



Fifth Session - Thirty-Fifth Legislature

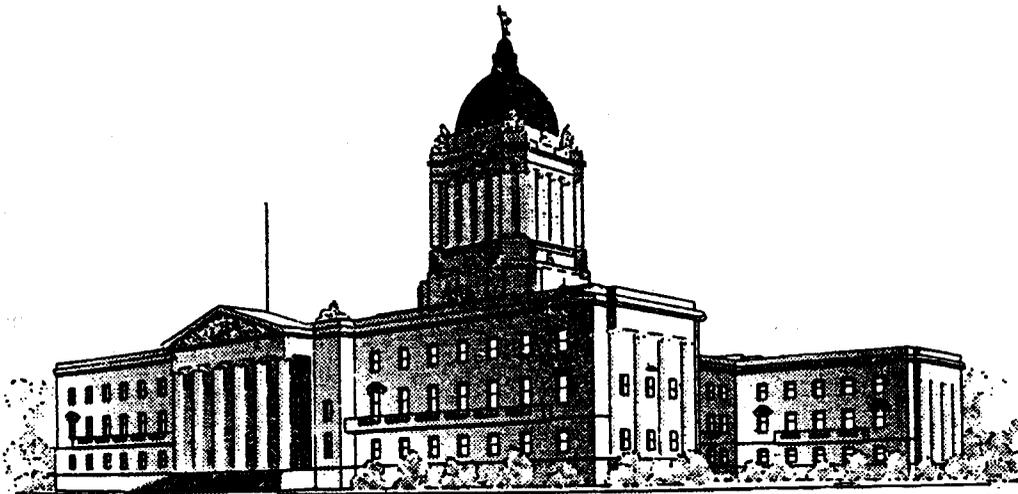
of the

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
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DUCHARME, Gerry, Hon.	Riel	PC
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ERNST, Jim, Hon.	Charleswood	PC
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EVANS, Leonard S.	Brandon East	NDP
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FINDLAY, Glen, Hon.	Springfield	PC
FRIESEN, Jean	Wolseley	NDP
GAUDRY, Neil	St. Boniface	Liberal
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HICKES, George	Point Douglas	NDP
KOWALSKI, Gary	The Maples	Liberal
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ORCHARD, Donald, Hon.	Pembina	PC
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PLOHMAN, John	Dauphin	NDP
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VODREY, Rosemary, Hon.	Fort Garry	PC
WOWCHUK, Rosann	Swan River	NDP

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Monday, June 6, 1994

The House met at 8 p.m.

ORDERS OF THE DAY (continued)

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY (Concurrent Sections)

ENVIRONMENT

Mr. Deputy Chairperson (Marcel Laurendeau): Good evening. Will the Committee of Supply please come to order. The committee will be resuming consideration of the Department of Environment. When the committee last sat, it had been considering item 1.(b)(1) on page 52.

Ms. Marianne Cerilli (Radisson): Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I wanted to ask some questions in this appropriation regarding the survey that the Department of Environment initiated in April. The letter that I have is dated April 5, and it was asking for responses to be sent in by April 13. I found this to indicate that there was some haste with developing or sending out this survey.

So I am wondering, first of all, what sparked this survey. The questionnaire has a number of areas, and I would like to know how it was distributed and the kind of response that the survey has had. Then I will go on to ask some specific questions, but we will start there.

Hon. Glen Cummings (Minister of Environment): This would be the same survey that I referenced in my earlier remarks. It went out to about 1,500 people. I am told we are getting about a 30 percent response.

Ms. Cerilli: The other questions I had asked with respect to what the impetus was for this survey and for some explanation of the short duration that people are given to respond. I know that I did not receive the copy until the date that it was to be back, and I know that there was a number of other people who called me with concern that they did

not receive it till the day or the day before it was supposed to be sent in. So I am quite concerned about that. I think that some of the questions on here would be good information for the department to have. I am concerned, though, if there was ample time, and I would like to know some more about the kind of people who were on the list to receive the survey.

Mr. Cummings: This was part of the continuous improvement project the department undertook, do a client survey and speak to the speed of turnaround. The only thing that I could probably add would be that I have had enough experience myself in matters of trying to get opinion back. I am not sure that waiting for another two or three weeks after the paper has landed in somebody's mailbox, that you are likely to get a higher rate of return. I am told that the rate of return that we have been getting is considered about average for mail surveys.

Ms. Cerilli: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, can the minister then define client group, and were there citizen groups that were involved in the survey? Certainly some of the people who contacted me with concerns would define themselves as citizens who require protection and service from the Department of Environment. So that is one issue.

Mr. Cummings: The client group consisted of general public, which I presume would be including the people that you are referencing: business, industry, environmental groups, local governments and planning districts.

Ms. Cerilli: Just to clarify, business, industry, local municipal governments, and—

Mr. Cummings: Yes, small groups, planning districts.

Ms. Cerilli: Do you not think that there is a problem with some of these groups that are going to require a survey like this to be completed perhaps by a board, that they would require more

time in order to discuss it, to get the survey to members, to have a chance to look at it thoroughly? They would require more time than between April 5 to 13 and certainly more than some of the groups getting it a day or two before it was required to be in. I think that there is a problem, and I am reminded of a phrase, the politics of panic, and I am wondering if there is some reason that this was done with such haste.

Mr. Cummings: As I indicated earlier, it is not unusual to ask for a fairly quick turnaround on these surveys. As far as politics is concerned, if we were worried about politics, I do not suppose we would be canvassing the opposition critics for opinions.

Ms. Cerilli: I think that I had to request the department to send me one, but that is beside the point. My concern is that the citizen groups were going to have ample time to be able to respond to the survey. If the department is serious about having input into its policy and process, as the survey is indicating, I think they would be interested in giving people enough time to respond. Other than that, I would like more information about the kind of responses that the minister has gotten to the survey. Has there been any kind of summary, and will there be a report that will be done and distributed?

* (2010)

Mr. Cummings: Yes, there will be a compilation of the results.

It is indicated to me that as near as we can recall the groups that were canvassed, most of them did respond well within the time period that the information had been requested for. Certainly any responses that came in late were not turned away either. I do not think they started compiling the information on the 14th, is what I mean to imply.

It certainly was not by any information that I would have at least no particular desire to cut off accumulation of information but rather to keep the process moving along. As with any process, you need to have a beginning and an end. If we take all summer to receive responses to a particular survey, the implementation of any potential improvement as a result of information garnered from that

process is likely to be more difficult to implement if it drags on for a great length of time.

Ms. Cerilli: Have you begun to compile the results from the survey? When can we expect this report?

Mr. Cummings: I expect that the information will be compiled in a comparative sense within a month.

Ms. Cerilli: So the report should be completed within a month.

Mr. Cummings: Approximately.

Ms. Cerilli: With that amount of time left to get a report out I am sure that there has been some analysis and review of some of the results so far. So I can ask some more detailed questions I hope on the results of the survey, because I think it fits in well with some of the questions that we were discussing before the break in terms of the direction of the department and policy and process in communication and enforcement and the other areas that we have been discussing.

I am going to proceed with referring to some of the specific questions asked to see if we can get a sense of what the public is saying about the department. If you have it broken down by some of the different groups that you have indicated received the survey, I would be interested in getting that kind of information as well.

Some of the sections that refer to the department's communication with the public, I am interested in finding out what kind of response you have received regarding that area.

Mr. Cummings: As I indicated, we do not have the results compiled, and we do not have the information with us at this point that has been brought forward. I should indicate, remember that this is a result of the department's own initiative to go forward and look at a continuous improvement model and go to some effort to try and make sure that the public with which they interface has a fair opportunity to comment.

During the break over the supper hour, the department pulled out a list of fact sheets and brochures that the Department of Environment does compile. It is a page and three-quarters long

and fairly tightly spaced. It ranges from recycling; acid rain; Action Plan on Waste Minimization; air quality; application for a licence to transport waste; Being a Friend of the Environment: 10 Ways to Celebrate; Energy Awareness: Be a Friend of the Environment; Your Workplace: Environmental Accidents; environmental approvals; licence for chemical warehouse of Manitoba; Manitoba Hazardous Waste: Taking Action Today to Protect Our Environment; managing solid waste; annual reports; Manitoba's position re nuclear waste disposal; Manitoba Product Stewardship Organization; Province-wide Recycling; Manitoba Environment Act: How You Can Get Involved.

That was the kind of question I believe you were asking before the break. There is another three-quarters of a page of Purple Loosestrife: The Biological Pollutant; Right On: A Guide for Manitoba Homeowners; a Report on Public Consultation, Dangerous Goods and Handling Act; Zebra Mussels; Manitoba's Used Tire Program; mercury and fish in the Assiniboine, Red, Souris and Winnipeg Rivers; about six items on ozone depleting substances.

At any rate, I wanted to put that on the record that there is a significant number of publications with which we are trying to communicate with the public.

Ms. Cerilli: Just to respond to the minister's answers, I think that part of the problem is, although there may be a few publications, I am not convinced that there is much of a program to really get that information out there.

I am wondering if the restructuring in the regionalization decentralization, there has been a program set up to make sure that regionally there is dispersal of information, and if people in the regions have an opportunity to ensure that they are going to get all of that information when they need it. I am not convinced that is happening. Certainly, from what I see that is not necessarily the case, that there are a number of people out there who feel that the government could be doing much more in getting information out to people who are trying to intervene on behalf of their community.

One of the other areas is identifying priority issues. This will be the last area that I address from this survey. With the staff here, I am sure that there has been some sense of the kind of issues that the public is raising, be it on the industry side or the citizen side. Do you have that kind of information that you could share with the committee?

Mr. Cummings: No, I do not think we have that information available at this point. But I would like to pick up on something that the member indicated about communication and promotion on behalf of the environment. I will peruse Hansard carefully, and possibly there is a lot more communication that I could do. I would think it would only take a couple of weeks and the minister would be raising questions in the House about whether or not I was promoting the government through oblique promotional ads and publications on behalf of the environment.

The department is minding the shop, getting on with getting information out there to the public. The regional centres have regional distribution capabilities for information. They do promotional work in each of the areas, but there certainly is a valid question about additional communications around the environment, but I think the member would be less than happy to see the government of Manitoba involved in some of the promotion that might go hand in hand with a beefed up process of publication, because somehow very quickly the opposition generally starts to feel that the government is promoting more than just environmental enhancement if the government is out there doing additional communication.

When I reference the size of the communication structure in this government six years ago as compared to now, I think we are doing a good job of communicating departmental responsibilities, but we certainly are doing it with a lot less resources across government.

Ms. Cerilli: I think there is a big difference between environmental education material and propaganda, and I think some of the issues that have been raised in the House are related more to promotion of the party that the minister represents.

The issue that I am trying to deal with is to get a sense of policy related to environmental information and educational material. For instance, again other provinces have a lot of emphasis on informing the public on how to use environmental impact assessment, and I am wondering if the minister can explain to us when a potential intervener, a citizen phones up the department to get information on the process, what kind of information and material they can be sent, and when someone phones up the Clean Environment Commission what kind of explanation and assistance they will receive in making a presentation and in getting themselves organized to be an intervener at a hearing.

* (2020)

Mr. Cummings: Well, as indicated, at least one of the publications I noted on this is headed Manitoba's Environment Act: How You Can Get Involved, and I know that any contact with either the appropriate officials in the department or the Clean Environment Commission, particularly at the Clean Environment Commission, that there is a guide for participants, and the department distributes that as does the Clean Environment Commission for those who request any information.

Ms. Cerilli: I will give the minister an opportunity to add anything to that answer if he would like to. No? Okay.

I am going to move on back to the other area that we had been discussing before the break, and that was related to regulation and enforcement. The member for Osborne (Ms. McCormick) was involved in discussion of alternatives to straight enforcement, and this is the idea that I was getting at as well when I was talking about the direction of policy and enforcement. I must say I think that the government is missing the boat in the sense that they claim to want to have an enforcement of the polluter-pay principle and they claim to not be the advocate for merely looking at fines, yet I do not see a very strong direction in any kind of alternative.

One of the things that they have mentioned in some of their annual reports is in the area of

emissions tax and green taxation and that kind of thing, and this is an area that I think there is a huge potential. I wonder if the minister agrees with me on that. What we are trying to do in following principles of sustainability is full-cost accounting of the impact that industrial development is having on the environment. From that we would have to have a mechanism in place not to just enforce penalties when there is pollution but to have an ongoing system of fully accounting for the cost of that industrial development on the environment. That is why we would have some kind of a system, a polluter-pay system, where there would be a graduated system of fees paid depending on the amount of effluent or emissions or what have you, the amount of toxic waste produced, that kind of thing.

I have read the document that has been prepared by the government in this area, and it has, I think, some merit to it, but I am concerned that there really has not been an effort in this area. I was hoping that the minister might refer to some of his discussions with the Canadian Council of Ministers of Environment in this area. There is a lot of concern that this is an area that has to be done more nationally or even internationally. However, I think that there are some things that we could be doing in Manitoba in getting our government ready to move in this direction in terms of looking at the kind of taxation and fee structure levers, if you will, that are available to us. So I would like to know the government's policy with respect to this whole area, and why they have not done more in trying to initiate some kind of full-cost accounting in terms of environment development.

Mr. Cummings: I think that elicits a response across the whole gamut of issues. Environmental taxes, as the member seems to be advocating, are not nearly as popular perhaps as they once were, depending on your definition of environmental tax. Just increasing price to something closer to true-cost accounting by taxation or whatever other means is in itself very often a very proactive way of reducing consumption of a particular product. If the member is advocating a carbon tax, then obviously that is a national issue, one which I do not advocate particularly. I notice that the present

Prime Minister adamantly denied that he was interested in a carbon tax earlier last week when he was speaking to the oil industry, unless he says something different when he is in eastern Canada. It certainly would appear that he is very strong on that matter.

In a more mundane matter, however, exemption of disposable diapers from the provincial sales tax, a levy on tires for their disposal, some of the levies that we are looking at for household multimaterial recycling, all of these are a tax by any other name. The consumer ultimately pays the cost, and it is my view that the consumer wants to know that the money is not being skimmed off the top for other purposes into general revenues.

Health and education tax on gasoline a couple of decades ago, probably so far back that several people in this room do not even remember when it was first imposed in that respect, who remembers now that it was imposed for health and education? It just disappears into general revenues.

So in my view, the public, where there is cost accounting required, wants a significant assurance that those are dollars that if they are classified as a green tax and environmental tax or levy or a tax by any other name in relationship to the environment, that they are in fact directly funnelled back into the correction of the problem and protection and enhancement of the environment.

Conceptually, that includes the question about water pricing, and a significant discussion has to evolve there yet, but I also believe as well that the community—there is more than one aspect to the use of water: industrial, agricultural and household use of water, and the volumes that are attributed to those uses and the productivity that comes from the consumption of that water. I do not think the debate is complete yet in Manitoba as to the pricing of water. Certainly pricing and metering needs to continue, but significant pricing incentives have not yet occurred in any municipal jurisdiction within this province.

I think that if I were sitting here having raised the matter of emission trading or emission fees, that the member might well have simply come back with the criticism that that is nothing more

than a fee to pollute, and emissions trading, while it has some positive aspects to it, it again is a national debate. It is a debate that has not occurred a lot at the national Environment ministers level, but it has certainly occurred in conjunction with Ministers of Energy. There has been some discussion in conjunction with the national round table, which I spent five years on. There is a fair amount of debate about whether emissions trading or whether some of the trade-offs that go with reforestation and putting dollars into emission reduction in areas where it is the most necessary, as opposed to squeezing the last dollar out of every smokestack in the country.

Those debates are in fact continuing, but to some extent they start to become tied back very much to the psychology in this country, and North America in general, that we still have not really started to appreciate the value of our carbon fuels that we are using. I would suggest that this country is a piece away from an emissions tax.

* (2030)

Ms. Cerilli: Does the government have a position that was taken to the various round tables and the Council of Environment Ministers related to these issues, and can the minister explain what that position is?

Mr. Cummings: In fact, Manitoba has been one of the more significant contributors to the reduction of SO₂ in terms of the work that has been done in this province, even though we have only two of the smaller emission sites. A lot of money is being spent on both of them to clean up the emissions and contribute to the national reduction.

The member was questioning me earlier about the difference between regulatory and punitive approaches. There, in fact, is an example where Manitoba did comply with national standards. In fact, it was a punitive approach. The two smelters in this province were given volumes and deadlines and told to meet them. Flin Flon was a little slower meeting the targets, but how many millions have we spent bringing the air emissions into a more acceptable range? It seems to me it is in excess of

\$30-some million, probably pushing \$50 million now.

Ms. Cerilli: Are there any new initiatives planned in this area, for policy in this area? The minister has mentioned, as I have, the few areas where they have taken up the challenge, which is the diapers and the tires and the liquor bottles, and hopefully upcoming some more with the WRAP act changes. But are there plans for new initiatives in this area?

I wish I had the document in front of me because I know that it outlines a number of other suggested areas that could be first on the list for having this approach taken, and most of them are also in sort of the waste stream end. The minister has mentioned the issue of consumption and overconsumption, and I would suggest and I would hope the minister would agree that overconsumption is one of the most serious environmental issues that we face in this part of the world. As responsible global citizens this is one of the things that we are being called upon to address and this is one of the ways that we can address that, as well, as I said earlier, trying to approach a more realistic costing of the effect that our development has had and the impact that it has had on the environment.

Mr. Cummings: We are getting into a very broad range of discussion. Manitoba has a significant role to play at the national table in trying to advise on national commissions, policies. But frankly at this juncture there is not a broad agreement across the country on how we will make 1990 levels and start reducing after the year 2000 in terms of CO₂ emissions, for example. Them that have the emissions do not want to bite the bullet. Manitoba does not have a problem. We may have small areas where from time to time action needs to be taken. I mentioned a couple, but the ground level ozone and all of those other CO₂ emissions problems, Canada has primarily on the eastern seaboard, the western lower mainland, and Alberta.

Because they are producing lower contaminating fuels for the rest of the country, they end up with some significant emission standards themselves, and frankly Alberta does not need me to stand up on their behalf, but until a national

policy in this country recognizes that, in producing natural gas to ship to the rest of the country so that they can lower their emission standards, Alberta ends up with a higher than normal per capita emission themselves, expecting them to cut back to the same ratio as everyone else is is a little bit difficult to understand and accept. It is not truly a policy. It is a patchwork, again, by tarring everybody with the same brush.

Manitoba is well within its sleeve of allocated emissions on the industrial side. We do not have a problem with ground-level ozone from automobiles other than on very rare occasion in the city of Winnipeg. So there is a broad disagreement except that all ministers, all regions were unanimous in attempting to reach the levels that were agreed to by Canada through the protocol that was signed at Rio, but we do not have a broad-based agreement on how we are going to get there for some of the reasons that I just outlined.

I would have to indicate that there is another aspect to this that neither one of us is talking about, and that is that conservation and restructuring of our industries frankly may well achieve the savings that we want without significant price increases or regulatory initiatives, because those changes are coming partly as a restructuring of our economy, partly because industries are striving to be more efficient and partly because some of the more inefficient ones that were the worst polluters are probably going out of business simply for economic reasons.

So I am not sure if I answered your question specifically, but it was a pretty wide-reaching question.

Ms. Cerilli: I will bring it back to focus a little bit.

You started getting at some of the things I am interested in toward the end there, but initially I was just wondering where you are headed after the tires, the diapers and the liquor bottles in instituting this same principle. I will let you answer that part first and then I will go on.

Mr. Cummings: The member thought I was wandering too far. The fact is that there is a wide range of problems in terms of air quality and emission standards—

Point of Order

Ms. Cerilli: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, maybe I could clarify my question and the minister could answer specifically, because what I am asking first of all is the policy direction in this area of economic instruments, if you will, in terms of waste and conservation and full-cost accounting.

Mr. Deputy Chairperson: Order, please. The honourable member does not have a point of order.

* * *

Mr. Cummings: I think the member is asking me for a carbon tax in Manitoba. You are asking about policy initiatives and true cost accounting, and that is one of the basic fundamentals of energy consumption, of pollution reduction, but it is a broad, underlying support for almost all of the initiatives that we would take in that area, better than just coming at it with a regulatory hammer.

I am sorry, but if packaging is too small and insignificant to be considered a good example of true-cost accounting, I think it is a real example of where true-cost accounting is involved.

If you do not want to take it to household packaging, take it to tires. A small intervention in the market can cause the product to have enough value that it drives its own removal from the waste stream, and as that market matures, then the intervention on the part of government through taxes and what other regulatory process should be withdrawn from. If you really want to talk true-cost accounting, it cannot be subsidized, it cannot continually be interrupted by government taxes or regulatory regime. Eventually the market forces should come into play or the tax should in fact become a penalty of a significant enough nature that the product is removed from the waste stream, period.

Ms. Cerilli: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, so I am to understand from that answer that other than all those areas that we have mentioned already that there is no other policy being worked on in the department to come down the pipe in terms of these kinds of initiatives. I am not talking specifically about energy tax.

* (2040)

One of the things, though, we could talk about is energy conservation. We know that we are energy gluttons in this part of the world, and that there is a huge potential in retrofitting for energy conservation and water conservation that could create thousands of jobs, and I am wondering why we are not moving in this direction. Why has this government not initiated a more ambitious program in energy and water conservation so that we could be doing both more of this full-cost accounting and conservation and we could have some programs in place that use economic instruments as incentives for different kinds of industry and developments to incorporate this into their expansions and plans? We would both have, I think, income for noncompliance or nonparticipation in the program, and there would also be a reduction in the consumption of energy and all the other benefits that we all know exist in these kinds of programs, including, as I said, thousands of jobs.

Mr. Cummings: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, the Department of Environment in conjunction with a number of other departments in government released a background paper, a good-sized workbook, about the same size as the report on the Department of Environment, as I recall, that listed all of the potential economic instruments, all of the areas where true-cost accounting could be pushed a lot further. All of those things were contained in that report that was published, I think, along with Government Services a couple or three years ago. We said when we released that, that did not mean that we were going to immediately, or that we could immediately, embark on all of those initiatives, that we had to pick and choose what was economically doable to clients.

It started with Government Services, as a matter of fact, and their purchase policy here in government, buying recyclable material where it was cost competitive. I think that is the key to this kind of a debate. It is great to have this esoteric debate, imaginary nirvana that we could create, but sooner or later economic reality comes into play, and we cannot be paying double the price to get recycled oil when you can buy good, virgin oil off

the shelf for a very economic and competitive price.

So what we did was say that we would make it a product of choice provided it came within a certain price range. I think that exemplifies the type of pragmatic approach that this government has taken to implementing these types of measures.

Water conservation, the City of Winnipeg probably could continue to bear down on its water pricing and metering policy here in the city, but we have had those discussions before. You want to advocate an immediate and arbitrary leap in the cost of water to households and industries in Manitoba at this time of some rather difficult economic opportunities that we are just coming out of. I leave that to the member if she wants to advocate that increase right now.

What we need to do is put in place the capability to start to increase the pressure in those areas so that we do have the savings that start to show up and provide the additional offset. In fact, the City of Winnipeg productions—we heard just the other night that conservation can produce another 15 years, probably, on the life of the Shoal Lake water line just using some relatively small conservation initiatives which the city is beginning to embark upon.

That is not something that the Province of Manitoba could or should necessarily mandate right now, but certainly we have been working with the City of Winnipeg when they are talking about licensing the Deacon Reservoir and all of those things to enhance their water supply. We did have this discussion, a very fruitful one on the other initiatives that they are undertaking in order to complement that type of a push.

Going back to energy consumption, Canada probably will continue to be a very high consumer of energy given our geographic location, the type of industries that we have. That is why Manitoba has a tremendous advantage and opportunity, and we thought that Conawapa, for example, was a natural next step in the evolution of this province being able to have a very reasonable cost, low-impact source of energy.

Unfortunately, when you talk about conservation, Ontario has found that conservation did not necessarily create more jobs for them. I think they have laid off, how many thousand workers in Ontario, as all of a sudden their conservation tactics kick in and their loss of jobs starts to impact on their major power utility.

You cannot have it both ways all the time. You have to move in what are practical areas to make these adjustments, and hopefully you make them well in advance of it being a crisis type of decision.

Ms. Cerilli: Well, there are a couple of points to pick up on here. First of all, from the document that the minister is referring to, I am sure that this is the same document I was talking about. Unfortunately I do not have it with me.

My question is, why are we not moving in that direction and into some of the new areas that were documented? I appreciate the minister has mentioned a couple of them, but what we are trying to do here is understand the policy and the plans that this department is making.

The second thing I would like to ask the minister is if he has reviewed the carpenters' union paper that was done on this area of energy conservation, the very clear recommendations that it has and the indications of where there could be energy conservation and job creation in the province of Manitoba.

