



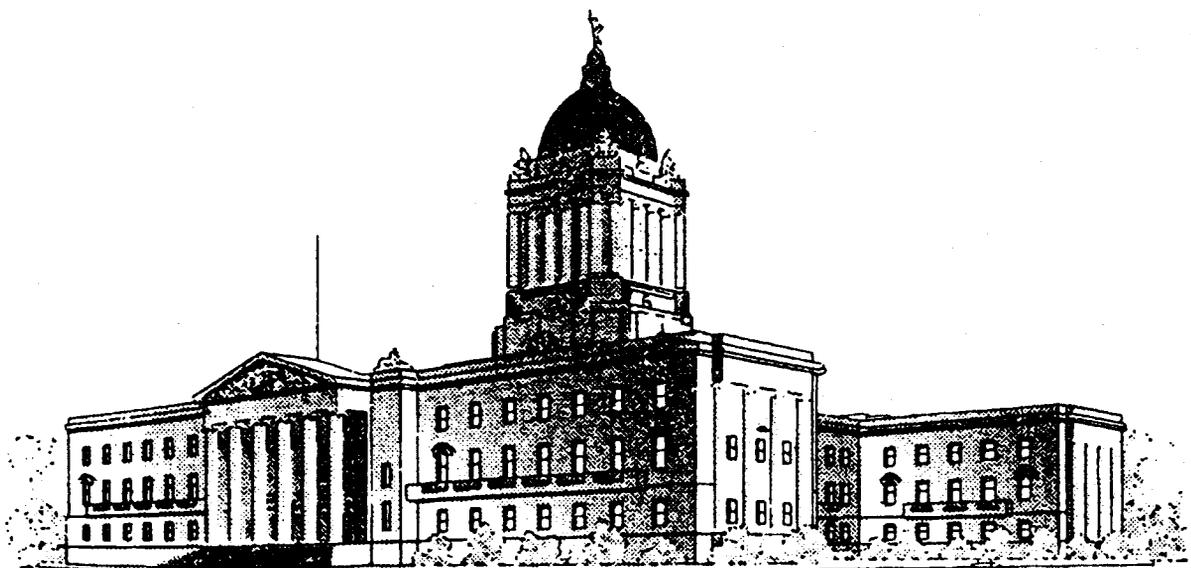
Second Session - Thirty-Sixth Legislature

of the

Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS
(Hansard)**

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Speaker*



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MANITOBA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
Thirty-Sixth Legislature

Members, Constituencies and Political Affiliation

Name	Constituency	Party
ASHTON, Steve	Thompson	N.D.P.
BARRETT, Becky	Wellington	N.D.P.
CERILLI, Marianne	Radisson	N.D.P.
CHOMIAK, Dave	Kildonan	N.D.P.
CUMMINGS, Glen, Hon.	Ste. Rose	P.C.
DACQUAY, Louise, Hon.	Seine River	P.C.
DERKACH, Leonard, Hon.	Roblin-Russell	P.C.
DEWAR, Gregory	Selkirk	N.D.P.
DOER, Gary	Concordia	N.D.P.
DOWNNEY, James, Hon.	Arthur-Virden	P.C.
DRIEDGER, Albert, Hon.	Steinbach	P.C.
DYCK, Peter	Pembina	P.C.
ENNS, Harry, Hon.	Lakeside	P.C.
ERNST, Jim, Hon.	Charleswood	P.C.
EVANS, Clif	Interlake	N.D.P.
EVANS, Leonard S.	Brandon East	N.D.P.
FILMON, Gary, Hon.	Tuxedo	P.C.
FINDLAY, Glen, Hon.	Springfield	P.C.
FRIESEN, Jean	Wolseley	N.D.P.
GAUDRY, Neil	St. Boniface	Lib.
GILLESHAMMER, Harold, Hon.	Minnedosa	P.C.
HELWER, Edward	Gimli	P.C.
HICKES, George	Point Douglas	N.D.P.
JENNISSEN, Gerard	Flin Flon	N.D.P.
KOWALSKI, Gary	The Maples	Lib.
LAMOUREUX, Kevin	Inkster	Lib.
LATHLIN, Oscar	The Pas	N.D.P.
LAURENDEAU, Marcel	St. Norbert	P.C.
MACKINTOSH, Gord	St. Johns	N.D.P.
MALOWAY, Jim	Elmwood	N.D.P.
MARTINDALE, Doug	Burrows	N.D.P.
McALPINE, Gerry	Sturgeon Creek	P.C.
McCRAE, James, Hon.	Brandon West	P.C.
McGIFFORD, Diane	Osborne	N.D.P.
McINTOSH, Linda, Hon.	Assiniboia	P.C.
MIHYCHUK, MaryAnn	St. James	N.D.P.
MITCHELSON, Bonnie, Hon.	River East	P.C.
NEWMAN, David	Riel	P.C.
PALLISTER, Brian, Hon.	Portage la Prairie	P.C.
PENNER, Jack	Emerson	P.C.
PITURA, Frank	Morris	P.C.
PRAZNIK, Darren, Hon.	Lac du Bonnet	P.C.
RADCLIFFE, Mike	River Heights	P.C.
REID, Daryl	Transcona	N.D.P.
REIMER, Jack, Hon.	Niakwa	P.C.
RENDER, Shirley	St. Vital	P.C.
ROBINSON, Eric	Rupertsland	N.D.P.
ROCAN, Denis	Gladstone	P.C.
SALE, Tim	Crescentwood	N.D.P.
SANTOS, Conrad	Broadway	N.D.P.
STEFANSON, Eric, Hon.	Kirkfield Park	P.C.
STRUTHERS, Stan	Dauphin	N.D.P.
SVEINSON, Ben	La Verendrye	P.C.
TOEWS, Vic, Hon.	Rossmere	P.C.
TWEED, Mervin	Turtle Mountain	P.C.
VODREY, Rosemary, Hon.	Fort Garry	P.C.
WOWCHUK, Rosann	Swan River	N.D.P.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Monday, October 7, 1996

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

PRAYERS

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

PRESENTING PETITIONS

Pharmacare

Mr. Doug Martindale (Burrows): Madam Speaker, I beg to present the petition of Cathy McMillan, Tamara Dewey, Mabel Rezansoff and others requesting that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba may be pleased to request the Premier (Mr. Filmon) and the Minister of Health (Mr. McCrae) to consider reversing their plan to cut Pharmacare in 1996.

**PRESENTING REPORTS BY
STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

**Standing Committee on Municipal Affairs
Second Report**

Mr. Mervin Tweed (Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Municipal Affairs): Madam Speaker, I wish to present the Second Report of the Standing Committee on Municipal Affairs.

Mr. Clerk (William Remnant): Your Standing Committee on Municipal Affairs presents the following as its Second Report.

An Honourable Member: Dispense.

Madam Speaker: Dispense.

Your committee met on Thursday, October 3, 1996, at 9:30 a.m. in Room 255 of the Legislative Building to consider bills referred.

Your committee has considered:

Bill 11—The Court of Queen's Bench Surrogate Practice Amendment Act; Loi modifiant la Loi sur la pratique relative aux successions devant la Cour du Banc de la Reine

and has agreed to report the same without amendment.

Your committee has also considered:

Bill 43—The Municipal Assessment Amendment, City of Winnipeg Amendment and Assessment Validation Act; Loi modifiant la Loi sur l'évaluation municipale et la Loi sur la Ville de Winnipeg et validant certaines évaluations

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

MOTION:

THAT the following be added after section 3 of the Bill:

3.1 Clause 13(1)(b) is amended by striking out "or" at the end of subclause (vi) and adding the following after subclause (vii):

(viii) the closure of the whole of a building or structure in which a commercial operation was carried on, where

(A) the commercial operation was, before the closure, the only commercial operation on the property,

(B) at least one year has passed since the closure, and

(C) the only use made of the building or structure since the closure is the storage of personal property or fixtures that were used in the commercial operation, or

(ix) a change that causes a building or structure on the property to no longer conform to the requirements of subclause (viii);

MOTION:

THAT subsection 6(1) of the Bill be struck out and the following substituted:

6(1) Subsection 42(1) is amended by striking out "A person, including an assessor," and substituting "A person in whose name property has been assessed, a mortgagee in possession of property under subsection 114(1) of The Real Property Act, an occupier of

premises who is required under the terms of a lease to pay the taxes on the property, or the assessor”.

MOTION:

That subsection 6(2) of the Bill be struck out.

MOTION:

THAT the following be added after section 7 of the Bill:

7.1 Clause 54(1)(a) and (b) are repealed and the following is substituted:

(a) confirm the assessment; or

(b) change the assessment and direct a revision of the assessment roll accordingly,

(i) subject to subsection (3), by increasing or decreasing the assessed value of the subject property,

(ii) by changing the liability to taxation or the classification of the subject property, or

(iii) by changing both the assessed value of the subject property and its liability to taxation or its classification;

MOTION:

THAT the following be added after section 9 and within Part 1 of the Bill:

9.1 Subsection 60(1) is amended

(a) by repealing clauses (a) to (c) and substituting the following:

(a) confirm the assessment; or

(b) change the assessment and direct a revision of the assessment roll accordingly,

(i) subject to subsection (2), by increasing or decreasing the assessed value of the subject property,

(ii) by changing the classification of the subject property, or

(iii) by changing the assessed value and the classification of the subject property;

(b) by adding “, and the board may award costs against a party” after “just and expedient”.

MOTION:

THAT the following be added after section 11 and within Part 3 of the Bill:

Validation of assessment for 1997

*11.1(1) The assessment of property for 1997 made in accordance with **The Municipal Assessment Act**, as amended by this Act, is hereby declared to be valid and binding on all persons affected by the assessment, and no person may challenge the assessment on the ground that this Act was not in force at the time of the assessment.*

11.1(2) For greater certainty, subsection (1) applies to any assessment that is the subject of an application for revision, whether or not a decision is or has been rendered.

MOTION:

THAT the section heading for subsection 12(1) of the Bill be struck out and “Validation re railway roadways” substituted.

MOTION:

THAT Legislative Counsel be authorized to change all section numbers and internal references necessary to carry out the amendments adopted by this committee.

Mr. Tweed: Madam Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable member for Sturgeon Creek (Mr. McAlpine), that the report of the committee be received.

Motion agreed to.

Introduction of Guests

Madam Speaker: Prior to Oral Questions, I would like to draw the attention of all honourable members to the public gallery where we have this afternoon twenty-two Grades 11 and 12 students from the Thomas Greenway

Collegiate under the direction of Mrs. Jan Henderson. This school is located in the constituency of the honourable member for Turtle Mountain (Mr. Tweed).

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

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

Special Needs Children Postl Report Recommendations

Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Opposition): Madam Speaker, my question is to the acting First Minister.

The government announced last week another study on special education. As the Education critic has pointed out, the government has received a number of studies over the last number of years dealing with special needs and special needs in special education.

Madam Speaker, just over two years ago the government received a copy of the Healthy Child report chaired by Dr. Postl. It contained page after page of not only recommendations of what the government can do but also some criticisms about what the government had been doing in terms of cutting back and reducing services to children.

I would like to ask the government, will it be implementing the recommendations on special needs that are contained within the Postl report, embraced by the Premier (Mr. Filmon) during the election campaign, or are we going to see another drift and cut by this provincial government when it announced another study on the issue?

* (1335)

Hon. Linda McIntosh (Minister of Education and Training): The study that we are doing currently on special needs review will be looking in the classrooms and into the particular treatment and services that students are currently receiving in the schools.

I should point out that amongst things that have already been done in terms of the whole child, through the Child and Youth Secretariat money has now been made available to the school divisions from the Department of Health for the purchase of services such as nursing, et cetera, within the schools. As well, money has been transferred over through Family Services for the training of paraprofessionals in the classrooms that school divisions can now make themselves available of to help with services to students that are not educational in nature but physical in nature.

Those kinds of initiatives have been underway now for about a year. The special needs review will indicate to us what within our current system in the schools needs to be changed or built upon. We look forward to that and have every intention of moving forward on recommendations in that regard.

Mr. Doer: We have a report that deals with special needs, and it talks about preschool children and then it talks about the impact of the cutbacks of the provincial government on speech services, on language services. It talks about the impact on the waiting lists already in the special needs in the special education program in the school divisions.

So I would like to ask whoever is in charge over there, or if there is anybody over there that cares about kids, are you going to implement the recommendations contained within the Postl report so we can give our kids some hope instead of just idle words that we get from the minister across the way?

Hon. James McCrae (Minister of Health): Madam Speaker, the honourable Leader of the Opposition has singled out the issue of speech language and speech services for children, and I remind the honourable member that in the city of Brandon, for example, the New Democrats, without any thought for the future whatsoever, shut down dozens and dozens of hospital beds back in 1987 for no particular reason except to save money. In 1996, when ideas are floated by New Democrats in Brandon that speech therapy services are expected to be shut down—

Madam Speaker: Order, please. I would like to ask the honourable Minister of Health to respond to the question asked. I am not sure that his remarks relate specifically to the question.

Mr. McCrae: Madam Speaker, I had thought that the honourable Leader of the Opposition was trying to get an understanding of which direction the government was going. That was what I was attempting to address.

When the New Democrats floated the idea in Brandon that perhaps we should shut down speech language services for children at Brandon General Hospital, I have been consistent on that point. We simply will not authorize such a shutdown unless and until it can be shown that services can be provided for children in some other setting if necessary but that services be provided nonetheless. So the honourable members, they ask a question and they do not want to hear the answer because they expected something far more negative than that.

Mr. Doer: This government tragically cuts services to kids, then it studies it, then they cut more services to kids and then they have a press conference to say they are going to study them, then they cut more services to kids and give us an answer that is totally off the topic.

I asked a very specific question twice. Are you going to implement the Postl report recommendations on special needs kids? The Postl report documents that the waiting list has gone up dramatically for preschool kids and kids in schools because of the cutbacks of this government on audiological services and speech services.

I am asking the government, now that the waiting list has gone up even higher and greater for those young kids in our province after this government has had the Postl report for two years, are we going to see the government implement the recommendations on special needs kids or are they going to cynically say they are going to study it while they go ahead and cut services to kids, Madam Speaker?

* (1340)

Mr. McCrae: Madam Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition chooses to forget that it was some months

ago, through the auspices of the Child and Youth Secretariat set up because of the Postl report, that hundreds of thousands of dollars were transferred from the Department of Health to the Department of Education to be used for services provided to special needs children and to be used for training for those who do provide services to special needs children.

Special Needs Children Respite Care

Mr. Tim Sale (Crescentwood): Madam Speaker, in July of 1996 Children's Special Services told a constituent of mine, Mr. Hodge, that funding has been cut for respite services by some 25 percent. Parents of disabled children have received in writing notification of these cuts. Yet the Minister of Family Services (Mrs. Mitchelson) claims there has been no cut in respite care. Who is lying or who is telling the truth, the Minister of Family Services--

Madam Speaker: Order, please. I would ask the honourable member for Crescentwood to retract the word "lying."

Mr. Sale: I retract the word.

Madam Speaker: I thank the honourable member for Crescentwood.

Mr. Sale: Madam Speaker, who is telling the truth, the Minister of Family Services or her staff?

Hon. Bonnie Mitchelson (Minister of Family Services): Madam Speaker, again I thank my honourable friend for the question, not the tone or the preamble in the way he presented it in a very unprofessional manner but in order to clarify to all Manitobans that indeed there is more money for Children's Special Services this year in the budget than there was last year, and some families have had some reduction in their respite services so that we could provide more services to some families that have been waiting. There is more money--[interjection]

Madam Speaker, there is not a cut in financial resources. There was a reduction in some families of respite care in order to provide services to some families that were not receiving services.

I do want to indicate to Manitobans and to you, Madam Speaker, that in fact we are reviewing the whole issue of special needs in the Department of Family Services, and we are hoping to come up with some resolutions in the very near future.

Madam Speaker: The honourable member for Crescentwood, with a supplementary question.

Mr. Sale: Madam Speaker, will the Premier (Mr. Filmon), or whoever is acting over there, instruct the minister to restore respite services to all parents needing such services, including Mr. Hodge, who writes, and I quote: I am at a breaking point; I am struggling and only able to work half-time due to the effects of a bone marrow transplant?

I will table this letter, Madam Speaker.

Will somebody over there get services back to these children?

Mrs. Mitchelson: What all Manitobans need to know is that in fact we have an ever-increasing demand for the services, for Children's Special Services. We have year after year put more money into the system, into Children's Special Services, than was there the year before, but it is very difficult to meet the demand.

We are just now undertaking a total review of the whole program, and we recognize and realize that families who are caring for children with special needs at home are putting a lot of time, effort and energy into those children through their families. Madam Speaker, we want to try to do what is right and what is best for those families, and we are working on it.

* (1345)

Postl Report Recommendations

Mr. Tim Sale (Crescentwood): Madam Speaker, will the minister, who has now admitted that there have been cuts to services in specific families, admit that in general the Postl report, and specifically on page 137 of that report which she has had for over two years, gives a very clear direction to safeguard the needs of families in regard to respite care and other care for children with very special needs?

