, but weeks and months on end. It must have been a real tough situation to be in, and I cannot imagine it, having family of my

own. I am sure the rest of my colleagues feel the same way about that.

I think that we as legislators have to ensure that we carry the message for these people along with them and assist them in every way, shape and form that we possibly can, and certainly I am planning to work with the members of Winnipeg Rifles and of Fort Garry Horse in bringing the message to constituents in Sturgeon Creek. Hopefully, they will have the same impact that that impact has on me and other members in this Legislature because too often when we go to Remembrance Day services—and I am really pleased to hear the member for Thompson (Mr. Ashton) whose son has an understanding. I think that maybe the younger people do, but I think there was a time there when it did not mean anything to a lot of people and that really concerns me, because I think we cannot be reminded often enough of the sacrifices that these men and women made for the freedoms and the liberty that we enjoy in this country and in this province.

The United Nations has given us the tribute of the best country in the world. I think that we owe that to those people who put their lives on the line, and either were wounded or killed or imprisoned because of this movement that they stood behind and really believed in. So it is a real privilege for me, and I really support the resolution. I look forward to the—I do not know whether we want to call them celebrations or commemorations—but this weekend in Sturgeon Creek it is going to be an active time, because I do have many military members and there is going to be a lot of activity around the D-Day celebrations taking place not only in Sturgeon Creek, I realize, but throughout the city. So I think that the message will be brought home, and I certainly cannot emphasize the importance of doing that enough.

I do want to thank this Chamber for the opportunity to speak to this resolution and to have the opportunity to put a few words on the record for the members of Sturgeon Creek who served either in the Winnipeg Rifles or Fort Garry Horse and still remember that day with very mixed emotions. Thank you.

Hon. Gerald Ducharme (Minister of Government Services): Madam Deputy Speaker, for one who was born in 1939 and probably one of the few in the Chamber who did live his early years during the war, I can remember small things about them coming back.

I have to just digress for a minute. I know in my own family, a couple of uncles, when they came back, told me about the war and told what went on. I can remember them being in their Navy uniforms, these two on my mother's side, her two brothers. They lived in the north end of Winnipeg.

The type of confusion that was there when they went away as Andreychucks and, somewhere during the time they came back, they decided that because of what was going on to change their names. They came back with different names, one Anderson and one Andrews. But they were happy to come back and tell you stories about what happened during World War II.

On my father's side, two of his brothers went away and fortunately came back. However, I guess the other experience that we think about is the one who did not come back. On my wife's side, three sons in the family and no daughters, three sons went away and two of them did not come back. The other one was brought back because during that time, if you lost a couple of sons, they made every attempt to bring you back and make sure that the total family was not lost in wartime. I think, when I first started going out with my wife, I had a chance to meet the grandfather, and he told me about the hole that was left in this man. He would start to think about it, and he was devastated when he talked about his two boys, Paul and Alphonse Normandeau.

I imagine there are many seniors, many people out there who not only will have the chance to relive the friendships that they will gather across the world on the many events, but they will also—the most important thing is to remember the families who will not have that opportunity.

So as the Minister responsible for Seniors, I think of those seniors who are out there who gave many things, and suffered and carried that hole

with them their entire lives. So it is a pleasure for me to get up and talk on this resolution.

Hon. James Downey (Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism): Madam Deputy Speaker, I am pleased to rise and support the resolution and to put a few comments on the record.

First of all, world conflict leaves no one unscarred, whether in direct line or on the home front supporting the troops, but I am sure that each and every one carries with them some memory, some thought, some consideration of the loss of family or friends or individuals, so it leaves no one unscarred. Of course, we have to continue to strive to make sure that no one goes through that situation again.

I am sure that no one can imagine the hell that individuals had to face as young men and women who were on the front line. I have heard stories where the people who were getting off of boats with several or many pounds of equipment, artillery, that if you were dumped into 20 feet of water, you could not make it to the beach. Many people drowned. They were not even able to get to the conflict, and if you got to the conflict, you met a very devastating and difficult situation seeing comrades cut down.