Mr. Cummings: I think the member either does not appreciate the magnitude of the areas that we are moving in. First of all, you have to lay the framework to be able to accomplish some of the goals that we have laid out, based on the premise that conservation and full-cost accounting is the direction that we have to continue to move in.

Let me give an example, a very large and important aspect of what is occurring in agriculture in Manitoba, and that is for the first time in history, and I mentioned before we broke for the supper hour that this government moved in stubble burning regulations, it moved in waste management regulations, but we are also moving in the area of irrigation where we are now asking for those who are consuming irrigation water to have a better track on their volumes.

That is an innocent enough move in and of itself, but really what it does is provide the tools so that government knows and the regulators know much more precisely how much water is actually being used, so that they can initiate and encourage the type of changes that need to come with better conservation in those areas, low volume irrigation systems being an example that probably can be very readily researched.

Some of that work will be done in the Carman, Carberry and Brandon areas over the next five years in a federal/provincial agreement that has been struck there on the future of horticultural crops and irrigation aspects associated with that.

I am just reminded that at the last national CCME meeting I was at a week ago that one of the significant topics on the agenda was water conservation in urban centres, and we did endorse a set of principles, if you will, probably more specific than I had intended to go there to discuss but, nevertheless, principles of how we have to take our cities in the near future in terms of water conservation.

We do not want to end up with draconian metering and penalizing for overconsumption type of regimes that have occurred in some water short areas, but it also becomes something as simple as infrastructure replacement. If your leakage or your unaccounted for loss in a large urban centre is 10, 12, 15, 20 percent—it can be in some urban centres—a good chunk of that is attributed to an improperly maintained and supported infrastructure.

Those are the broad bases, and I do not disagree for one minute with what the member is questioning me about, but I do not think she appreciates the broad approach that we are taking and the incremental movement that we are making in this area. We are setting ourselves up and any future administrations to be able to have a lot better knowledge and to move with much better certainty in these areas.

* (2050)

That varies all the way from the admissions from a number of our larger consumers of water and energy into household areas, into government

itself, its purchasing policies, agriculture, all are impacted by the type of thing that can broadly be referred to as full-cost accounting.

Ms. Cerilli: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I am pleased to see that there is a movement to meter water for irrigation. I am wondering if it will also apply to other agricultural operations. I am also encouraged by the minister's previous comments with the City of Winnipeg's discussions related to Deacon retention ponds, and I am wondering if there is a commitment that prior to any construction there that the city will be required to implement a more ambitious water conservation program.

That would be a requirement either flowing from the recommendations from the Clean Environment Commission or from another forum, that there would be a requirement for water conservation prior to there being additional sourcing. I know that we have had this discussion before with respect to the Pembina Valley and the Assiniboine diversion, and the minister had admitted that that project should have required a water conservation program prior to there being any kind of initiative for access to new water source.

Mr. Cummings: Let me take those questions in reverse order. I think that what I said was that the Pembina Valley project would have achieved much greater public and positive environmental response if it had included a conservation and aquifer enhancement proposal in connection with the Winkler aquifer. That area, because it has been water starved for a long time, has pretty much of an active water conservation program. If you do not have running water in any great volume you are usually pretty careful how you use it, that virtually goes without saying having lived under those circumstances for a couple of decades myself.

But referring to the city of Winnipeg and its larger role in water conservation and whether or not the Deacon Reservoir expansion should be tied to a conservation program within the city, I have seen a very interesting and detailed presentation and have the document now from the City of

Winnipeg which does talk about a broad comprehensive approach to their future water needs. They could well be more aggressive on the conservation side, but in fact the Deacon Reservoir is not just related to supply enhancement. The Deacon Reservoir was planned as part of that construction project right from its original conception.

The issue about whether or not it should be built at this point and constructed in the Deacons field area—it goes beyond just an environmental issue. There is certainly starting to be local resistance to having another reservoir built there, but they are faced with maintenance problems on the aquifer. If you are talking about twinning the aquifer, which some people propose as an alternative, when you cost it out it became an impracticality. Interestingly enough, going to Natalie Lake or other sources of supply does not reflect on any more than just the inability of the aqueduct to have enough capacity to deliver the water the city of Winnipeg uses.

I have been under the impression, somewhat mistakenly, that perhaps Winnipeg was one of the higher per capita consumption cities in western Canada. I have had that corrected. They do fall within sort of the broad range of what other cities in western Canada are using, but they are sitting on the edge of a fairly dry part of the prairies, when you go from here west the Assiniboine being the only major river. Pembina being further south, I suppose, has still got a good supply of water coming through in the spring, but the city probably does need to get on with enhancing its ability to have a reserve. I do not want to be the minister who is accused of putting the city in a situation where it cannot adequately fight fires and emergencies in the middle of August because domestic demand has exceeded the ability to deliver water down the pipe and have to, on too many occasions, enforce domestic restrictions on water supply.

The city has an aquifer to the east of the Red that can be accessed for some additional supply, but I am not an advocate of going that far or to that supply at this point. That is something that will be a far larger decision than I myself would make

either alone or in conjunction with my colleagues or the city; it would require a much broader discussion.

Let me finish this line of thought because the city has now taken a much broader approach to water supply in southeastern and south-central Manitoba and are, in fact, talking about being able to co-operatively work with other jurisdictions around them. I think that is the one thing in itself that makes me much more amenable to seeing the Deacon Reservoir built so that they can then enhance their long-term capacity and tie it in potentially to other communities within a reasonable distance to the city that in fact need a good supply of potable water.

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

Ms. Norma McCormick (Osborne): Mr. Acting Deputy Chair, I had intended to be dealing with this Deacon Reservoir stuff under the later appropriation, but as we are talking about it, I would like to inquire what is the status of the permit application? I understand that the permit application is in your office now for the Deacon, and I am wondering if you can give me some indication of the time lines for the decision making to be made?

Mr. Cummings: Very soon. The type of discussion that we just had here was the type of reassurance that I was looking for from the city that their plan was more than just patchwork which goes beyond obviously the requirements and the licence.

There was considerable local resistance, so because of my year in Municipal Affairs, I recognize the importance of the ad zone discussion. We have disbanded the ad zone and have gone to a capital regions concept, and that dialogue and co-operative action between the city and surrounding jurisdictions I think has proved to be quite fruitful. I wanted to make sure that that dialogue had occurred before a final decision was made on the licence. I am now comfortable that it has.

Ms. McCormick: Mr. Acting Deputy Chair, another issue that has been raised within our

caucus is some concern that the original Clean Environment Commission hearings left off some discussion areas that were thought to be important. Are you now satisfied that those ongoing concerns have been addressed and there is no need for this to have further scrutiny by the Clean Environment Commission?

Mr. Cummings: Yes, the commission acknowledged that they could have done a better job of explaining their reasoning in reaching the conclusion that they did for recommending a licence. They have forwarded some supplementary information regarding that, but as I said, this was a debate that went beyond just the environmental concerns that were raised about that site.

Ms. McCormick: As my colleague for Radisson is not here, I would just like to take us back to what we were talking about before the break. I had some concerns with the last answer that you had given with respect to the use of mediation as a mechanism and a process for resolving concerns between proponents and communities within which developments were to occur.

* (2100)

You had indicated in your response that there was a need for this mediation process to deal with, to flesh out anything that might appear to be mischievous, and you said that there could be mischief on both the side of the community and the side of the proponent.

Also, you said that it would help to clarify what should go to a Clean Environment Commission's hearings, and that, in fact, you spoke of trying to find a balance between mediation and consensus decision making. Here is where I started to not understand what you were saying, to make a decision about what should go to CEC or whether something should go to CEC.

Could you clarify for me how you see the mediation process with respect to the ultimate involvement of the Clean Environment Commission?

Mr. Cummings: Yes, I think that statement probably does need some clarification. I did not mean to imply that I was short-circuiting the Clean Environment Commission process. I did mean to

indicate that there are situations where proponents wish—and the Deacon Reservoir is probably an example of where it could virtually have been settled without having gone to the Clean Environment Commission because it was a planning issue, it was a local esthetics issue, and any reasonably competent engineer could have completed the design that would have been acceptable to the Department of Environment.

Now, there might be some other nuances to this that I have not picked up on, but if there had been a broad-based agreement within the community and between the two jurisdictions, it is entirely possible that the community committee could have recommended to the minister—the minister does call the hearings if it is going to go to the Clean Environment Commission—that here is an agreement that we have hammered out between ourselves, our local municipality and the City of Winnipeg. These are the conditions that the city has agreed under which they will build the reservoir, some of the things that need to be done in terms of esthetic enhancement and so on, and it shall meet certain engineering standards, and therefore we recommend that the director's licence could be issued without a hearing.

That, to me, would be an example of a successful mediation process, but any successful process like that, as I said before, requires a willingness on the part of all parties to come to the table. Too often, I think, we run into a situation where people believe that going to the commission will provide additional delay for frustration of the proponent, that it will provide additional opportunity for publicity, and we know in the business that you and I are in that those who seek publicity, albeit even ourselves probably from time to time, could be more conscientious about how we seek publicity. That is not just confined to politicians. That in itself can lead to a lot of negative comment and further delay of the process.

The mediation, to me, also talks about the acceptability of things that the proponent might be willing to do to go beyond the strict bland, if you will, criteria that the commission and the department might lay down for acceptable operation, and may mean that the proponent,

because they want to be in a particular location, is prepared to go a little further than what might simply be the requirements of the regulatory body.

It might not even be something terribly expensive. It can be something as simple as what I have seen with one site where they bought out—an industrial site was expanding, bought out a number of houses and expanded its area of ownership for potential development and, in agreement at a public meeting, said, well, we will plant a double row of evergreens along the side that is next to the residences. We will bring them in a minimum six feet high, so you will not have to wait till your grandchildren are grown for them to do their job. Things like that, that are not probably always included or need to be included in the strict orders of an environment licence but can be mediated or sometimes go even so far as bringing people into positions where they can be advisory members of boards, ex-officio members of boards, nonvoting members of boards of directors, so that they have the inside poop on the activities of the company. Those are the kinds of things that companies can voluntarily agree to which will make their acceptability in a community much higher, but it is not something that necessarily can be ordered by a regulatory body.

Ms. McCormick: I do not wish you to interpret that I am opposed to mediation in the process, but what I am trying to do is figure out where it fits with all of the other things that are there in the regulatory scheme. My understanding of the process, for example, is that a proponent comes forward with a proposal. The proposal is scrutinized in the department. There may or may not be a technical advisory committee established to review various components. There is a notification that goes out so that people who are going to be affected can have their say. The minister has the option to call or not call Clean Environment Commission hearings.

I understand this certain regime of things, and what I am having trouble understanding is what is the point at which mediation which is not, you know, does not show up, although it does say in your department mandate that you have the mandate to do mediation or to do, I think it says,

some community liaison things, and that is all very well and good. It is just unclear to me when you assign a mediator to become involved what in fact that person has as a terms of reference or a framework within which he is operating.

The General Scrap—is this the first time that a mediator has been appointed? That is a question you can answer in the broader context of your answer. But are the terms of reference given to the mediator clear going in, you know, how this group is to relate to the proposal, to the input that comes in various other ways and, ultimately, to the Clean Environment Commission?

Mr. Cummings: I think with some candour I could say that there is not a template that we have developed that we can use. The problem that we face whenever we think that mediation would work is that each situation is somewhat different and unique. It crosses my mind that perhaps we are confusing what was normally an approvals process as to other situations that just do not fit into any neat patterns.

The example that has been pointed out to me is Bristol. We had a mediation process there as well, but we used someone from within our Sustainable Development Secretariat, and we used him in a way that meant that that person had complete and uninhibited access to the Department of Environment, Natural Resources to Bristol and was able to run a community advisory public meeting type of a process and bring some quicker resolve to a problem that appeared to be sort of unresolvable, at least in the short term.

If it had been turned over to Clean Environment Commission, it could have pondered the matter for six months or nine months and recommended what we did arbitrarily and on short notice, things like putting in filters in those areas that were known to be of a higher level of contamination, negotiate with Rural Development Water Services Board, the federal PFRA people to what support, if any, would be available to develop a pipeline to replace the existing water supply, negotiate directly with Bristol to decide in a somewhat arbitrary way what their liability might have been. We could have spent the next five years in court with Bristol

because they were able to show that one part of that pollution, there was never at any time that they were known to have had that particular product onsite. So they were attempting to prove they were not entirely responsible. So therefore, there was a three-way understanding.

We have and are continuing to attempt to increase the activity of the Clean Environment Commission in this respect when they are not active with hearings. We have, in fact, asked the chairman of the commission to become involved with the situations to see if they can bring some form, if you will, to what are some fairly divisive situations.

* (2110)

The Asbern situation, where there are a number of contaminated sites there; we have had General Scrap; we have had Palliser Furniture, where in fact in the Palliser Furniture situation, the company and the community rejected an offer of mediation that I had put forward, but in fact chose two people of their own liking and in fact went off and did the process quite successfully without any involvement from myself.

Ms. McCormick: That was a wide ranging response, and in fact I think that what distinguishes the Bristol, the Rockwood situation from the General Scrap situation was, one was already a problem, that the pollution had already occurred, and it was a remediation activity under contemplation, whereas the General Scrap thing was a potential development which some people felt could contaminate or could cause problems in their neighbourhood.

But your answer actually raises another interesting question, and that is the involvement of the Clean Environment Commission at a potentially earlier stage to mediate in a disputing community. I really wonder if that does not compromise their ultimate position to be able to be objective in the hearing process at some time later on if in fact they have been involved in the dispute clarification at an earlier stage, and then to actually have to sit in judgment as it were over these same protagonists as they come forward in the hearing process which could eventually occur.

That being said, if the Clean Environment Commission's role is to deal with those things where it is unlikely that the matter would come before them, I do not see it as problematic.

Mr. Cummings: The member raises a legitimate point, but the commission does not have to be composed of the same member who may perhaps have gone out to attempt to bring some compromised position to the table. Therefore, the commission itself can remain aloof, if you will, from the process. I think sooner or later environmental advocates, municipal and provincial decision makers, proponents and communities at large have to come to grips with the question of how much does it cost. Is throwing more resources at a rigid decision-making process going to do anything more for the environment, or are we better off to try and bring some kind of a reasonable solution to these problems?

Most of them are solvable, if there is good will or relative good will on both sides of the table, but one of the tenets of consensus decision making or probably also in terms of just trying to bring a mediated settlement to the table, both parties have to be at some risk. If one party thinks that come hell or high water they are better off to go in front of the commission and hammer one another, then mediation is not going to work it does not matter who you send in.

So the one small lever that the Minister of Environment sometimes has is to say it is going to cost you a lot to go and defend yourself at the commission. Probably if you are a large proponent, you are going to have to have probably expertise there to defend the questions that are being asked, depending on what it is you want to do.

If you are a community who already has the industry in your community and you are concerned about where it is going from here, you have every right to want to have a say about what it might do. Part of that has to do with planning and part of it has to do with the regulatory mechanism under which it will be managed.

We have not had a high degree of success. We have looked at mandating the Clean Environment Commission to do a little bit more work because

the flip side of that is also true. People say the Department of Environment, because they write the licence, are they then married to that licence, or are they enforcing it the way they feel they should be? So the commission still is an independent entity that has a lot of credibility. I am certainly not in the business of trying to reduce their credibility by looking at this other aspect. I think it might be an increased use of what, for good parts of the year, can be a wasted resource.

Ms. McCormick: I find myself in an interesting position of really feeling like I am compelled to defend the technical competence, technical excellence that exists in the civil service's part of this process. This is an area that I really feel is not being fully utilized.

In watching these things unfold, it seems to me the better prepared the proponent is when that licence application comes forward, and historically, you know, bigger companies rely on consultant resources to prepare the licence application, but it seems to me that one of the things that is getting lost in this whole discussion is that proper review upfront of the proponent's intentions before it becomes a formal proposal or application, and some good advice going back to the proponent to make sure the scope of what they are putting forward addresses what are likely to be the concerns.

Maybe I am a bit of a Pollyanna here, but it seems to me that oftentimes it is where those inadequacies come up, where people sort of learn about something, get a proposal which has got deficiencies in it and start reacting, and then you force the thing further and further along the line.

I guess what I am trying to understand here is, is there still a commitment to that TAC process? Are the resources of the department, both this department and Workplace Safety and Health, and the public health, you know—what was Pete Sarsfield's shop, he has gone now—but are those things that are supposed to happen in fact happening as rigorously as they should up front in the process, and is that perhaps a better way to get some of these things covered off?

Mr. Cummings: There are two aspects to that. One is that yes, we can and very often do work with proponents in a very detailed way up front in their applications. The TAC, Technical Advisory Committee, is involved. But, frankly, that is one thing that happened with Louisiana-Pacific, that they were given very tight advice as to what they should include and better bring if they wanted to meet some of their own artificial deadlines, if they wanted to be into the process fairly early, that they better put forward a good assessment early on—and they did.

Now the criticism is, of course, that there still should have been 90 days in between for action and reaction to their proposal, but, in fact, they brought forward, in the opinion of the technical people in the department, a proposal that was far enough along and technically correct enough that it could go forthwith to hearings.

But there is another part that is very dangerous in all of this, and that is that the department cannot afford at any point to be caught being too much of a proponent on some particular technology. The owners of technologies in some cases or those who have proprietary interests do not want recommendations to come from a department if there is another technology that perhaps the department did not even know about that maybe was vying for business, and that can be very dangerous.

So the department largely sticks, as I understand it, and I will check with my deputy again in a moment, but as I understand it, we largely stick to setting criteria and let the proponent figure out how they are going to meet that criteria in an acceptable manner.

That is a sound system, but it is a slower system. Manitoba does receive criticism for being somewhat slow in terms of the amount of time it takes to get through approvals. Yet, if you look at other jurisdictions and the time that can evolve in some of the similar projects in other jurisdictions, unless it is covered simply by a permitting situation where standards are set and licences are issued the same as we have embarked on with the hog regulation, then we are probably not that far

out of sync. It is just that we do drive more projects into what may be considered a public licensing. Our process is more public than in some other jurisdictions and that takes time as well.

The Acting Deputy Chairperson (Mr. Rose): Item 1.(b) Executive Support (1) Salaries and Employee Benefits \$326,100—pass; (2) Other Expenditures \$78,600—pass.

Item 1.(c) Financial and Administrative Services (1) Salaries and Employee Benefits \$830,700.

* (2120)

Ms. Cerilli: Mr. Acting Deputy Chairperson, I hope you can appreciate we are working from the Supplementary Information so it is a little bit trickier to follow along.

I do not want to ask too many questions in this area. A couple of the things that I am interested in, though, is finding out a little bit about the number of requests for freedom of information and maybe some comparison of that over the last three years or so and the number of responses, if all of the requests have been responded to in due course for requests for information from the department.

Mr. Cummings: There is none outstanding that I am aware of.

Ms. Cerilli: I would also ask to get the number for the last, let us say, three years.

Mr. Cummings: Well, we can certainly do that. That is not a problem, but that is reported under the responsibility of the minister responsible for The Freedom of Information Act. It lists the numbers in the report, I think. We will get the information. It is not a problem.

Ms. Cerilli: It is not listed in the annual report for the department?

Mr. Cummings: No, I do not think so.

Ms. Cerilli: Why not? It seems to me that it would make sense in the annual report for each department to have listed not only the number, of course, but the requests themselves, the area that the requests were made from and then the results, if they were fulfilled, and if it was in keeping or meeting the needs or the expectations of the person who requested it.

Mr. Cummings: It has been pointed out to me that we received and responded to 11 requests in '92-93. It is referred to on page 18. It is not referred to in detail, but it is there.

Ms. Cerilli: Does the staff who are accompanying the minister have any information about what kind of information these requests were for from this report?

Mr. Cummings: No, I do not think by memory we could cover that, but I know from discussions I have had with the department over the course of the year that some of the requests are for some technical information, some requests are regarding whether or not there might have been inspections or violations at specific sites. Nothing too clandestine or hair-raising, I do not think.

Ms. Cerilli: Are the requests in this area increasing, decreasing, staying about the same? What is the trend?

Mr. Cummings: About the same, I am told, but frankly, I would have to indicate that that is almost surprising because there is always a tendency, I think, on the part of some people to believe that if they do not get an answer that they consider appropriate for their means or desires, I have seen what I thought where on a few occasions where people had then said, well, then you must be hiding something and we will go through Freedom of Information to get the rest of the information. A dozen requests is not a high number considering the amount of sometimes very heated debate that occurs around environmental issues.

Ms. Cerilli: Who is doing some of the requesting? I know that the media uses this a lot to try and get information. Is a lot of it from the media or citizens?

Mr. Cummings: I cannot speak for the year in which there were 11 referenced. I do know that I get several requests from the Liberal caucus office and I believe from the NDP caucus research staff, frankly, and the balance from private individuals. It is not high, obviously, and I like it that way.

I do not mean that in a frivolous sense. It is a lot of work for the department, and I am somewhat sensitive to that because this government proclaimed the act after we came into government,

an act that had been sitting there for a year, maybe 18 months before we became government in '88. We recognized the increased pressure this could put on departments, certainly researching certain files and making sure that there is no confidential information being released, because there is an obligation to protect confidentiality of certain individuals who are sort of caught in the net of reviewing a file. We made the conscious decision to go ahead and have it proclaimed. It was not so much for the benefit of the opposition caucuses as it was meant to be for the benefit of the general public, if they had a disagreement or a concern with a department that they would have access to, or be satisfied that they were getting access to information. It seems to be working reasonably well, frankly.

Ms. Cerilli: Just to wrap up the area, who is the person that is responsible, or how does it work in the department when there is a request? Does it depend on the staffperson that was working on that particular issue or area, or is there one person who is responsible for doing the search and the consolidation of the information?

Mr. Cummings: We have an access officer, as I think every other department does. That officer receives the information and directs the research of the files to supply the information. In support of that fact that the system seems to be working, our memory tells us that over four years we have had three appeals to the Ombudsman about freedom of information requests. In two of them they found that there was no problem. In the third there was a compromise worked out between the department and the Ombudsman as to the propriety of releasing certain information. It was not whether or not we wanted to release it, it was whether or not we were holding it pending what we thought was the propriety of releasing it. Again, that is not an untoward number or a bad record.

As I said earlier, at least I think I said earlier today, my policy—frankly, you will note that we see senior officials of the department on the media from time to time. They are certainly invited to be forthcoming about facts and information about matters that are going on around environmental issues.

None of us speculate very willingly, because that is where tremendous difficulties arise if it is dealing with something other than the known facts, but I think we have really followed an open policy in terms of availability of information.

Ms. Cerilli: Well, I am sure the minister can appreciate that a number of the people that we talk to as opposition would disagree with that, that there are a number of cases where people have tried to get information, and they have not been dealt with, I think, in an open way.

But I want to move to another area related to computerization. This is the age of the information highway and Internet, and I am wondering if the department is moving into this area and if we could look for the Department of Environment being put through the Internet system so that the public could have access to a number of documents, particularly related to Clean Environment Commission and Environment Impact Assessment as well as some of the other technical documents that are developed through the department.

* (2130)

Mr. Cummings: I am personally computer illiterate, so I have to repeat what the department tells me is happening, but we are hooked up to CCME electronically. We are exploring capability with other jurisdictions. We are looking to use this process for part of our public registry with Clean Environment Commission and other functions, so it is not there now, but the potential is real.

Ms. McCormick: Mr. Acting Deputy Chair, I wanted to address some of the human resource management issues. I made notes on the minister's opening statement, in fact, in the past operating year, that the department had responded to some 250 environmental accidents and had, I would expect, sent their staff on behalf of public safety into unknown situations. I know that the department is looking at developing a medical surveillance program for this group of staff and potentially some additional ones, and I was wondering what the status is of that program, if it is moving along.

Mr. Cummings: We are fairly close to establishing a contract to do that work.

Ms. McCormick: Is it anticipated that this will begin in this budget year, the monitoring activities will, in fact, occur?

Mr. Cummings: That is correct.

Ms. McCormick: Thank you very much. That is all I have in that area.

The Acting Deputy Chairperson (Mr. Rose):
1.(c) Financial and Administrative Services (1) Salaries and Employee Benefits \$830,700—pass;
(2) Other Expenditures \$242,400—pass.

2. Environmental Management (a) Environmental Operations.

Ms. Cerilli: Mr. Acting Deputy Chairperson, this is the area, this section is where we will spend a good chunk of our time, probably the rest of the night, I think, and I think I am going to start off with looking at Lake Winnipeg, and some of the concerns that have been expressed to me by people who make their living from Lake Winnipeg, from the fishery.

I am wondering what the department is doing, what kind of program it has set up for monitoring water quality on Lake Winnipeg.