Will she now admit that her government has had this report for two years? It says, go this way, and the government has been going this way unceasingly for two years now.

Hon. Bonnie Mitchelson (Minister of Family Services): Again, I repeat that we have put more money into services for special needs children year over year, and it just never seems to be enough. There are ever-increasing demands, and we all know that children are being born today and are living today that would not have lived in years past.

Madam Speaker, there is an ever-increasing demand and a need for support—[interjection]

Madam Speaker: Order, please.

Mrs. Mitchelson: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I guess my honourable friend in the opposition believes he is the only person who cares about children.

Madam Speaker, I want to tell you that our government cares very much about the families and children who need our support. There is nowhere in my department—[interjection]

Madam Speaker: Order, please.

The honourable Minister of Family Services, to complete her response.

Mrs. Mitchelson: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

There is no other area within my department that has received an increase in support year after year, and it is in the area of children with special needs, Children's Special Services and services for those that are mentally disabled. We will continue to place our energy and our efforts to try to meet the demand as it arises, and we all know that there is an ever-increasing demand.

Special Needs Children Respite Care

Mr. Doug Martindale (Burrows): Madam Speaker, when families with children with special needs heard the minister say in the Chamber on September 25 that there

have been no cuts and an increase in budget, they were truly astonished.

I would table a copy of the July 29 letter that was sent out to hundreds of parents with children with special needs informing them of reduced hours for respite workers. In fact, the recipient of this letter had her hours reduced by 37 percent.

I would like to ask the minister how she can tell parents that there has been an increase in the budget when they are receiving these letters informing them of less hours. Whom are they to believe, this minister or the front-line workers who signed these letters?

Hon. Bonnie Mitchelson (Minister of Family Services): Madam Speaker, again I say that there is more money in the budget for children with special services than there ever has been in the past. It is very difficult to meet the increasing demand. What happened, in fact, was that some families were reduced in respite hours in order to give other families that needed that very critical support the opportunity to have some support for respite.

I would not want to mislead anyone in Manitoba to say that there is not an increasing demand for more resources. I indicated earlier we are reviewing the whole program, and I hope to be able to assure all Manitobans that need that kind of support that it will be there in the future.

Mr. Martindale: Madam Speaker, I would like to ask the minister how she can explain her rationale for an apparent increase—which we believe is a decrease—when the director of the Children and Youth Secretariat, Mr. Reg Toews, said that these cuts in respite hours are due to the new realities of balanced budget legislation and the resulting cash squeeze to departments.

Who is right here, this senior civil servant or this minister?

* (1350)

Mrs. Mitchelson: Madam Speaker, again I repeat, because I think my honourable friend has some difficulty in hearing and understanding, that there is more money. We all know that there are ever-increasing demands as children are born with more special needs and are

surviving today because of increased technology when in years past they would not have survived. Families are committed to ensuring that they keep those children in their families, and there is an ever-increasing demand for resource. We believe as a government that these are the kinds of families that we need to support.

We are reviewing the program as we speak, and I am hoping that we will be able to assure families that are putting the time, the effort and the energy into keeping their children at home and working with them that we can provide that kind of support.

Madam Speaker: The honourable member for Burrows, with a final supplementary question.

Mr. Martindale: I would like to ask the minister how she expects us and parents with children with special needs who are having their hours cut that she is taking a review of all the services when just last week a parent who contacted us signed a new contract with fewer hours—whom do we believe, this minister or what is actually happening to parents with children with special needs in the community who are getting fewer hours?

Mrs. Mitchelson: I had the opportunity to meet with several families earlier this year just at the end of the summer around the services for children with special needs. They have agreed and want to work with government to help us understand the kinds of needs that are out there and how we can use the resources that we have in a more efficient and effective way to serve their needs. I would prefer to work with the families of children that have special needs to find the solutions than to listen to the rhetoric from the opposition.

Children and Youth Secretariat Information Request

Ms. Marianne Cerilli (Radisson): Madam Speaker, I am going to table two things first: First, a letter to the minister from July 2 confirming a request for information on the financing of services for children and youth and, second, a copy of Hansard from June 6 when she said: "I will undertake to get that information and provide it to my honourable friend."

That information is the information we are inquiring about in the financing of services for children and youth.

I want to ask the minister will she keep her word, will she be accountable and when will she complete this endeavour and provide that information to this House?

Hon. Bonnie Mitchelson (Minister of Family Services): Madam Speaker, I will be very open and forthright with my honourable friend and indicate to her that we are, through the Child and Youth Secretariat, co-ordinating services between the Department of Education, the Department of Justice, the Department of Health, through recreation in the Department of Culture and my Department of Family Services. There has been a lot of ongoing activity through the Child and Youth Secretariat, and as we move through the process of making changes and restructuring our programs, I certainly will share that information with my honourable friend.

Ms. Cerilli: Madam Speaker, I am going to table two other documents. One is from a report, Children First: Restructuring Services, called Extracting 2%, and the second is a page from the '94 to '95 report from the Children and Youth Secretariat which says—

Madam Speaker: Order, please. The honourable member for Radisson was recognized for a supplementary question which requires no preamble. Please pose your question now.

Ms. Cerilli: I will ask the minister to explain the quote in this report which says: The secretariat has completed the first cut of identifying the financial resources in each department that are spent in responding to the needs of children and youth.

Will she explain that sentence in the document from her secretariat?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Madam Speaker, I believe that sentence would indicate that the Child and Youth Secretariat has their first indication of the resources that are being provided from all different departments to support children and youth and that that is exactly the intent of that statement and that, in fact, as that identification is passed on to us as government and to departments, it will help us to better co-ordinate and ensure that there is efficient and effective delivery of the services for children and youth in Manitoba.

Madam Speaker: The honourable member for Radisson, with a final supplementary question.

Ms. Cerilli: Will the minister confirm or deny that the secretariat is looking at all the funding for children and services in the government so they can prioritize which services they are going to cut, and will she tell the House now which other children and youth services are going to be cut by this government?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Madam Speaker, I have said on many, many occasions that in order to use the resources that we have for children and families in the most efficient and effective way governments are going to have to have the courage to look at what programs are working and what programs are not working. In fact, if there are programs that are not working, we are going to have to redirect resources into areas that are going to better serve children and families. I make no apologies for making that statement. One of the roles of the Children and Youth Secretariat in fact is to look at outcomes of programs that we fund presently and if they are not working, redirect those resources into the most appropriate programs.

* (1355)

Domestic Violence Firearms Control

Mr. Gary Kowalski (The Maples): Madam Speaker, my first question is for the Minister responsible for the Status of Women.

I would like to table for the minister a copy of the jury recommendations from the Chahal murder inquest in Abbotsford, B.C. For those not familiar with the case, Mr. Chahal murdered nine people with a firearm, including his estranged wife. The coroner's inquest into the tragic event has come with some important recommendations.

Will the minister agree, Recommendation 19, which would require the federal Minister of Justice to mandate that spouses or ex-spouses, partners or ex-partners be required references on firearm acquisition certificate applications, if adopted, would be a significant step forward in the battle to lessen violence against women?

Hon. Rosemary Vodrey (Minister responsible for the Status of Women): Madam Speaker, our government is particularly concerned about the area of violence against women. In this report, I will be very interested to look into what the recommendations are. However, just for the member's information, he may know in Manitoba we already have a registry; I do not believe that registry is in fact available in B.C., and so, when an individual applies for an FAC, any restraining orders or other such orders that would be important in the protection of women are available both for the person doing the investigation of the FAC, also available 24 hours a day to police. So Manitoba in fact itself has acted, and we will be interested to see if the federal government also acts.

Mr. Kowalski: Will the Minister of Justice mandate a provincial investigation policy, since no policy currently exists, that would require police forces in Manitoba issuing FACs to ask spouses or ex-partners if they believe an FAC should be issued?

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Speaker, as I said, it is a very interesting proposal that has come forward which requires or would require a spouse to give some comment as to whether or not someone could receive an FAC, but at the moment, because the federal government of course will have to look at some of these recommendations, I think it is very important for the member to be well aware of the system within Manitoba now which does deal with things such as restraining orders and I believe has been very helpful in terms of the checking for the granting of an FAC because it is very clear right away whether or not there is some cause for concern on behalf of the person who is applying for the FAC. Now we know that system will in fact be removed beginning in early January and, as he knows, our province has taken a position on that. The federal government should administer the system.

Firearms Control Policy Review

Mr. Gary Kowalski (The Maples): Will the minister commit to her view of the provincial firearms acquisition policies, one that includes representation from women's organizations and police forces rather than waiting till tragedy like what happened in B.C. happens in Manitoba?

Hon. Rosemary Vodrey (Minister responsible for the Status of Women): Well, Madam Speaker, our government supports all areas which in fact deal with public safety and we have spoken up very strongly in matters of public safety, particularly in the area of Bill C-68. I would be interested to know, however, if the member from The Maples, a member of the Liberal Party, will also speak up on behalf of women, because it has been the position of this government that within the Criminal Code we should not be dealing only with additional sentences for the use of a firearm, but that we should in fact be dealing with additional sentences for the use of a weapon. We have never had support from the provincial Liberal Party on that matter. That is the issue that really deals with safety for women.

* (1400)

Adolescent Pregnancy Postl Report Recommendations

Ms. Diane McGifford (Osborne): Madam Speaker, 90 percent of Manitoba adolescents keep their babies, and when an adolescent has a child, there are two lost children. In response, the Postl report recommended that, and here I quote, renewed emphasis be directed to the prevention of adolescent pregnancy and that one of the principal sites should be the school system.

The Youth Secretariat's June report on adolescent pregnancy agreed and yet late in 1996 there are more and more lost pregnant children in Manitoba. I want to ask the Minister of Education exactly what her department has done in order to ensure that there are fewer lost children in Manitoba, and how long must our children wait before she implements the recommendations of Dr. Postl and the Youth Secretariat.

Hon. Linda McIntosh (Minister of Education and Training): Madam Speaker, I am fascinated by the tone of the questions in Question Period today. I think it reveals a tremendous amount how threatened the other side feels by a popular initiative, an important initiative that we have undertaken.

I indicate that, after a prolonged period of time in which the opposition demanded that we go into a study in the special needs in education in Manitoba, saying that we were taking too long to get around to doing the study, we now have announced the study. They want us to

immediately stop doing that study and direct our attention back to an area in which we have already begun implementation. So I am a little perplexed.

I would indicate to the member, however, that she has identified a very important issue and in the establishment of the Child and Youth Secretariat—and I know they do not want to hear this, but I think it is a very important thing that they hear—when we look at the whole child, and we finally have put together something that should have been in place decades ago in Manitoba, a co-ordinated effort between the Departments of Education, Health, Family Services and Justice, so that we deal with the whole child and not just pieces of the child, that looking at the child from birth also leads us to looking at how children are born with fetal alcohol syndrome and other problems, necessitates work during pregnancy and before pregnancy, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: The honourable member for Osborne, with a supplementary question.

Ms. McGifford: Madam Speaker, turning to the Minister of Health: Since Postl also recommends that Manitoba Health promote the co-ordination of comprehensive supports for adolescent parents, I want to ask the Minister of Health for details of his department's comprehensive supports for adolescent parents, and I wonder how long adolescents and newborn children have to wait before he acts on the Postl report.

Hon. James McCrae (Minister of Health): Madam Speaker, the honourable member speaks again in favour of the recommendations that we are acting on now in Health to reintegrate, to reorganize our health system province-wide to take account of the needs that exist in our communities. I think heretofore there have been problems with getting our programs integrated and rationalized and working together and getting people working together. I think the opportunities are very good there for us to develop, through our long-term and community health agency that we are going to build in the city of Winnipeg and through our regional health authorities throughout Manitoba, to do a better job for people province-wide. I am glad to know that the honourable member would be supportive of those kinds of moves.

Madam Speaker: The honourable member for Osborne, with a final supplementary question.

Adolescent Pregnancy Reduction Strategy

Ms. Diane McGifford (Osborne): Madam Speaker, in view of the Minister of Health's nonanswer and considering the Premier's (Mr. Filmon) election promise to put children first and provide, and here I quote, community-based co-ordination prevention and early intervention for adolescent pregnancy, I want to ask the Premier exactly what his government has done in answer to the tragedy of pregnant adolescents.

Hon. Bonnie Mitchelson (Minister of Family Services): Madam Speaker, indeed, the issue of adolescent pregnancy is one that is very high on the public's mind and high on our mind as government, but I want to say that government alone cannot solve the problem. It is going to take a community effort, and it is going to take many working together to try to find the answers to adolescent pregnancy.

Yes, today 90 percent of adolescents that are having babies are choosing to keep those babies when 20 years ago, 90 percent of those parents chose adoption as an option, Madam Speaker. The whole review of our Child and Family Services Act deals very proactively with bringing our adoption legislation into the '90s and ensuring that that is a very positive and proactive alternative to choosing to parent.

There are many things that are ongoing. We look at the Andrews Street Family Centre which has a moms helping moms program. There are community organizations out there and volunteers that have to be involved in finding the solutions. It will not be government alone that finds the answers.

Youth Advisory Council Meeting Schedule

Mr. Gord Mackintosh (St. Johns): My question is to the Minister of Justice. It was a number of years ago that the British Columbia government established its youth advisory council, now comprised of about 25 B.C. youth, which became extremely successful developing some of the most creative and effective antiviolence programs in

all North America. It also gave input into government programs, not just in areas of justice.

My question for the minister is: Could the minister, who announced a youth advisory council for Manitoba based on B.C.'s model at a highly touted news conference over two and a half years ago, tell Manitobans how many meetings her council has held?

Hon. Rosemary Vodrey (Minister of Justice and Attorney General): The member said this was based specifically on B.C.'s model. I do not believe that was a comment. However, we do have in Manitoba a Provincial Council on Youth Crime, and the provincial council is there to provide some expertise to youth justice committees that are operating throughout the province.

But I am particularly interested in his comments about youth making recommendations to government about a particular initiative because when youth and the initiative of street peace came forward the member simply was nothing but dismissive about that program, totally dismissive, and yet we had young people who worked on that program. So we have him now saying that he would like to see that. When he did see that several years ago he did not like it at all.

Madam Speaker: The honourable member for St. Johns, with a supplementary question.

Mr. Mackintosh: Would the minister, who should get a grip on what this side of the House says, who told this House, and I quote, the purpose of the youth advisory council—which is what we are talking about—was to say that the government took very seriously the input of young people, admit that her failing to ensure so much as one meeting of this council in over two and a half years says the very opposite?

Mrs. Vodrey: The member has certainly been wrong before. I think we see another opportunity where the member is wrong again. However, I would like to address the point of the fact—

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh.

Madam Speaker: Order, please.

Mrs. Vodrey: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I would like to however address the fact that we have named members to our Provincial Council on Youth Crime. The member seems to confuse that consistently. He has—

An Honourable Member: Oh, that is a shame.

Mrs. Vodrey: Pardon me.

An Honourable Member: You are mixed up.

Madam Speaker: Order, please.

Mrs. Vodrey: Thank you, Madam Speaker. The member has consistently confused exactly who is on this committee. This advisory council is made up of professionals in the field. It is made up of individuals who have a special interest in dealing with concerns around youth crime and violence. The committee was structured so that it could provide support to youth justice committees across the province when they require expertise in certain matters such as mediation or working with families.

Madam Speaker: The honourable member for St. Johns, with a final supplementary question.

Mr. Mackintosh: Well, perhaps, could the minister who a year and a half after she announced the Youth Advisory Council, which is a youth group, not her Provincial Council on Youth Crime where two of the nine members happen to be youth that deal with the youth justice committee—she is mixed up, Madam Speaker—but after she reported that, she reported back to the House the astounding and I think belated observation, at least by her, that, and I quote: We have been able to find leadership among the youth.

* (1410)

Madam Speaker: Order, please. Will the honourable member for St. Johns please pose his question now.

Mr. Mackintosh: Would the minister who announced a year and a half after she announced her council that, and I quote: We have been able to find leadership among the youth—how much longer do we have to wait until she decides what to do with it? When is she going to get it

together? How much longer do youth have to wait in this province?

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Speaker, well, now the member finally agrees to the fact that the entity does exist, that there is the Provincial Council on Youth Crime, because, as he has identified correctly, yes, there are two youth who have been leaders within their community who do sit on that committee and do provide the youth perspective. I think that this certainly is a very good start.

However, we have seen a number of initiatives by youth that the member across the way has continually been dismissive of. We have seen Street Peace, the youth gang line. We have seen the projects that were done by youth over a period of time, some included plays and marches within their communities to deal with the area of youth gang and violence—the member completely ignored them. In fact, I think that was another area that he said that did not even occur. So we always see the member across the way with his eyes closed and his ears closed; he is always totally out of touch with the issue.