We have to, Madam Deputy Speaker, live in hope that there is a greater power, and that that lesson and that activity has taught the world lessons. We want to continue to believe that we will not see that kind of thing again and our young people will never have to face it.

They did not face it by choice, but it was through dedication and commitment and love for our country and land and the freedoms of which we all enjoyed.

I was extremely pleased when my son and his friend last year visited Europe that he, on his own desire and volition, took the decision to visit Dieppe and to try to feel or realize, and I am sure he did. The impact that it had on him was extremely important. He has a greater appreciation for the country of Canada and the people who have, in fact, left us a better place because of the contributions and the sacrifices they have made.

* (1750)

I, as a little bit younger than the previous speaker, was born during the mid-part of the war years. In fact I am named after two uncles that were both involved in the service. One was fortunate to return; one was not.

I say, on behalf of the constituents of Arthur-Virden, to all those people who contributed and put their lives forward, we thank you.

I just would like to say that I think it is extremely important that members of the Legislature know—and we should continue to further remember individuals who have met the supreme sacrifice—that there is a program where in Manitoba, particularly in the remote areas of the North, we do name remote lakes after individuals after those who have sacrificed.

I think that if you know of someone that you feel you would like to put that name forward, it is important we do so, because it is a tremendous feeling for the families of people. I have had constituents who have brothers and sisters left in our communities. When their family members,

who paid the supreme sacrifice, have been acknowledged in that way, it brings a tremendous feeling to those people. So I would recommend it highly to anyone that, if they have individuals that they would like to recommend, they should do so.

On behalf of the constituents of Arthur-Virden, Madam Deputy Speaker, I say, thank you. I salute those soldiers, those people who have given us the country that we have today and protected it for us.

Madam Deputy Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion? Agreed?

Some Honourable Members: Agreed.

Madam Deputy Speaker: Agreed and so ordered.

What is the will of the House?

Some Honourable Members: Six o'clock.

Madam Deputy Speaker: Six o'clock.

The hour being 6 p.m., this House is adjourned and stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow (Friday).

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Thursday, June 2, 1994

CONTENTS

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS			
Presenting Petitions		Building Products	
Manitoba Historical Society Incorporation Act Render	2897	Friesen; Praznik; Stefanson	2904
Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees		Wine Boutiques	
Committee of Supply Dacquay	2897	Storie; Gilleshammer	2905
Tabling of Reports		Northern Flood Agreement	
Annual Report: Surface Rights Board of Manitoba Derkach	2897	Reid; Praznik	2906
Notes, Special Joint Committee Reviewing Canadian Foreign Policy Filmon	2897	Government Departments	
Oral Questions		Gray; Vodrey	2907
Royal Canadian Legion Doer; Filmon	2897	Nonpolitical Statements	
Goods and Services Tax L. Evans; Stefanson	2898	Farm Family of the Year	
Royal Canadian Legion Edwards; Filmon	2900	Downey	2907
Private Personal Care Homes Chomiak; McCrae	2901	Doer	2908
Louisiana-Pacific Co. Wowchuk; Cummings	2902	Edwards	2908
Hepatitis C Virus McCrae	2903	Philippine Heritage Week	
Legislative Building Dewar; Ducharme	2903	Santos	2908
Child and Family Services McCormick; Vodrey; Mitchelson	2904	Lamoureux	2909
		Gilleshammer	2909
		ORDERS OF THE DAY	
		Committee of Supply	
		Agriculture	2910
		Justice	2934
		Private Members' Business	
		Proposed Resolutions	
		Res. 75, Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of D-Day	
		Mackintosh	2950
		Ernst	2952
		Edwards	2952
		Doer	2953
		Orchard	2954
		Gaudry	2955
		Render	2956
		Ashton	2956
		McAlpine	2958
		Ducharme	2959
		Downey	2959