Mr. Cummings: I guess I knew this, but whenever the term "coast guard" comes up I have to read just my thinking, but it is, in fact, monitored in conjunction with the coast guard. They do the water sampling and I am told the department does the testing and the compilation of the results. In that respect, I know that we are also involved in a lake bottom survey with the coast guard and some monitoring equipment that is going on.

Ms. Cerilli: Can we have some indication of what the results are over the last—I will leave it up to the department to decide the number of years, but I am looking for at least, I would say five, 10 years, so we can see some kind of pattern. Maybe the minister can tell me if this is recorded anywhere in—perhaps it is in the State of the Environment report. I do not know if it is in any publications that the DNR would put out—water quality report for a water body as important as Lake Winnipeg.

Mr. Cummings: I am just checking to see if we actually publish one on a regular basis, but we

certainly have the information and it is available on request.

Ms. Cerilli: With the staff that we have here, can they provide any information of a trend with the water quality in the lake? I am in consultation with a variety of people trying to sort out what is happening with Lake Winnipeg. We have reports from fish processing that there was a real lack of fish this winter. That is confirmed by the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation, that there has been a real reduction in fish.

There are complaints that there is an increase in the smell, a sewage smell when fishermen are hauling out their nets. There is quite a bit of concern about the effects of the reduction in the three-inch nets to using that size net. There is also a concern of some of the other runoff and cumulative impact that is occurring on the lake.

I would like some sense of what the department is doing to respond to some of these concerns. Is the department dealing with people raising these concerns? Is there some kind of increased attention being paid to the lake? Does the minister think that there is a problem?

* (2140)

Mr. Cummings: I should point out that we also had some fishermen who helped with some of the sampling last year, and some beach sampling has been done.

The information I have is that we have not found any discernible chemical changes in the lakes. If we were to talk about the change in fish population, it probably has more to do with fish habitat, spawning and those sorts of things that could be impacting on the size of the fish population.

I do not think I could comment much beyond that except that we are bound to have some changes in these lakes. Every lake does have its cyclical fluctuations, but even in our fish testing we are not getting any discernible problems being uncovered. We have found I suppose some problems that we would rather not like to have along some of our beaches. That in itself does not appear to be the cause of changes, from the information we have.

I suppose that beyond the water quality issues, you might want to ask Natural Resources about some of their views on the future of the fish population.

Ms. Cerilli: I guess one of the things I want to try and clarify is if the department is looking at a relationship between water quality and fish habitat, fish population, fish spawning grounds, if that is being looked at by the department.

Mr. Cummings: I think it would be more correct to say that all of this information is compiled not only from Environment. Natural Resources has water quality and fish biology experts, and the accumulation of the information between the various departments may ultimately lead to some conclusions.

If you are asking if we have an action plan or if we are actioning anything at this point, no, we are not.

Ms. Cerilli: The department has had complaints or concerns expressed to it with respect to water quality and potential impact on fish.

Mr. Cummings: The only area in which we have received complaints, which we then followed up on, was about the fish themselves. The fishermen raised concerns about the quality of some of the fish they were catching. Some fish sampling was done, but no information was uncovered that pointed to anything unusual or untoward.

Ms. Cerilli: I am interested now in finding out what the complaints were about the fish, but I will stick with the issue of water quality and impact on the lake, for example, from sewage discharge. Some of the concerns that have been raised with me on the west side of the lake are into fish spawning ground, but also just generally on the water quality.

Mr. Cummings: The department tells me that they do not have any patterns or sampling indications that would raise undue concern. I think it should be pointed out that whether it is these large lakes in Manitoba or any number of lakes across the country, we have just come through one of the driest spells the last two or three years. Certainly last summer was not dry in this part of

the country, but overall the water flows from the Prairies have been very poor.

One side of my constituency is bounded by Lake Manitoba, so I also have some considerable contact with fishermen. Their catch has been down this year, but they had a very good catch, I believe it was two years ago, and the cyclical nature of the business certainly enters into this.

The fact is that you can have some rather unpalatable water going down the Red and out into the mouth of the Red at this end of the lake from sewage overflow. Last year was probably a good example. When you have your combined sewers, the heavier the rainfall, the more likely you are to get these kind of undesirable discharges. If we had a billion or two—that is with a “b”—we could start cleaning up Winnipeg’s act.

Ms. Cerilli: The minister is indicating, then, that part of the problem this year could be related to the heavy raining and flooding that we had last year and the overflowing of the storm sewers.

The minister will correct me, I am sure, if I misunderstood what he said: There is a problem in the city of Winnipeg, and that could be having an effect on the water quality in Lake Winnipeg from the effluent that is making its way down the Red. I am wondering, then, if the department’s explanation for the decrease in fish catch this past year is related to that or what the explanation in the department is and of the minister is.

(Mr. Deputy Chairperson in the Chair)

Mr. Cummings: First of all, let me make it very clear. We did not, I did not, the department did not, in my view, nor should we attempt to explain what happened to the fish last year. We do not have any data that seem to be out of whack in that respect. I simply made an observation that high water levels last year undoubtedly created a fair bit of bad water going down the Red from the combined overflow of some of the sewers here in the city of Winnipeg, but we do not have any indication that that has had a negative effect on the overall water quality in the lake.

There was, on one occasion, a kill in the mouth of the Red, as I recall, but that has not been a common occurrence nor is it likely to be the cause

of serious degradation of the quality and the volume of the fish in the lake.

The member should not read too much into the answers that I am giving her. I am not attempting to explain the volume of fish. I am simply stating that the fish spawning grounds and the habitat in which they are spawning might, at a particular season, have had more to do with the size of the total catch that is available in the lake. That raises a lot of things in terms of how we manage our surface water qualities in the surrounding areas around the lakes. I think we have made a lot of advances in that area.

Ms. Cerilli: I was going to ask first, before that question, if there had been a request to the department for some kind of assistance and explaining what is going on with declining or perhaps erratic fish population and fish catch. The minister seems to be indicating that this is not something that is unusual, but I would think that there does need to be some plan for trying to understand what is happening with this lake.

I think also the minister raised the issue of beaches that were closed. I know last year I was talking to people who have cottages along the lake, and they were quite concerned about being told that the water was not fit for swimming.

I think we are seeing some signals that— [interjection] The minister just mentioned something about septic tanks, if that is an issue as well. I do not know if there is some other runoff that could be contributing to the problem.

I think the point I am trying to make is that I think we have to be asking these questions. We have to have the ability in the various departments to monitor and to be aware of what is happening with these natural ecosystems or resources. I will ask the minister to respond.

* (2150)

Mr. Cummings: None of us recall any requests for assistance. I am not sure that this department would have been in a position to assist in the study of the fish population of the lake. By and large, this responsibility lies with Natural Resources. We do water quality monitoring. That information is

available to the public. It is available to the wildlife and fish biology people that are in the Department of Natural Resources who have a more direct responsibility.

I think that the lakes, by and large, have been a good source of fish. I see no reason for panic at this juncture, that there is something dramatic that is occurring to the fish population. They have been known to be cyclical before. I will bow to the greater expertise in the Department of Natural Resources.

Ms. Cerilli: Maybe we can talk about the mechanism, then, that would exist to ensure that the water quality testing done from this department is going to be incorporated by other departments, including federal departments, if they are involved, to paint a picture of what is going on with this region of the province.

Mr. Cummings: Information is made available to the federal authorities. They also help with some of the collection. They do some monitoring as well.

I think that has been a point that I have tried, the department has tried to make for a long time, and that is in terms of co-operation of water quality sampling. Natural Resources has a water quality section as well. They do a lot of sampling in more remote areas where it would be very expensive for us to send in Environment people specifically to do the job. It is probably one area where we do co-operate fairly well with the federal authorities.

Mr. Deputy Chairperson: Shall the item pass? Pass.

An Honourable Member: We are co-operating here. Let her have an issue.

Ms. McCormick: I would like to ask some questions with respect to some of the activities identified as being the responsibility of the Environmental Operations section.

One of the activities is the provision of monitoring services, including sample taking, maintenance of equipment, et cetera. I am specifically interested in the emission monitoring. The minister indicated that there are at this time only two sources of SO₂ emissions in Manitoba which would be HBM&S and the Inco operation,

main sources. What is the department's capability to determine the output from these big stacks? Do you have the capability to do stack sampling?

Mr. Cummings: Yes.

Ms. McCormick: Further along it references conducting ambient environmental monitoring programs. The minister will recall that in Question Period I asked about the report on ambient air quality, annual report 1990. I asked when we could expect the reports for the years '91, '92 and '93. The response was soon.

Can we have some clarification on the meaning of the word "soon"?

Mr. Cummings: Well, I may even have overstated it when I said soon. The fact is that the data is being gathered, and we are in fact using it. It is not as if we are four years behind in being able to use it, but there is a considerable amount of effort to getting it into the form that the member has beside her there.

We probably will continue to be behind for a while, because prioritizing the workload, getting it fully compiled in the format that you have there is not at the top of the list unless there are reasons to speed it up that I am unaware of. It is not as if the information in certain areas if they were needed could not be produced. It is just that it has not been produced in the comprehensive format for year-over-year comparison.

Ms. McCormick: Mr. Deputy Chair, it seems to me that of all of the sections of the department that take criticism, warranted or otherwise, it is the Air Quality Management section, and I am wondering if, given that a later objective with respect to Legislation and Intergovernmental Affairs cites the development or upgrading of standards for—actually, it is in the environmental section, pardon me—updating air, water and terrestrial environmental quality standards and guidelines as an activity, is it possible that the Air Quality Management section is underresourced to, first of all, keep up with its own reporting requirements and, secondly, to update the air quality guidelines and standards, which have come under some considerable criticism because they are seen as being obsolete?

Mr. Cummings: First of all, where there has been criticism of the Air Quality section of the department, it has been more related to site-specific situations, I think, and were examples such as Palliser, HBM&S. Those are the only two that come to mind immediately, but where there have been local issues raised and, particularly in the Palliser situation, there has been a considerable amount of effort expended in order to make sure that the monitoring is adequate in pulling together information for decision-making purposes in that area.

Certainly, I suppose you could argue that more resources could be applied. I would not try to make a case that they could not be used, but I would make the case that I think we can adequately respond to site-specific needs, and we have, as an objective a year ago, started work to improve this section, knowing that there would be increased demand and scrutiny of any work that they would do. Of course, it is additionally important, now knowing that we have one other potential manufacturing plant in the province that will require monitoring.

Ms. McCormick: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I think the minister—you know, I could add to his list of situations where I believe that the absence of standards became problematic for proponents. I am thinking specifically of the Standard Aero situation where there was not a sense that the proponent could get a clear handle on what the department's expectations were for emission standards. I guess it does point out that we can, between us, at least come up with three names.

* (2200)

It does point out why having a case-by-case approvals process is difficult for both the department and for the proponents. I could see it in a climate in which we said that people had to use the best available technology to abate emissions, but that is certainly not the approach we are taking. We are saying that we are going to hold people to mutually agreeable standards, but it is a bit like Hemingway's movable feast.

So I am concerned that, in fact, this be an area that gets some attention. I think, as well, it would

have the benefit of creating a level playing field and, additionally, alleviating some of that anxiety that is there in the community right now, which coalesces around some of these applications.

So without intending to nail you down, I would like to confirm that I did hear you say that it is an area where you are intending to, if not augment the resources, at least re-examine the current way of doing business.

Mr. Deputy Chairperson: Order, please. The hour being after ten o'clock, I am just going to seek the will of the committee to carry on.

Some Honourable Members: Carry on.

Mr. Deputy Chairperson: Carry on. I will check what the will of the committee is at midnight.

Mr. Cummings: First of all, I should just point out that when we talk about setting air quality standards, we are working with CCME on establishment of those standards to the national protocol. By comparison, we are not out of step with other jurisdictions of a similar size as Manitoba, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, I would presume, and certainly PEI and Saskatchewan, I understand. We would likely be within sort of the same capability that they have.

I think there is an even larger question, and that is the whole method of environmental regulation and standard setting. There is an inherent dislike on the part of some to setting a standard, for example, for livestock waste and saying there is the standard, you must meet it or you are in violation and subject to whatever. Under those circumstances, I have people demanding site-specific evaluation of the problem.

So now in air issues, I think there is still some valid reason for site-specific evaluation of problems, but we do, I think, apply a fair bit of reason, example being emission into waters. In the very broad sense, comparison can be made that the receiving air, receiving water, that that is one of the considerations in terms of setting standards.

Dispersion models and the best available technology, as you have referenced, a combination of those two approaches I think lead to, in the end, a pretty satisfactory method of setting standards,

albeit a little cumbersome and probably one that I would like to see streamlined a little bit, but I am not necessarily able to commit that it is something I can see happening in the short term.

Ms. McCormick: Well, I guess the minister's response will have to do for now. I do think though that there is a difference when you are talking about effluent, for example, from sewage, given that that can depend on the geophysical characteristics of the place the thing is sited on, and yet when you are talking about air emissions, which in fact we were talking about here, should something like proximity to a community be a factor, should the chemical nature of the emission? I mean, what are we going to take into consideration?

I think that is the second dimension that I am concerned about here, that the criteria that we have are limited. I believe there are only 16 emission criteria established, and that may in fact not be the full range of things that we ought to be concerned about at this point in time, so again, I would encourage your continued consideration of this section as Manitobans are becoming more and more concerned for the quality of their breathing air.

Mr. Cummings: I do not disagree with too much of what the member has said. I am certainly not an expert nor would I ever attempt to be in this area, but in defence of the process that we use, we do also take information and work that is done in other jurisdictions and use that knowledge, as well, in terms of how we make decisions regarding these licensing processes.

The list of 16 or whatever it is that the member referenced, that may well be a starting point, but that is not the limit of our capabilities. I think there is a good deal to be said for the manner in which we manage these emissions with an eye to what is potentially being released. Building a stack higher in order to get a better dispersion is not an alternative that we would be considering in the situations that I am sure we are both thinking about at this point.

Ms. McCormick: I would like to drop down to one of the Expected Results. That is with respect to

the preparing of the third State of the Environment Report. In fact, this was referenced in the throne speech as an activity for this year. I am wondering if you can give us an indication of when you would expect the release of this report.

Mr. Cummings: Spring of '95.

If I could digress for a minute on that particular topic, it was questioned earlier about communication and information and reporting. I think it is quite ironic that in my view Manitoba's State of the Environment Report is still considered a good piece of work. It is considered to be very useful for educational purposes, yet when the first one was released, the critics of it tried to characterize it as a piece of promotional literature.

We cannot have it both ways. Does the department do work and report, albeit, in a promotional sense on protection of the environment and enhancement, or do they have to deep-six everything that goes beyond a photocopy in black and white?

Ms. McCormick: I am going to distance myself from anyone who was critical in a global sense of that report. I do remember challenging the picture of the dump truck with the TDG symbol on it dumping its load. I think that was probably just somebody's bad choice that got by an editor. That is the only criticism I can recall making of the report at the time.

Ms. Cerilli: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I have maybe some comments about the report. I think that some people were disappointed that it did not have a little bit more technical information in it, and some people felt that it would make a good resource for schools, a supplement for schools. That is certainly valuable.

I want to pick up, though, on this discussion with respect to air quality and standards and guidelines and whatnot. First of all, just a basic question. I also have asked questions in the House recently related to this area and have with me the document produced by the department: Objectives and guidelines for various air pollutants, ambient air criteria.

I would like the minister to explain how this document was developed and over how many

years this document was developed. I think there are approximately 16 substances that are listed here. I am interested to know how long it took to develop this list of 16 substances which have a guideline in Manitoba.

* (2210)

Mr. Cummings: I do not think we can give you an answer in terms of years, decades, et cetera. The list has evolved in consultation and co-operation with other jurisdictions and probably will continue to grow as information and standards and better understanding of the issues that surround some of these materials is achieved. It has evolved, frankly, I guess would be the best way to describe it.

Ms. Cerilli: Can the minister tell the committee when was the last time a substance was added to this chart or this list? What year?

Mr. Cummings: I do not think we can by memory tell you, no.

Ms. Cerilli: I have had people express a concern to me that this area of the department has not brought forward a new guideline for some seven or eight years. Does that sound accurate?

Mr. Cummings: I could not comment one way or the other, but I think you have to also look at my earlier remarks about—it is not just the information and the guidelines that we have established here in the province that become sole criteria for how we might condition a licence or require an operation to function. I frankly do not find too much wrong with the idea that we might be able to pirate or borrow or whatever other means research technology from other jurisdictions that would be useful to us.

Certainly, you can have a little fun at our expense that we have not upgraded this annually in recent years, but in the long run that is a starting point rather than a finishing point for how we would deal with the questions that might be brought forward from time to time.

Ms. Cerilli: Well, I am sure the minister can understand that there are thousands of new chemicals being developed annually as we speak, and we are just not keeping up. The department is

not keeping up, and we do have new chemicals being introduced by industry.

There is a big concern that it is unregulated, that we have really no idea what is happening, particularly, if they are, well, as effluent as well as air emissions. So I am quite concerned that if we do not have the staffing or the technical expertise in this area to develop our own, and we have not, as the minister has indicated, begged, borrowed or stolen the standards from other jurisdictions, what is this division doing?

What is happening in this division to protect the air quality in Manitoba?

Mr. Cummings: I think, both of us not being technical persons in this area, my answers and the member's questions are not quite in sync.

I am told, when you asked the question, when was the last time a new substance was added to this list, the last time a new substance was added to this list was the last time there was consensual agreement across this country on what should be added to that particular list.

So different jurisdictions have gone off and added materials, as I understand it, but Manitoba has maintained what is considered to be the consensual, by consensus across the country, the base materials that should be included in that list.

Ms. Cerilli: Why is Manitoba doing this? Why is Manitoba not doing its own air quality protection, and can the minister explain what other provinces are doing and which provinces those are perhaps that are taking more initiative in this area and not waiting for the rest of the country to come to some agreement?

Mr. Cummings: The jurisdictions that are most likely to be active and pressing on in these areas are the areas that are the most industrialized, probably Ontario, Quebec and B.C.

I think I could draw some analysis, if you will. For example, Ontario sent out a list of chemicals that it wished to include on a new restricted list, I believe is the right phrase for it, and in looking through that list we found that they had put in at least one very commonly used agricultural chemical here in western Canada.

So I think that the member needs to temper her questions, and I know she is not being aggressive about this but is simply following a logical progression of questions, but always being out in front of these issues in terms of the most comprehensive list sort of indicates that this is a case of one-upmanship, or, you know, I am uglier than you are so I have got a tougher list, that sort of thing, and that does not necessarily—I meant ugly in the sense of enforcement. Sorry.

The process does not necessarily follow, that whoever has got the longest list has got the best process. It totally probably ignores some of the site-specific work that we do which ultimately, I think, provides for a fairly safe and practical process.

The question was asked, well, what does this section do? A few minutes ago I think I was defending the fact that the section is too small and probably cannot keep up in all facets of what could be assigned to it.

But this section does run the province's ambient air quality monitoring program and analyzes site-specific situations, air issues. It provides technical support to air-related inspections and enforcement, and it is part of our emergency response team, so we keep them fairly busy.

Ms. Cerilli: My big concern is, one of my big concerns is that the section does not have the ability to do research or compile research to determine what chemicals we have to be concerned about are being emitted into the air in Manitoba, given the kind of industries we have here. So that is one thing.

I am also really concerned about the minister's comment that another jurisdiction setting a limit on a product that is emitted into the air here from an agricultural chemical that is authorized in western Canada, I mean, correct me, you may disagree with me, but just because something is authorized to be used, I do not necessarily accept that it is 100 percent safe.

We are continually finding out over and over again, we have been incorporating bad science. We are continually finding that we can set—we are finding better ways of doing things and we are

finding out that the ways that things have been done in the past have been really harmful and that there are all sorts of chemicals out there that are being used that are no longer allowed to be used, because we are finding out that they are problematic.

* (2220)

So I would be real concerned about criticism of another jurisdiction setting a high standard because that product is still used in another part of the country. If you translate that to an international setting, we are really in trouble, because there are all sorts of things that are used all over other parts of the world that we would not dream of putting on our food or using here.

That is one of the big concerns that our party has with some of these trade agreements that are being brought forward, that we are losing our ability to control what goes into our food and onto our kitchen tables, because we do not know what other parts of the world are sanctioning to use, in their food production in particular.

I will try to stick to air quality issues here, but I am reminded of some of the work that is going on in Brandon, and the concern around ammonia emissions and how, again, we have the debate and it always seems we get into this debate where you have to prove unconditionally through scientific research whenever something comes up that is going to challenge the dominant economic industries that are profiting from the use of some of these chemicals.

So to get back to the issue of the department being able to do research, to set standards and to be able to ensure that we are not compromising Manitoba's air quality, and that we are not—I was concerned by some of the comments from Hansard, when there were questions raised in this area, that there are certain air emissions that are set sites specifically, or that is the trend that has occurred in this province, we have set air emissions on an area-by-area basis. I would like to ask the minister how is that determined?

How can we have—I mean, there may be weather patterns, there may be all sorts of geographical-related effects, but I am concerned

that we are not having a more aggressive method of setting air quality standards and we are seeing industries come forward where they are going to be emitting chemicals that we have no idea how we are going to monitor.

Mr. Cummings: I think what the member is ignoring is, first of all, if we had an operation that proposed to operate in this province that we could not define what they were emitting or could not monitor what they were emitting, we would not be letting them operate, because with site-specific licensing we require the information. We then deal with it in terms of setting what our reasonable objectives in the area in which they intend to operate are.

It is not an unreasonable process and it is not an unsafe process. I think that going back to my earlier comment, however, about setting lists without perhaps some consideration of input from other jurisdictions, there are as many examples as there are jurisdictions I think in this country of where games of one-upmanship have been played about monitoring and setting standards in environmental matters.

New Brunswick, for example, had to backtrack rather dramatically, as I understand, from their ozone depleting substances regulations, because they found themselves in a situation where they had proclaimed a portion of their regulation that was quite unenforceable.

If we had all automatically been impacted by the process that they put in place, we would have all ended up backtracking from the position that we might have adopted without due consideration.

The next logical step in that process is that there should be, as Manitoba consistently advocates, national standards and agreement on those national standards, and the member should not leap automatically to defend the province of Ontario and their setting of standards, because she would, in fact, be advocating the elimination of trifluralin from agricultural use in western Canada if we were to accept the list that they were proposing for the elimination or reduction of chemicals.

So those are the types. I am simply talking about a practical approach to what is a very complex and

very, very detailed matter. Because we have a small unit and because we use information that we get from other jurisdictions is a reflection of the fact that we do not have historically high demands.

We have a greater demand in water quality, a greater responsibility in water quality, frankly, because of the prairie rivers, because of the lakes, because of the dependence that we have, and we have an increasing responsibility in an air quality and air monitoring. I think we are addressing it in a manner that is reasonable within the context of the workload and the challenge that is out there.

When the member asked, why do we not have more research capability, frankly, that is one thing that is wrong in this country where every jurisdiction, federally, provincially seems to think that they have to have a duplicate capability. I am quite prepared to accept qualified and quality work from other jurisdictions or from other—federal authorities if they have the information and they have done supporting work on it, quite prepared for us to be able to accept that work.

If we are unprepared to do that, then we are simply going to be going back to the treasurer to refile the same ground over and over again and we would be a lot better off to be more specific with the challenges that we undertake.

All of this is not to say that we could not have a more active and larger air quality section, but we have begun to address that over the last year.

Ms. Cerilli: The problem is it seems like we are not doing that. It seems like we are not gathering research from other jurisdictions, and that in itself still takes staff, it still takes staff with some expertise to decipher it and to apply it here. So I would ask the minister to respond to the statement from Hansard from May 2 when he said, "The standards for emissions in this province are set site-specific according to the air quality standards that are required in the area, and this is how the standards will be set."

Mr. Cummings: Would the member repeat her question, please.

Ms. Cerilli: Do you want me to repeat my question now or do you want to complete your answer based on—

Mr. Cummings: You want to complete my answer?

Ms. Cerilli: No, do you want to complete your answer based on the information you just got?

Mr. Cummings: Would you mind repeating the last part of your question?

Ms. Cerilli: I was asking you to explain the comments that you made with respect to the standards for emissions when you said: "The standards for emissions in this province are set site-specific according to the air quality standards that are required in the area, and that is how the standards will be set." You said that on May 2.

Mr. Cummings: When I am referring to required, I am talking about site-specific adjustments that we do when we look at setting air quality standards in a particular area.

If we are all talking about Louisiana-Pacific, for example, a lot of information that will be required to be dealt with there, which will likely be around some of the chemicals associated with their gluing process, we are not going to need that, for example, around Simplot in Brandon in the manufacture of fertilizer, so it is a different potential emission and a different standard that we will be setting.