Health Care Facilities Retainable Surpluses

Ms. Rosann Wowchuk (Swan River): Madam Speaker, health care facilities have been trying to get information from the Minister of Health regarding the expropriation of retainable surpluses. In fact, Swan River Valley Hospital wrote to the minister on May 11 but got no information from this minister; however, we are told now, they were told at a meeting, that the retainable surpluses will be utilized provincially to fund the interim administration structure of the regional health board.

Why is the minister not responding to the health facilities to explain this, and why is he punishing those facilities which lived within the guidelines and built up surpluses and are expecting to have those surpluses to use within their facilities?

Hon. James McCrae (Minister of Health): There was some discussion about this matter last summer, Madam Speaker. The honourable member and others raised that matter then. There was some displeasure with that policy and there were some discussions that flowed as a result of some direction given by myself. As for the outcome, I

will ascertain that and share that with the honourable member.

Madam Speaker: The honourable member for Swan River, with a supplementary question.

Ms. Wowchuk: Madam Speaker, I think we know the answer. The surpluses are being used. Will the minister explain why he is punishing those facilities which lived within his guidelines and this government's guidelines and built surpluses and now is treating them unfairly? These people should be rewarded for their—

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

Mr. McCrae: This is not about punishment, Madam Speaker. The honourable member is still thinking about a time that existed 40 or 50 years ago. We are in the '90s now. We are here to try to look after the patients that we have in our system, and whatever arrangements are arrived at from the standpoint of Manitoba Health, it will be a focus on patient.

The honourable member has a focus still on buildings and on beds and on bricks and on mortar and those sorts of things. I would invite her and her colleagues to get with the program which puts the patient first.

Madam Speaker: Time for Oral Questions has expired.

Speaker's Ruling

Madam Speaker: I have a ruling for the House.

I took under advisement on September 26, 1996, a point of order raised by the honourable Minister of Education (Mrs. McIntosh) about implications flowing from words used by the honourable member for Thompson (Mr. Ashton).

In reviewing Hansard, I find that the words spoken by the member for Thompson which I believe precipitated the point of order were: "We have seen the Minister of Health (Mr. McCrae) and the Minister of Education talk about comments in this House about bombs and their caricatures of labour relations in this province." In speaking to the point of order, the Minister of Education stated that the member for Thompson "tries to take an

incident that has no connection with our current labour relations and draw a parallel.”

I realize, because the Minister of Education has already told the House of an incident involving her family, that this is a difficult issue for her. However, I must draw to the attention of the minister and the House Beauchesne Citation 317(1), which states that a point of order is a question raised with the view of calling attention to any departure from the standing orders or the customary modes of proceedings in debate or in the conduct of the legislative business.

The minister, therefore, did not have a point of order. It was a dispute as to allegations of facts.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

South Winnipeg Technical Centre

Mr. Gerry McAlpine (Sturgeon Creek): Madam Speaker, I rise in the House today to inform all members and indeed all Manitobans about our government's commitment to meet the growing demand for training related to the trades and the new information technologies.

The skills in education our generation received so long ago served us well for the time. However, times have changed. The skills of yesterday no longer meet the challenges of today or tomorrow. Our government recognizes the new educational demands placed upon our workforce. A \$1.1-million expansion funded by the Canada-Manitoba Infrastructure Works Agreement of the South Winnipeg Technical Centre will see the creation of a new 9,400 square foot technology resource centre and multipurpose instructional area. This project will allow South Winnipeg Technical Centre to provide increased opportunities for secondary students, post-secondary students and employees of local firms to acquire and enhance skills related to information technologies.

Demand for the centre programs has grown to the point where the facility is fully occupied during the day and programming has been expanded during the evening. South Winnipeg Technical Centre, opening in September of 1985, provides technical, vocational, educational and training to as many as 2,500 secondary students and adults each year. It uses a competency-based model

where the individual progress is determined by skill acquisition. The centre provides a variety of full-time training programs as well as customizing training to business, industry and continuing education courses.

The centre, which is owned by the Assiniboine South, Fort Garry and St. Vital school boards has always been supportive of actively involving and meeting the educational and vocational training needs of the community. I welcome this announcement and know that the South Winnipeg Technical Centre will ensure Manitobans have the competitive edge demanded by today's employers. Thank you.

Children and Youth Secretariat

Ms. Marianne Cerilli (Radisson): I want to rise to draw attention to the Children and Youth Secretariat. October is the anniversary month of when this government formed the Child and Youth Secretariat two years ago, and we are seeing that it has become the black hole of this government, where anything that is problematic or controversial gets put into the Youth Secretariat.

It has had some 86 staff members from different government departments, over 170 community members, working away to make recommendations. We want to shine some light into the bowels of this government and have them become accountable for what their plans are with respect to children and youth services.

I know there are some recommendations that are problematic for this government. There are recommendations that they should be increasing services for health care in schools with nurses, they should be increasing physical and health education in schools, they should be increasing nutritional supplements for social allowance, recommendations in the Postl report which this Youth Secretariat is mandated to implement, but this government has been running in the opposite direction.

I think this government has to not play politics with children and youth. We do not want to see these recommendations simply come forward before the next election. Children and youth deserve fairness, and they deserve some sense of accountability from this government in the services that are going to be there for families, children and youth in our province.

I implore this government to release the reports of the steering committees from the Children and Youth Secretariat so that they will be held accountable, so that they will not simply use this as an exercise to further erode and cut the services for children, youth and their families in Manitoba. Thank you.

* (1420)

Hudson's Bay Company Museum Collection

Mr. Mike Radcliffe (River Heights): Madam Speaker, it is a pleasure for me to rise today to tell this Chamber about the supportive funding from the Canada-Manitoba Infrastructure Program which has established a permanent home for over 6,000 priceless artifacts from the Hudson's Bay Company museum collection.

These irreplaceable pieces of western Canadian history will be housed in a new wing to be built at the Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature. This collection rivals the Vatican museum with its chronology of mankind's progress over the last 300 years. Many of the pieces of this collection are unique to the early exploration and development years of our province. Having access to this collection in a highly visible environment like the Museum of Man and Nature will provide future generations of Manitobans the opportunity to view and experience the colourful history and cultural diversity of our people.

Construction of the new Hudson's Bay Company wing at the Museum of Man and Nature will begin late next month and will be completed by October of next year. This construction is thanks to a \$2.25-million contribution from the Canada-Manitoba Infrastructure Agreement. I look forward to the opportunity to view this very special collection of memorabilia from our province's history.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Manitoba Telephone System

Mr. Steve Ashton (Thompson): Madam Speaker, I have raised the issue of the sale of MTS in the Legislature many times. I am pleased to be able to indicate to the House that many Manitobans are working with the grassroots Save our System coalition throughout

the province to fight to keep our public telephone system. I want to indicate, probably the most active group is in Westman. In fact, in Brandon and Westman there are hundreds of Save MTS signs that have been put up by individual citizens, thousands of petitions have been signed and they are very active in that area of the province, raising the concerns of Manitobans. There are other groups active in such communities as Selkirk, in Dauphin, and in Thompson, and I want to indicate that we will be taking our Save MTS campaign on the road as part of what we are calling a coffee-shop tour, to get the message across to all Manitobans that this is it. As of November 6, unless this government is persuaded to listen to the people of Manitoba, we will no longer have a publicly owned telephone system.

I also want to indicate, and I will be raising this issue in the next number of weeks, that this government is not only selling off our telephone system; they are doing so in a way which is causing a great deal of concern for MTS retirees. There are more than 1,300 people on MTS pensions, and under the legislation that will sell off MTS, they will no longer be under the superannuation system, and people are very concerned. I am getting calls on almost a daily basis from MTS retirees and other MTS employees who are saying that the government has no right to tear up the pension agreements they have with the superannuation, and I say to the government, we understand that you are not listening on MTS, and we are hoping to make you listen on that. But at the very least, please listen to the many senior citizens, the many MTS retirees who are dependent on the security of their pension, and who are going to be very concerned about the sell-off of MTS. Please listen to the retirees and ensure they have security of their pensions.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Rat River Restoration Project

Mr. Jack Penner (Emerson): Madam Speaker, on September 9, the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Driedger) and I had the honour and the pleasure of participating in the opening ceremony and the dedication ceremony of the Rat River wetland restoration project.

I want to raise this issue because very often we hear members opposite criticize this government for not paying enough attention and setting aside lands that would be designated as natural lands or wildlife lands,

and I think this is another indication of our government's commitment to establishing and setting aside the kinds of lands that will in fact enhance wildlife and waterfowl in the southeast area.

But it is not only this government. The Department of Natural Resources, Ducks Unlimited, Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation and numerous other local people have put their minds, their energies and their money together. They put their hands in their pocket to make this project happen. This, in my view, will be seen in the future as one of the premier projects that will see the enhancement of waterfowl and waterfowl management in the southeast area, and I congratulate those people who participated on that day. This will also, I believe, enhance the whole Rat River area and will lay the foundation for the establishment of future projects in that area to set aside lands that will be dedicated to wildlife, to waterfowl preservation and the enhancement of tourism, above all, in that southeast area.

My congratulations and my appreciation go out to all those people in the southeast area that contributed, participated and became members of it. I want to single out one firm and one person, and it is Landmark Feeds that made a commitment of \$30,000, put their hands in their pocket, put money on the table, to set this land aside. So I congratulate all of the people of southeast Manitoba on this project.

Committee Changes

Mr. Edward Helwer (Gimli): Madam Speaker, I move, seconded by the member for Sturgeon Creek (Mr. McAlpine), that the composition of the Standing Committee on Law Amendments for the 7:30 Monday evening session be amended as follows: the member for St. Norbert (Mr. Laurendeau) for the member for Roblin-Russell (Mr. Derkach); the member for Springfield (Mr. Findlay) for the member for Charleswood (Mr. Ernst).

I move, seconded by the member for Morris (Mr. Pitura), that the composition of the Standing Committee on Economic Development for the Tuesday at 10 a.m. sitting be amended as follows: the member for Sturgeon Creek (Mr. McAlpine) for the member for Arthur-Virden (Mr. Downey); the member for Fort Garry (Mrs. Vodrey) for the member for St. Vital (Mrs. Render).

Motions agreed to.

Mr. George Hickes (Point Douglas): Madam Speaker, I move, seconded by the member for Broadway (Mr. Santos), that the composition of the Standing Committee on Law Amendments be amended as follows: Rupertsland (Mr. Robinson) for Wellington (Ms. Barrett); Flin Flon (Mr. Jennissen) for Osborne (Ms. McGifford); Kildonan (Mr. Chomiak) for Broadway (Mr. Santos) for Monday, October 7, 1996, at 7:30 p.m.

Motion agreed to.

* (1430)

ORDERS OF THE DAY

House Business

Hon. Jim Ernst (Government House Leader): Madam Speaker, for the Committee on Economic Development tomorrow morning at 10 a.m., I wish to withdraw Bills 52 and 53 from the committee. I would also like to refer Bill 25 there. Then on Thursday morning at 9 a.m., the Committee on Municipal Affairs will meet to consider Bill 54.

Madam Speaker: The Standing Committee on Economic Development scheduled for 10 a.m. Tuesday, October 8, Bills 52 and 53 are to be withdrawn. Bill 25 is to be added for consideration. For the Standing Committee on Municipal Affairs for Thursday, October 10 at 9 a.m. to consider Bill 54.

Mr. Ernst: Madam Speaker, will you please call Bills 62, 49, 36, 33, 60, 41 and 67.

DEBATE ON SECOND READINGS

Bill 62—The Jobs Fund Repeal Act

Madam Speaker: To resume second reading debate on Bill 62, on the proposed motion of the honourable Minister of Environment (Mr. Cummings), The Jobs Fund Repeal Act (Loi abrogeant la Loi sur le Fonds de soutien à l'emploi), standing in the name of the honourable member for Brandon East who has 22 minutes remaining.

Mr. Leonard Evans (Brandon East): Madam Speaker, in the continuation of the debate on this particular bill which will repeal the Manitoba Jobs Fund, I would like to add a few more thoughts to the record with regard to the role of government, particularly the provincial government, in creating jobs and stimulating the economy and helping the private sector and helping the co-operative sector, generally in stimulating the economy so that we have more jobs rather than fewer. Regrettably, in this province we just do not have enough jobs and the information we have had recently indicates that there is virtually no job creation or no job increase in the year thus far, 1996, than the level in 1995. In other words, the figures, if you put them on a chart, would show that the level of jobs was flat. The number that we had last year averaged around 522,000, I believe—or was it 521,000—and this year, we are virtually averaging about the same number. That is year-to-date figures.

We believe that the government should take more concern and more interest in this, and it is regrettable, therefore, they have seen fit to eliminate the legal framework of the Manitoba Jobs Fund. The Jobs Fund, in its day, did a terrific job in stimulating the economy, allowed Manitoba to be the first province out of the national recession that occurred in the early 1980s. Now we all benefit by having more people at work. We all lose if we have unemployment, because if a person is unemployed, he or she of course is not producing the goods and services that society wishes and, to that extent, for us to maximize production, for us to—[interjection] absolutely—maximize output, we should maximize the workforce. In other words, the ideal society is one in which there is absolutely no unemployment, that you have a rate of zero. That, of course, is the ideal.

Now, of course, when you compile statistics on people who are working or who are not working, it is a little more complicated because people do leave jobs to go to others. There is a transitional phase, people move around and so on. So you can allow a couple of points for that. But I say, regardless of what benchmark you want to use, governments, federal and provincial, have a responsibility for bringing that level down, the level of unemployment, as low as possible to maximize jobs. I would be the first one to admit that the federal government has the greater ability to stimulate the economy because not only, of course, does it control our trade through tariff policies and other agreements that it can enter into with foreign

governments, but it also has a greater fiscal capacity than the Province of Manitoba or indeed any single province in this country.

In addition to that, and something extremely important, it can and does control the Bank of Canada if it so wishes. Through its monetary policy it can direct the Bank of Canada to virtually move one way or the other. Regrettably, in this country over too many years now, we have had the Bank of Canada pursuing a policy which has resulted in very, very high interest rates, and those high interest rates have tended to dampen the economy, have made it difficult for business, have made it difficult for people who want to buy homes, have made it difficult for people who want to buy automobiles, major appliances and so on, because high interest rates act as a detriment. The Bank of Canada could, if it had an easier monetary policy, and I use that in a technical sense, easier policy, would of course bring about a lower rate of interest, and I know this is tending to happen now.

We have pleasantly heard and read about interest rate decreases in the last few weeks, and let us hope we get a bit more. But the fact is that the federal government has this power of monetary policy that no one single province has, so I would say, I would be the first one to admit that the federal government has the key role.

But having said that, I believe the provinces in turn must also play their role, must also assume their responsibility, and in the case of Manitoba back in the '80s, when I had the privilege of being in the cabinet of the Pawley NDP government, we took that responsibility seriously and established the Manitoba Jobs Fund. Now, the ideal would be, the ideal of any government thrust, of federal and provincial and hopefully co-operatively, would be, as I said, to get unemployment to zero.

Unfortunately, we just have too many pockets of people in various categories who cannot seem to find jobs for one reason or another. Many of these people are disadvantaged. They lack the training, they lack the background, they lack all kinds of—many of them have various problems. Some end up in the prison system, some have had drug difficulties and so on. There are groups of people who have difficulty in getting jobs, but, nevertheless, I think we have to take the responsibility to do whatever we can to give these people opportunities.

I think in an ideal world I would like to see some kind of a provincial job bureau which would work with municipalities, would work with service clubs, would work with the federal government, of course, and would have various kinds of employment programs that would be available, having committees around the province, regional committees, local committees or whatever, working with the province and ultimately with the private sector, working with the federal government but through a bureau that could co-ordinate these activities. and work towards this ideal of zero unemployment.

Now, I realize it is very difficult for any one province, not only because it has a more limited fiscal capacity, but also because we do not have guards at the borders. If there are more jobs in Manitoba, people may come to our province, and it is sort of a never-ending challenge, therefore. Just as you see people on welfare flooding into B.C. because they think that there are better benefits there, similarly I suppose if we had a job stimulus program here and guaranteeing jobs in the community, that we would see an influx of people.

* (1440)

So there would have to be some regulations, some limitations, say, a year's residency before you could qualify and so on. But, regardless, the point is, however you do it, whatever you do, I believe it is incumbent upon the government to undertake this responsibility. I think that of all the initiatives that we took through the Manitoba Jobs Fund, which came into effect on April 1, 1983, and which had a provincial cabinet committee set up to administer it. We had an economic development strategy that was both short term and long term, and we developed it not in isolation. As I said last day, some of these ideas came out of a conference we had in Portage la Prairie with business, with labour, with other sectors of the economy, as to how the government should go about stimulating the economy.

We allocated monies under the funds in various ways, but we did have allocations into a few broad categories. One category was wage assistance programs to help employers create jobs, new jobs. Another category was major and minor construction projects. Yet another category was matching grants to encourage municipalities and community organizations to undertake certain labour-intensive projects immediately. Yet another category was

loan programs to stimulate home construction and renovation, and a further one was energy conservation projects. All in all, thousands of jobs were created.

One wage-assistance program that I mentioned a moment ago, one of the early ones, was entitled the Manitoba Employment Action Program starting in the spring of '83. It had a number of initiatives, but it was available to all Manitoba employers in the southern part of Manitoba, and one thousand of those small employers together hired 1,700 unemployed Manitobans. Northern Manitoba business and unemployed persons were similarly assisted by a special program for the North called the Northern Remote Communities Employment Program. Another job wage program that we set up and expanded was one dealing with students and young people, namely, the CareerStart program which helped more than 4,000 Manitoba business, farms and nonprofit organizations and other employers hire, in one year, 1983, 6,300 people. So we had 4,000 small business, farmers, nonprofit groups, et cetera, hiring 6,300 young Manitobans between the months of May and October and, in doing so, gave those young people a good experience and, of course, provided them with some financial remuneration so that they could carry on with their studies in the fall if they were students or, if they were not going on, nevertheless, gave them some income and, hopefully, some good experience with which to launch their careers.

There were a number of programs helping people graduating from universities because it was bleak in '83—it was a very bad year in Canada—and to provide some opportunities for graduates that we had in engineering and science graduates program, and it enabled employers to provide jobs for graduates while maintaining engineering capacity within their operations.

The construction industry was particularly hard hit, as usual, by a recession, and the Jobs Fund strongly supported this sector. There were a whole host of construction projects funded directly by the fund. I will give you a few examples, Madam Speaker: the expansion of the auto diesel shop at the Red River Community College; the Earth Sciences centre at the University of Manitoba; a gymnasium at the Winnipeg school for the deaf; school additions at Cranberry Portage and Crane River; the Emergency Services Training college otherwise known as the fire college at Brandon;

and an extension of the Food Products Development Centre at Portage la Prairie. Then there were a whole host of many, many smaller renovation and improvement projects on public buildings that were also undertaken, providing things such as improved medical centres, tourist facilities in provincial parks and so on.

Heavy construction projects were a priority of the fund, and in that one year we allocated \$4.25 million to extra highway projects at 11 locations, put \$2.7 million into municipally cost-shared sewer and water projects, and another \$3.2 million was contributed to a street repair program jointly funded with the City of Winnipeg.

Well, there were other municipalities and community organizations, Madam Speaker, in the southern part of the province that were also able to participate by sharing costs with the Jobs Fund through the municipal Community Assets Program. This was a \$7-million program designed to permit immediate construction and renovation of local facilities in hundreds of communities and, indeed, this did happen.

Heavy construction jobs were the objective of the program, as I said, and many applications were approved for street repairs, bridge construction, as well as, public facilities such as fire-halls and municipal buildings. In northern Manitoba and remote communities, we offered similar initiatives, and, indeed, there were 106 capital projects in the one year, '83-84, October to March.

On the residential construction side, we stimulated jobs through an affordable new homes program. This was a low-interest long-term mortgage program for families building new homes and buying and renovating. Also, we had a buy-and-renovate program subsidizing mortgages for Manitobans to buy and restore homes in older neighbourhoods. As well, we had an in-fill housing program and, of course, a nonprofit housing program.

So there were many, many initiatives in the residential construction area. We also had a separate program in the cultural field. We assisted in a wide variety of projects, including the relocation and expansion of the Western Canadian Aviation Museum. We participated in the modernization of the Manitoba Forestry Resources sawmill operations at The Pas. There was a program of mapping for mosquito-control programs with rural

municipalities, and a major commitment was made to the future redevelopment of Winnipeg's North Portage area.

So by the end of the '83-84 fiscal year, the Manitoba Jobs Fund had initiated and contributed to projects and programs, creating jobs for more than 21,000 Manitobans. Over that period of time—and I will not quote all these numbers—the unemployment rate fell substantially. All in all, more than \$200 million was committed during the fiscal year, but I would add that these dollars in turn brought forth monies invested by municipal and federal governments. All in all, we had a supplementary expending by federal and municipal governments to an amount exceeding \$97 million. In addition, more than \$60 million was committed by the private sector. We in turn did provide the incentive, the stimulus for the municipal, federal governments and the private sectors to collectively spend a hundred and invest a \$157 million together.

In other words, the Jobs Fund acted as a major catalyst in stimulating the private sector, in stimulating the public sector, there were all kinds of positive spin-offs, all kinds of benefits to the community. People, young people in particular, have been able to get job experience that they would not have had otherwise.

In the '84-85, the next year of the Jobs Fund, the initial phase was designed to address immediate problems of high unemployment and the sluggish economy, and they were met head-on as I was explaining earlier with programs of the Jobs Fund. The second phase will continue those initiatives but with some rechanneling of the direction. There was a need for immediate action which thrust the government into a proactive role during the first year, but now the economy was on the upswing in '84-85, the emphasis was to be on programs which would lead to a broader expansion of our economic foundation and which would result in more permanent growth.

* (1450)

There were specific sectors targeted, and let me mention some of these. In the agricultural sector, we wanted to provide support for a strong agricultural base and permitting the expansion of the value and range of products which lend themselves to further processing in the province. The agricultural industry, one of our basic

industries, was over a \$2 billion industry and employed more than 30,000 people, and so we recognized this, but the fund through its different programs worked to assist agriculture, for example, in areas of water and soil conservation to ensure continued fertility of the land. There were other initiatives taken in the agricultural sector.

In the energy and hydro sector, this is in the second year, we engaged in a home check-up program to offer home energy analysis to homeowners across the province, and the homeowners would receive an assessment of their home retrofit needs as well as advice on the assistance programs that were available. The business and community CHEC program provided matching funds of up to \$15,000 to businesses and community organizations to retrofit their facilities to cut energy costs. The Cut Home Energy Costs Loan Program, CHEC program offered homeowners loans of up to \$1,000 which they could pay on their monthly hydro bills to assist in home retrofitting. That was done over a couple of years period. So a great many things happened under the energy-hydro portion.

Another sector which we targeted for long-term growth was the small business sector. In 1983, we introduced a one-year venture capital trial program to allow small business to set up or to expand. There was quite a bit of interest stimulated by the program, and I note we had participation in 11 venture capital companies investing almost \$1 million with Manitoba businesses. It was a relatively small program, but it was more of a pilot nature, of a trial nature. We also participated in some joint-venture programs with business, and there is quite a bit of information on how this transpired.

Technology was another sector that we thought should be stimulated in order to provide for some long-run expansion, a long-run base for the development of the province.

(Mr. Marcel Laurendeau, Deputy Speaker, in the Chair)

At any rate, I see I am running out of time, so I will only conclude by saying that it is regrettable that the Jobs Fund was not utilized at all by this government because we have had a situation, a sad situation, of lack of jobs for people. As I pointed out last time, during our years in office, which were only 6.3, we created 37,000 jobs;

37,000 jobs were created in Manitoba during our administration and only 15,000 jobs have been created during the 8.4 years so far of this particular government. They only created 15,000 compared to 37,000, more than about 2.5 times to 1. I say one of the reasons we did so well, Mr. Deputy Speaker, was because of the existence of the Manitoba Jobs Fund, all the initiatives we took, not just this government alone, but working with the private sector, working with the farm sector, working with community groups and getting as much assistance in the process from the federal government and, of course, involving municipal governments as well.

With those few remarks, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I guess I will have to sit down because I have run out of time. Thank you.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Before we continue, is there leave that this matter remain standing in the name of the honourable member for Swan River (Ms. Wowchuk)? [agreed]

Mr. Jim Maloway (Elmwood): Mr. Deputy Speaker, I, too, am very pleased today to put a few comments on the record concerning Bill 62 and following the member for Brandon East (Mr. Leonard Evans).

I wanted to, at the outset, begin by looking back a bit and looking at the reasons why the Jobs Fund was set up in the first place, why the government of the day looked at setting up such a fund, because at the time the fund was very well received by people in this province. You have to remember that, when the NDP took over in November of 1981, the economy of Manitoba was on its knees. The economy was in an absolute mess. The voters of Manitoba had just passed judgment on a one-term Conservative government; in fact, it was the first government this century to only last one term and it deserved no more than that. In fact, the NDP ended the election with 35 seats, which was our largest total—

An Honourable Member: Thirty-four.

Mr. Maloway: The member reminds me that it was 34, which was the largest total that we have had at any time while in government.

Now, during this recession that was being helped along by the Conservative government of the day we had on top

of a deep recession, we had record mortgage foreclosures, we had record-high interest rates; in fact, I recall during that period that interest rates hit 18 percent to 20 percent, 21 percent. I remember being involved in a group, involved in bringing attention to that problem and trying to resolve it, a group called Homeowners Against Rising Mortgages, and we had a lot of media coverage and demonstrations and petitions and so on trying to do some work to try to solve this problem.

I might also tell you that people in 1981 in this province, businesses were lined up to give money to the NDP for the election campaign of that year. Architects and engineers in this province were coming to us. These were architects and engineers, Mr. Deputy Speaker, who would say, we are Conservatives, we normally donate to the Conservative Party, but we want to donate to you because there is no construction going on in Manitoba, nothing is being built. Senior citizen home construction was cancelled. There was absolutely no activity in this province. That is why we saw people abandoning the Conservatives in droves, rushing to us, people who were not normally supporters of the NDP, because they wanted to get rid of the reactionary government of the time that basically believed in no-growth and had no growth in the economy. They came with a government that showed some promise and wanted to do something about the sad state of the Manitoba economy. At the time the Conservatives had promised an Alcan aluminum smelter, and that proposal went nowhere. Nothing this government tried to do developed into anything.

So when the NDP formed the government after the 1981 election, the government of the day had a big job to do trying to undo some of the mess that had been left by the previous government. As I said, the entire country at that period was in one of the normal downturns, periodic downturns, in the economy, and it was a very serious recession that we were dealing with at the time. So the government of the day set up the Jobs Fund to try to correct some of the problems induced by the recession. There was no suggestion that somehow all of the problems would be solved through the Jobs Fund but, at least, unlike the Herbert Hoover-R.B. Bennett approach of the Tories, who were in power then, at least this was a government with some degree of activism and a government that was willing to try something new to get the economy moving again.

In fact, at the end of the day we had proven that the Jobs Fund was reasonably successful in that in the period of time that the NDP was in government, a good number, actually 37,000 jobs were in fact created during that period from December 1981 to March of 1988, which is 6.3 years.

* (1500)

Now, in a greater period of time than that, since April of 1988 till August of this year, which is 8.4 years, there have only been 15,000 jobs created, and what we have here is a much better record of job creation under the NDP years than you had under the Conservative period. In fact, during that period the NDP created jobs at two-thirds of the national rate while the PCs were only creating jobs at one-half of the national rate.

Now, over that period of time I know the Conservatives were able to, when they were in opposition, try to make fun of the Jobs Fund, and there were a lot of jokes about the green signs and so on. That got articles printed and got them a little bit of press, nitpicking and picking little holes here and there on the program. But the statistics of the program indicate that there was a much better record there than they are prepared to accept was the case.

Now, over those years we had a number of special projects. The member for Brandon East (Mr. Leonard Evans) has outlined the number of projects that the Jobs Fund was involved in, but the member for Transcona, the current member for Transcona (Mr. Reid), remembers the refurbishing of the railway cars that went on at Transcona Shops. There was a rail car development program.

There were a huge number of projects that Jobs Fund money was going into, and we should, you know, understand that we are talking about leveraged money here. This was not just a case of the provincial government putting in all of the money. What we had here was essentially a joint venture between the province and the private sector and the other levels of government, the municipal levels and the federal level. For example, some of the projects involved the municipalities, municipal programs that just were not done during those four dry Tory years. The municipalities could not get anything done during those four years. Under this program they were able to access jointly funds to get projects put into place. Local organizations such as

legions and personal care homes and churches were able to get money to install things like wheelchair ramps and other types of activity that needed to be done.

What these activities did was they improved the properties and they put people to work. In many cases, the youth unemployment rate always seems to be a problem. No matter what government is in power, the youth unemployment rate is higher than the average. It is very important for youths to have their first job, and many of the youths in this province got those first jobs during the Jobs Fund period, and they would learn a lot from having that opportunity as opposed to what was happening in the four years prior to this program.

This bill, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is nothing but a political document. There were a number of things that, I guess, probably aggravate us in opposition—and when we become government, perhaps, out of principle, we will want to repeal. Well, this bill was one of those when it comes to this government, to the Tories. This bill was like waving a red flag in front of a bull. The bull will always rise and charge the flag. But this Bill 62, they hated the Jobs Fund. Nothing would get the Tories more riled up than the Jobs Fund, so at every opportunity they would rant and rail against the government and the Jobs Fund. The problem was that they ranted and railed so much that when they did become the government, they were not in a position to be able to backtrack sufficiently fast to be able to use some of the good aspects of the program. That is the sad part about it that in fact had they not been so critical of the Jobs Fund that they perhaps when they were elected would have realized that it had some valuable need for it and would have kept it around.

But that underlies the approach of a government of, say, the NDP stripe and the Conservative stripe. When the economies are going well, sometimes it is harder to tell the difference. But it is when the economy is in a recession that you really see the difference between R.B. Bennett and Herbert Hoover types over on the Conservative side and people on this side of the House. God help us if the business cycle takes a downturn, which it must every so many years, between now and 1999, when the business cycle downturns and the Hooverites on the other side and the R.B. Bennett types on the other side have to deal with the problem, and not being able to accept the idea of a Jobs Fund, will fall back to their

ideology, will fall back logically to their ideology of doing nothing as the economy just slides to a halt, and that is what happens, Mr. Deputy Speaker, when the economy gets into a recession.

In our government, we were not prepared to allow the economy to drag itself along for another two or three years waiting for the business cycle to right itself. We do not have the faith, we do not have the undying faith in the Chamber of Commerce's ability to get the economy going as the members opposite do.

As a matter of fact, how much faith does the Chamber of Commerce have in the business cycle? I was going through the Public Accounts records the other day. I am looking at grants, and I see grants to various business organizations, but certainly one of them was the Chamber of Commerce. I mean, here is an organization, a free-enterprise organization that will regale and rant and rave about government interference in business, government grants to business, and here they are accepting a business grant. Now, if that is not the ultimate in hypocrisy, I do not know what is [interjection] Well, the member is trying to be funny, and he is not being successful at it.

But you see, Mr. Deputy Speaker, what I am trying to get at here is, there is a fundamental difference in approach to this problem that would be exhibited by the Conservatives when they are in government and the NDP approach. Now, we happen to feel that our approach is the most successful, and it has been proven over the long haul that—it was not, once again, the Hooverites across the way who got the economy going in the 1930s. I mean, if we had left the economy to R.B. Bennett and his Bennett buggies and Herbert Hoover, the recession would be going on to this day. It would be a 60-year recession, because what was the Conservative answer to the problem? The Conservative answer was, well, do nothing. Maybe we could hide in the sand and hopefully things will go, the problem will rectify itself, but it never did. It took a Keynesian approach to the economy, to the economics of the day, to bring about a sustained recovery which continued for many years.

Over the years, we will test our theories and they will test their theories, and at the end of the day, I think the people will have to make a judgment as to whose approach is successful and whose approach is not.

* (1510)

Now, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I wanted to say that back in 1982 and '83, while Canada was in a very serious recession, Manitoba was the first province to get out of the recession. Many have concluded that the reason that we were so quick out of the recession was that we had the Jobs Fund, that we had this huge stimulus that got so much activity going.

I mean, what actions were the Conservative government of the day doing that would help the problem? Well, let me tell you. There was the Alcan smelter. Well, everybody remembers the Alcan smelter. Remember the Deputy Premier (Mr. Downey)—the member for Transcona (Mr. Reid) might remember this. [interjection] Not the former member for Transcona, the current member for Transcona might remember that it was the current Deputy Premier who ended up buying a bunch of land within a couple of miles of the Alcan smelter.

Point of Order

Hon. Darren Praznik (Deputy Government House Leader): On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the member for Elmwood is putting on the record—he is imputing a wrongdoing to the member for Arthur-Virden which I think has been proven time and time again to have not been the case that the member—and I would ask you to call the member to order. I think it is a rather shameful display to raise an incident that is not true and imply that somehow the member for Arthur-Virden was involved in a land deal related to Alcan. That was totally untrue, and the member should take caution in all his remarks.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I thank the honourable member. I will take the opportunity to read Hansard and report back to the House.

* * *

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The honourable member for Elmwood, to continue.

Mr. Maloway: I will not go further on this issue. I mean, the members can read the newspapers of the day to get all the seamy details of this. I was simply pointing

out to the members, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that at the time the only thing the Conservative government of the day had going was the Alcan smelter. There was controversy surrounding the Alcan smelter, and nothing in fact got built. In fact, they were planning to give away the province, they were planning to give away the ownership of the dams, they were prepared to give away half the province to get this smelter.