* (2230)

Ms. Cerilli: It is a different chemical and what this indicates, this comment here indicates that the air quality standards are different, depending on which area of the province it is. That is what site-specific says to me as well, that you are going to look at an area of the province and develop a standard based on that industry and that region, and that concerns me.

I do not understand what the criteria would be, so that is my logical next question, and that is why I asked for some explanation of this statement, because I want to understand better, more clearly what the site-specific process is.

Mr. Cummings: I think this might be a case of the blind leading the blind because neither one of us

are air quality experts. Pardon my analogy, but the fact is that the ambient air quality standards will not differ from one part of the province to the other, but there are other impacting factors.

Ms. Cerilli: That was my question. What are the other factors? What are the criteria that are implied in this site-specific air quality standard setting?

Mr. Cummings: Dispersion modelling, air dispersion.

Ms. Cerilli: So then it is related to the geography, the wind currents of the area?

Mr. Cummings: Those could be factors, yes, one of many, I presume.

Ms. Cerilli: Can I get some explanation of what some of the other factors or considerations or criteria are?

Mr. Cummings: I do not think that I can be as specific as the member might wish me to be. Just give me—well, we do not have an air quality expert at the table. If you want to ask those types of questions, just hang on a minute.

Surrounding, certainly wind and air dispersion, as I indicated, but also land use of the area, the nature of the vegetation even in the area, the potential for impact on populated areas as well, those would be some of what I would think would be reasonable areas of difference.

By the way, I still think that is a parallel to site-specific emissions regarding water quality as well. It has some bearing on this in terms of an analogy.

Ms. Cerilli: How does the effect on people and wildlife come into play? How is that part of the equation?

Mr. Cummings: I think it would be fair to say that the most critical bottom line for any analysis on standard setting is human health.

Ms. Cerilli: Can I get more of an explanation, particularly in light of the last statement, which was impact on populated areas? Is that what is implied there?

Mr. Cummings: Well, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I think the information is reasonable and quite explainable. The bottom line, I said, was any

potential concerns or impact on human health. Now, does the member want to talk about what kind of impact on human health? Does the member want to talk about, does it matter if there is five people or 25? I am not sure what she meant by the second part of that question, but I think, in terms of setting the manner in which we license any potential emissions from a plant, that it is quite reasonable to say that one of the bottom line, most important aspects of that process that is examined is any possible impacts on human health, and if there is negative impacts, they have to be dealt with.

Ms. Cerilli: This is what I am trying to get you to explain. Those are the kinds of answers or those are the kinds of issues that I am trying to address. These are the standards that are going to have to be set by your department. I want to understand, if it does depend on the population density of an area, which would be a concern to me, and how the impacts on human health are determined, how it is considered. I was just looking for a document that I have that set standards for formaldehyde and other chemicals from another jurisdiction, and I was wondering if those were going to be used for the plant up in Swan. I am wondering how that is being presented to the company. Those are some of the issues that I want to have addressed.

Mr. Cummings: Let me rephrase my answer and see if this is a little more understandable to all of us. That is, that the ambient air quality standard is set so that human health is protected. Then the requirements that are imposed on the operation are set using methods of modelling air dispersion and that, I suppose amongst other factors, but that would then meet that ambient air quality.

So does that sound like you are working backwards? I am not sure that it does. What it says is that the ambient air quality, if I can rephrase it, the ambient air quality is decided so that human health is protected. Then the standards are imposed on the operation to ensure that those ambient air quality standards are met.

Ms. Cerilli: By the standards given to the outfit that is going to be emitting the contamination, you mean standards for what they will have to

implement in terms of monitoring and technology in order to meet the ambient air quality standard?

Mr. Cummings: As we have said, we do not necessarily dictate the technology. We dictate what they can, through the licence, what they can or cannot potentially have going up their stack. They cannot have anything going up the stack that will, when it gets out, break the ambient air quality standard that we have set.

It is starting to make sense to me. Is it starting to make sense to my critics?

Ms. Cerilli: Well, I am trying to get a clear indication of how you are going to set this magic number. You have given me some information that makes sense, and I do not think that I have a clear picture yet, and I think that this is rather important, so I have a number of other questions that are related to this. It is only twenty to eleven. So I am just going to—

An Honourable Member: We will stay until we understand.

Ms. Cerilli: I am just going to carry on. To go back to the basic question, what—maybe we should start talking some numbers here. I know the minister also said in the House in response to some questions that the best standards in Canada would be used. Do we have some indication of what that might be?

* (2240)

Mr. Cummings: In precise numbers, I cannot give you those numbers off, nor do I suppose anybody else at the table could give us those precise numbers. It seems to me that it makes some sense. You have an ambient air quality standard and you are saying, how do you establish that standard? What is known to be the standard that will protect the human health given the particular potential emission.

We are all talking in theory here. None of us are talking specifics, and I do not think that we could enlighten anybody by talking about urea-formaldehyde any more than we can in talking in terms of the general principle about how these standards are established, but it makes pretty good sense to me, that if you start with the fact that

human health will be protected and work that back using an examination of what potentially can be released, an examination of air dispersion models, you can acquire that standard that protects human health.

Ms. McCormick: I have listened quite patiently to this and I do not feel that I am very much further ahead for the last half hour.

I guess where this really comes down, you have been talking about using standards to protect human health. Commonly, in the occupational setting, those standards are called threshold limit values, TLVs, and that I think is something that many of us have been concerned about, whether we are now moving into an era where we are going to apply occupational exposure standards and make those the standards for emission criteria.

(Mr. Jack Penner, Acting Deputy Chairperson, in the Chair)

Mr. Cummings: I am told that we try to avoid that context wherever possible, and, in fact, that the ambient air quality standards that we set generally far exceed what are workplace requirements.

Ms. McCormick: Yes, that is exactly—that is right, and that is where, when I hear you talking about a standard which is sufficient to protect health, then to say that there is some arbitrary standard that we can use, some international scientific sort of criteria that we can apply becomes very difficult, unless we simply say that what we are looking for is to turn to the occupational standard.

Where this actually comes down is if you look at the criteria for suspended particulate matter, if you have got stuff floating around in the air, it can be something that is dangerous, it can be something that is simply a nuisance. If that suspended particulate, for example, is wood dust coming from a hardwood source like cedar, it is known to cause cancer of the nasal septum. I mean, I am just using this as an example, okay? But if it is some other kind of benign sawdust, then it would not be considered a big deal.

But here we have got a guideline or rather an objective for suspended particulate matter of a maximum tolerable level of 400, and yet it does

not talk about what is the nature of the suspended particulate.

So that is where it brings us back to how do we carry it beyond this sort of theoretical thing into something that people can really, first of all, measure and shoot for when they are trying to put their pollution control on their operation.

I guess that is where I am sensing from the proponent community here a fairly high level of frustration. It is a sort of like an, after you, my dear Alphonse. What do you want us to meet? Well, what can you meet? Well, you tell us what you can meet. And it goes back and forth like this.

I would agree with you that we have to have some degree of practicality or flexibility in this, but it still is very frustrating when we have, first of all, a guideline list that does not include some of the contaminants that we should in this era be concerned about, and, secondly, that there does not seem to be anything written down that a proponent can in fact say, okay, I have got the technology to in fact achieve your regulated standard.

It seems that a lot of this time is not particularly well spent because we are never going to, I agree, we are not the experts in the area, but the people who are the experts are coming forward with a fairly high degree of frustration around this approach, and maybe we do not want to do anything more tonight than alert you to the fact that this—I do not know whether my colleague for Radisson (Ms. Cerilli) would agree, but I do think that this approach is causing a great deal of public concern and anxiety, which means that perhaps some of these things which ought to go forward are being thwarted or frustrated simply because we do not have the framework within which to assess them fairly.

Mr. Cummings: Well, I have certainly heard this criticism and this discussion before, and there is some degree of frustration on my own part. It would be nice to turn to the deputy and say, well, what standard do they have to meet?

But, as I said earlier, that is the problem that we ran into, for example, with the livestock waste standards. We set the standard and the answer is, well, dammit, we still want a hearing and we still

want the right to set it site-specific. So both ways ultimately have their level of frustration with the ability to regulate in a fair and reasonable way.

But I think that you would have to agree that in the end this does not create a situation that is hazardous to the community, that, in fact, standards can be set and can be met that can provide a level of security and safety to the communities involved.

Of course, it comes down to the practicality of certain processes, as well. If you want absolutely nothing, if you want a closed loop on everything, there is a certain price to that in some cases. In some cases a closed loop, given modern technology, can actually be more profitable if whatever it is that they are recapturing has some value.

So one would never want to dismiss out of hand that type of an option or possibility, but I am not sure that I can provide the member with much security from the point of view of being able to change this forthwith.

Ms. McCormick: Again, I think that what we are having here is a philosophical debate, which is not necessarily going to be resolved, but at least I feel compelled to put on the record some of the frustrations that we are hearing.

I can think of a situation in which an autobody operation was spray painting paint with isocyanates in it. The workers were well protected within the operation, but there was concern that there was stuff coming out of the process into a community, which could perhaps put people at risk for respiratory conditions. Again, these kinds of things are, I think, difficult for people who want to put in technology to have some degree of comfort that what they are putting in is, in fact, going to measure up to the expectations.

* (2250)

Again, some kind of a criterion or standard that people can actually measure and say, yes, it works; or, no, it does not work; or it usually works, but it failed today and it failed because—that really helps everybody.

I guess I am just going to have to share the frustration of all three of us that we are not really going anywhere with this, but I do feel that it is important to say that there is a school of thought, that there is a group of people out there who are quite frustrated by the department's seeming unwillingness to come clean on what a tolerable level of emission is, and I think I can just turn it over at this point.

Mr. Cummings: Just a couple of comments, and I suppose they fall under the category of not completely providing the solution that different proponents may be looking for, but is it not true to suggest that a lot of proponents are frustrated because they want to be told what their emission limits are? On the other hand, a longer list of ambient air quality objectives would not help because that would not necessarily say what emissions would be permissible.

But, at the same time, an example that you used of a body shop, there is probably twenty of them that would have the same sort of potential emissions, so in that particular instance some sort of template might be able to be developed and advanced. The trouble is that most of the controversial ones that we are dealing with, i.e., General Scrap, and potentially Louisiana-Pacific, are ones that are very specific and probably do not fit into any particular, precise category and still need to go through the type of process under which we are putting them.

For example, General Scrap, we needed to know what it was they were heating and squeezing before you could even know what potentially they had for emissions, and if you do not have that potential for what is going up the stack, it is awful hard to set an ambient air quality standard or emission standard.

Ms. McCormick: In fact, I think that that is a problem with the General Scrap situation, but it is not a problem with the Louisiana-Pacific situation, because they should know exactly what they are going to crank out. They should know exactly what their technology can reduce that emission to. The question is, is it good enough?

(Mr. Deputy Chairperson in the Chair)

Mr. Cummings: We just spoke earlier about the fact that the process seems to be somewhat shorter than some people would have liked. We are going to find out whether or not they can prove they can meet, that they can keep their emissions low enough to meet the ambient air quality standards.

It would be even shorter if all we had—there would not even have to be a hearing, frankly, in the eyes of many people if you said A, B and C are your emission standards, go off and meet them. I think I would be drawn and quartered in effigy at least if that was the process upon which we embarked without going to the Clean Environment Commission, but setting the standards and telling the industry to meet them could, in fact, lead to that type of a decision-making process.

So it does not have to and probably would not in the case of Louisiana-Pacific, but certainly that is the type of regulatory regime that an awful lot of businesses would like, come in and in half a day walk out with their licence.

Ms. McCormick: I think we have to recognize that an environmental impact assessment would consider air emissions as only one dimension of a potential for impact, but, again, I am given to understand that you are talking about standards. You responded to me, saying here are the standards, but in Manitoba we, in fact, do not have standards, we have guidelines. Maybe that is the semantical difficulty we are having here, that we do not have standards that we can say people should meet, and then we put them through a process of predicting what they can achieve and then we determine whether they are in or out of the guidelines. Even at that, as its only guidelines, what is the basis of enforcement, except the enforcement against the criteria set in the licence, right?

Again, we go around and around on this, but all I wanted to do tonight, my main objective was to put on the record on behalf of a lot of people who have talked to me about this, their frustration with the way the current approach ill serves both the community and the proponent. Again, I am going to acknowledge that there is not much point in working this to death, so no matter what you

answer, I promise I am not coming back on this one.

Mr. Cummings: I think we will have to agree to disagree, inasmuch as we have probably qualified people on both sides of this argument who could make a good case to support both ways of approaching this from a regulatory point of view. Certainly the arguments I hear from the department still seem to be supportable in that this is a reasonable way to approach the setting of emission standards.

It to some degree I think revolves around a matter of semantics, but I think that we would need to get into a fairly long dissertation which I am not particularly well equipped to do at this moment in terms of all of the rationale that we go through in setting standards in this manner.

The end result, I do not think you will get any of your proponents or opponents for that matter who will—it is mostly the opponents of this process who are concerned rather than the proponents. Eventually the proponents that I have talked to at least have come to be fairly supportive of the process. There are exceptions to that, probably the same ones that you are talking to.

Ms. Cerilli: Will there be a requirement for best possible technology that will be put forward and, if not, why not?

Mr. Cummings: They will have to put in whatever it takes to meet the standards, and again I am sure the member thinks that sounds like you are working backwards, but you end up requiring them to meet the standards that are set and, frankly, the technologies that are being discussed, pro and con. No one technology takes out all of the potential problems from the emissions, and we will have to wait and see what information is presented at the commission.

Ms. Cerilli: We have sat here and said that none of us are experts, and I am not a chemist, but what I try to do is read the information and try to come to some understanding of it and rely on talking to people who work in the area.

I have a report from British Columbia here on the operation in Dawson Creek. Part of the problem as I see it is, we have no guidelines, no

standards on either MDI or formaldehyde, and they do. They at least have something on formaldehyde. They even have nothing on MDI, so that is one problem.

In terms of the technology side, apparently, as I understand it, something called an electrostatic precipitator is required, and there are three stages of emissions technology that can be incorporated. In the United States in this operation this company has been in trouble because they have only used one. The concern that we have is that only one stage or one level will be used here. I would like to get on record that we want to see better than that. We would like to see the best possible technology, and I want to see if the minister is not concerned that we are going to have something happening in Canada that is no longer allowed to happen in the United States, and that we are going to have technology that is not going to remove the particulate and all the chemical that it could.

* (2300)

Mr. Cummings: Just because it comes from south of the line does not make it better.

Point of Order

Ms. Cerilli: I am not saying it is better. I am saying that we want to make sure that we have got the best technology to protect the health of the people in these communities that we can get.

Mr. Deputy Chairperson: Order, please. The honourable member did not have a point of order. It was clearly a dispute over the facts.

Mr. Cummings: Yes, we will have the technology installed to make sure that we do protect the health of the people in the community. That is not a question. What is a question is precisely what they will put in place to achieve that. This is not a first for Louisiana-Pacific in terms of developing a plant.

The member referenced a couple of chemicals. She is concerned that because we do not have standards set in Manitoba, that somehow bodes badly for the process that we are entering into. We will set a standard for those materials.

I would like to put on the record something of which I feel quite comfortable about. That is this: That when Louisiana-Pacific, early after its announcement and people began to look to Dawson to see what was going on, I started getting inquiries from the national media. I was on the road at another meeting and I phoned back from a cell phone to the media person, and they pretty near dropped the phone at the other end of the line because I had phoned them back within a couple of hours of when they had placed the call, and I was prepared to discuss our process here in Manitoba. They had been trying for two weeks to get the government of B.C. to put up somebody to talk to them about what was occurring in B.C., and nothing was happening.

We have nothing to be ashamed of in this province in terms of our process. What comes out from the hearings, the recommendations, the requirements that the department will impose through the licensing, I believe, will prove out in the long run to be more than adequate to deal with the challenge that is presented. This is an opportunity to, I suppose, test the system to see if it does allow for these processes to be examined, for advice to be given, but I think in the end, the bottom line is they will meet the standards that we will impose or they will not be able to operate.

You know, unfortunately, we have seen a plant or two that has been unwilling to meet the standards that we have been requiring of them in this province and they have chosen not to operate under those standards. Louisiana-Pacific assures us that they can meet the standards.

Ms. Cerilli: Well, we know the number of industries in the province that are exceeding their licences, their levels that get set on their licences. I guess the concern is what the standards are going to be, and if there is going to be some kind of relationship for requiring that they use the best possible technology. That is a term that the minister seems like he is hesitating to use, and I do not think it is unreasonable to ask for that. I am not saying that—I would not say that, just because something comes from south of the border, it is going to be the best. But I think that if they have standards that are being set at a certain level for a

reason, then I think that their EPA is fairly vigilant, and that we should be paying attention to that.

I know that there is also a lot of work in this area that has been done in Europe, and I am wondering if the department has looked overseas to try and gather some information, and if any of that information will be used by the commission and the department in setting these levels.

Mr. Cummings: Because the Clean Environment Commission is probably still, as we speak, involved in its first meeting in Swan River right now, I am going to have to be pretty cautious what I say about anything in terms of standard setting and how the commission is operating, I suppose. I would like to put in context a little bit of the fact that there seems to be a view that, if the EPA says something, that is next to a biblical decree in terms of what is the proper environmental standard.

By comparison, let me point out that when we were having a debate over what was an acceptable level of contamination—well, there is no acceptable level—but what are the acceptable drinking water standards potential to contain TCC, was it, that we were finding from the Bristol plant, and Canadian standards were higher than American standards. Therefore, everybody said, well, we should go to the American standards; it was unsafe. Canadian drinking water standards were not appropriate anyway and we should go to the American standards. After we were about three or four months into the debate somebody did some checking and the Americans had changed their standards and jacked them back up to 10 points in parts per billion, I believe it was, higher than Canada's. Then they said, well, we do not want to go to American standards. We still want to stick with the old standard that EPA had. When you get into parts per billion and you are down to 25 or 10 or 18, those are standards that were virtually untraceable as little as a decade ago or even less than that.

I think that we will have to use the brains of the best people that we can acquire in evaluating what potentially might be emitted from the Louisiana-Pacific plant and with an eye to the best possible standard for protection of human health.

If that process is followed by the department, and I think it will be, after we receive the Clean Environment Commission recommendations, I am pretty confident that we will end up with a licence that is acceptable.

Ms. Cerilli: It is a bizarre situation if we do not want to talk about number crunching with parts per billion, and yet we know that there is existing technology that can produce the best possible emission controls. Yet we are unwilling to make that a requirement for licensing. We are setting ourselves up for not the best in my view, especially if we are concerned about being able to set the standard that is going to prevent harm to people in the community. So I just want to clarify then once more, is there ability to recommend the best possible technology, and if not, why not?

Mr. Cummings: I think I have really said on the record everything that can be possibly said in every which way to try and illuminate the topic. I am sorry, I still do not know how many more ways I can say the same thing that I have been saying all evening.

Ms. Cerilli: Just to conclude, then, the final question is, is there an ability to recommend for the best possible technology, and if not, why not?

Mr. Cummings: The member is trying to hang her concerns on a phrase, and I am suggesting that the commission will determine what standards they must meet. It will be a publicly set process whereby the proponents and the technical people will put the facts on the table and recommendations will be made. I think we have to look at the range of material that may or may not be needed to be controlled, and I really do want to wait and see what evolves from the debate and from the Clean Environment Commission.

* (2310)

Ms. Cerilli: I am not sure how much longer we should pursue this area. Just to put on the record that I do have documentation that has a level for formaldehyde with a limit formaldehyde concentration from the dryers, which are part of this system, which is 30 micrograms per meter cubed as an ambient air quality level.

Mr. Deputy Chairperson: (1) Salaries—

Ms. Cerilli: No, we are not done. We are going to be here all night.

Ms. McCormick: Can I switch and talk about lead?

Ms. Cerilli: Go ahead.

Ms. McCormick: The package of information was brought to my attention that—

Mr. Deputy Chairperson: Order, please. Could I ask you to bring your mike up just a little bit?

Ms. McCormick: Sorry. Yes. Thanks.

I received a package of information expressing concern of a citizen with respect to lead in drinking water. Without wanting to go too deeply into this, it appears that in the state of California, there are a number of submersible well water pumps, pumps which are used for fairly deep water wells. The pumps are made of bronze and brass and have been found to create a fairly high level of contamination of lead in drinking water.

The products, at least two of the four pumps that were evaluated in this California study, are available in Manitoba. While the products have been banned from sale in California, apparently they are still freely available here. I am interested in knowing whether or not this matter has been dealt with in the department, and if you could describe the process of responding to the citizen's complaint and any action that was taken to investigate or dispel the concerns.

Mr. Cummings: I take it the member is referencing a letter of request that came through to the department for information about these pumps? Certainly no one here has any knowledge of it. Obviously, we will have to make some inquiries. I am a little puzzled that you are saying there is some kind of a lead component to this pump? I am fairly familiar with submersible pumps.

Ms. McCormick: Yes, actually I am not trying to sandbag anybody here. This just magically showed up under my door, and it is really intriguing stuff. I am not certain that the department has any information. That was the intention of asking my question. If it had been brought to your attention, and if yes, what had you done?

I would be very willing just to turn the package over, because it did not come to me with any name on it to respond to or any correspondence which indicates that it has been brought to the attention of the department. However, when I did read the information, it looks like fairly credible scientific data from a number of reliable sources. It cites EPA standards. It talks about four pumps, in fact, which are produced for large commercial distribution, so I think perhaps the best disposition for this would be simply for me to turn this over to your department and get somebody to check it out.

Mr. Cummings: At the risk of being a troublemaker, do you want it by return mail, or would you like me to slip it under your door?

Mr. Deputy Chairperson: Is the honourable member tabling this, or is she just passing it on to the minister?

Ms. McCormick: Yes, passing it to the minister, because I have made no commitment to any action. I just find it really quite intriguing. It might be something that some of the people interested in water quality in Manitoba might want to check out.

I would not mind having the technical data back because it is quite interesting.

Mr. Cummings: We will follow it up and make sure the information goes back.

Ms. McCormick: I wanted to ask some questions around the—one of the expected results from the Environmental Management section is “designing and executing studies aimed at ascertaining the level of environmental quality or contamination and recommended action.”

Can you describe to me what kinds of studies you might be undertaking in the context of this area?

Mr. Cummings: Yes, the names of areas elude me, but, for example, we have done studies and follow-up work with communities on some recreational lakes and some commercial lakes where there have been problems—helped them. Very often we enlist local support or sometimes the request comes from local communities or groups, cottage groups, even. Silver Beach is an example of where a study was done, a

recommendation for how to deal with the issue, and the local community took responsibility for it. I think another one is Gull Lake. When I think of Gull Lake I think of Saskatchewan, but there is a Gull Lake northeast of the city here.

Ms. McCormick: Another area that I wanted to ask some questions on, in the Environmental Operations section there is a statement that one of the expectations placed on the department is to “inspect all licensed or regulated operations on a regular basis to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements.”

One of the areas that I was pursuing in the inquiry or when you brought the Hazardous Waste Corporation before committee was the operation of the soil treatment facility at St. Jean. Have the inspectors conducted a regular post-licence or post-operational inspection of the St. Jean facility?

Mr. Cummings: I am getting an affirmative nod, yes.

Ms. McCormick: One of the concerns that has been brought forward by some people who are monitoring that area is that there were supposed to be some berms and some retention ponds requirements set out in the licence, and the people who are raising this with me indicated that they did not believe that licensing requirement had been met. When the corporation was here, they felt that they had met that requirement.

Is there anything with respect to that regulatory inspection that was conducted at the St. Jean facility which indicates that there was a concern with the retention ponds or the mechanism for preventing runoff from the contaminated site area?

Mr. Cummings: No, in the process of construction and designing the area, some of the early work was, a lot of the early expenditures were, on what I would have, to the untrained eye, thought of as—I was looking for buildings, I was looking for equipment, I was looking for processes, but a lot of money was spent on doing design of retention and drainage. It is my understanding that there was some holdup on construction regarding the wet weather, moving some of the Red River gumbo around, but no concerns that we were aware of that there was any

potential for runoff that was causing some problems. I think, if my memory serves me correctly, at committee, the corporation acknowledged that one of the last things they were able to get done was to get the berms around the site where they were granulating and mixing the material, but no concerns were raised by our inspectors that there was potential hazard involved.

* (2320)

Ms. McCormick: So your department is fully satisfied that all of the licensing conditions that were set out for the establishment of the soils treatment facility in St. Jean have been met and continued to be followed.

Mr. Cummings: Never take anything for granted in this business. Now that you have raised the question, we will go back and double check. But, in fact, you raised a question that I believe is quite valid and one that I am surprised has not been raised sooner; that is, as we evolve into a truly private sector, competitive operation that becomes basically devolved from government, I think the legitimate question will be, rather than are we monitoring, are we enforcing adequately in the private sector, the question will be, are we also monitoring and inspecting appropriately with what is becoming an increasingly major player in the management of hazardous waste?