Unlike that government, this one has shown a few more signs of being interested in development. It has shown a few more signs of being clear of conflicts that the previous government had, which did impact on its performance. So the member need not get his shorts in a knot about something that he was not around here when it occurred. I am not going to take the bait and get any further into this. I was simply trying to point out to the members that it was a government of inaction. It is a government that anything that it did try to do turned into a boondoggle, and one of the head boondogglers is sitting in the front row today—perhaps he has learned some lessons—and the public had made a decision to turf them out of power, and it did so in a major way.

What I am pointing out to you is that when the new government came in, one of the centrepieces of our activity was the Jobs Fund, and they were very testy about that. They got a good whooping in the election and they did not like it, and so they worked on the Jobs Fund. Every little aspect of the Jobs Fund that they could poke a hole in, they would do that. That is why this bill, Bill 62, is before us here today because of their dislike, their disgust, their basic hatred of this idea.

Now, Mr. Deputy Speaker—[interjection] Well, the member for Portage la Prairie (Mr. Pallister) is chirping from his seat again, which he is wont to do, but he should know that the Jobs Fund came out of an economic conference that was held in Portage la Prairie back in 1982. You see, some good does come from Portage la Prairie.

Point of Order

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The honourable Minister of Government Services, on a point of order.

Hon. Brian Pallister (Minister of Government Services): Mr. Deputy Speaker, there is no question that

much good comes from Portage la Prairie, but the Jobs Fund would certainly not be an example of that.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The honourable member does not have a point of order.

* * *

Mr. Maloway: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the fact of the matter is the current member for Portage la Prairie is reflecting on the people back in 1982, the leaders of the business community, the people in industry, people in labour and government representatives who met to decide on a course of action to get the province out of recession. I mean, he has no respect for the people of the day who were making a sincere effort at the conference to develop a plan to get the province out of the recession.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I have allowed a little bit of leniency this afternoon, but seeing as today is Monday, I think it is time to reel it in a little bit. Could I ask that those conversations that are going on right now go on in the hallways or out in the loges. I think it is much more appropriate.

The honourable member for Elmwood, to continue.

Mr. Maloway: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. When the business leaders, the labour leaders and the government leaders were meeting in Portage la Prairie, they were performing a function that is not unlike the process that has worked very successfully in Europe for many years, in the Scandinavian countries where the economy is more or less centrally directed or centrally planned by virtue of the leaders in the labour movement, in the business community and the government getting together and deciding in a sectoral way how the economy is to run for the next period of time. So what we were doing was borrowing from ideas that had worked somewhere else, and that is what we have to get back to. We need co-operation in this province, which we are not seeing right now. We need co-operation between business, between labour and between the government. Among these three groups, if there is no co-operation, if there is no good will among the three groups, as was seen, as was experienced by the Jobs Fund back in 1982 and '83, unless that good will and willingness to meet and co-operate is there among these three key groups in the economy then the economy is not going to go along. It is not going to

expand. It is not going to do as well as what it could. That is just a fundamental point.

The member for Brandon East (Mr. Leonard Evans) spoke about the 21,000 jobs that were created by the Jobs Fund, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in its very first year. He talked about the jobs with the municipalities. The municipalities have a difficult time as it is finding money with declining tax bases in a lot of cases, finding the wherewithal, the money to develop infrastructure. That is exactly what the Jobs Fund did: it came to the aid of the municipalities in this province to accomplish some of the projects that were really necessary for them to have to make life better and to keep those municipalities intact and to stop the disintegration and the migration away. In fact, it was a very important move in terms of rural development.

* (1520)

I mentioned earlier that churches got grants. I know of a church that got a grant to put in a wheelchair ramp. I do not think anyone here would suggest that somehow that would not be a socially useful project, a project that is necessary. We have mentioned, the legions got money, senior homes got money. All of these projects were vetted through the proper methods, and work was done with leverage money.

As was indicated, in the Jobs Funds' case, the government put up 40 percent of the funds, and that was an excellent way of leveraging money from the private sector and from the other levels of government to get these projects done. It was the closest we have come yet to be able to adopt a system similar to what has worked well in the Scandinavian countries for years and years.

If this government refuses to adopt a co-operative approach in dealing with the other sectors of the economy, then they will see we in the opposition doing that job for them. In fact, it will certainly make the member for Brandon East (Mr. Leonard Evans) feel vindicated if we were to win the election next time based on a coalition of a business and labour groups wanting to throw out the government because of its inaction and usher in a new co-operative approach to get the economy going again. That is, in fact, where I think the trend line is headed.

I think the member indicated that at least \$157 million came from the private sector, from the municipalities, from the federal governments, to stimulate the economy. The jobs that were created, you have to look at the individuals who were affected by these jobs. We are talking about unemployed people. When we are talking about young people who have not had a job for a while, what happens is, despair sets in, what happens is, alcoholism grows, teenage pregnancies. All sorts of social problems develop when people are not working, and it is impossible to quantify exactly how much social upheaval was in fact prevented and ameliorated by this Jobs Fund program.

In the four desperate, desolate years that the government opposite held the reins of power, nothing was happening. In those four years, the social problems were increasing. Once the new government came into power and the Jobs Fund was kicked into action, there were many, many people, young people and people on Unemployment Insurance, who had meaningful jobs, who had income and a feeling of a sense of work and became productive members of society. I would guess there are a lot of people that would think very fondly about the programs that were a part of this program that they may have taken part in, that were helpful to them and kept them away from some of the social problems that we have seen.

I mean, what do the young people have to look forward to today to keep themselves busy? This government has given them VLTs. That is its answer. The Tory answer today to the Jobs Fund is VLTs. That is its answer. If it does not fit within the balanced budget legislation, then of course it is not—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The honourable member's time has expired.

As previously agreed, this matter will remain standing in the name of the honourable member for Swan River (Ms. Wowchuk).

Committee Change

Mr. George Hickes (Point Douglas): I have a committee change.

I move, seconded by the member for Elmwood (Mr. Maloway), that the composition of the Standing

Committee on Economic Development be amended as follows: Dauphin (Mr. Struthers) for Thompson (Mr. Ashton); St. Johns (Mr. Mackintosh) for Elmwood (Mr. Maloway); St. James (Ms. Mihychuk) for Crescentwood (Mr. Sale); Rupertsland (Mr. Robinson) for Swan River (Ms. Wowchuk) for Tuesday, October 8, for 10 a.m.

Motion agreed to.

Bill 49—The Regional Health Authorities and Consequential Amendments Act

Mr. Deputy Speaker: On the proposed motion of the honourable Minister of Health (Mr. McCrae), Bill 49, The Regional Health Authorities and Consequential Amendments Act (Loi concernant les offices régionaux de la santé et apportant des modifications corrélatives), standing in the name of the honourable member for Swan River (Ms. Wowchuk) who has 27 minutes remaining.

Is there leave that this matter remain standing? [agreed]

Mr. Leonard Evans (Brandon East): Mr. Deputy Speaker, I rise today to make a contribution to the debate of this very important, very fundamental bill, 49, on The Regional Health Authorities Act. In fact, the title of the bill really betrays the impact of the bill. It does not portray the fact that this bill is very fundamental and can and will provide the basis for a substantial change in the health care system as we know it today. It is simply not about regional authorities; it goes beyond that. It goes into the heart of the democratic process as to how it is operating. It goes into the whole question of how labour issues, employment standards and employment transitional benefits should be handled. So it gets into the field of labour relations as well.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, there has been a lot of concern by people in Manitoba of this bill as they become familiar with what it means and what it could imply. I note that the Manitoba Health Organizations, the MHO, which is a very well-respected organization of health care officials throughout Manitoba, is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization representing virtually the health care community in the basic institutions that we have in Manitoba—the hospitals and nursing homes and so on. They have outlined a number of major concerns with the bill. From their analysis, they maintain that even though we have these regional boards established under this bill,

or give the government the authority to establish these regional boards, nevertheless the major decision making will still be concentrated in the Department of Health.

In other words, the question arises, to what extent do we have real decentralization of decision making? To what extent do we have regional decentralization in terms of tailoring programs to fit the various segments of the province, the various regions of the province. The fact is that this could be tantamount to some kind of a fraud. In other words, we are telling you, you are getting regional boards, you are getting regional authorities, but virtually all the power in the minister's office will be maintained in the core of the Department of Health. So really one could be rather less than charitable and say, well, the main reason for setting up these boards is to enable the government to use them as a front while they cut back in the health care system. Do not blame us if the local board, the regional board, happens to close down the hospital in one community or another. It is not our fault. The regional board made this decision.

Well, of course, the regional board would have had to make some very hard decisions because I am predicting they are going to be underfunded. They will not have the monies they require to maintain the level of services in the various hospitals, so places like Wawanessa could lose a hospital, and Shoal Lake which was hoping to have an expansion and new hospital, goodness knows, what is going to happen there in the future. There are many communities that are rightly concerned as to the future status of their hospital. Well, the government, I am not surprised, did not act on this, and will not act on this, until the regional boards are in place, so that they can do the dirty work, if you will, for them.

* (1530)

It sounds very cynical, but, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think, unfortunately, this is going to come to pass, this is what is going to happen, and no one likes to see a rural hospital close, particularly if you live in the particular community, but from the departmental point of view the argument may be, well, we have too many hospitals. They might make that argument. We have too many beds, and therefore somebody has to give up, some community has to be prepared to sacrifice its particular health-care facility. One does not want to see this, but I am suggesting that the Minister of Health will find these

regional boards to be a very convenient tool to virtually hide behind in terms of the very, very serious negative consequences of underfunding.

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

But, all the while, any major change in the system will still be concentrated in the Department of Health. The Manitoba Health Organizations has pointed that out very, very well in its brief, and I would urge all members of this Legislature who will have to vote on this bill to study the MHO brief. It is submitted to the government in an unpartisan way. They do not represent any political party. Obviously, they are presenting the views of people who are expert in this field.

Another problem that the bill presents, and this is quite serious, that in future changes to the health-care system can come by regulation which, of course, goes by cabinet action rather than by statute, rather than by legislation. Instead of having to bring another bill in, the Minister of Health can simply go to cabinet and change the organization, change the system, the health-care system in one way or other simply by regulation, and this, Mr. Acting Speaker, is undemocratic. It is far better for serious changes—I am not talking about miscellaneous, minor, trivial, technical changes; I am talking about something of a major nature. It is far better for the democratic process that this come before this Assembly and that the public through the media or anyone who wants to pay attention will understand what is happening and the public would be given an opportunity also as usual to present their briefs, their views, before a committee when that particular amendment to one of the health-care acts comes before it.

As the MHO has pointed out very well in their brief, major programs could be wiped out without public scrutiny, and I do not think any member of this House, no matter which party they belong to, would wish to see this, because I want to remind people that we do have an opportunity to sit on both sides of this House. There is nothing written in the stars that one will only be on the government side or, indeed, on the opposition side. In time, though one may find yourself on the government side now, you may find yourself in future on the opposition side, and I am sure that if a major change were to be necessary to the health care system you would want

it brought before the assembly and not have it dealt with simply by cabinet.

Another problem that the bill has is the fact that there are provisions for a commissioner to have extraordinary powers in dealing with employees. Now, how does this come about? Well, the fact is, there is a clause or clauses here to provide for transitional employment situations. In other words, if you have facilities either closed down or combined, you are going to see employees being moved from one facility to another, and you may involve more than one union.

There could be a CUPE union; there could be the Manitoba Nurses' Union, for example, and there will be problems. This bill gives the commissioner, as he is called or she is called in this bill, extraordinary powers in dealing with these employees, in fact powers that really should be under the Manitoba Labour Board but are not and will not be. In other words, the Labour Board, in its mandate, which is established by statute law, will be contravened in effect by the commissioner, who will be operating under this particular bill, a commissioner who will have extraordinary powers and who will have no public accountability. This is another observation of the Manitoba Health Organizations and something that all Manitobans should be concerned about.

(Mr. Marcel Laurendeau, Deputy Speaker, in the Chair)

Another difficulty with this particular bill is that it is almost silent on the role of community health centres. There is no reference, I believe, in here as to initiatives that could be taken in terms of providing community health programs over and beyond hospitals. I am not suggesting that there cannot be community health facilities. In fact, there was one opened just officially a couple of weeks ago. I had the opportunity to be there. I had the privilege and honour of being there with the Minister of Health (Mr. McCrae) a couple of weeks ago, where a facility was opened in Brandon promoting good health in terms of heart problems and in terms of diabetes, those two disease areas, diabetes and heart.

I was very impressed, and this is an outreach facility. It involves the Department of Health but also involves the Brandon General Hospital.

So I am suggesting, you do not need this bill or you do not need to refer to it, I am sure, in the bill, but, nevertheless, the criticism does stand that there should be mention of the role, the potential role, the future role of community health programs, community health centres. There is nothing here by way of an appeal mechanism, and, again, the government and all MLAs in this Chamber should be concerned about the ability or the lack of ability of citizens or officials in the system to appeal decisions of the health board.

The health board will have, according to the legislation, the final say in the particular region and can therefore overrule any particular hospital board or any nursing home board, and it will have the money provided by the Department of Health, by the government and, in its wisdom, may make mistakes or may do something that is not as acceptable to some as one would like. Therefore, it is only natural for citizens and people in the system to want to appeal, and therefore, there should be an appeal mechanism built into this legislation to provide necessary checks and balances, but that indeed is not present. There are no appeal mechanisms, and this is another deficiency of this particular legislation.

Further, I am just wondering to what extent we are simply adding to the bureaucracy in the health care delivery system. I have heard many members opposite on the government side talk about the need to be very efficient and not to have too many public servants, not to have too many civil servants; and, in fact, they have cut the civil service, and they have bragged about being able to do with fewer staff, yet, this bill provides the basis for an additional degree of bureaucracy in the whole system.

It maintains the Department of Health, with all its personnel, will establish regional boards which will have to have staff. They will have to have people who will do accounting, who will do research, who will do whatever is required to help those boards make decisions. In addition, of course, the local hospital boards, local nursing home boards, continue with their key staff and then in addition the bill sets up advisory councils for each district. Again, we do not know to what extent those councils will have to have personnel, but I would think they would have to have some form of secretariat to be an effective advisory council. You just cannot expect citizens to voluntarily sit on a council and not have some secretarial assistance or to have some means by which to

pay for—they have to have funds for postage and whatever else they wish to do, and they need staff for their advisory function.

* (1540)

So here you have the Department of Health regional board, the local hospital or nursing home board and then a district advisory council—four levels or four compartments. It remains to be seen, it is going to be very, very interesting to see, to what extent the bureaucracy will be maintained in the Department of Health while the bureaucracy is built up in the regional boards. That can be a very serious problem.

Now maybe the minister will tell us, oh, no, we are going to cut staff in the department or maybe transfer some out so that there will not be this extra growth, but I am suggesting, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that this is a direct possibility, this is a distinct possibility that you will have an expansion of the number of officials required to operate this regional service that we have been discussing.

Perhaps most serious of all is the reference in the bill to charging user fees. As a matter of fact, this is mentioned in different parts of the bill, but I look particularly at Section 25 when they discuss the general powers of the regional health authority and it states, under 25(e), “where authorized by regulation, charge fees for health services, or categories of health services, directly to the person who received the services, at the rates fixed in, or calculated in accordance with, the regulations.” In other words, the minister and his department can authorize the regional health authority, in turn, to exercise and implement a user fee system.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is a threat to the Canadian health care system as we know it, where we have a one-payer system, as the Americans like to refer to it as, where you have people being able to access a universal system, and it is available to all. Now, with this system being proposed, with the user fees being proposed in this bill, you are going to have a system where some people who have money will get certain services, certain operations or whatever within a brief period of time, and those who do not have money will just have to go on the waiting list and wait for how long?

We have an example of this right here and now. In case of eye surgery, removal of cataracts, we have actually got this two-tiered system right here in Manitoba. I have constituents who are very poor who have to wait for months, if not close to a year or more, for cataract surgery, whereas, if they had the money, the \$1,000, \$1,500, \$2,000, whatever it happens to be, they can have their eye surgery done, their cataracts removed in a matter of a week or two weeks. There is no waiting period. This is one example of a working user-fee system.

Well, with this particular clause, these board can go beyond this and exercise and bring in a whole host of fee of services that can be charged at the same time. Again, the Manitoba Health Organizations comments on this, and it says that it is tantamount to an insidious deinsuring of health services. In contrast, it makes no mention of services that are basic, that would be guaranteed, such as you would get under the Canada Health Act. So, on the one hand, there are no guarantees; on other hand, you are saying to the local boards, we may pass regulations enabling you to charge these fees.

That to me is one of the major problems with this bill. It is a threat. It is a draconian measure. It is a threat to the universal accessible health care system as we have known it. Are we opening the door wide to a deinsuring of health services in the province of Manitoba?