We have acquired some personnel to help us out in that respect six months, a year ago, as I recall, so it is something that we have been anticipating.

Ms. Cerilli: I have just had a chance to look through some of the material that we received, I think, today from the minister with respect to national initiatives related to smog and ozone, ground level ozones. It is a program, I think, that the minister likes, and I want to ask him from page 4 of the material that he sent to us. It says: The plan's overall goal is to meet Canada's maximum acceptable air quality objective for ozone in all areas of the country by the year 2005. This objective has been set at 82 parts per billion, one of the most stringent in the world. I would ask the minister to give us some background on how that level was set.

Mr. Cummings: Our recollection is that it was a result of a national discussion and consensus that was agreed to through CCME.

Bear in mind that there is sort of a two-pronged approach here. CCME reaches a consensus, and under ideal conditions reaches agreement on what are appropriate standards. They are not normally watered-down standards; they are normally quite well appreciated standards.

There was also a period leading up to Rio and during the flurry of international agreements that were being signed that Canada proceeded somewhat arbitrarily to agree to certain international covenants that were not totally as a result of consensus across the country. That consensus was not reached for a reason; some jurisdictions were concerned about going to those standards too quickly. So that standard is probably one of the ones that is going to give some more heavily populated areas some difficulty in reaching.

Ms. Cerilli: But they have all agreed to it based on examination of the standard by their respective government Departments of Environment?

Mr. Cummings: Yes, agreement, but based on the protection of human health more than anything else, as I recall the discussion.

Ms. Cerilli: But their governments have reviewed it, whether it is through the Department of Health or whatever, and they have had some kind of research analysis that has led them to accept this kind of level.

Mr. Cummings: The combination, I think, of that and known potential sources has the ability to achieve appropriate levels quickly. Again, this is an area where some jurisdictions could go off on a case of one-upmanship.

B.C. is adamant that there should be new emission standards imposed, and they have joined a north-south corridor along the West Coast working towards tighter emission controls.

Frankly, at this point in our development, Manitoba does not have an issue in this area, but emission standards set in California even eventually affect us here because of the new

vehicle manufacturing, because of trucking. Our truckers today have to meet emission standards before they are allowed into certain jurisdictions. So it is generally agreed for protection—well, obviously for protection of human health—but there is not uniformity across North America. Hopefully, there will be uniformity across Canada. I do not think that standard might be as low as some of the American objectives are. I really do not know the exact number, though.

Ms. Cerilli: So ground-level ozone is caused primarily from vehicle exhaust. Is that correct?

Mr. Cummings: Vehicle exhaust.

Ms. Cerilli: So are there certain actions that can be taken, the minister just referenced transport trucks having to comply with different levels in different jurisdictions for their emissions. So there are things that can be put in place for vehicles. Is that done at the level of production now where there are requirements, or is it something that is left up to the consumer after?

Mr. Cummings: The development of standards for new vehicles is part of it, but there are a number of areas of progress that have been made. I am told that there is now new—I am not sure if it is a catalytic converter, but there are ways through additions to vehicles that may at one time have been equipped with catalytic converters that can drop the ozone emissions dramatically. They would probably need to be legislated to be put in place.

I am told that they may not be all that bad even if they were legislated. They seem like they are probably worth only \$50 in terms of the actual materials, but the areas that we are talking about are Greater Vancouver to Windsor-Quebec corridor and Nova Scotia, New Brunswick bearing in mind that in that part of the country, the eastern seaboard, you are getting a fair bit of imported, and even in the Detroit-Windsor area, you are getting a fair bit of imported ground-level ozone coming from the south.

Ms. Cerilli: But there are steps being taken now for the car manufacturing industry to incorporate that. Up till now it has not been legislated? Has it just been agreed to?

Mr. Cummings: The equipment that is on new vehicles sold in the '90s is a result of legislation that was imposed primarily starting with the California standards, but Canadian vehicles have emission standards as well that are actually parallel, I believe, or similar in the construction of the vehicle, not necessarily in the tailpipe testing results. We do not impose the standards that California does, but the technology that is there now is as a result of a regulatory imposition by primarily California.

* (2330)

Ms. Cerilli: The logical extension of this is, how is this that much different from requiring an industry, whether it is a mining industry or pulp and paper industry, to have to follow the same kind of legislation to incorporate a certain kind of technology that is going to control emissions? How is it different?

Mr. Cummings: I am told that I stand corrected about the requirements for manufacturing in Canada, that it is not an imposed standard in Canada, but we are, by reflection, getting a lot of the California standards just because of the ease of manufacturing once the major companies have shifted over. But your question about why we would not be able to impose similar standards, we, in fact, do have on the pulp and paper industry federal regulatory standards that are being met or are expected to be met in the next couple of years across the country. Is that the gist of your question?

Ms. Cerilli: Yes, that is, and we have the transitional authorizations that are being given out under the federal Fisheries Act that are allowing the older mills to continue exceeding those levels that have been set, but what I am trying to get at is those will also recommend, correct me if I am wrong, a certain kind of technology similar to what we are doing with cars, with automobiles, that they have to put in these, whether it is the new kind of catalytic converter or whatever it is that we are doing it with cars. Can we not start doing it with industry?

Mr. Cummings: I would like to take, I think, the view that the regulatory position in the first place

was that you shall meet a certain emission standard, not that you shall use a certain technology. I think that principle was what was applied with the automobile. In fact, that is the principle that is being applied with the pulp and paper industry. Certain emission levels must be met, and that is leading to, right now in the pulp and paper industry, everything from the Alcell process to statements by some people that they will be able to develop a closed loop pulp and paper plant in the not too distant future. I am not sure how much the paper will cost that comes out of it, but I have heard that statement made. I have absolutely no knowledge of whether it is possible or not.

Ms. Cerilli: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, one of the Expected Results under the Environmental Operations section is responding "to environmental emergencies to minimize damage to the environment or public health," and two of the emergencies that I have been quite concerned about are the St. Lazare derailment and the Oakville derailment. I am wondering if the minister and the staff can give us some sense of reports on both of these being completed that would explain what happened, and if there are any recommendations that have been made.

Mr. Cummings: Well the Oakville situation is the subject of a rather large report and in fact a conference is being held fairly shortly, I believe. [interjection] It has been cancelled? Well, there was a conference planned not that long from now to review this from a national perspective.

It should be pointed out, the Department of Environment shares the emergency response duties with EMO. In fact, more and more of the responsibility in terms of onsite management other than the environmental affairs themselves are managed by the local authorities and the EMO authorities. Environment played a significant role in both situations. In fact, Environment I think was the first responder, almost the first responder, after the local police at St. Lazare, if I recall the situation. We were very pleased with the response that our department was able to provide at that site, and it did require some of the specialized equipment that our department had I think just

acquired not too long before that event, plus they were able to borrow some from the Rocanville mines.

The report that the member is looking for would be published under EMO on behalf of all involved departments, and if the member has not got the reports, that would be the place to inquire.

Ms. Cerilli: Can we get some sense of what the environmental impact was from each of these chemical spills?

Mr. Cummings: I think in the end we would have to say that it was very minimal. The lasting effects from both of these situations was very minimal. There was certainly some emergency, significant emergency, in both situations and some significant danger that occurred. There was potential of pollution of the river at St. Lazare that was diverted. I believe there was some monitoring that occurred, in that area, of vegetation that was killed, but to the best of my knowledge—and we are doing monitoring reports, follow-up on both these sites. I think we have some ongoing polluted soil at Oakville that has not been properly dealt with yet. There is no reason to believe that it will not be dealt with appropriately. So frankly, I think we can all take some pride in the fact that there is likely to be no lasting damage from either one of these situations.

Ms. Cerilli: I had heard some concerns that the soil at the Oakville site had been left exposed and not properly bermed, and that there was fear that there was runoff from that soil.

Mr. Cummings: Any runoff has been tested, contained appropriately and tested before it is released. There might well have been some concerns raised. In fact, as I recall, something crossed my desk saying that we were requiring the railway to hold some water in the ditch until it had been appropriately tested before it was released. I think that has now been released, but certainly we did not allow anything to go off to cause either ground water or surface water pollution.

Ms. Cerilli: Another accident and emergency that we have been concerned about is the spill of busan 52 at the Abitibi-Price mill in Pine Falls, and I had asked in the House what considerations were being

given to the different kinds of legislation that this could come under in terms of penalty enforcement.

I have heard some concern that the company was not licensed to use busan 52 this year under the pesticides act. Can the minister confirm if that is the case?

I had asked in the House to table the permit, I think it was, and I am interested in knowing if the pesticides act is possibly one of the pieces of legislation that this Abitibi-Price outfit could be in violation of, and further to that, if, under The Dangerous Goods Handling Act, there will be some penalty for delay in reporting?

* (2340)

Mr. Cummings: It will be under Dangerous Goods likely that charges would be ultimately dealt with here in the province. As I have said several times, both federally and provincially they are exposed to hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of fines potentially, but Justice will ultimately decide and, frankly, Justice will probably consider how much—you know, was there deliberate, significant negligence, those sorts of things.

I am not an expert in that field, but I know that our officers can only take it so far and then it is turned over to Justice. They will decide what charges they will press forward with, and some of that will be based on their best judgment. That is not unusual. It might be a little frustrating, but that is not unusual for them to have to decide on which fronts they will push and on which they will not.

Ms. Cerilli: Can the minister clarify if the company has a permit for this year to use this chemical, busan 52, under the pesticides act, and if the government has looked at this as possibly another area of violation of the company?

Mr. Cummings: The indication is that they probably do not need a permit to use.

Ms. Cerilli: Why not?

Mr. Cummings: Because it is not being used offsite.

Ms. Cerilli: I think that was one of the ways that they were dealing with the whole issue of some of the contamination as well because it—yes, I

remember now hearing that. If it was used onsite then—unfortunately, it still ended up in the river, which is very much offsite, so that is, you know, another possible problem with the way that we have put regulations that are supposed to deal with some of these chemicals.

Mr. Cummings: Well, an accident is still an accident, or sloppy management is still sloppy management.

Mr. Deputy Chairperson: The honourable member for Radisson, to continue.

Ms. Cerilli: I was just listening to the minister comment about sloppy management and accidents. Further to this bill, though, I am wondering when we might hear of a decision, for the Department of Justice of the federal government to come to some decision, with respect to penalties for Abitibi-Price.

Mr. Cummings: I cannot answer that.

Ms. Cerilli: Has there been any consideration of requiring the company to implement an emergency shut-off system for its waste disposal? It seems to me with this bill that was one of the things that happened, is if they had in place some kind of an emergency measure to immediately turn off the effluent and waste disposal, this could have been averted, and this company does not have that kind of an emergency system in place. Is that one of the things that is going to be required for them to put into place?

Mr. Cummings: Well, obviously, any well-run organization will have an emergency response. I think there was not a question in this case. Somebody made a judgment or did or did not deliberately do something to respond to the action, and that was part of what was being investigated, obviously.

I do not think the member or I can sit here and try Abitibi in terms of the details of what it should or should not have done, but obviously, its environmental protection program onsite should involve a plan for how it will respond, given an accident. I do not think that is likely to be a problem, given their experience. I think that they certainly recognize that they need to be very much on top of those issues.

If you are asking if we are going to be requiring it as part of a permit or licensing process, that whole process is opening up as the new owners proceed with their licensing applications, so it will be raised at that point, I am sure.

Ms. Cerilli: Just to conclude, and I will turn over the last 15 minutes to my colleague from the Liberals, but there seems to be a definite theme in the last couple of issues that we have dealt with in terms of our inability to require industry to use technology and measures that are going to protect the environment when we know they exist. It seems that is something that has to be looked at, and I do not know if that would require a change in legislation or what. That is obviously something that needs to be looked at.

Mr. Cummings: I categorically deny that we do not have the ability to require companies to apply sound management and environmental protection standards in their operations.

Ms. Cerilli: I will pass off to my Liberal colleague here.

Ms. McCormick: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, this area of discussion leads us into the issue of community right to know. Other jurisdictions in Canada, for example, Ontario, require industries using materials, which could, by virtue of the volume that they use, create a risk to public health or safety if there were to be a fire or a leak or a spill of some kind.

Has any thought been given to require the posting of inventories of the control products or the dangerous goods present on workplaces and transmitting that information to the Department of Environment or to the local emergency response authorities to ensure that there is an enhanced ability to respond in the event of an event such as this?

Mr. Cummings: There are a number of areas where we do require, where there are volumes of material being stored, emergency response and/or disaster response. Some of that is also tied to local community response plants, fire and otherwise. I am not sure if the member is following the same line of questioning as the previous question, which asks whether or not we would be requiring

emergency response capability of the company in licensing it for future operations.

It seems to me that we require, under Dangerous Goods Handling and Transportation, the ability to respond and deal with spills and/or accidents involving the materials that are on hand. That capability exists in greater or lesser capacity, depending on the nature of the operation. There are pesticide storage sheds that are now being licensed across the province. I think they all have some fairly elaborate emergency response plans, but individual operations that use a more limited amount of product might not.

* (2350)

Ms. McCormick: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, what I am pursuing here is a regulatory framework which has come to be developed in other jurisdictions. Generally, it is known as community right to know. It goes beyond the compliance activities associated with either Workplace Safety and Health regulation or with Dangerous Goods Handling and Transportation to include a requirement to, for example, inform the immediate community as to the volume and the nature of the potentially dangerous substances which are present in an industrial or other kind of setting.

I recognize that as part of the licensing provision, people would not need necessarily to be dealing with the materials that they are handling and be equipped to deal with any incident or accident, but what I am curious about here is how, for example, would the neighbouring community have been informed that in fact that chemical or some other chemical existed in that plant. The community right-to-know requirements would call for exactly that, for a disclosure of information to the surrounding communities or, for example, to the firefighters or to the emergency response capability in a community.

I am presuming from your answer that such an initiative is not being contemplated here, presuming you would have known if this kind of idea was on the drawing board.

Mr. Cummings: No, I cannot say that I have been discussing that type of an initiative in terms of right to know. But, in the specific case of Abitibi,

it seems to me—certainly, in hindsight it is pretty obvious to everybody—that this need not have become the issue that it did if there had simply been a notification. For whatever reason, that did not happen, but everybody would have been much more satisfied at least that they had a knowledge at the appropriate time, if people had been let know. You could even speculate that there was some sabotage involved. I have no idea. Ultimately, this will come out as a result of the investigations that both departments have been involved in.

The member is talking about a pretty elaborate process, I think, in terms of right to know. I can see it in a situation where you have storage in a community of something that potentially could blow up, burn or leak and cause nauseous problems, et cetera, contamination, pollution. Up until now, we have relied on the regulatory process to keep ourselves abreast of what is stored where. We learned from the response to when Solvit blew up and burned that there needed to be better communication among Environment, fire, police and other emergency response officials.

Not that those linkages were not there, but they could have been more actively made available—and that along with communication with Workplace Safety and Health, because you do have various inspectors going into the buildings, not all at the same time, however, and not all looking for the same things. I think, to a large extent, we have alleviated what might have been from time to time a lack of communication there. I have not been anticipating moving in that direction frankly.

Ms. McCormick: In fact, that is one of the things that I was hoping to talk about at some point with respect to enforcement. You had alluded in your opening remarks that you were looking at innovative solutions to the problems of enforcement. I wonder if any thought is being given to address some of that duplication and overlap that you are talking about. You point out that something like the Solvit fire required municipal and provincial response. It involved several departments. The investigation afterward looked at compliance from a variety of activities.

Given that government is progressively downsizing as it appears—I note that with respect to the operations branch, that in fact there are going to be fewer people available to enforce what appears to be a growing body of regulation. Has the department given any thought to co-operating with other departments within the provincial government framework to look at some kind of cross-enforcement activity so that, for example, if a Workplace Safety and Health officer were in and noted what could be a breach of the environmental regulation, it could prompt some kind of action which did not involve a second enforcement officer having to go out?

Mr. Cummings: Yes, some of that occurs now. Certainly we are trying to eliminate situations where we would have officers following each other around, but more importantly where an inspector of one particular department might notice something that would not necessarily fall under his purview, I think we need to go beyond him just being able to communicate, probably being able to enforce. In fact, I guess that can happen now, but from a formal sense the department is still working in this area.

It has a bit to do with reorganization of government, too, because there is public health inspection as part of the environmental department. There is Dangerous Goods Handling and Transportation. There is Workplace Safety and Health. There are mine inspectors who get involved. There is quite a myriad of inspection requirements that probably could be handled more through the hands of a single person attending at a site. They would have more of an overview of what is required on that site, and we are certainly attempting to move more in that direction.

Ms. McCormick: I am pleased to hear this because this has been something that I have been a proponent of for some considerable time. Of course, any move in this direction sets up a requirement for cross training, that people in fact must be familiar with the regulatory regime they are expected to enforce, and I am wondering if your move in this direction is identifying training needs as well.

Mr. Cummings: Yes, we work with other departments to make sure that the other people who would be working with our act, to make sure that they are knowledgeable, but I think there is more to be done in that area.

I would like to say almost as an aside, but one that is an interesting observation, the RCMP officers occasionally with great gusto enforce Environment Act provisions. However, they are also a great assistance to us when we have things like the stubble-burning regulations. Where there was a rapid expansion of responsibility, we had Natural Resources, we had Highways, we had RCMP, we had Environment, we had Agriculture, we had everyone who was a government employee that we could conscript. In fact, we had to amend the act last year to make sure that RCMP officers actually were eligible because they were not considered employees of government. We were able to expand on the other side, and I really think it is the way things have to evolve.

Mr. Deputy Chairperson: The hour being 12 midnight, what is the will of the committee? Committee rise? Committee rise.

* (2000)

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 4.(b) Adult Corrections on page 113 of the Estimates manual. Would the minister's staff please enter the Chamber.

Mr. Gary Kowalski (The Maples): Yes, I would like to continue on where we left off before the break in dealing with the Winnipeg Remand Centre.

The staff I have spoken to at the Winnipeg Remand Centre—I am always concerned when you talk to a few staff and extrapolate to all staff, but the comments I hear is that they feel less secure than they were at the old facility, that the morale, in their viewpoint, is down. This is why I was asking the questions as far as the grievances and

the sick leave, to see if they are the standard, or are they the exceptions to the staff morale at the Winnipeg Remand Centre?

Would the minister care to comment? Does she have any information about the staff, of the morale at the Winnipeg Remand Centre, or any indication that morale is at an acceptable level at that facility?

Hon. Rosemary Vodrey (Minister of Justice and Attorney General): Madam Chair, as I answered in an earlier question, we always want to make sure that morale is maintained and that issues are able to be addressed. One of the ways that issues are able to be addressed is certainly when there is communication, and so the management is working to communicate more effectively with staff on pertinent issues.

As I said earlier, the superintendent has his monthly town hall meeting with staff to deal with questions or issues. You have to know what the issues are in order to deal with them, and this is one way that we are able to look at the issues and then attempt to deal with them. So we are certainly aware of the fact that we have to know, and we have to continue to work towards making sure that it is the most efficient setting that it can be.

Mr. Kowalski: The information regarding restorative resolutions that was received at Estimates today, I understand it is under review. Pardon me, this is an 18-month project, and at the end of this project there is a review as one of the components of the project. When does this restorative resolutions project end?

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chair, I am told that we expect the project to be completed in and about the end of October. It is again a project in which there is federal and provincial co-operation and the John Howard Society's involvement. The federal government has taken the lead in this project.

Mr. Kowalski: In regard to the Winnipeg Remand Centre, as far as the facilities that are available there, are there facilities to house young offenders in that facility?

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chair, young offenders may be held at the Remand Centre, but they may be held there only on the authorization of the court. Generally, that is given at a time when it is

assessed that the young offender cannot be safely held at the Youth Centre.

Mr. Kowalski: When young offenders are kept at the Winnipeg Remand Centre, are they segregated from the adult prisoners at that facility?

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chairperson, I am told that for any young person where this accommodation is made and they are sent to the Remand Centre, by and large, they are the older young offenders, at the older end of the young offenders. The law does not require that they be housed separately in this case, and so they are not held in separate facilities. They may be held, however, in the adult medical unit in segregation because—the reasons for the transfer, by and large, are that they cannot be safely held at the Youth Centre and therefore would require some special treatment that would be through the Remand Centre.

Mr. Kowalski: Just for clarification, is it both young offenders who are being tried as young offenders and also young offenders who have been raised to adult court—depending on the circumstances and the authority from the courts—both could be held at the Winnipeg Remand Centre?

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chairperson, the young people who may be transferred to the Remand Centre under these circumstances relating to safety may be young offenders, not necessarily young offenders being raised to adult court. They must be over 14 years of age and by and large are always at the end point, the older end point of the spectrum of young offenders, and again, they are sent to the Remand Centre where they cannot be safely held in the Youth Centre, and as I said, they may be then in segregation on a medical unit.

Mr. Kowalski: I will be very direct here. How often does this happen that young offenders have to go to the medical unit at Winnipeg Remand Centre? Is this a frequent occurrence? The reason I ask is, does that mean that there is need for a different facility just for young offenders to treat and to manage this type of young offender?

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chairperson, the member asks if there was a volume which might lead to a whole separate facility. I can tell the member the

numbers are small. The numbers may range from one individual and there may be as many as five, but by and large, it is very, very few. The individuals who are held there are not held there for treatment reasons like forensic or treatment reasons of a psychiatric disorder, but are held there for behaviour disorder, though they do have access to a psychiatrist who can provide treatment, but the diagnosis is behaviour disorder, is my understanding.

* (2010)

Mr. Kowalski: I would like to switch to the Headingley Institution now. I remember a situation with the range bars, some concern by staff when the new superintendent came in there a couple of years back. The range bars that separated the prisoners from the staff who were working in that unit were taken down and then there were some concerns expressed and it is my understanding that they were put back up. Is that correct? Is that what happened in that situation in the Headingley correctional facility?

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chair, I am informed that there has not been any change in the range bars for some significant amount of time, and there is not anything planned. The layout is always being assessed in terms of what may provide improvement, but there has not been a change in the range bars nor is anything planned for the near future.

Mr. Kowalski: Was there a fire investigator or fire commissioner's report done in regard to the Headingley correctional facility in the past year?

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chair, yes, there was a fire commissioner's report done within the last year, and we have the report. Government Services is assessing the report, and they are consulting with a firm to assess what kinds of changes may need to be done to Headingley. We expect to have that assessment shortly.

Mr. Kowalski: Was that report as a result of a particular incident?

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chair, no, I am informed that it was not as a result of a complaint, that there are periodic routine assessments done of Headingley and this was one of those assessments.

Mr. Kowalski: I do not know if there will be recommendations or if there will be orders from the fire commissioner. Possibly the minister could clarify that, but whether there are orders or recommendations from the fire commissioner, did they have a deadline?

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chair, I am informed that the fire commissioner has not given an order. However, the fire commissioner is interested in working with Government Services and the Department of Justice to look at how these changes can be accommodated.

Mr. Kowalski: I believe I have a copy of that report in my office. I should have brought it with me here tonight. But the minister is saying that they were recommendations, not orders, and there was no deadline. Is that correct?

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chairperson, again, I am informed that these are not orders by the fire commissioner. However, there is ongoing discussion to look at how we intend to achieve the changes or the improvements which are required.

On the issue of the deadline, I will have to take it under advisement and get back to the member.

Mr. Kowalski: If the fire commissioner has made certain recommendations—and I believe the report is many months old—what would be the liability to the province if an incident occurred and those recommendations had not been acted upon yet and there was either a death or an injury as a result of failure to act on those recommendations expeditiously?

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chairperson, as the member knows, the whole issue of liability will depend upon whether or not the province has been found negligent, and in order to make that finding, it would depend on a very close examination of individual facts.

Madam Chairperson: 4.(b) Adult Corrections (1) Salaries and Employee Benefits.

Mr. Gord Mackintosh (St. Johns): Does the minister have with her and readily available a breakdown of the counts at the different institutions over, say, the next four years? I say four years, that is arbitrary, but just to indicate

some kind of a trend. I noted in the materials that the counts are apparently down, and that may be on an average basis. I am just wondering if the committee can get some idea of trends in adult incarceration from such figures.

* (2020)

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chairperson, I am told that there had been an expectation and there had been on observation a slight increase over the past 20 years of approximately 3 percent. However, this year there has been a decrease in the number of adult inmates. There has been a slight increase in the Remand Centre and at Egg Lake, but otherwise the trend this year has been a decrease.

Mr. Mackintosh: The decrease in the count, was there a decrease last year as well, or is this the first year of a decrease?

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chairperson, we will have to undertake to get that information. I have the figures for this year from last year which indicate the decrease, but we will have to get the information for the years' past. The member asked for approximately four.

Mr. Mackintosh: Yes, if the minister would provide for four years, just to indicate a trend or not a trend.

I just noticed that there is decreased use of inmate work crews by government departments, resulting in a relatively significant loss of revenue to the department. I am just wondering what accounts for that decreased use.

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chairperson, I am told that with the closure of Bannock Point that was what made the difference in terms of the work crews.

Mr. Mackintosh: I was wondering whatever happened to the old facility behind the steam plant. What is that being used for now?

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chairperson, first of all, I am informed that that facility is not used for Corrections. We understand, but the member may need to check with the Minister of Government Services, that the first floor may house a Government Services workshop. We understand the second and third floors are empty.

Mr. Mackintosh: I have no further questions or comments on this, except to encourage the minister to expedite the processing of the Elizabeth Fry proposal, and I hope that there will be a favourable response to that. I think it is the kind of proposal and the kind of initiative that the government should welcome in dealing with a problem facing some women in our society. I have no further comments, and I am prepared to pass this item.

Madam Chairperson: Item 4.(b) Adult Corrections (1) Salaries and Employee Benefits \$27,700,800—pass; (2) Other Expenditures \$5,252,100—pass; (3) External Agencies and Halfway Houses \$445,800—pass; (4) Less: Recoverable from Other Appropriations (\$80,000)—pass.

Item 4.(c) Correctional Youth Centres.

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chairperson, I would just like to introduce to the committee again, Mr. Ben Thiessen, who is the executive director of Community and Youth Correctional Services.

Mr. Mackintosh: Just as a preliminary point, I wanted to get some clarification from the minister whether there is a policy in effect in her department whereby if there are telephone calls from opposition members to particular individuals in the department, whether they can or cannot speak to the opposition members. In particular, I put a call in to Mr. Thiessen last Wednesday and have not received a call back and yet the minister is aware of the circumstances of my call, and I am wondering why, if there has been any policy change with regard to returned calls.

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chairperson, by and large, when members do have questions, they generally do come through my office. That has been the practice of other members opposite, and certainly the member's colleagues when they have had issues that they would like us to look into or like to investigate. However, in checking with the executive director of Community and Youth Correctional Services tonight, he tells me that having been in management meetings, he was not aware of that call, and he certainly will try to make every effort to get the information as required. But

in that case the member spoke to someone else, I understand.

* (2030)

Mr. Mackintosh: I take it, then, that there is no general directive to the staff of the department speaking to opposition members. I might say that it is a regular occurrence particularly—well, I have particular knowledge of calls to the minister's department on different issues, and I think particularly of calls regarding concerns of constituents or people who call me about issues whether that be maintenance or whatever. I just want to ensure that there is no general order on staff of the department.

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chairperson, again, the member knows that certainly where there are issues that most of his colleagues have raised, they are raised through my office so we can be assured that you get the information.

In terms of the department, where the member calls in for information, we will see that he gets that information.

Mr. Mackintosh: First of all, dealing with the expenditures on the line by line, under Other Expenditures, Manitoba Youth Centre, there is a decrease there, and I was wondering what accounts for that decrease. Is it entirely for the reasons set out in the explanations, or are there other reasons for that decrease?

Mrs. Vodrey: Part of that reduction is explained in that there has been a replacement of training allowance with living allowance for eligible candidates. Training allowances are no longer used. Basic training for potential correctional officers is accomplished through a co-operative effort between the Red River Community College. Potential employee candidates are identified. As I mentioned in an earlier answer, it has not been needed to provide the incentive of the training allowance.

Then there has also been a decrease in just general operating expenditures, and we have a number of initiatives underway that we believe will result in more efficient purchasing methods and also inventory control system. In that decrease,

there is no impact on service delivery anticipated at all.

Mr. Mackintosh: When we are talking of expenditures regarding Correctional Youth Centres, would the minister confirm my understanding that we are then talking of expenditures only at Agassiz and MYC, and on top of that there will be some administrative expenses in Mr. Thiessen's group?

Mrs. Vodrey: In this line it is only the Agassiz Youth Centre and the Manitoba Youth Centre.

Mr. Mackintosh: Does the minister have for distribution, preferably a breakdown of the Professional/Technical SYs, this year over last, in terms of the Agassiz and the Manitoba Youth Centre, or can she advise that there has been no change?

Mrs. Vodrey: I am informed that the total SYs are the same. There has not been a change or a movement between institutions.

Mr. Mackintosh: Does the department contract out additional staffing or have arrangements for secondment from other divisions or departments that would change the staff complement on a temporary or term basis?

Mrs. Vodrey: I am told that for additional staffing needs there will be an exchange either from the adult side or from the community side.

Mr. Mackintosh: Is there a policy in place determining when such a placement would be made?

Mrs. Vodrey: I am told that the reasons would be development opportunities: opportunities for staff to work on the youth side or also to experience a community side or move from community into the institution for the purposes of experience.

* (2040)

Mr. Mackintosh: Will the minister advise what the staff complement is for each of Agassiz and the MYC?

Mrs. Vodrey: For the Agassiz Centre, the SYs are 75.26, and for the Manitoba Youth Centre, 144—for a total of 219.26.

Mr. Mackintosh: Perhaps this is as good a time as any—I was out to Portage la Prairie to speak with some youth a couple of weeks ago. I got out early from that, and I drove to the Agassiz Centre just to see if a tour could be accommodated for me at the time. The staff were at a meeting, and it was not appropriate at that time to do that. I have made a couple of calls to the Youth Centre in the last week or ten days or so to see if I could get a tour of that facility. It was thought today that it would be best if I made such a request through the minister, and I am wondering if such a request could be accommodated at both the facilities so that I can see first-hand how the facilities look or how they operate and as well speak with the staff at the facility.

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chair, yes, we can arrange those tours.

Mr. Mackintosh: Perhaps then I can send correspondence to the minister asking if I can be accommodated on certain dates, and I can do that in the next 10 days or so.

I understand that at the Youth Centre there are a number of what they call cottages. I do not know if that is what they call it within the Youth Centre, and I would like some clarification. The cottages are used, I understand, as open-custody facilities. I wonder if the minister can advise what these cottages are in fact called. Are they open custody, and how many are there? My understanding is, as well, from correspondence that I know the minister has received, that these cottages were designed with 15 beds in mind. I do not know if that is the same for all of them or not, and I would like some clarification as to what the capacity of those cottages is.

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chair, I am informed that at Agassiz there are two cottages which are open-custody cottages. They are dormitory style and accommodate 20 to 25 beds. At the Manitoba Youth Centre there are three open-custody cottages and there are within those cottages approximately 15 rooms.

Mr. Mackintosh: How many beds were the three cottages designed for?

Mrs. Vodrey: Within those open-custody cottages of one room the original plan was then 15 beds.

Mr. Mackintosh: Can the minister advise when the Manitoba Youth Centre opened at its current location?

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chair, the opening date was May 1973.

Mr. Mackintosh: At the time that facility was opened, what was the planned capacity in terms of beds?

Mrs. Vodrey: At that time it was expected the capacity would be about 150.

Mr. Mackintosh: Are there any plans in the works to expand the bed capacity of the Youth Centre?

Mrs. Vodrey: There are no plans for additional beds at the Youth Centre but, as the member knows, it is an initiative of this government to move towards wilderness camps, and with the availability then of the wilderness camp model, it will then allow for some reduction within the Youth Centre.

Mr. Mackintosh: I do not know what Agassiz was. I mean, it looks like it is clearly a much, much older facility than the Youth Centre. When did the Agassiz Centre, as it currently is, come into being?

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chair, we do not have an exact date. Our estimation is the late 1940s, early 1950s.

Mr. Mackintosh: What is the current planned, or how many beds is Agassiz designed for?

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chair, they are designed for between 80 and 100 beds.

Mr. Mackintosh: Currently, how many beds are in the institution?

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chair, I am informed, as of today, 94.

* (2050)

Mr. Mackintosh: What are the number of beds in the two cottages currently?

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chair, as I answered in an earlier question, 20 to 25 beds per cottage.

Mr. Mackintosh: Well, I may have misunderstood the answer then. Is the minister saying that one cottage has 20 beds and the other 25?

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chair, what I am saying is that each cottage can accommodate to 25 beds, were designed for between 20 and 25 beds.

Mr. Mackintosh: Was the Youth Centre designed to allow for single bunking?

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chair, the term "single bunking" was not used in the institutional corrections for youth in the '70s, so it is not possible to transpose the term from that time until now.

Mr. Mackintosh: Well, the individuals housed at the Youth Centre, are they housed in—how many people to a room, or does it vary?

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chair, the rooms accommodate between one and two individuals.

Mr. Mackintosh: Would the minister advise what the range of count is for the most recent week, I guess last week, if that is available, at Agassiz and the Youth Centre?

Mrs. Vodrey: I am informed that at Agassiz the population was between 92 and 94. At the Manitoba Youth Centre, I am told that the numbers reached 218.

Mr. Mackintosh: Does the minister have the count for last Monday available?

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chairperson, we can get the exact number, but I am informed that the number was 216, 217. We are not sure of exactly which number.

Mr. Mackintosh: I was advised that the count for Monday was 230. What would account for the discrepancy of that information coming from the department?

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chairperson, the discrepancy may be that after court on Monday there were some releases and the Monday count was 216, 217.

Mr. Mackintosh: Would the minister therefore advise the committee what the count on Sunday was?

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chairperson, we do not have the count for the Sunday evening, but I am told that the highest population of the Youth Centre, and this information comes from the superintendent, was 230.

Mr. Mackintosh: Would the minister advise when the 230 count was reached?

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chairperson, we do not have the date available to us, at the moment, when that figure was reached.

Mr. Mackintosh: Could the minister advise what the highest count at Agassiz is on record?

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chairperson, I am informed that to the best of our knowledge, the high was about 128 individuals at Agassiz, and we believe that was in the mid-'80s.

Mr. Mackintosh: I wonder if the minister would confirm with Mr. Thiessen or any of her staff that the high count of 230 at the Youth Centre was experienced within the last week, within the last week to ten days.

Mrs. Vodrey: To the best of our knowledge, it may have occurred within the last two weeks.

Just for the member's information, I am told that in '86-87, '87-88 there was a combined total of 311 or more between the institutions. So the institutions have in the past had these numbers, and then there has been fewer numbers within the institution. I am informed that last year in Agassiz there were 67 youth in the Agassiz Centre. So the numbers have shown some fluctuation over the years.

* (2100)

Mr. Mackintosh: Would the minister confirm that at the Youth Centre the counts have been over 200 since at least December?

Mrs. Vodrey: No, I am not able to confirm that. To the best of our knowledge, we had a drop in January, and so we would have to go back and look at the figures.

Mr. Mackintosh: Would the minister confirm that there has been at least a trend of a bed count in excess of 200 that has not been experienced in recent times?

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chair, in taking the long view, we did have very high numbers, as I said, in '86-87, '87-88. It appeared to be cyclical; those numbers then decreased. In the short view, I am told that last summer in Agassiz we actually closed a cottage in terms of the numbers of young people who were at that institution. We have had some cyclical change in recent months, though we had a drop in January again, so in terms of the long view, yes, it goes in cycles. In terms of even the short view within the year, yes, it was lower last summer and also lower in January.

Mr. Mackintosh: I wonder if the minister would describe how the inmates are being housed then at the Youth Centre, given that the facility was designed for 150 beds.

Mrs. Vodrey: I would just like to also put on the record that some of the increase in population most recently has been attributed to the increased prosecution of youth for violent offences and also for auto theft.

In terms of the housing of youth within the Youth Centre—I think it is the Youth Centre the member is speaking about specifically here—youth have then been double bunked in rooms. In single rooms they are now bunked as double rooms, two in a room.

Mr. Mackintosh: Can the minister advise if there are any rooms in which three inmates are housed?

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chair, I am advised that there are none.

Mr. Mackintosh: Just to clarify, is the minister assuring this committee that at no time in the last several months have there been more than two youth inmates in one room, even whether it be for one night?

Mrs. Vodrey: I will have to undertake to find out that information from the member because we do not at the moment have that specific information. Though, I can say to the member that certainly at the moment there are not three to a room and that the inmates in some cases are double bunked, that double bunking does not take place in all cases. There are still some single rooms in the Youth Centre.

Mr. Mackintosh: It might have been just a slip of the tongue, but I think the minister said that she would find out the information from the member. Are you referring to a staff member?

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chair, I beg your pardon, I will find that out from the staff.

Mr. Mackintosh: I wonder if the minister would have that information available when we next meet on these Estimates, which I understand will not be tomorrow in any event.

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chair, yes, we will endeavour to have that information available.

Mr. Mackintosh: Could the minister tell the committee how the double bunking takes place? Are there other mattresses brought into the facility?

Mrs. Vodrey: Yes, there are mattresses brought in to accommodate double bunking.

Mr. Mackintosh: One hears about mattresses on the floor. Is that the situation at the Youth Centre?

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chair, yes, that is correct. Mattresses are brought in and are on the floor.

* (2110)

Mr. Mackintosh: Would the minister tell the committee why the Youth Centre was designed for 150 beds, and why it was designed where many or most of the rooms had one inmate in them?

Mrs. Vodrey: I cannot give the member an historic view of exactly the planning at the time. However, I can tell him that at the time population seemed to indicate approximately 150 population. It would have been excellent at the time had there been a foresight to have done something at that time. There are increases also, I understand and am informed, because of the number of cases which courts adjourn, and that, of course, is not within our power to direct. So in some rooms there are two inmates; there are two young people. They could be accommodated in bunk beds if that were for a longer-term strategy, but, as I said, we have been aware of the numbers fluctuating in the Youth Centre.

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

Mr. Mackintosh: Can the minister advise what the current population of the three cottages at the Youth Centre is?

Mrs. Vodrey: At the moment we do not have the population within the three open-custody cottages here this evening, but we will certainly undertake to find out the numbers in those cottages.

Mr. Mackintosh: Would the minister confirm the allegations of some organizations that have corresponded with her to the effect that it is likely that the population may be in the range of 20 people in each of those cottages?

Mrs. Vodrey: Mr. Acting Chair, I am not able to confirm that, though I could say that with the current population it is possible that the cottages with 15 rooms may have, in fact, a population of 20.

Mr. Mackintosh: Given the minister's information and the information in the Estimates book that the SY complement for the Youth Centre has remained the same as the previous fiscal year, and given that there are no secondments or other ways of securing additional staff for the Youth Centre except for training purposes. I was wondering if the minister has any plan for SY changes in midyear in response to the rising population at the Youth Centre.

* (2120)

Mrs. Vodrey: In the Estimates, there is a line called Indirect Salary Costs, and the Indirect Salary Costs are available to deal with casual staff, to hire casual staff. That casual staff, then, will deal with the fluctuations of population within the institutions. If the population becomes not subject to fluctuation, but continues to remain high for an extended period, then we will have to look at what we would on a longer-term basis, but at the moment we deal with the fluctuations through the line Indirect Salary Costs.

Mr. Mackintosh: The \$711,400 currently allocated on that line, could the minister advise how much of that has already been used up?

Mrs. Vodrey: I am informed that we do not have that specific figure here and that that line does cover also other possibilities such as overtime or

maternity leave. So we would have to look at breaking down how that has been used so far into the year.

But I am informed by the staff here tonight that an estimate to this point would be in the range of \$12,000.

Mr. Mackintosh: Can the minister tell the committee how many additional—and I will use the word “SYs”. I guess we cannot use that, but how many additional staff are currently being retained at the Youth Centre to account for that \$12,000?

Mrs. Vodrey: I am informed that we do not have the exact number of individuals here this evening, but as a rule, where there is a high number in a cottage, where the number may approach 20, we would bring in one additional staff, and in that case, that additional staff would be there in the day. In the evenings, we do not have the additional staff because the young people are in their rooms, and they are not receiving program in the evenings.

Mr. Mackintosh: Are any additional staff brought in for the rest of the centre; in other words, excluding the cottages?

Mrs. Vodrey: Mr. Acting Chairperson, where there is a larger number, then we bring in extra staff. For instance, if it is 20 young people, then we would bring in one extra staff, and that staff would then accompany the cottage members as they went about the programs of the day.

But I would also like to add to that that where there is a high risk of suicide that has been assessed or where there is an extremely disruptive young person, those are two other circumstances in which we would bring in additional staff at the Youth Centre.

Mr. Mackintosh: Well, other than with regard to the cottage areas, are there any additional staff currently deployed at the Youth Centre in addition to the regular SY complement?

Mrs. Vodrey: Mr. Acting Chairperson, yes, there is an emergency response team. The people who are part of the emergency response team do have other functions, but they are available, should there

be difficulty within a cottage, to assist and to provide their expertise.

Mr. Mackintosh: I would like to get away from the cottages, though, and talk about the rest of the Youth Centre. Are there any additional staff who are deployed there currently in addition to the SY complement?

Mrs. Vodrey: The other staff who are in the Youth Centre are admission staff, kitchen staff, recreation staff, nursing staff, and those staff are all there and available in the day staff complement of the Youth Centre.

Mr. Mackintosh: Then I take it from the series of answers that under Indirect Salary Costs, there currently is no expenditure on additional staff in the Youth Centre, other than at the cottages.

Mrs. Vodrey: Mr. Acting Chair, I am trying to anticipate what the member is looking for, and maybe if I could just tell him a little bit about the cottages, because he seems to be unclear about the reason the extra staff would be assigned to the cottages, and that is that programming occurs within the cottages.

That is where the educational programming occurs, and that is where the young people have the programming that occurs during the day. So that is why the extra staffing is in the programming area. Where young people then move to recreation, the cottage staff then would accompany them to the recreation area, so that they become staff available to assist the functioning of the Youth Centre.

I would also add that there are holding cells, as well, in the Youth Centre that require additional staffing also, so there are then four reasons that we would look at additional staffing at the Youth Centre. I spoke about suicide concerns. I spoke about disruptive behaviour, the holding cells and if there is an increase in number such as 220, that would also require an additional staffperson.

Mr. Mackintosh: From my simple math skills, it appears that a minority of youth at the facility are housed in the cottages. I understand there are three cottages, 15 beds each, but that is the planned capacity, and so I am basing it on that, compared to 150 overall.

Mrs. Vodrey: There are 10 cottages at the Youth Centre. The member asked in an earlier question how many might be open-custody cottages, and the answer at the Youth Centre was three open custody. There are 10 cottages. The Youth Centre is divided into the cottage system.

Mr. Mackintosh: I thank the minister for that clarification. That explains the series of answers there.

I have some concerns about whether the increase in the count will jeopardize security at the Youth Centre. Are there additional security people available and deployed when the count is as it is now, over 200?

* (2130)

Mrs. Vodrey: As I said in an earlier answer, the Manitoba Youth Centre has an emergency response team. The emergency response team is available to deal with any disturbances which may occur in the cottages. There is an in-charge person who is charged with monitoring and making sure that there is not a disturbance which might require the emergency response team. Certainly if that does occur, then the in-charge person contacts the emergency response team, who then comes, and they begin to deal with the issue.

Mr. Mackintosh: Will the minister advise who comprises the emergency response team?

Mrs. Vodrey: There is the in-charge person and also people who generally work in the area of admissions that are part of the emergency response team. When there is a disturbance, then generally two people, initially, respond from the emergency response team. Then, if more are required, more attend.

Mr. Mackintosh: Is this emergency response team available 24 hours a day?

Mrs. Vodrey: Yes, it is.

Mr. Mackintosh: My concern about the count is due to a number of issues. First of all, I wonder how effective discipline is possible in that kind of a situation, how there can be adequate control. I am also concerned about the threat to security, both of staff and other inmates, and to the public.

Would the minister advise if there have been any attempted or successful escapes from the institution in the last six months, that is, since I became aware that the count was over 200 at the summit in December?

Mrs. Vodrey: As the member knows, there was one incident in late winter/early spring in which individuals kicked out a window frame, not the window, but they were actually able to dislodge the frame, which was something which had not ever occurred before in the Youth Centre and has certainly caused us then to look at how that happened in that instance and have taken measures to ensure that that is not possible. However, since that time and certainly within the last two months, there have been no instances at all.

Mr. Mackintosh: Could the minister advise whether to her knowledge there have been any disturbances within the facility involving threats to security?

Mrs. Vodrey: I am told that we certainly are not aware of any planned instances of disruption in the recent past. As the member knows, there will always be individual testing instances, but there has not been a planned disruption certainly in the recent past.

Mr. Mackintosh: Is the minister aware of complaints being made to senior staff in her department, including Mr. Thiessen or Mr. Ross, from staff at the Youth Centre regarding concerns about security in the facility?

Mrs. Vodrey: Mr. Acting Chair, I am informed by the executive director that the head of the Youth Centre has not informed him of any concern about a breach of security, that we recognize the need to monitor the fluctuating population. However, in terms of a security risk, I am informed that no such information or concern has been delivered.

Mr. Mackintosh: The other concern I have with regard to the present count, in addition to the security risk, is the effect that it has on changing the behaviour of inmates. I would now like to get into a discussion about the programs and the availability of staff to conduct those programs. I am just wondering, Gary, do you have any questions on the numbers or—

Mr. Kowalski: I will ask for the patience of the committee because I may review a couple of things that I was not too clear on.

At the Manitoba Youth Centre, there are three open-custody cottages and seven closed-custody cottages. I understand in the three open-custody cottages, they are dormitory style with 15 beds per cottage. Is that correct?

Mrs. Vodrey: I am pleased to be able to make the correction. In the Manitoba Youth Centre, the three open-custody cottages are 15 rooms. It is at Agassiz Youth Centre that it is dormitory style with 20 to 25 beds in the dormitory.

Mr. Kowalski: How large are these rooms? What is the square footage?

Mrs. Vodrey: We do not have the square footage available to us this evening, though we could undertake to get that for the member.

* (2140)

Mr. Kowalski: Where I was going is that depending on the size of the rooms and the number of people in there, I understand there are certain guidelines as to the amount of square footage per person for correctional facilities by Amnesty International.

(Madam Chairperson in the Chair)

I am wondering if, because of the number of young people being charged with offences and requiring custody and the need to accommodate these young people, are we getting close to the point where we are in conflict with guidelines set by Amnesty International for the amount of space per person?

This is why I would like to find out the size of the rooms and the number of people we are putting in those rooms.

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chairperson, having spoken with the staff, they are not aware of United Nations guidelines. Amnesty may have some guidelines. As the member knows, they do not set government policy at any level. So in terms of their guidelines, I do not have the square footage available tonight, and I do not know the amount of space that the member is referring to.

Mr. Kowalski: But the minister will provide that information as far as how large these rooms are and what the square footage is.

Mrs. Vodrey: Yes, we will provide that information.

Mr. Kowalski: Figures have been floated in the media and elsewhere as to the cost to keep a young offender in custody. Now, realizing that it is only going to be an average cost depending on what programs and what the special needs are of the children, does Corrections have an average cost to keep a young offender in custody for a year in our correctional system?

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chairperson, I am informed that the average amount per day is approximately \$127.

Mr. Kowalski: So I have to use my arithmetic and times it by 365 to figure out the yearly cost, and that would be a correct figure?

Mrs. Vodrey: In our quick mathematics to do that for the member, the amount is approximately \$46,300.

Mr. Kowalski: I do not know if this figure is available, but teacher-to-inmate ratio in the Manitoba Youth Centre for not young offenders on remand but young offenders in closed custody, sentenced young offenders. As far as educational program, what would be the ratio of teachers to inmates?

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chairperson, the policy has been one teacher per cottage area so the ratio would be somewhere between one to 15 or 20.

Mr. Kowalski: How many hours a day would the teacher spend in an educational program with these sentenced young offenders?

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chairperson, as I said, there is one teacher responsible for a cottage, which would be in the range of 15 to 20 students, and there would also be in the classroom other cottage staff who are available to act as aids. There would be at least two other individuals at a minimum, other than the teacher, in the classroom setting. So we are looking at three adults per 15 to 20 young people. The school day is as a regular school day, 9 until 3:30.

Mr. Kowalski: The reason I go along this line of questioning is my experience with young offenders who go in for periods of six months or longer quite often lose a school year as a result of being in detention, and this is counterproductive to their rehabilitation, to their self-esteem, to a number of things.

Quite often what happens is the young offender is usually a person with low self-esteem to start off with, having a number of personal problems, and to go back after anywhere from six months to nine months into a school system and find that their peers have moved on to another grade is counterproductive.

What would be a comparison of the teacher-to-student ratio in Manitoba with other provinces? Do we have any comparison data?

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chairperson, I am told that we do not have available for us this evening the ratio from other provinces for the educational program within their institution of teacher or teacher-teacher aide for those young people. However, I feel it is important to comment on the member's concern about the loss of a school year and would just remind him that achievement of any kind takes motivation also and takes the engagement of the young person into the learning process.