What also concerns us on this side, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is that while the minister likes to brag about consulting wide and far with the community, with the health care providers and so on, as far as we are concerned there have been no genuine public hearings for the community, for people at large around Manitoba, to come to the government and give them some views on the bill. It would be good if this bill and this committee could go about the province. You cannot do this with every bill, but by virtue of the fact that this is so basic, it is so basic to the health care system, and it is tantamount to a major revision of the system as we know it, that public hearings should be held. A committee should go around, with all parties represented, not just the government side with a couple of MLAs, as has been happening, even though they may be well intended. If you want a bona fide committee of this Legislature to go about Manitoba to get the views, it should represent all parties on that committee, not the government side alone.

If it only has the government side, you cannot say that it is truly a legislative committee. It is a government task force maybe, but it is not a legislative committee hearing the views of the citizens.

Well, this did not occur one way or the other with this particular bill, and that to me is a major deficiency. So here we have a bill the people now are just becoming aware of, that it is posing a major challenge to the health care system as we know it and that they have some basic concerns. They are finally coming around to understanding it, but we would have served the democratic process far, far better if the Legislature had a committee with this bill around the province, allowing maximum input from the citizens.

Another criticism of these boards, and a great disappointment, I know, to a lot of people is the fact that they are to be appointed by the minister or the government, they will not be elected. They will not be democratically elected in their locale. Now, I believe, in the province of Saskatchewan they are elected. There is provision, I do not know the details, but they are representing the community. They are elected by the community.

I suppose the minister could say, well, look, these boards are not going to be responsible for raising the money. Unlike a school board which is somewhat related to a municipality that has to raise property taxes, these boards will not be required to raise a penny towards this, of course, unless they charge user fees or allow the medical community to charge the fees. But really you could argue, well, you do not collect the money so you—I mean, we are collecting the money, we the government, so we have the responsibility, basically, and therefore we will do the appointing. So that is an argument. There is some logic to that, but, having said that, I think a lot of people will be less than satisfied to feel that they have a regional board that, sure, they may come from the area but the people in the area did not have an opportunity to elect. They were just sort of put there, sort of foisted upon them, whether they liked it or not, here you are, this is your regional board.

I am sure a lot of these people will be well meaning and will do their best, and they will serve. But they will still not reflect some of the views of the community, therefore, I think, Mr. Deputy Speaker, they should at

least in part be democratically elected. At least some of them should be elected so that that would be a compromise position. I guess the ideal, in a way, is total elections, totally democratically elected, as in Saskatchewan, but fallback would be, okay, we are going to appoint some but some will be elected by the community at large.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have pointed out some of the major difficulties with the bill. There are many others, and I try to imagine how this particular legislation is going to apply in my own constituency where we have a major health care facility, the Brandon General Hospital, and several large nursing homes, personal care homes. Just how is it going to operate there? As I gather, the region will be relatively small. It will be mainly greater Brandon area and will be more in a sense resembling the two regional boards that I believe will be in the Winnipeg area.

I stand to be corrected on that number for Winnipeg, but I know there are 10 rural boards in addition. In this case, you will have a board who will, therefore, oversee the regional authority that will oversee the board of directors of the Brandon General Hospital and the board of the Fairview Home and of the Dinsdale Home and the Rideau Park nursing home, to mention the main facilities.

* (1550)

The suggestion has been made by the Minister of Health (Mr. McCrae) who represents part of the city of Brandon, Brandon West, that this particular regional health board will guarantee and assure the role of Brandon General Hospital in the future as an important regional facility. Well, Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is not the case whatsoever, because to begin with Brandon General Hospital, which we think is still a regional hospital, has been undermined because of serious underfunding by this government in the last four or five years, and the region that it serves is well beyond the region of the Brandon regional health board. The Brandon regional health authority will take in an area very close to the city of Brandon, whereas the region that the BGH serves takes in eastern Saskatchewan. It takes in north of Brandon. People from Dauphin come, Swan River and so on, various parts of the province beyond Westman, so that it has served a regional function, but that regional function is being undermined and limited by

the underfunding of the Minister of Health (Mr. McCrae) who should be very concerned because this hospital is in his own back yard, and the information we have—for example, in 1996-97, the Brandon General Hospital will have an estimated funding shortfall of \$2.4 million.

That is because the government itself has cut \$1.6 million, but there are increases in costs and also because of the fact that there may be a reinstatement of salary levels to the pre-minus-two level. You may recall, some staff took a minus-two cut, and this was supposed to be reinstated this year. Well, that is still subject to provincial negotiation.

When we take all these factors into account, there is a shortfall of \$2.4 million. The management of the hospital is looking for initiatives to cut costs. I am advised, and this is public information, that they will try to find—after one go-around, they found some places to cut—they will go around again and look for another \$890,000 to cut, not that they want to, but even after all that is done, they will still be short of nearly a million dollars. After all these cuts, they will still be short nearly a million dollars, and what are they going to do?

Its role as a regional facility is being undermined. Its role as an important health care facility, period, is being undermined, and now that the hospital is going to be forced to cut more medical beds—I believe there have been 40 beds eliminated. The Minister of Health keeps on, really jokingly, not seriously, about bed cuts when we were in government. This is absolute nonsense. There were some summertime closures, and there were some other things that happened to offset that, such as out-of-hospital surgery beds that were put in place, but the fact is, over the last few years, it has lost 120 equivalent full-time positions, and 40 beds have been eliminated.

Now they are short again, and they are going to have to look for solutions. What are they going to do about this bottom-line one million dollars? Well, it is going to mean more bed closures. It is going to mean perhaps the loss of speech therapy services. Nobody wants to see the loss of speech therapy services. The minister says he does not want to see it. I do not know whether he was alluding to this in Question Period today, saying, well, we were advocating. Well, that is absolute garbage and absolute nonsense. It is just the reverse. We have been going after him to assure the continuation of the speech

therapy services. How many letters have I written? How many letters have I received on the subject? [interjection] Right, a ton.

Nevertheless, the underfunding by the minister, by this government, means that they are going to have to look at that. They are going to have to possibly eliminate the speech therapy service. They do not want to, but what are they going to do? So the government and the minister have to get real. You cannot expect to maintain Brandon General as an important facility and as an important regional centre if you do not fund it properly.

So there is no question that Bill 49 really has no bearing on the future role of Brandon General Hospital as a regional facility, although the minister made statements to Brandon to that effect a couple of weeks ago. That is totally wrong. What will ensure the well-being of Brandon General as an effective, meaningful health facility is funding. It has to be funded properly, and without that funding, it will continue to deteriorate. This is very sad. It has good staff. They are doing their best, but they are overworked, and the morale at that hospital is extremely low. You just talk to anyone there, and you will find it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I gather my time is now concluded, and I thank you for listening to me and giving me the opportunity to put these comments on Bill 49. I really would hope that the minister will seriously look at this bill and withdraw it, because it is—we are not against decentralization, but this bill goes beyond that, and it has too many flaws in it. It should be really withdrawn and reworked. Thank you.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: As previously agreed, this bill will remain standing in the name of the honourable member for Swan River (Ms. Wowchuk).

Bill 36—The Social Allowances Amendment and Consequential Amendments Act

Mr. Deputy Speaker: On the proposed motion of the honourable Minister of Family Services (Mrs. Mitchelson), Bill 36, The Social Allowances Amendment and Consequential Amendments Act (Loi modifiant la Loi sur l'aide sociale et apportant des modifications corrélatives), standing in the name of the member for Point Douglas (Mr. Hickes).

Stand? Is there leave that this matter remain standing?
[agreed]

Ms. Diane McGifford (Osborne): Mr. Deputy Speaker, I rise today to speak on Bill 36, The Social Allowances Amendment Act, and it will come as no surprise to members opposite that this bill is not pleasing to this side of the House. I know the honourable member for Burrows (Mr. Martindale) has already spoken and made that point very clear.

What I want to do today is to discuss three major points. First of all, I want to discuss the decision to provide the one-tier system throughout the city of Winnipeg and the province, which the government claims will reduce costs by eliminating duplication in administration and improving efficiency. I want to say parenthetically, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that I find it very hard to believe in the whole concept of duplication in social services. Quite frankly, my experience in the field is that cases of duplication or cases that are called cries of duplication usually mean that the government wants to save some money by reducing much needed services and usually by overworking already overworked and, in some cases, some pretty dispirited workers, so I do not really buy this whole notion of duplication. There is not a lot of fat in social services, and in fact the pickings are pretty lean. Anyway, I want to come back to this point.

The second major issue that I want to address is the new directions or, as I prefer to think of them, the new twists in social welfare or—anyway I want to discuss this.

Third, I want to discuss women and children living on social assistance and particularly the punitive new realities that this legislation will mean for the lives of Manitoba women and children on social services.

Before I get into these matters properly, I want to comment on the change of language and the name changes in this bill, the change from The Social Allowances Act to the employment and income assistance act. I know the minister told us at second reading that we would be no longer using the term “social allowances,” and I know that this is not merely a cosmetic change. As I think all members here will agree, language is one of the most powerful tools we have in the creation of visions, in the creation of idea, and in the creation of reality. Anyone here who is familiar with Bible myth, for

example, will remember that in the Bible it is Adam who names the animals. When he names the animals, he is not merely giving them names; what he is demonstrating is knowledge of the animalness of each animal that he names. Once again, it is language that separates us from animals and language that allows us to articulate visions, ideas and reality. Articulation and language are basic to human experience.

* (1600)

It is clear what Tory spin doctors are up to here. Not only are they shifting the paradigm and doing this through the new title, but they are also, through this new title, quite clearly beginning to divest themselves of any responsibility for providing social allowances and, as well, suggesting that each and every citizen in Manitoba should be employed.

This bill and its title does not make allowances for those whose physical conditions, illness and physical disabilities mean that they cannot and probably never will work. It does not make allowances for those living with mental disabilities, mental illness or mental breakdown, which may mean that they cannot and probably never will be employable.

So it seems to me, this shift in title is definitely an attack on the dignity of the less fortunate citizens of Manitoba. The assumptions in this new title are that everyone should work, those who do not are somehow aberrant and that there is no government responsibility to provide assistance for those who cannot. Though here the government in its kindness and wisdom will provide, not social assistance, but employment and income assistance.

I want to reiterate that the current legislation then shifts the discourse by changing language, by using language which I would suggest begins a process whereby government ultimately will divest itself of a social responsibility for those who are most needy and most in need in our province. It gives a door out. It turns its back on the principles that Manitobans most value, compassion, social justice and co-operation.

Now, I know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that this door was first opened by the federal government who, by abandoning the Canada Assistance Plan, thanks to

persons like my member of Parliament, the former Minister of Human Resources, Lloyd Axworthy, by abandoning the Canada Assistance Plan and moving to the block funding of Canada Health and Social Transfer Act, the federal government led the way, led the field in disregarding social, health and educational responsibilities.

I know the member for Burrows (Mr. Martindale), when he spoke on Bill 36, spoke of the history of social allowances in Canada and addressed the fact that in Saskatchewan, unlike Manitoba, there was a humane way of implementing these federal changes.

I want to reiterate them just briefly. Saskatchewan, as we know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, replenished funds drained by the federal deficit reduction zeal, whereas here in Manitoba \$23 million was cut from welfare programs and millions from health and education. Of course, health and education are also issues that are ensconced in bills before this House. But I realize that I am digressing.

The main point that I want to make here is, the change from social allowance to employment and income assistance is the kind of double talk that this government often uses to disguise its really reactionary agenda and to mask a host of power grabbing and usually punitive measures. We see it in labour bills. We see it in the regional health authority bill, on which my honourable colleague from Brandon has just spoken.

We see it everywhere the New Right turns, and here are some examples, Mr. Deputy Speaker. This government uses the word "reform" to describe regressive legislation. Words like "right to work" are used by the New Right when what is really meant is union busting. "Choice" is used in health care, and it usually means user fees or going outside health care. "Removing red tape" usually means removing environmental protection. "Public accountability" when it is used in education often boils down to teacher bashing or simply cutting back funds to education. You know, I would like to direct the attention of the government to Ernest Hemingway's book, *A Farewell to Arms*, where he suggests that language in the 20th Century has been so debased that only the names of places have any meaning anymore, and it seems to me that this government could take a lesson from *A Farewell*

to *Arms* and from an artist of the calibre of Ernest Hemingway.

Actually, of course, the debasing of language is an appropriate rapper style for this government's demeaning authoritarian legislation. In Bill 36, as in other bills, content and form, idea and style reinforce each other. Nothing is to be trusted, neither the names nor what is inside. This government, it would seem to me, Mr. Deputy Speaker, would roll us forward to the 19th Century, and I know steamrolling ahead is one of the Minister of Finance's (Mr. Stefanson) favourite expressions. We are leaning towards workfare today. Can the workhouse of the 19th Century be far behind? Or, to put it more simply, this legislation could well be the start of a return to the social conditions of the 19th Century where supports for the poor depended upon charity and where government responsibilities were not recognized.

You know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, as I was thinking about this bill, what do I get in my mailbox but a bag from Safeway, which really represents to me how far we have come and how institutionalized poverty is in our society? It seems perfectly normal to get a bag from Safeway asking us to fill it up for Winnipeg Harvest, and we support Harvest. We do not want people to be hungry in our society, but this is what it says on it: Winnipeg Harvest is now supplying food to over 34,000 people each month—47 percent are children; 7 percent are less than one year of age. Well, for shame, this government should be ashamed that bags like this come to people's houses. Where is their sense of responsibility and compassion and caring for Manitobans and especially in this case for Manitoban children? This is absolutely beyond the pale.

With that I want to turn to say a few words about the one-tier system for social allowances. Now the member for Burrows (Mr. Martindale) once again addressed this issue in great detail. He pointed out that the City of Winnipeg system for social allowance is superior in many ways. He suggested that it was less bureaucratic, that it had fewer layers of administration. He also pointed out that the city welfare is more flexible in working with employable recipients and it encourages volunteerism, and I think that volunteerism and employing recipients are to be encouraged. City welfare, we are assured, does a better job of returning clients to the workforce. The city

reduced its client load this year by 3,000, which is to be commended. All these points have certainly been borne out in the constituency work in Osborne where I know my constituency assistant tells me time and time again how much easier it is to deal with city welfare.

I want to point out that a person on city social assistance, someone who is deemed employable, is also eligible for some benefits which are very helpful in the job search, for example, bus passes, work clothes and babysitting expenses. These are extremely important to people who are beginning a job search or preparing to work. On provincial assistance, I am told these supports are extremely difficult and, in some cases, almost impossible to obtain.

You know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it seems to me to be telling of our times when we know that Mrs. Downey can travel to South America at public expense, several thousand dollars—I understand it was somewhere over \$4,000—but a social assistance recipient in Manitoba in search of employment must cough up his or her own bus fare of \$2.70 for a round trip

* (1610)

Deputy ministers and their wives can now, on the approval of a minister, so I understand, travel expenses paid, but social assistance recipients must pay their own child care expenses when they begin searching for a job. This does not even make common sense, not even to mention ethical sense, but this is social justice in our Premier's Tory Manitoba.

The last word I want to say on the amalgamation of Winnipeg social assistance with its provincial counterpart is this: One type of social allowance or two types of social allowance is not the real question. The real question, the real issue is providing services for the thousands and thousands of Manitoba social assistance clients, preparing these people for the workforce, training recipients, preparing them for real jobs which pay real wages, recognizing as well that people need actual, concrete supports like bus passes and access to phones as they begin their searches for employment and as they continue their searches for employment. It is pretty hard to get a job when you do not have a telephone.

The important thing is making sure that recipients searching for work have access to quality child care, and this includes child care for children with disabilities.

I want to add, and this is, I think, really important, that a mother or a father or both mother and father cannot be expected to abandon their six-year-olds to the street and equip them with latchkeys while the parents hurtle out at the crack of dawn to low-wage, part-time jobs without benefits.

Again, what we need in the province of Manitoba are real jobs and accessibility to affordable, high-quality child care.

So, again, of course, one or two types of allowance with different administrations is not what matters. What matters is a recognition that some people can never work, that flexibility is vital, the out-on-the-market job, as soon as your child turns six, is ludicrous since it ignores individual circumstances.

You know, I think we need to stress that this bill allowing the Manitoba government to take over the administration of city welfare means lowering the city welfare rate to that of the province. It means including earnings of dependants of applicants and recipients in determining assistance levels.

I do not know exactly what this would mean. Would this mean that a 14-year-old's babysitting earnings must be reported and then deducted? Does this mean that kids who deliver newspapers or cut grass or shovel snow cannot keep the cash, or, if they keep it, will it be deducted from their mother's or father's social assistance?

This is bad social policy for so many reasons. It is impossible to enforce; it discourages initiative; it encourages and almost demands dishonesty.

I want to turn now to the matter of forcing people to search for work because and in part for many of the things I have decided, it really sticks in my craw, and it bothers me for a great many reasons. First of all, I think it proceeds from the same mindset that dreamed up the snitch line. That is, embedded in this legislation is the assumption that persons on social allowance will do their extreme best to ensure that they never, never work, that none of them are looking for employment, whereas, Mr.