* (2150)

What we have available at the Youth Centre is some attention to the needs that the member has spoken about in terms of programs which deal with needs in addition to academic needs.

Mr. Kowalski: It is just my experience that the actual outcome that is happening is students are losing a year, that those same students in the public school system outside of the Youth Centre would not necessarily have lost that year. No one could say for sure. Maybe it is a result, as the minister has suggested, that as a result of being in detention, some motivation is lost. But it is a problem.

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chairperson, I was not attributing a loss of motivation to being within the Youth Centre. I was speaking about young people in general and their engagement in the educational system and the need for engagement and

motivation wherever young people may be attending school, whether they are attending school within the institution, whether they are attending school within their community or on other kinds of terms and whether or not some of the issues which the member speaks about are being attended to.

The member knows that for young people in whatever setting, sometimes when they are dealing with one issue, the issue of their emotional stability, their academic achievement may be lower, and that is not necessarily a result of being in the institution. That can occur in any number of places for young people. So I am not giving him an answer. I am not saying that it is a result of being in the Youth Centre that is the cause of a loss of a year.

Mr. Kowalski: I will not belabour the point, but I have had a number of anecdotal experiences where a child has passed from grade to grade over a number of years, and the year that they spend in the Youth Centre, they lose that year. They do not continue their progress in the Youth Centre for whatever reason. Possibly if that was not the factor, that the chance of them repeat-offending would be reduced, but I do not want to belabour that point.

One question that comes to mind is: With the new federal government's proposed amendments to the Young Offenders Act, with more 16- and 17-year-olds being tried in adult court, I am assuming, when this is passed, that it would have an effect on the population in our juvenile correctional facilities. Has that been forecast?

Mrs. Vodrey: As the member knows, the transfer to adult court, the presumption in favour of transfer, is only in very narrow circumstances. The circumstances are murder or serious bodily injury, and so it is not as if it is all young people who are 16 and 17 with a presumption of transfer to adult court. It is only young people who are 16 and 17 in a very narrow range of offences which we could look to, have transferred to adult court. So the effect on population at this point is not known.

Mr. Kowalski: I imagine Corrections do have the information as to what young offenders are in for

which type of offences, and the number of 16- and 17-year-olds who are charged with those serious offences, that information, I imagine, is available to the department. I am wondering if they could give an estimate, from using those figures, on what effect it will have.

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chairperson, the staff estimate it could be between four and 12, though what falls into the range of serious bodily injury in the minds of the federal government has not made itself clear yet.

Mr. Kowalski: As far as incidence of conflict between young offenders who are in correctional facilities, are they always reported to the police if there is an assault of any type? I am talking from pushing and shoving to slapping to striking. Are some of them just reported in the form of some type of incident report, or is there a policy that all assaults between inmates are reported to the police?

Mrs. Vodrey: I am told that in situations of physical assault, bodily assault, yes, there is a report to the police. However, sometimes the victim will not agree, and sometimes the victim will refuse to co-operate in terms of an investigation. In that case then, the individuals within the cottage itself will then take some effort to discipline.

Mr. Kowalski: From the minister's comments, I understand that with every incident, whether they are reported to the police or not, there will be some type of incident report filed within the correctional system?

Mrs. Vodrey: Yes, that is correct.

Mr. Kowalski: Has the Corrections branch done any type of study to see if there is a direct correlation between the number of incidents and the number of inmates in correctional facilities?—in other words, as there are more inmates, there is an increase in the number of incidents.

Mrs. Vodrey: I am advised that over this past weekend, there were very few incident reports. I am advised that last week, that was one of the lowest weeks of incident report. So it does not seem to follow necessarily that the higher numbers lead to higher incident reports.

Mr. Kowalski: Knowing about these last two weeks is useful, but has there ever been a study done over a period of time showing if there is a correlation between the number of inmates in the Manitoba Youth Centre and the number of incidents of conflict between the inmates?

* (2200)

Mrs. Vodrey: I am informed that there has not been a specific study on the correlation between the number of incidents and the population within the Youth Centre. Again, the best information I can give the member is that most recent information. We have just examined the numbers within the Manitoba Youth Centre within the past couple of weeks and to tell him again that last week was among the lowest in terms of incident reports and also this weekend was very low.

Mr. Kowalski: I would encourage the minister or the department to possibly consider such a study, because my experience in another area is that when the staff get under stress from working with limited resources and an ever-expanding demand for service, what happens is such things as reporting becomes secondary to taking care of business. That could be attributed to the lower number of incidents, because when you have worked your eight-, 10- or 12-hour shift and you are up to your maximum in number of inmates, you are under-resourced. At the end of the shift to stay and write out reports the staff may not be motivated to do that. That may end up being a shortcoming in their performance.

I think that is just human nature, that the first concern is the safety of the public and the safety of the inmates, that the reporting takes secondary consideration. That could be what the lower number of incident reports could be attributed to.

I hope the Corrections staff will consider that, look at it. I think there are a number of studies done about overcrowding in—besides correctional facilities, but whether they looked at overcrowding of rats in a cage or a number of studies done that the more overcrowding, the more incidents of violence in a number of spheres. I think there are a number of sociological studies and I think it would be wise for the Corrections department to look at

an independent study done on the effect overcrowding has on the number of violent incidents in the correctional facilities.

The last area I would like to talk about, the inmate population at the Manitoba Youth Centre. I am curious from many years experience. Is there a pattern of seasonal blips in the population that is normal? Are there certain times of year when the population normally expands and other times when there is a normal decrease in population? When are those times?

Mrs. Vodrey: Yes, there does seem to be a fluctuation based on season for inmates in the Manitoba Youth Centre specifically. I am informed that we usually have the lowest counts in the summer and also around Christmastime. We usually see an increase in the count in the fall and also in the spring.

Mr. Kowalski: As far as security at the Manitoba Youth Centre, is there a benchmark, I do not think that is the correct word, but a number of staff you need for security—to guard a door, it takes one person, and whether you have 25 people behind that door or 10 people behind the door, there is a minimum number you need for security—that that number is always maintained? Is there that type of dimension that for security purposes it does not increase proportionately with the number of inmates that are in the facility?

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chair, I hesitate to say too much about the security because I am not interested in divulging what the security is to provide a blueprint for anybody who wants to breach the security. I think, to reassure the member, the important points are that there is a staffing pattern to deal with the security. As most people know, the Youth Centre also has the perimeter security. Beyond that, and speaking out on the record, I hesitate to speak further about the security patterns in the Youth Centre.

Mr. Kowalski: Just from my experience, the large numbers that are presently in the Manitoba Youth Centre concern me as far as programming, rehabilitation of the young offenders, the effect of overcrowding on violent tendencies.

From my experience at the Youth Centre, with the security that is there, you could put double the number of young offenders, and the security is still there. It is just that the young offenders in there will not receive any programming, and it will be counterproductive. I do not believe that there is any reason for people living in that area to fear anything from the number of kids in there, but I do fear for the kids who are in there, for their benefit.

Mrs. Vodrey: I appreciate the member's responsible comments on the issue of security within the Youth Centre and how that security is managed. I gather we will be moving shortly into the area of discussion of programs. So at that point perhaps I can answer his questions about the program area.

Mr. Kowalski: Has there ever been a count of 230 at the Youth Centre before?

Mrs. Vodrey: I believe, when I answered that question previously, I said to the member that I would undertake to find out the highs and when they had existed in the past.

* (2210)

Mr. Mackintosh: I have a number of questions about the programs that are available at the Youth Centre. One thing that may be more time efficient is if I can go to the facility, and I will find out what programs are available and what the daily routine is. Those are questions that would be readily available at that time. As well, I will be particularly interested in what counselling, rehabilitation programs are available in addition to life skills and curriculum.

One question that may not be answered at the facility is, are there any changes contemplated to the program at the Manitoba Youth Centre and at Agassiz?

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chairperson, I am informed that the programs which are currently in place, there has been a great deal of effort in recent years to develop those programs and their protocol. However, programs are always being reviewed to meet the needs of the inmate population at the time. As the member knows, and I have stated publicly, we are moving towards more rigorous confinement in the institutions, and

so any further changes would be the subject of an announcement.

Mr. Mackintosh: Is the minister prepared to define for the committee what she means by more rigorous confinement, and what changes will that have on program delivery, on the different routine in the institution?

Mrs. Vodrey: As I said, the changes which will take place within a more rigorous confinement will be changes that will be the subject of an announcement, as those changes occur, as we are prepared to put them into place.

I have used the term more rigorous confinement overall just to continue to indicate that our Corrections facilities are not meant to be holiday camps, that our Corrections facilities are corrections, and though they will have within their programming that programming which will assist the individual in terms of rehabilitation, because that has always been a part and has never been spoken about being removed—but the way the day is spent or when programming is offered will be the subject of an announcement. By the “when”, I mean in terms of how the day is organized.

So beyond that, I am not this evening going to speak about exactly the details of the movement towards more rigorous confinement. However, I have spoken about the overall principle of certainly making sure that time within the institutions is meaningful and is not a holiday.

Mr. Mackintosh: What is the minister’s position on youth serving time in adult facilities?

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chair, as the member may know, there are only certain provisions within the Young Offenders Act which allow for the transfer to an adult facility. We have spoken about one tonight. That is section 7(2) of the remand in which the young person cannot be safely held within the youth facility. Another, section 24(5) is where the youth is 18 years old and where the youth is troublesome and where the youth is seen as a security risk, and the superintendent also is able to take temporary short-term action. However, in each of these situations, there is always a court review.

In terms of my opinion, I think it is important that we have strict adherence to the law. We do have judicial review, and I can tell the member that we follow the act.

Mr. Mackintosh: I wonder what the minister’s view is with regard to the transferring-in provisions as contemplated by the proposed amendments to the Young Offenders Act. What is her thinking on whether those youth transferred into adult court should also then be serving their time in an adult facility?

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chair, as the member knows, when the youth is transferred to adult court, that young person would then serve their time within an adult facility. As I said, we have had strict adherence to the law in Manitoba, and I expect that should that provision or proposal become law, we will continue to have strict adherence to the law in Manitoba.

Mr. Mackintosh: My question to the minister was, given that reality under the changes of the Young Offenders Act, what is her position as to whether or not youths should be serving time in the adult facilities? What is her position with regard to the amendments on that issue?

Mrs. Vodrey: As I said earlier, my position is if that becomes the law then we follow the law.

Mr. Mackintosh: Just to clarify, is the minister in support of the amendments if the youth are going to be serving their time in adult facilities?

* (2220)

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chair, again, we would like to see that proposal. We have only heard about it orally. We have not seen it. We do not know what financial assistance or arrangements may also be available. So at this point we would like to take our time to look at what the actual proposal is.

Mr. Mackintosh: I want to turn to the youth camp proposal. I wonder if the member for The Maples has any questions under programs.

Mr. Kowalski: A question arises as far as a per diem cost. I think it would be an average of \$127 per day. Does that include the soft costs such as staff training, staff development, or is that just the

per diem costs, the actual costs, direct costs for housing the inmate?

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chairperson, I am informed that \$127-a-day average includes all departmental costs.

Mr. Kowalski: How does that compare with the cost to house an inmate in an adult correctional facility?

Mrs. Vodrey: I am informed for adult inmates the average cost is between \$90 and \$100 a day, and that the cost for youth is somewhat higher because youth do have to attend a school program and also the inmate ratio.

Mr. Kowalski: I know the minister has stated already she has not seen the proposal from the federal government, and it is sort of talking hypothetically and on speculation, but if 16- and 17-year-olds are tried in adult court and kept in adult correctional facilities, does that mean the educational program opportunities they would have as young offenders they would not get in the adult facility?

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chairperson, again, we are speaking with a great deal of hypothetical, because we do not know what arrangements the federal minister may wish to fund—and we hope he does fund—for young people who move into the adult institutions. So we will look to see if he provides us some money for additional educational resources for those young people who serve their time in adult institutions. He has not said yet what his plan is.

Mr. Kowalski: Just on the subject of tours of the Manitoba Youth Centre, I know through Mr. Thiessen's branch, Community and Youth Corrections, that for members of youth justice committees, annually they have one or two tours through the Youth Centre.

I know the member for St. Johns (Mr. Mackintosh), if he was a member of the North Winnipeg Youth Justice Committee, he would have that opportunity, and I know they are looking for volunteers. So that might be another way of facilitating a tour of the Youth Centre. So I will just share that information.

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chair, before going on to the next topic area, I wonder if it would be possible and in agreement of the committee to have a five-minute break.

Madam Chairperson: Is that the will of the committee?

This committee will take a seven-minute recess and reconvene at 10:35 p.m.

The committee recessed at 10:27

After Recess

The committee resumed at 10:36 p.m.

Madam Chairperson: The committee will reconvene. Correctional Youth Centres.

Mr. Mackintosh: I thought I would nip at the bait offered by the member for The Maples and just put on the record, because I think it is important to do that—the member for the Maples' involvement on the youth justice committee is commendable. I do not know if that was in the course of his employment or not, but certainly it was spurred on by his employment.

I might advise the committee that I am active in establishing a youth justice committee in St. Johns, and we now have the people and will be submitting the proposal to the department soon. As well, I might advise that I was very active in the establishment of several neighbourhood watches in my community. I might advise as well that I am very proud of the fact that my wife, who really worked very hard on this, was one of only two people in north Winnipeg to receive the crime prevention award last year from the City of Winnipeg police department. I want to say I am very active in community endeavours to make our area safer.

But the issue is not the volunteerism, I think, of particular MLAs so much as the need for a provincial role to spur youth justice committees and other crime prevention initiatives in the province of Manitoba.

I just want to deal briefly with the youth camp proposal that was sent out—or I am just reflecting now on some of the minister's comments of a few days ago, where she said that the guideline for a

proposal to operate a youth camp was not in fact sent out except to those who requested a copy. First of all, I am concerned about whether there has been good access to this information by aboriginal groups and would like to ask the minister whether the concept of the youth camp and the guideline has been forwarded to aboriginal communities, to the tribal councils, for example.

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chairperson, the guidelines that the member refers to were sent out in response to what was a number of unsolicited proposals which came forward to the department, and so this was in response to those groups to say, where you wish to submit information, here are the kinds of issues that we are looking at.

In terms of the aboriginal communities in a wider sense, there was a consultation last week, a formal consultation. I am told that there have been informal discussions before this time, but a formal consultation took place last week with AMC and the Aboriginal Council of Winnipeg. At that time the guidelines for such proposals were discussed with those groups.

* (2240)

Mr. Mackintosh: Could the minister advise whether there are any changes contemplated to the guideline as a result of that discussion with AMC and the Aboriginal Council?

Mrs. Vodrey: I am informed, at that meeting, that they did not speak just to the guidelines, but instead, spoke about issues of interest and concerns specifically to aboriginal people, and certainly we will take very careful note of the issues that have been raised.

I am informed that one of the issues that was raised was the issue of follow-up, and that is certainly an issue that I have spoken about as well in the House. So we have had a very formal opportunity now, in addition to some informal discussions which have taken place, to hear fully what the concerns are from representatives of the aboriginal community. As I have said, we will be certainly taking all of those into consideration.

Mr. Mackintosh: The guideline states that the youth camp must have costs which can be accommodated within existing provincial

correctional budget allocations. Would the minister advise how a youth camp can be accommodated within the existing budget, and if she is considering a per diem rate only, what is the likely range of the per diem?

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chair, as I have said, the camp referred to as the boot camp will take place within our existing facilities, and we will be able to accommodate that within our existing budget. In terms of the wilderness camp proposals, we are also looking to incorporate those within our existing budget. However, at the moment I am not able to give the member specifics about exactly which line and which part the wilderness camp will be accommodated from within this appropriation.

Mr. Mackintosh: Well, the budget surely somewhere has to allow for a wilderness camp if that is what is contemplated. Can the minister not at least advise, if not which line, how much money is being allocated for the development of a wilderness camp?

Mrs. Vodrey: As I have said, there are a series of options which are being examined at this moment, and so I am not able to tell the member exactly which of those options or a combination of those options we will be accepting as a government. However, we have made the commitment to examine the options and then to accommodate from the existing budget.

Mr. Mackintosh: What is the planned number of beds for the wilderness camp?

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chair, again that varies with the options that we are considering, but in terms of a range that has been presented to us, as we are looking at developing options, the range is somewhere from 12 through a maximum of 50.

Mr. Mackintosh: Is the wilderness camp or the youth camp intended to broaden the net and bring in offenders that would otherwise not have been incarcerated, or is it instead to deal with youth that would otherwise be incarcerated?

Mrs. Vodrey: As the member would know, we only will be taking in those young people who are sentenced to custody.

Mr. Mackintosh: Well, I take it then, sentenced to custody in the courts rather like—will this be an option available to youth justice committees, for example, to deal with first-time offenders?

Mrs. Vodrey: At this point, they are not intended to do that.

Mr. Mackintosh: The proposal states that the participation and the initiative by the private sector is being welcomed. Would the minister advise why that sentence is in there?

Mrs. Vodrey: You know, I hesitate to look at the other side of that. Would the member have preferred us to say that they were unwelcome ideas?

The sentence was there. We have been interested in hearing from Manitobans on their views. We have heard from lots of Manitobans, including Manitobans representing the private sector, and we have been open to the ideas of Manitobans. That sentence indicates the openness to listen to the ideas of Manitobans.

Mr. Mackintosh: Will our initiatives by the for-profit private sector be welcomed?

Mrs. Vodrey: I can say to the member that we have not closed the door on any group or any set of individuals or group of people who want to provide us with ideas.

Mr. Mackintosh: I remind the minister that she is not just requesting ideas; she is requesting a proposal for the operation of a youth camp.

The final line in that—

* (2250)

Point of Order

Mrs. Vodrey: On a point of order, I would remind the member that we are not requesting anything. I take issue with the words that he has used there. Where we have received information, we have said to groups, if you wish to provide us with information then these are the kinds of issues which we are looking at. It is a way for groups to organize their thoughts, where they have ideas to put forward to government.

Madam Chairperson: The honourable Minister of Justice does not have a point of order. It is a dispute over the facts.

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Mr. Mackintosh: I just read, it says here, participation in this initiative by the private sectors being welcomed. I can only conclude that the private sector is being welcomed in running some initiative for a youth camp.

In the final sentence of the guideline for the proposal, people are asked to contact Terry Rempel. Could the minister advise what Terry Rempel's position is in the department?

Mrs. Vodrey: Terry Rempel is the co-ordinator of special projects.

Mr. Mackintosh: Did the minister's department, before it sent out or before it provided this guideline to whoever was interested, research on the experiences in other places of the for-profit private sector being engaged in supervision or the guarding or the security of surveillance of correctional facilities?

Mrs. Vodrey: Certainly, as a matter of course and as issues within Corrections, the department of Corrections in Manitoba Justice reviews information that is available from both private and publicly run institutions and types of correctional facilities.

Mr. Mackintosh: My question is, has the minister reviewed studies from other jurisdictions as to their experience with for-profit supervision and surveillance of correctional facilities?

Mrs. Vodrey: I believe I did answer that in the last answer that I provided. It is part of the research that is being done all the time in the department of Corrections. It is research into correctional issues.

Mr. Mackintosh: The minister continues to use the words "boot camp," and in that regard she apparently is talking about a type of facility within the—either Agassiz or Manitoba Youth Centre. Is that correct?

Mrs. Vodrey: Yes, that is correct.

Mr. Mackintosh: I also understand the minister has clearly repudiated the U.S. military-style boot

camp for application in Manitoba. Is that understanding correct?

Mrs. Vodrey: I would like to say we are focusing, as I said in the beginning, on the made-in-Manitoba model. We are looking at our own Manitobalaws and Canadian laws. We are looking at the needs of the inmates who would be within that institution. So, as I have always said from the very beginning, we are looking at a made-in-Manitoba model.

Mr. Mackintosh: Just to clarify then, is the minister not looking at a military-type program?

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chairperson, as I have said each time I have answered these questions, we are not looking at transposing an American military model into Manitoba. We will be looking at drawing on the strengths of our own research, of our own views and what has been brought forward by Manitobans. I have also always said that we will be looking at a series of principles. The series of principles will be that the atmosphere will be highly structured. If highly structured refers to militaristic, it will be highly structured.

It will also have well-known rules and consequences. It will also have an austere environment, and it will also have a very high level of activity. If those principles are also principles within a military model, then those are the principles that we are looking at incorporating into our model, but we are not looking at taking a specific program or U.S. model in its entirety and transporting that into Manitoba. However, the principles that I have just described are the principles that we will be looking at and we will be founding our model upon.

Mr. Mackintosh: Is the minister's program looking at military drills, for example, rigorous exercise?

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chairperson, we are looking at rigorous exercise. Now the member is wondering if it will be in the form of military drills specifically. I am not sure what he has in mind there. Does he have in mind running? Does he have in mind kinds of physical fitness programs that might be found in a military operation or a military camp? I can assure him that in what we

will be offering in Manitoba, yes, there will be a very high level of activity and there will be rigorous exercise, but it will be, again, a model that we will make work here in Manitoba. It will be our made-in-Manitoba model.

Mr. Mackintosh: The minister's description sounds more like a jail than a boot camp, and I wonder if the minister can comment on that. I do not see how her statements or her description reflects what are the essential features of a boot camp. Is the word "boot camp" really a misnomer?

Mrs. Vodrey: The term "boot camp" flowed from the summit, from discussions at the summit, in speaking of an institution or a program within an institution which was characterized by the principles that I have been discussing. So, when I use the term "boot camp," I have always used boot camp in connection with those principles that I have set forward tonight. I set them forward at the very beginning. I set them forward when I was being asked if we were even considering the boot camp model before I made the announcement.

So I have never varied from the principles that we will be looking at in Manitoba. They have been there from the beginning. Those principles came to be termed the boot camp, and that is exactly how they have always been used in Manitoba. The term has referred to, again, a very rigorous confinement. It has spoken about a unit within the existing institution which will have the most rigorous confinement. It will be characterized by an experience for the young people who are there, an experience with rules, an experience with structure, an experience with an austere environment and an experience with a very high level of activity. That level of activity will include physical activity.

* (2300)

The level will also include work. I have spoken about the fact that work will be a part of the regime within the boot camp, that it is important for young people, in this case—because we are speaking about boot camp within the Youth Centre—that it is very important that young people develop a value for a sense of work and also for a sense of community contribution. So those will be essential

features of what is put forward in the made-in-Manitoba model.

Mr. Mackintosh: I think the minister is involved in some rather circuitous descriptions over the last few months, because certainly people at the summit, for example, who were provided information from the minister's department on boot camps were advised very clearly. It is a military-type program involving military drills. They use the examples of Cleveland, Denver and Mobile, and I contacted one of those places and discovered that it was in fact the U.S. military-style boot camp, clear and simple. Now the minister is talking about something that appears to be quite different and, in fact, talks about some concepts that I think sound commendable, although we would certainly want to see what the details are of the program.

I would like to get some clarification from the minister as to where this boot camp is going to be, and I use that term because I do not know what else we are supposed to call this, but this rigorous confinement or whatever, is going to be located.

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chair, let me say, again, very firmly that everything I have said about boot camp, everything I have said about our movement toward boot camp has been consistent and has been the same from the very beginning. I have never varied from the principles I have spoken about, and I have always made sure that those principles were covered by or under the umbrella of the made-in-Manitoba model.

Yes, there are facilities in the United States which offer programs, some to youth and some to adults, but we have said, again, from the very beginning, that what we take from those programs is, in particular, the principles I have spoken about and that we will be putting into place in Manitoba a system of rigorous confinement.

I have also said from the very beginning that we recognize in dealing with young people that there is also a need for some treatment programs, and we have spoken during the course of these Estimates about the need for, in some cases, drug, alcohol and substance abuse programming. I have never suggested this kind of programming would not be

available. In fact, I have always spoken about the availability of this program within our model.

However, I can only attempt to make it clear again that we are moving towards a rigorous confinement. I do not have a problem in describing it as a boot camp model because the boot camp model is based on the principles I have been speaking about, the experience of structure, the experience of rules, the experience of consequence, the experience of a high level of activity. That is exactly what we are moving toward in this process of confinement.

Yes, we are looking for this to occur within the Manitoba Youth Centre. In fact, that is certainly our plan, and we are on target to have that occur.

Mr. Mackintosh: Just a final question, again for clarification, will this rigorous confinement model include rigorous life skills, rigorous education, rigorous counselling? Finally, given that the boot camp model has not proven to be culturally sensitive, what steps is the minister taking to ensure that any such change in custody options is going to be sensitive to particularly the needs and aspirations of aboriginal people?

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chair, I can say that within the new model, yes, there will be an education program with expectations; yes, there will be the kinds of treatment programs. However, there will be also the component of rigorous activity and work and structure; and, if the member has not somehow decided or wants to characterize this as in some way not such a rigorous experience, then I certainly would differ from his point of view.