Deputy Speaker, nothing could be further from the truth, and I will address this issue in some detail later on.

This legislation does not address the tremendous difficulties that individuals have in equipping themselves for the job search, such as access to technology which is necessary for producing and reproducing resumes, again money to pay for child care and then that proverbial bus pass or money to pay for transportation. By my reckoning, 15 job contacts a month at \$2.70 for a round trip would cost \$41.25, and if the contacts are to be made every two weeks, then the cost would be \$82.50. This is in the city of Winnipeg, and I cannot really speak for the costs in rural and urban areas. I am sure that some of my colleagues will be addressing that issue.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, \$41.25 or \$82.50, it does not matter really—well, I suppose it does matter, but whatever, either of these sums is a huge amount of money for a single parent on social assistance who received \$816 monthly or a single parent with two children who receives \$1,032 monthly.

I want to throw into this debate another numbers issue, and that is currently there are well over 40,000 social allowance cases in Manitoba. I do not know how many persons have been deemed employable, but when these people begin their bimonthly or monthly 15 job contacts, the businesses are going to be absolutely swamped and inundated by thousands upon thousands of job applications. I have visions of my local Perth's manager or corner Mac's store, the manager swamped in applications.

Another number, people can make their job contacts as they will because they need to in order to continue collecting social assistance, but where are the jobs? The minister, when she did her speech at second reading, talked about 700 training positions, but, as I have just said, there are 40,000 social allowance cases, so things, Mr. Deputy Speaker, do not really stack up. I understand, as well, that the labour force has shrunk by 5,000. This was from July to August, so, again, where are the jobs for the thousands upon thousands of social assistance recipients?

This whole notion of job search reminds me of some of the make-work projects in the 1930s, dig a ditch, fill it in, dig a ditch. A few days ago, I heard Dalton Camp,

presumably a very esteemed Progressive Conservative, speaking on Peter Gzowski, and he was lamenting the excesses, the inhumanities, the silliness and most of all the expense of workfare. Now, remember, this was not me; this was Dalton Camp, and I suggest the Minister of Family Services (Mrs. Mitchelson) might phone him up and ask him about her bill. He will tell you what he thinks of workfare and he will tell you why it does not work and he will also tell you that he has seen the not so hidden agenda of workfare bills, and that is that workfare drives down wages and weakens labour unions by creating a large and ready supply of cheap labour, and that is surely part of the hidden agenda here, creating a large and ready supply of cheap labour.

Now, very seriously, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to point out that this government has cancelled program after program, cut grants to education year after year, taken from all Manitobans the very job training and educational opportunities required if our citizens are to be employable and employable in positions that pay reasonably and will allow them to provide their families with decent standards of living.

One institution that comes to mind for me is the Winnipeg Education Centre. Years ago students attending the Winnipeg Education Centre were given grants, living grants, which allowed them to pass through the program, and there are many fine community workers who graduated from that program. I can cite, for example, Chriss Tetlock, from the North End Women's Centre; Josie Hill, who I think works for Family Services. I can cite a woman named Marlene Fiddler, a teacher in my local school who went through that program, but this program does not exist in this form any longer. This government has simply cut it and then demanded that people somehow had the skills to procure employment.

* (1620)

Now, to underline what was said earlier, this government then has both demanded that social allowance recipients find jobs and failed to create the jobs that these people can find. The only job creations I have heard of are a few low-wage, no-benefit jobs, a kind of return to the unfettered capitalism of the 19th Century, and it is a 19th Century mentality that really characterizes the government opposite.

An Honourable Member: That recent?

Ms. McGifford: Maybe not that recent, as my honourable colleague from St. Johns (Mr. Mackintosh) has pointed out.

My guess, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is that this legislation will send thousands of social service recipients out on wild goose chases, very expensive wild goose chases for these people. It will send them out on fruitless chases for nonexistent jobs. It will demoralize them even further and most social allowance recipients are already pretty demoralized. Once again, this is very, very bad social policy.

When the minister addressed the bill at second reading, she bragged about the programs created by her program to help with employment. Well, one of my constituents was helped by one of these programs. This is a young woman who has survived abuse. She has two young children, eight and 11. One of them is seriously ill with asthma. The young child could really benefit from having her mother at home.

Well, since May 1, 1996, this is no longer possible. As soon as May 1, this young woman spent all her time, morning, noon, afternoon searching for a job, and then with the assistance of one of the minister's programs she got a job, 30 hours a week at \$6.25 an hour, which means \$750 every four weeks. I understand that she continues with some assistance from social allowances and that she can keep \$100 and 25 percent of what she earns, but she lives in terror that she is going to lose her job. She knows that she cannot quit regardless of her circumstances.

She starts at 7 a.m. She leaves her kids at home because she has no other viable choices. She wants to take her former husband to court to get maintenance, but she does not have \$25 for the fee. She does not want her kids to be latchkeys, but she does not have any choice. She has tried to get into the Manitoba Fashion Institute and was rejected; Taking Charge!, she was rejected. She wants to be free from social assistance; she wants a future for herself and her children, she wants independence; instead, she lives as a single mother coping with everything, all made more miserable by the bleakness of her future, by the confining nature of her life, and by the fact

that she and her children are confined to what John Kenneth Galbraith has called "the underclass."

Clearly, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Bill 36, which changes social allowances to employment and income assistance, does in principle move this province further along the New Right road to workfare.

So I want to join with members of my caucus today in opposing this very, very regressive, draconian legislation. From my point of view, from the point of view of my caucus colleagues, this legislation is ethically misplaced. It is morally wrong, and it is bad social policy. We just plain do not like it. Thank you.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: As previously agreed, this matter will remain standing in the name of the honourable member for Point Douglas (Mr. Hickes).

Bill 33—The Education Administration Amendment Act

Mr. Deputy Speaker: On the proposed motion of the honourable Minister of Education (Mrs. McIntosh), Bill 33, The Education Administration Amendment Act (Loi modifiant la Loi sur l'administration scolaire), standing in the name of the honourable member for Transcona (Mr. Reid).

Stand? Is there leave that this matter remain standing?
[agreed]

Ms. Marianne Cerilli (Radisson): I am pleased that I can debate this education bill that is before us after listening to the comments by my colleague the member for Osborne (Ms. McGifford) speaking about the regressive changes to social allowance programs in this province because the two are definitely part of the same agenda. They are definitely part of an agenda that is widening the gap between the different members in our community, and they are part of the same agenda that is an authoritarian, dictatorial approach to government that this government is part of. They are part of the same agenda in terms of the sense of elitism that is being exercised in the bills.

I am going to deal with Bill 33 today, which is a very short bill that makes some changes to education administration. It does, indeed, seem that the current Minister of Education (Mrs. McIntosh) is wanting to

reach in and direct in a very—a fashion of almost micro managing. I think that is the term that is often used in the business world, but I would suggest that is what the Minister of Education is doing in every classroom of the province. This bill is going to reach in and, in a way that is unprecedented, change the role of teachers, the autonomy of teachers. That, I think, speaks to a number of things about this government.

We know that they have had it out for the public education system from Day One, but this bill—and it goes hand in hand with particularly Bill 47 and other bills and papers that this government has brought forward—is going to dramatically change the very basic principles in our education system.

I want to start off by talking, I would say, more generally about education and then how that applies to this bill. I believe that there is really nothing more powerful in terms determining the kind of community and society that we are going to have than in determining education in our communities. There is nothing more powerful than deciding what people should know or what they will learn. There is nothing more powerful because that in turn becomes the limiting vision or view of what they will believe, and that in turn will determine who they become, who we become as individuals, and collectively as a community.

So the kind of issues that are being dealt with in Bill 33, shaping our education system, setting curriculum and setting the way that students are going to be dealt with in terms of testing and teaching, I think, are extremely important. I know that oftentimes it seems like the education system is seen as a way to deal with all sorts of problems that beset our society. I know that we on this side of the House are often urging governments to develop programs so that early on we can develop the resources in young people so that a lot of problems down the road could be prevented.

One of the problems with this government's approach is, while they have tried to say that they want to set up parent councils and give more authority in decision-making to schools, the bills that they are bringing in are doing the complete opposite. It is very centrist, it is very reductionist in terms of its approach to school and reducing the roles in decision-making that local school communities will have.

I believe Bill 33 is part of the marketization of education. This government does not seem to believe in a public school system that is about the nature of the relationships in the school. They are moving toward this notion of school choice, and we must come back to asking ourselves, in a lot of the cases with the direction in these bills, who is going to be served by this? I want to deal with that, but I want to look a little bit more about the basic principles of education that this bill threatens. The basis of having a public school system is to ensure that—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. When this matter is again before the House, the honourable member will have 25 minutes remaining.

The hour now being 4:30, time for private members' hour.

* (1630)

(Madam Speaker in the Chair)

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS

Res. 15—Racism Education

Mr. George Hickes (Point Douglas): Madam Speaker, I move, seconded by the member for Radisson (Ms. Cerilli),

WHEREAS racism is multifaceted and it affects the perpetrators and victims, in fact, all segments of society; and

WHEREAS racism remains a serious problem in society; and

WHEREAS racism is the direct result of a lack of understanding of other people, other cultures, other lands; and

WHEREAS our community continues to become more diverse as people from all over the world come to call Manitoba their home; and

WHEREAS tensions between diverse groups often arise as a result of a lack of understanding and ignorance for those who are different from themselves; and

WHEREAS it is prudent and effective to circumvent such tensions by creating a sense of communication and understanding between distinct groups through education; and

WHEREAS Manitobans need to be educated on the causes and social dynamics of racism if we are all to make this a better place to raise our children; and

WHEREAS it is the education of youth in the community that may be the most effective method for developing such understanding and communication.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Minister of Education to consider introducing multicultural curriculum components to the existing educational system which will examine the contributions of all groups that have had and continue to have a role in shaping the character of Manitoba and Canada, in order to make the educational system more inclusive and to foster a sense of understanding and appreciation among all groups in society; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Assembly urge the provincial government to consider developing curriculum components dealing with the causes and social dynamics of racism, in pursuit of its elimination.

Motion presented.

Mr. Hickes: Madam Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to speak to this resolution, because I think it is long overdue when you look at some of the events that have taken place over the years and some of the events that I am sure we will continue to see in the future.

If you look at the Multicultural Education Policy and under The Manitoba Multiculturalism Act, it says in there that there should be opportunities for education for children in the schools. It says, whereas the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba is committed to the promotion of racial harmony—and I am sure that is what they mean, is that the opportunity to get the proper education for all students and for all citizens in the province of

Manitoba—and under the Multicultural Education Policy, the Annual Report '95-96 under the Multiculturalism Secretariat, it states all students, regardless of race, colour, gender, language, culture, heritage, religion, ethnicity, physical capability, have the right to equal and meaningful roles in Canadian society.

I think and I know that when you look back at the histories and what has happened, where a lot of racist incidents have taken place and the people who are making racist and hateful remarks and actions, a lot of it is because they do not understand and appreciate another's cultures and values. There are a lot of individuals, they stay within their own circle, their own friends. They do not get the exposure, and they do not get the education opportunities in the school.

If you look at Winnipeg School Division No. 1 right now, they have a lot of good policies going on. They have a lot of good opportunities, and there is definitely a connection between racism and lack of multicultural education in the schools. That is why I am really pleased that Winnipeg School Division No. 1 is trying to address that through different programs. For instance, Winnipeg School Division No. 1 had a race relations officer, and the officer is assigned to those duties and tasks, but since the departure of the race relations officer, the work has been taken over by Prince Charles Education Resource Centre, and the office was always a very committed organization, but now that has been handed over, and there is some feeling of some of the parents and some of the students that this will have a negative impact. The parents have organized and are very involved and trying to continue the work and efforts of the race relations office. You have to give a lot of credit to those parents and to those organizations that have picked up that challenge. It will be very hard for them, but I am sure that with the support and commitment of the parents and the community that they will succeed to a certain extent.

But I also feel very strongly that governments have a very important role to play, because governments have the opportunity to encourage divisions to introduce education opportunities and to introduce the curriculum dealing with racism. Winnipeg School Division No. 1 has set an example to do that, and I would encourage the Minister of Education (Mrs. McIntosh) and the Minister of Culture (Mr. Gilleshammer) to get together and to try and encourage all school divisions to have racism

education from kindergarten right to Grade 12, so that way people would continue their education and continue getting the knowledge and appreciation of different values.

For instance, on Monday, June 22, 1992, there was a committee and a lady from the Immigrant Women's Association of Manitoba gave a brief presentation. Her name was Miss Lena Anderson, and she thanked the Minister of Family Services, Bonnie Mitchelson, for bringing this forward. In part of her speech she said that it is very important that we have multiculturalism education: We feel that multiculturalism education should be an integral part of the school system from kindergarten to Grade 12, and that is the spokesperson of the Immigrant Women's Association, so I am sure they know what they speak of.

When I say that, we only have to look at a few articles that I have pulled out of papers just to show an example of why all citizens of Manitoba should have the opportunity, and it should be very important that all people have the education to make choices, so they are not making choices through ignorance or not understanding of what they speak.

For instance, an article of Saturday, January 8, 1994, says: Aboriginal students on Winnipeg campuses face acts of racism as brutal as any found in the poverty-stricken inner city, say those who witness this every day. Anything that you will find the core area you are going to find here as well.

That was said by Florence Bruyere, native students' advisor at the University of Manitoba. Aboriginal students are constantly bombarded with racist acts, she said, from death threats spray-painted on elevator walls to insensitivity from professors.

It is very interesting. One of her comments, she says, as the economy worsens, so do the incidents of racism. I think she is right on because, if you look at when the economy is down, people get pretty hateful and they want to take it out on someone else. You look at what is happening in our province. A lot of the issues even related to crime, that has to be associated with poverty.

* (1640)

Also, another article from Tuesday, March 19, 1996, and here it is a family that was falsely accused. The exact words were: Natives shop and steal from an inner-city store, says the manager, who makes no apologies for wrongly suspecting a native family of theft. They shop here and they steal here, but we have nothing against them; they support us.

It goes on to say, the parents and the family were speaking. They signal us out because of our colour; there were white people going in and out. People who are prejudiced like that should not be working in a public place.

It goes on to say, the spokesperson for the Manitoba Metis Federation, Robert Chartrand, wants to know why it was only the Metis family was stopped and why no apology was offered when the search proved futile. Unfortunately, subtle incidents of racism leave victims with little recourse, said Don Bailey, president of the Manitoba Association for Rights and Liberties.

In all these other stories that I am going to quote because I want to put it on record, it shows that people who are fulfilling these kinds of acts that are very racist in nature is because they do not have an understanding or an appreciation of the different cultures that make up Manitoba. I think it is crucial that we have education policies and education programs, like the person from Lena Anderson stated, from kindergarten to Grade 12.

There is another article. This is taken from Saturday, March 11, 1995: Those neo-Nazis could be out in full force this summer, spreading their hate, and antiracists groups meeting in Winnipeg this weekend say they are organizing to thwart their efforts. In addition to stepping up their campaign of hate-mongering, intimidation and recruitment of new members, Loewen [phonetic] said he has received information that neo-Nazis are trying to organize a regional summit in Manitoba.

Is this the kind of activity we want in our province? I do not think so. I do think anyone in this House would stand up and say, yes, we condone that or, yes, I support those kinds of activities.

It goes on to state, from Alan Dutton [phonetic], who is executive director of Vancouver-based Canadian Anti-Racism Education Research Society. He says here:

Obviously, we have a serious problem of racism in Canada. Not only in Manitoba, it is right across Canada.

Here is an article from another store that wrongfully accused a doctor of shoplifting. It says: A University of Manitoba professor claims an employee of a local Superstore humiliated him, called him "Blackie" and banned him from the store over an empty box of children's medication.

Why—there is kind of a bad word in here, but I will not use it—why should somebody treat me like that, said the medical doctor who specializes in children's medical research, this thing is really based on racism. He goes on to say, they think they can get away with anything. In the hospital, in pediatrics, I can get bottles of Tempra, why would I steal Tempra from the Superstore? It goes on: The incident marks the second time in as many years that Superstore employees have been accused of making racial remarks towards customers.

Another article, here it says, root out racism; antihate groups urge major purge of military.

I am sure that individuals in this Chamber have seen these articles and read these articles, but they continue year after year after year. There are quotes from 1992, 1994, 1995, 1996. I think that it is time we try to eliminate it, stop it, or if we could even slow it down until the children are given the education. Hopefully, the government will introduce education opportunities in the school system so the generation that is getting these kinds of educational opportunities will increase their knowledge and hopefully will change the racism attitudes and some of the actions that we have seen.

Some of the actions of the government you have to question, for instance, the Multiculturalism Secretariat created by the government in 1994. It was absorbed into the office of the Department of Culture, Heritage and Citizenship, and the funding was distributed to MGAC. It has been reduced to less than a third of its original budget of \$1.3 million in 1989. Also, when you look at the office, it was the office of the Multiculturalism Secretariat at Arlington Street and Sargent Avenue. Very shortly after it was absorbed into the Culture, Heritage and Citizenship department at 213 Notre Dame, they closed the office down. It is no longer there. That office was there to try and help with the education and the

promotion of multiculturalism in the province of Manitoba. What I found out is that it is closed. What they are going to do with it, I do not know.