We understand that we are dealing with youth, and I know that a number of the portrayals of boot camp have been with adults. In fact, when there have been portrayals and characterizations put forward, they have been basically the adult model. We recognize that we are dealing with youth. However, I will certainly make clear again that this will not be a holiday camp. This will be an experience with structure, and, as the member knows, a lot of young people have not ever really experienced the structure. They might know about it, but they think that it does not apply to them.

This will be a time when the structure most certainly will apply to those young people.

Also, the member's question was about sensitivity to cultural issues, particularly for the aboriginal community. We certainly now make every attempt to have that cultural sensitivity. As the members knows, we have elders, and we have a number of committees that are dealing with the sensitivity around aboriginal issues, and I do not have any intention of not including that sensitivity. However, again, I come back to the principles that will characterize the more rigorous confinement and the boot camp wilderness model.

Mr. Kowalski: Yes, I have memorized certain phrases, made-in-Manitoba rigorous confinement, made-in-Manitoba solution, but I have not quite memorized the four principles yet. I just want to make sure I have them. The four principles to rigorous confinement is an austere environment, high level of activity, known consequences. What aspect have I missed?

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chair, very well-known rules. The very well-known rules will be what will provide the structure, and then the consequences, if someone breaks those rules, also are a part of the structure, so it is an intended structured experience for the young person.

Mr. Kowalski: I do not see in this guideline for a proposed operated youth camp, whoever operates these youth camps, will they have any responsibility for the follow-up care?

Mrs. Vodrey: In answer to the member's question, I have not made the announcement or a detailed announcement on how things will operate, but one thing I have been very clear in saying is that, yes, there certainly will be follow-up and that we have recognized that some of the difficulties or the rate of recidivism in some of the programs has been higher because there has not been follow-up, and so we have recognized that, yes, there is follow-up needed and we certainly intend to offer it.

* (2310)

Mr. Kowalski: I notice, in the guideline, operation by September 1, 1994. Can I assume that

the follow-up programs will be in place by September 1, 1994, also?

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chair, we intend to have youth move into this program in the early part of September. When most young people are ready for release at whatever stage, then certainly the follow-up will be there for them.

Mr. Kowalski: Now, we are going to have what the minister is indicating, an alternative correction facility in the city, and we will also have wilderness camps. Who will make the decision, and what criteria will be used to decide which young offender goes to which type of camp?

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chair, again, I have not made the announcement. I am not attempting to withhold information during this process, but I have not made the announcement specifically about how they will operate, and so I am not able to tell the member at this time. It will be the subject of an announcement.

Mr. Kowalski: Will the same four principles to rigorous confinement be in both facilities, both the urban facility and the rural facility?

Mrs. Vodrey: Yes, those are the principles that we are looking at for the rigorous confinement, including the boot camp and the wilderness camp model.

Mr. Kowalski: In the guideline, at the end of programming, it states that the basis for proposed programs and research evidence supporting validity of the programs shall be submitted. Now, in her four principles, what research indicates that those four principles are effective and necessary? I will give an example, an austere environment, on what basis is that part of one of the principles? Is there research showing that an austere environment lowers the number of repeat offenders, or is it based upon an austere environment is more cost effective? On what basis is that austere environment part of rigorous confinement?

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chair, I believe it only makes sense that it is not desirable to come back to a place in which the atmosphere is extremely austere and does not offer to you those amenities

and pleasures which you might have in another place.

Mr. Kowalski: The minister did not really say—is it based on research or just her personal perceptions and experiences from where she is at now, what she sees now, which might be different than what I have seen and where I am at or some of these young people? Is it based on research or just a gut reaction? If research showed that an austere environment, in fact, increased the number of repeat offenders or increased the negative effects on these young offenders, why would we do it? Has there not been research, before these principles were put in place, that they are effective? I do not understand, if it was not based on research, why these four principles were put on. On perception or public sentiment, on cost effectiveness, what was the basis for those four principles?

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chair, the research shows that the austere environment and the high level of activity is certainly the way to get the attention of the young person to then have an impact on the behaviour of the young person, so there certainly is research from the Corrections side which indicates that these components are useful.

It also speaks to common sense and principles of behaviour management which deal with, in terms of behaviour management, people's need for structure, their need to know the rules, their need to know what the consequences are, their need for fewer distractions when you are focusing on changing the behaviour, and also the importance of tension release in the high level of activity. Those are basic principles of behaviour management.

Mr. Kowalski: I would like to see or be directed to some of that research. I have never seen that research that indicates an austere environment has any effect whatsoever.

In fact, my anecdotal experience with a young fellow—he was 13 years old and sent to a boot camp in British Columbia—indicated that the place was so unpleasant that what happened was the same as when I was in RCMP boot camp and it was a very structured unpleasant environment. I became very close to my troop mates, and this

young fellow became very close to the people who he shared this unpleasant experience with. He was sent to a boot camp in B.C. at the age of 13 for shoplifting. He became so tight with that group of people that when he got out they stayed together to do armed robberies and break and enters. He is now 17, living in Winnipeg, and doing house break and enters on a regular basis.

So I would like to see this research that indicates an austere environment has anything to do with the effectiveness of the program, and it is not just because it feels right to punish, that it feels right to get retribution. If there is an effectiveness, I would agree with it, but I would like to see some research other than just an instinct that it is the right thing to do.

I have been referring to a paper from the John Howard Society of Alberta—its date is 1992—entitled *Alternative Custody Programs for Youth*. They very much differentiate between boot camps, wilderness camps, work camps and a number of other ones.

* (2320)

They have four elements to their wilderness camp, commonalties in wilderness camps, and they are much different than what the government is putting forward. The four elements they put forward are 1) providing a well-organized program focusing on the mastery of difficult physical challenges. I could see the effectiveness of raising someone's self-esteem by doing that.

The second one is creating opportunity for heightened self-respect amongst youths who have a history of repeat failures in school, difficulty in social relationships and problems with family members. I could see the effectiveness of that, and I could see the research that points to that.

Using the outdoors and the reality of ensuring one's own survival as a setting for teaching academic subjects. The fourth is learning how to work co-operatively with others to complete a task. These are the type of elements that research can support. It is not based on public acceptance as opposed to effectiveness of what is going to help the young people in this province.

I would like to know, what are the sources of that research that indicates an austere environment has anything to do with effectiveness on young people's rehabilitation?

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chair, we can certainly provide to the member some of the research which speaks about an atmosphere which is austere, not brutal. We have never spoken about brutal; we have always used the word "austere." Structured, but not inhumane. I have never spoken about inhumane treatment. I have always spoken about structured treatment, rigorous, again, but not abusive.

All of these are principles which can be used within the correctional setting, which there is research to also support, which parents also use in their own homes. I would be very surprised that any person with young children has not understood the importance and the use of structure in child rearing, that is a structure and the setting of limits are important for people to know. If they do not know what the limits are, they will continue to press further and further till they finally find where the end point is.

In terms of austere and in terms of limiting various kinds of stimulation or activities which would be of pleasure to an individual, perhaps in some cases the member even has in mind the kind of an environment—which a young person would not have within their own community—which would in fact make it a pleasure and a joy and a motivation to attend the institutional programs.

The member has made it clear—both opposition members have at times made it clear that they take a much different view, that they take a very lenient view of what should occur within our institutions. They have often taken the view of what should happen with inmates within the institution and that the program should be "lenient"—that is the only word that I can think of.

This government has taken a different view. This government's view is that it should be a very rigorous period of confinement for the young person who is within the institution. That is the direction that we have set. That is the direction that we intend to proceed.

Mr. Kowalski: The word "lenient" has absolutely no meaning. It is effectiveness that I am concerned about. I have to agree with the member for St. Johns (Mr. Mackintosh), and I have to respectfully disagree with the Justice minister, that I feel that she has publicly tried to give a tone of retribution, of punishment, of toughness, and yet, when we look at the programming, a lot of it makes sense. On the guidelines she indicates youth camps are characterized by, on a number of points, remain nonabusive, yet her public principles are ones that are sounding tough. I think a lot of it has to do with our experiences and whom we represent. The Justice minister lives in an affluent area. The majority of her caucus comes either from rural—

Point of Order

Mrs. Vodrey: What an incredibly ridiculous statement coming from the member opposite. I would ask him to reflect on his own caucus, and I would also suggest to him that he take into consideration the work and the many, many varied backgrounds. This member has absolutely no idea the backgrounds of the members on this side. That is an absolutely ridiculous statement. I am ashamed of him. Shame.

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

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Mr. Kowalski: I will continue with my comments because I feel quite strongly we are shaped by our experiences, where we come from, what we experience day to day, and I think it is just human nature. Our perceptions are dictated by the stimuli that we experience each day or the people we talk to, by the people we associate with, and I do not attribute anything sinister to the members from the government caucus.

I have said in this House a number of times, I believe their intention is what is in the best interest of the young people and of Manitobans. So there is nothing sinister in stating that their perceptions will be shaped by where they come from, people they represent, the experiences that they have.

An Honourable Member: What are you saying?

Mr. Kowalski: The member asks what I am saying. What I am saying is that the experiences that members from other caucuses bring, 70 percent of the young people involved in the youth justice system are aboriginal and a lot of them live in areas in the city that do not have any members in the government caucus representing them. Their experience and their input from their constituents may not be as direct as ours.

Point of Order

Hon. Leonard Derkach (Minister of Rural Development): Madam Chair, I find it incredible and I am somewhat offended by a member of the opposition who suggests that I, as a rural caucus member of this government, do not have any experience in working with aboriginal people. I would just like to inform the member that in my former career I worked with aboriginal people right within their own setting for several years, so I would ask that the member perhaps do a little research prior to making statements that he cannot support.

Thank you.

Madam Chairperson: The honourable Minister of Rural Development does not have a point of order. It is a dispute over the facts.

* * *

* (2330)

Mr. Kowalski: I did not indicate that the government caucus does not have any experience. All I am saying is that their perception is shaped by who they have contact with day to day, who their constituents are, and again I do not attribute anything sinister to it but just their understanding of some of the issues involved in it. So when the minister starts talking that these caucuses want to be lenient, we just want to be effective, and we have more direct experience with a lot of the citizens that are effective.

Point of Order

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chair, totally a matter of speculation that the member takes for himself the view that his caucus has, quote, more experience. The member would not have any idea of

experiences of members on this side. It is his sense that somehow his caucus may have the corner on understanding these issues. He is absolutely wrong.

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

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Mr. Kowalski: I think if a study was done of the statistics of where the young offenders who are involved in the youth justice system live and what communities they are coming from, the youth that are in trouble, they would find that the opposition caucuses have a lot of contact with the constituencies where a lot of these young people who are in conflict with the law come from and may have more direct contact.

Mr. Mackintosh: Of course I have to respond to the minister's charge that this caucus is somehow lenient. I do not know where she gets this idea. This is completely absurd to suggest such a thing.

I was elected in no small part in order to help make our community safer, and the community that I live in and the community in which I took part in developing crime prevention initiatives, certainly before I was even nominated, had no connection to any political aspirations whatsoever. It is a need in our community. Changes have to occur, and I was elected to try and make a change to the greater Manitoba community.

When I looked at the issue of rising youth crime, as the minister did, I was looking to see what other custody options we should be considering in Manitoba because the current custody options are not doing the job that we would expect them to do. One of the options that I considered, and I know the minister—well, I think she considered at some point, was the American-style military boot camps. I amassed a huge file. I talked to the people down there. I looked at all the research that was available, and there was no research which commended that model to Manitobans. It was a model that would further threaten the safety of Manitobans. There were higher relapse rates. There were changes in behaviour. It was not a Canadian, a Manitoba solution that I could recommend. As I said once before to the member

for The Maples (Mr. Kowalski), call me naive. I was elected to help make Manitoba safer. How could I possibly recommend to Manitobans a model which would further threaten their safety?

The role of all members and the role of particularly the Justice minister and the Justice critics is to help make Manitobans safer. We want to change behaviour. We want to prevent crime in the first place, and while the minister's four principles I have no great problem with, assuming that austere means not inhumane or not brutal, those principles are the very foundation of Corrections programs. They do not define a boot camp.

To get some change in behaviour, we cannot be lenient in our court backlogs. We cannot be lenient in overcrowding.

So if the minister is looking around to see who is lenient, I would say she should look at herself and her own department, look at her overcrowding, look at her backlogs, look at what has happened in Manitoba over the course of the administration of this government, look to see the rising youth crime in Manitoba now, look to see what kind of programs the government has cut to deal with rising youth crime, look to see what happened to the SKY program, look to see what is happening at the friendship centres, look to see what is happening in public education. Madam Chairperson, when you really look to see who is being lenient, we see the minister and the minister's policies.

This side is far from lenient. This side wants a change in behaviour. This side wants Manitobans to be safer. We want to change behaviour.

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chair, I have some comments to make, and let me start by my assessment of where the other two sides fall in the area of youth crime and violence. It is my view, and it is the view of many Manitobans, that they take a very lenient view, that they have now and in the past not been concerned about victims, not had the interests of victims in their minds and have, in fact, with their view of not being concerned about the victims, always taken the side of the offender, always looked for—[interjection] Let the record

show how the members laugh on the other side, how this seems funny to them, but it is not funny to the people of Manitoba, and it never has been funny to the people of Manitoba.

The member speaks about rising youth crime and so on, but we know and I have spoken this evening about numbers of young people who have been incarcerated in the period 1986-87 when the member for St. Johns' party was in government. So there have certainly been times when there have been concerns about the issues of youth crime and violence, and we have certainly had to look at what is happening within society at this time. So if the member wants to look now, and we spoke about an historic view earlier this evening, I think he also needs to take an historic view and look at the record for his government.

Now, I have a long list of the record when his party was in government—the very minuscule amount of money spent on policing, the much lower sum of money spent in the area of prosecutions, spent in the area of courts, spent in the area of corrections, spent on education, spent on family services. There is a very long record when the member for St. Johns' party was in government, and this government came into power and began to make corrections and began to make effective programs for Manitobans.

Members opposite all believe that simply throwing more money is the way to do it. They forget, where does that money come from? They somehow think that it has nothing to do with the people of Manitoba. They think that that money has nothing to do with the people of Manitoba who have to provide that for taxes. Somehow it comes from somewhere else. They have never said where. The concern that this government has is that that money does come from the people of Manitoba, and the people of Manitoba have asked this government to make sure that that money is spent wisely and that there has been a way to look at how the money is being spent.

Madam Chairperson, let me take a little bit of time, then, to speak about how this government has spent money, how this government has considered

the people of Manitoba, and where this government's plans are taking it.

First of all, we have, in fact, gone through the Estimates to a certain point, and we have been able to look at significant spending increases and certainly significant spending increases from the time when the member opposite's party was in government. The member speaks about prevention and speaks about intervention, and he knows very well that those programs do exist and that those programs are continuing to be supported by this government. [interjection]

* (2340)

The member speaks out from his seat, and it is somehow hard to hear what his comments were, but I can make it clear that this government has looked at the needs of Manitobans, has looked at how to deliver the service for Manitobans, that also keeps in mind the fact that we have to look at how we deliver those services effectively and efficiently, and how those services do not continue to demand greater and greater input from the pockets of the people of Manitoba. Those people of Manitoba, some of whom are victims, some of those people are victims. They have had their cars stolen; they have had their homes broken into; they have experienced serious bodily injury; some have lost loved ones. Those are the people who are paying the bill. It is the victims that we have also wanted to consider in every initiative that we have put forward.

I can start with a history from the time that this party came into power. The drinking-and-driving initiatives, definitely put forward on behalf of the people of Manitoba, and they have been successful, and they have certainly done a great deal to add to the safety of the people of Manitoba.

The members opposite speak about what it was like when they were elected. Somehow they seem to think that perhaps it was different for them, that what their mission was was different than all other individuals who have been elected to this House. But, if you look back at the first speech that members made in this House, you will know, and you can look back at very long-serving members, that members all came to this House with the view

that they would like to make Manitoba a better place to live, that they had in mind the public safety of Manitobans, that they had in mind the issues of concern to the people of Manitoba, and that they would make the decisions that they believed were the best ones on behalf of the people of Manitoba.

I am happy to speak personally about my view. My view when I was elected too was to come to this House and to do the best job that I could to represent the views of Manitoba. Now in my current portfolio, the issue of public safety is obviously one of my major concerns, the issue of public safety to be addressed in a number of ways. One, through the area of prevention, also looking at intervention programs and also looking at correction programs, and also looking at the framework of the law. That could be a starting point for our discussion now.

In terms of the framework of the law, we have taken a very aggressive position on behalf of Manitobans to ask that the Young Offenders Act be changed, that the Young Offenders Act was not a framework within the law that provided us with what we needed. The members opposite did not ever once indicate what their position was. They did not ever indicate.

I understand that when a union came forward and stated its position, the members opposite from the NDP then decided that they might have a position close to that particular position that was spoken about. Their position has not been clear, and they have not advocated on behalf of Manitobans. I have had no support from the member opposite in terms of the position that I have taken on behalf of Manitobans.

Neither of the critics has brought forward support in that area. That is the framework, that is the starting point, and we have not seen any of that, any support from the members opposite. Then, when initiatives are being undertaken on behalf of the people of Manitoba, the members opposite have seen fit to be very critical of those. I think of the member for St. Johns (Mr. Mackintosh) scoffing at the youth gang line, which, again, was initiated in NDP-governed British Columbia. I

would have assumed that the member might have at least looked at that with an eye of interest, but he chose to scoff at it.

He chose to scoff at the initiative put forward on behalf of the people of Manitoba in an effort to deal with youth crime and violence. That was not what he wanted to do, but he has not told us what he would do. He has not given us his view of exactly what he would like to do. We put forward, based on the summit, the nine-point plan, which was only a starting point, Madam Chair, and we have, in fact, gone beyond the nine-point plan already with what we are looking at in our amendments to The Highway Traffic Act.

To deal with youth crime and violence, it requires co-operation within the community. It requires not just government alone to take action, but it requires the community also to take action and ownership. So we have provided for expansion of youth justice committees, and I am sure we will speak about that in the next section of the Estimates.

We have spoken about greater co-operation between agencies and also within government. We have even covered that within the Estimates of this department. We have spoken about the surveillance team and the co-operation that it takes between police and education and Family Services and Crowns.

This initiative was another one in which I believe the members opposite scoffed at. Yet the people of Manitoba have asked us to make sure that there is a flow of information and that we are able to provide that. That is exactly what we have done through this initiative.

They have scoffed at the Training for Trainers and where that initiative came from. The fact that it happened to be an initiative which arose from some work done by the Status of Women and the Women's Directorate somehow alienated that. Somehow that did not fit in. The member did not even want to deal with that though it trained trainers, though it trained community workers, though it trained people at the school level. Somehow the member had a very narrow view. The initiatives that have taken place from this

government within the Department of Justice even within the last few months have been views that the members opposite have chosen to scoff at.

I have not heard from them what they would do in return. I have not heard from them what positive statements they would put forward and what they would do on behalf of the people of Manitoba. All I have heard is their views of what it is that they do not like.

Madam Chair, I could go on speaking for some time, but I want to make use of the Estimates time in the most valuable way. I know that we will have other opportunities to debate, so I will end my answer now and allow the members to go on and continue to ask questions. However, I certainly will be reinforcing, during the course of the Estimates, further points that I would make in this area.

Madam Chairperson: Item 4.(c) Correctional Youth Centres (1) Salaries and Employee Benefits \$9,147,900—pass; (2) Other Expenditures \$985,100—pass.

4.(d) Community Corrections (1) Salaries and Employee Benefits.

Mr. Mackintosh: I wonder if it is the will of the committee to call it midnight, because we have a lengthy series of questions on this area.

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chair, let the record show the minister is here and prepared to continue until the agreed upon twelve o'clock.

Mr. Mackintosh: The member for Wellington has a series of questions that she will begin now.

Ms. Becky Barrett (Wellington): Madam Chair, I have questions on the training programs for individuals who have been convicted of domestic violence crimes and was told that the appropriate people would be here under this line.

The long-term group program that was lodged in the department, in probation, I understand, that is now being re-evaluated, I would like to ask how long it was delivered and by whom and to whom, and why is it not being delivered now?

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chair, I am advised that prior to the Pedlar report, there were a number of domestic violence treatment programs available.

There was no standardization. What Pedlar had recommended was that all individuals who have been convicted of domestic violence offences should take the short-term program or the STIP program and also have one-to-one counselling.

What has been put in place to this point is the short-term program, the one-to-one counselling. However, the long-term programs which in the past were all different are now being looked at to provide a standard or similar program to individuals. I am informed that is in the stages of being finalized and that the most recent meeting was Friday.

Ms. Barrett: How long has it been since any long-term programs were provided?

* (2350)

Mrs. Vodrey: We do not have an exact date as to when those programs stopped, but I am informed that some of those programs did continue for a time after Pedlar.

Ms. Barrett: Does this mean that there are, as a condition of probation, no programs that are being paid for or contracted for by the Department of Justice for domestic violence offenders in the community, of a long-term duration?

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chairperson, I am informed that to our knowledge Community Corrections has never paid for the long-term programming for convicted offenders in the area of domestic violence, that some of those offenders may have attended programs at private agencies, but that was not paid for by Corrections.

Ms. Barrett: Are those programs that are in the community through such agencies as Evolve and Family Centre, are they still, in some cases, conditions of probation, attendance at those courses still conditions of probation?

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chairperson, I am informed that we cannot say that individuals have never attended. We cannot say that individuals have attended as a condition.

Let me start again on that answer, so that I get the answer right. We do not know if convicted offenders have attended as a condition of their probation. However, we do know that the private

agencies have preferred a voluntary attendance and have not preferred that people attend as a condition specifically of their probation.

Ms. Barrett: The minister has referred several times during the discussion of these educational and therapeutic courses in short- and long-term programs to the Pedlar report and her recommendations dealing with the comparatively short-term educational programs that are in the Pedlar recommendation. I would like to quote one sentence on page 13 of the Pedlar report where it says there are a limited number of community-based services and both these and existing programs—long-term programs, I might add—provided by probation services cannot even begin to accommodate the volume of service required.

I would like to ask the minister why, in almost three years since Pedlar was released, this government has only implemented the short-term program that the minister has herself said is only educational in scope, instead of working towards increasing and improving the intensive long-term program that every person who knows anything about domestic violence says is an essential component to breaking the cycle of violence.

Instead of increasing the services in this area, the minister's government has chosen to eliminate the internal probation service long-term program for these men who have been convicted of domestic abuse violations. Why has the minister's government decided that those long-term programs are not necessary and that they will go only with the short-term educational courses that do not deal with the long-term impacts and the long-term needs and requirements of these individuals, which is probably one reason why we are seeing such an increase in the domestic problem in our province?

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Chairperson, I would certainly differ with the member in use of her term "only." By using the term "only," she certainly takes away from or denigrates the programs which are currently offered, programs which were recommended by Pedlar, that there would be, in fact, the short-term program. So I would certainly take issue with the term "only."

I would say that in terms of the development of the short-term program that we had to look at developing a program which would meet the requirements and which could be offered and which, as the member said, in this case, the focus which was recommended is that these programs would be educational in nature, informational in nature, and a very important part of the kind of programming offenders would receive. Going along with that, there would also be one-to-one counselling which is available both outside of the institution and inside of the institution.

As I said earlier, the programs that were offered before Pedlar were programs that were of a great variety, and they varied and there was not any standardization. As the member knows, in terms of developing a protocol and developing a kind of program, that at times that is in fact how they grow. They grow by practitioners and counsellors working with the principals and working with their clients, and that is how we ended up with the variety.

So what we have been moving ahead with now is to look at some standardization or some, at least, protocol which embodies at least similarities. As I have said, that we certainly have not been standing still in this area. In fact, we have been moving ahead in this area, and we have been certainly

working towards the development of the long-term program. The development of the long-term program has required meetings and has required effort. As I said, the last meeting, the most recent meeting, took place just on Friday.

* (0000)

I think the member needs to focus on the three components. She also needs the assurance that, yes, we are moving ahead in the area of the long-term programming, but to make it a more standardized programming and to not have the kind of fractured types of protocols which were out there. Obviously we want to meet the needs in the best way, but now we have even more experience in dealing with those individuals and dealing with the type of offence that they have committed. Now we have a greater idea and sense of what their need would be. That is how we have been moving ahead, and again I differ with the only.

Madam Chairperson: Order, please. As previously agreed, the hour being past 10 p.m., committee rise. Call in the Speaker.

IN SESSION

Madam Deputy Speaker (Louise Dacquay): The hour being past 10 p.m., this House is adjourned and stands adjourned until 1:30 p.m. tomorrow (Tuesday).

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Monday, June 6, 1994

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