I think we all have to work together. Hopefully, we will get support on this resolution and hopefully we will encourage all school divisions, not only School Division 1, but all school divisions.

For instance, when you look at words and acts of racism, some very, very highly educated individuals have crossed that line. If you think back to April 30, the remarks of two Reform members of Parliament, those were blatant racist remarks. At that time, I wrote a letter to their leader to ask him to at least withdraw those comments. What they said at that time, they said according to Mr. Ringma, it is acceptable to fire, or as he put it, move to the back of the shop any member of a visible minority or a homosexual if the presence of that individual offended a bigoted customer. Now, is this Canada we are living in? I hope that was an isolated incident and I hope that we can help eliminate some of those actions, but I think we all have to work together.

I hope we get the support of all members of this House, and I am sure that the government, in their wisdom, would like to do the right thing and would like to encourage and promote valuable education in our school system. When you have the education opportunities, especially when you start at kindergarten right to Grade 12, that will hopefully build a strong foundation for individuals in those classrooms that will make them strong citizens and productive citizens, and hopefully will stop and eliminate racism in Manitoba. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

House Business

Hon. Jim Ernst (Government House Leader): Madam Speaker, I wonder if I might have a moment for House business. Bill 25 was referred to committee for tomorrow morning. I gather there are some complications, so we would like to withdraw that bill from committee tomorrow morning.

Madam Speaker: Bill 25 to be withdrawn from the Standing Committee on Economic Development for Tuesday morning, October 8.

Mr. Ernst: Madam Speaker, also Bill 54 was referred to the Committee on Municipal Affairs for Thursday morning at nine o'clock, and I gather there are also some complications associated with that. So that committee will be cancelled.

An Honourable Member: The whole committee.

Mr. Ernst: The whole committee.

Madam Speaker: The Committee on Municipal Affairs previously scheduled for Thursday, October 10, 9 a.m., will be cancelled.

* * *

Hon. Linda McIntosh (Minister of Education and Training): Madam Speaker, I want to thank the honourable member for his remarks and for his obvious sincerity on this subject matter. It is refreshing to see a resolution come forward that I believe absolutely does have a genuine support by the member proposing it. So I commend him for bringing forward this issue.

I do believe that we are addressing many of his concerns in the school system now, and I would just like to take a minute to go through and discuss some of the points which he has raised because they are valid, and I think they are worthy of being brought forward in the Chamber for discussion.

* (1650)

The member expresses a concern about racism and has provided some anecdotal evidence as to the kinds of circumstances that people have had to endure or situations in which they found themselves here in Manitoba, and those are things that we must work to help educate our citizenry against so that we do not have a continued escalation of this type of attitude. I believe absolutely, Madam Speaker, that, if we could instill in each school child a sense of the worth of the individual human spirit, we could dilute in many cases and eliminate in some cases the kind of mentality that leads to bias, prejudice, bigotry and hatred against other people by virtue of their physical characteristics.

If we looked at the worth of the individual human spirit, then we would not see any physical characteristics.

We would not be concerned with any particular ancestral lineage, and we would look to the value of that person and that person's contribution in isolation from those other factors. I know from my own background, which is a mixture of different racial backgrounds, as are most people in Canada, and I look back, and I see that my parents have indicated to me, that I have a lot of Irish, I have a lot of Scottish, I have some Micmac and I have some French in my background. One only has to look at the warring clans in Scotland and what the Scottish clans did in terms of their relationships with each other and the hatred that was fostered between clans and the wars and the killing that went on because you belong to one clan instead of another and a whole society was built upon these warring factions. That is one part of my ancestry.

If you look at the Irish, I think I only need to say look at the Irish from whom I have partly descended and the very bitter, bitter hatred that exists between various factions of the Irish people and carried over, I might add, to North America where the term, shanty Irish, was used to denigrate and ostracize whole sections of immigrants to this country because they were Irish and so on. I think every group that came to this country could indicate the experiences they have had because of their ethnicity, because of their ancestry, where they have at one time or another been ostracized by virtue of their ancestry or their lineage.

Words come to mind that are derogatory terms that I do not care to use in this Chamber even by way of example, but Italians, Ukrainians, Chinese people, they have all had derogatory terms used about them so abundantly that I think just by saying Italian you can know what the derogatory term is that has been applied to them. So these points of bigotry and prejudice have entered our society unfortunately in such abundance that we all know the insulting terminology that has been applied to them. I think that is unfortunate at best and very, very hurtful at worst, and I say hurtful in the deepest sense of the word that the hurt goes very deep and can fill the person with grief and do terrible things to one's self image, desires, goals and aspirations.

My mother always told me when I first met a person to pretend that I was blind upon first meeting the person so that I would not see if they were ugly or beautiful or fat or thin or old or young or black or yellow or white or red or crippled or whole, that if I pretended I were a blind

person I would not be able to see those things, and I would have to judge the person on the worth of the individual human spirit. I have tried to do that through my life.

In later years I have become aware of a different approach which is a different approach to dealing with racism which is to notice absolutely the difference and either acknowledge the diversity and not be troubled by it or on an even larger scale to hold it up as a reason for reaching out to those people. Affirmative action rose out of this, a second kind of approach to dealing with racism and bigotry which is to say to go that extra mile, to look and to notice that the person is different and then go that extra mile or whatever distance one needs to go to bring that individual in.

Whatever approach is taken, both of those approaches should get back ultimately to the worth of the individual human spirit. I think prejudice goes way beyond the very pertinent, very important examples the member for Point Douglas (Mr. Hickes) gave which are sort of blatant abuses of the human spirit by calling attention to people in a negative way for no reason other than their physical characteristics, race or cultural background.

That is a very terrible thing, but there are more subtle forms of bigotry and prejudice as well that I think we also have to guard our children against and that is within like-groups, within like-communities where there are their own hierarchal struggles where you have—and again I will use my Irish background as the example—two groups of Christians, should be the same cultural background, the same racial background, hating each other to the point of killing each other because they are arguing over certain differences in doctrine within the same faith that they both hold. You will see these prejudices occurring not just within the Christian community, as I pointed out in Ireland, but you will see them in other religious groups as well, where the orthodox in one religion do not speak to the liberal in the other religion and where the lines of prejudice and hatred are so tight and so strong that families could be split apart, and this is very, very harmful. Israel has been working very hard to cope with all of these kinds of pressures in Israel in terms of the various different groups of people who come, to make sure that the worth of the individual human spirit is always upheld in all that we do.

I say to the member that we must do both: We must take a look at the blatant racism which is obvious, that most of us would decry, and we also have to take a look at the subtleties, the subtle little putdowns that people do not even know they are doing that hurt.

I was quite hurt, to use an example here in the House, when the member for Radisson (Ms. Cerilli) called out some time ago that on this side of the House all she could see were old white guys. Without her recognizing inherent in that statement the very kind of prejudice that, had we been young black females, would have been the cause for great distress, but because—[interjection] Well, I am not an old white guy to the member for Burrows. I am a middle-aged, white woman, and I am not completely white, but let us leave that at that. I am just saying we have to be aware of the subtleties as well as the blatantcies, and we have to recognize that if we are looking at the worth of the individual human spirit, and if we did that consistently in all our dealings with all people, there would be no prejudice, bigotry, hatred or racism. We would know and love people because of what is in them, or would dislike people because of what is in them, based only what is in them, not what they are in terms of the body that wraps them or the culture from which they are descended.

* (1700)

We have taken a look at the blatant racism that is so obvious that most people of any conscience would abhor. We are addressing that system-wide. You will see new curriculum coming into the schools that in terms of our aboriginal people for example, the culture will be permeating not just for the aboriginal students but for the nonaboriginal students too who must learn to know and understand our native peoples, who did, after all, occupy these lands for many years before the rest of us who were immigrants came.

Our new history curriculum, you will see, will deal with pre-European Canadian history, which will then talk about the lives of the aboriginal peoples here prior to the Europeans coming, and help nonaboriginal students gain a better understanding of how Canada developed and how the people who live here have adapted and adjusted to each other, or how they have not adjusted to each other as time has gone on.

Inclusiveness in curriculum, inclusiveness in school practices, is extremely important. Inclusiveness by gender, inclusiveness by race, inclusiveness by culture, inclusiveness by language or by country of origin are very important, and we do say that we have to have this permeating the system. It is not good enough to say tomorrow at two o'clock we are going to sit down and for an hour learn about why being racist is bad. That is not good enough. It is important that in all that happens in the classroom, the staff, the board, the people who are interacting with the students, all work to ensure that every child feels included and not excluded by virtue of anything except their worth as an individual human spirit.

Schools can play a very critical role in fostering that. I think it is important to understand that the basis of any person being able to go out in the world and be free from the disease of bigotry and racism and hatred that they first have to have the ability for critical thinking, for knowledge, for understanding of the global village in which we live, for an understanding of society in its purest form, a society being that gathering together of a group of people to mutually support and uphold each other. A society works best when all individuals in it understand the worth of all the other individuals in it, and students need to learn that a society that functions on that kind of thinking will succeed better than a society that is built upon divisiveness, hatred, bigotry, both obvious and subtle.

I think we ourselves, in looking at the school system and training teachers to enter the system, have to also take a look at the Faculty of Education and make sure that as people go through the faculty they understand that inclusiveness means that schools must be welcoming, must be safe, must provide relevant learning opportunities for all students, must have supports that meet the needs of students, and sometimes their needs will be a special need associated with race. That need must be there understood and supported. We do have curriculum and school practices sensitive to gender issues, to multiculturalism, to antiracism, and we do need to have that permeate.

I believe that we have been embarking down those routes that the member for Point Douglas (Mr. Hickes) has raised. I commend him for raising them, because I think it is important that we stand and reaffirm in this House on a fairly regular basis that we are committed to

promoting healthy attitudes towards people who may not be the same as the person that is adopting the attitude.

Again, Madam Speaker, with those few comments, I will thank the member, indicate I believe that we are doing what he was asking and thank him for his very sincere approach to this issue.

Mr. Gary Kowalski (The Maples): Madam Speaker, I would like to take a few minutes to talk about this very important subject, and I would like to bring a very positive note as to some things that are going on in schools, antiracism campaigns that are going on.

In particular, I of course talk about a subject I have talked about before, The Maples Collegiate Unity Group. The mission of this group, the unity group, is dedicated to educating others on the evils of racism. Through open forums, panel discussions, displays, contests, major events and a home page on the Internet, they are accomplishing this task.

For nearly a year of work they have created an antiracist environment in Maples Collegiate, and they hope to continue it in the future. The genesis of this project was two years ago. The Maples Collegiate sponsors an annual leadership group. With the leadership group, of course, one of the tasks they do is identify problems in their school, and one of the problems was racism. So, as a result of the identification of that problem, they formed the Unity Group, and some of the events that this group has sponsored is The Maples Collegiate Unity called Harmony Through Diversity.

On April 17, 1996, Maples Collegiate hosted the antiracism-multicultural education day with speakers, entertainment and food. The writing and art contest winners can be viewed on the home page on the Internet, and I will give one sample of the type of writing that was done for this day. This is a poem by Ramona Bhan called Cry of Our Nation: Our nation cries out desperately/For all the youths like you and me/Live your life and be happy/For we are the future leaders and proud to be. Our nation's cry echoes loud and clear/For all the adults in the world out there/Protect your children show them the way/Let them know that tomorrow is their day. Our nation cries, begs mercilelessly/To us, to live in peace and harmony/Stop the racism, prejudice and judging/But share in the peace and keep on loving!

This is an example of the type of writing that was done for the Harmony Through Diversity Day. Some of the other titles are Anti-Racism Day by Joseph Martiniano; Racism by Jessica Nguyen; Racism Has Hurt! Hurts! Will Hurt? by Berna Masangkay; and Love Isn't a Color, It's An Emotion by Seeta Brar. The last title is a story about a Muslim girl who falls in love with an African boy and the trials and tribulations they have from trying to carry that relation forward. So this is the type of work that is going on in our school. I have to congratulate their teacher, leader, Chuck Duboff, who has worked with this Unity Group, and I say worked with because this group is a very strong group that has done a great deal of work. For example, on the Harmony Through Diversity Day, they had such speakers as Evelyn Hecht from the Jewish community; Joan Lloyd from the black community; Marivel Taruc from the Filipino community; Mohinder Singh from the Sikh community, and Beatrice Mathias from the native community.

* (1710)

In addition to the speakers, the students got an opportunity to view movies which dealt with the subject, such titles as Mississippi Burning, Racism Sucks, Higher Learning, Schindler's List, Malcolm X and School Ties.

So, as you can see, in Maples Collegiate, antiracism education—no one is waiting for a curriculum. They are going ahead, and the students have identified it as a problem. They are working on it. I think members of the Legislature who were here on May 29, 1996, saw 250 students who marched all the way from Maples Collegiate, the nine kilometres, to the Legislative Building to demonstrate against racism. Of course, they were met here. I believe the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Doer) and the member for River Heights (Mr. Radcliffe) and myself congratulated the students for the work they have been doing and for their march drawing attention to the cause.

So I congratulate the member for Point Douglas (Mr. Hickey) for bringing this resolution on a very important subject, and I want to say that regardless of what happens in the curriculum, students, teachers will take ownership of this issue, a very important issue, and continue to address it.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Ms. Marianne Cerilli (Radisson): I am also really pleased to see this resolution, and it was interesting to listen to the Minister of Education (Mrs. McIntosh) and to the member for The Maples (Mr. Kowalski) talk a little bit about some of the things that they are aware of that are going on in the school system with regard to cross cultural education or antiracist education, human rights education.

I know that when you talk to students or when students are surveyed, racism continues to be an issue that they identify that is a concern and a problem for them, and I would concur, especially after hearing a lot of the incidents that were recorded as read by the member for Point Douglas when he put forward this resolution, that it is also something that is affecting adults. I was just speaking earlier on Bill 33 about how we often look to the education system as a way of resolving social problems and economic problems like racism and recognizing that the education system does serve that social function, trying to develop the kind of society that is inclusive and nonelitist and nondiscriminatory that we want to try and create.

I must raise some concern, though, that the effects of the cuts in our public schools, some \$47 million over the last couple of years, are having an effect on the kinds of programs that we are talking about developing, when there are fewer teachers—there are now over 500 fewer teachers in our schools than there were when this government took office, and it is the kind of attention to issues like racism and human rights that is going to get pushed down in the agenda perhaps as teachers try and just deal more and more with basics, with the basic courses.

There has to be, I think, a recognition that the cuts in education are going to affect and exacerbate problems like racism in the schools and then in the community. It would be interesting to know how those teacher cuts have affected the number of visible minority teachers in the school system, the number of aboriginal teachers or nonwhite teachers in the school system. That would, I think, speak to this resolution or be important when considering this resolution because we know that one of the best ways for students to develop an understanding and appreciation for people who are different from themselves is to have to deal with those people on a day-to-day basis, whether that is going to be their co-students

and classmates or whether that is going to be the teachers and administrators in their school system and in their school, so I think that is an important consideration.

I think that what we want to see is the government take some leadership and show some leadership, and the minister has said that they are looking at including sections dealing with human rights and issues like racism in history and social studies curriculums. It can be worked into science curriculums in dealing with anthropology-type issues or literature and English courses. A creative teacher can work different topics into subjects right across the board. In the past, I think, we have left it up to the interests of the individual teachers, and oftentimes teachers will have to bring in expertise and a point of view that they may not have.

I want to point out, when this minister has talked about what is happening in her department, she failed to mention that this government has cut the Human Rights Commission's education function. It was the Human Rights Commission that did a lot of work in the schools and was the resource that teachers could call on to come and do activities and provide materials for classroom work or extracurricular kinds of projects like the member for The Maples (Mr. Kowalski) was speaking of.

I think that we want to ensure that students are going to learn how to deal both with individual instances of racism and discrimination or with systemic discrimination. I think that the Minister of Education (Mrs. McIntosh) in her comments talked a lot about the hurt of individual kinds of incidents, but I think we all know that there are very systemic and structural examples of racism. I find that is the kind of racism that we as legislators and as representatives of the public, especially in government, have the obligation to try and weed out.

I heard just the other day of an example in the area of housing where certain managements of housing will ensure when they have applications for housing that all the native applicants for housing are put in the same apartment block. That kind of systemic and structural segregation and racism are the kinds of things we are talking about, when rules and the application of rules or procedures end up having a kind of consequence that segregates or discriminates or elevates one group over the other. I think that we know that some of the policies, the economic policies and social policies brought forward by

this government, have done that time after time. It may not be something that is in the design, I do not know, but it does occur. I know that some of those instances have been brought up in the House here from time to time.

I wanted to make mention, as I was bringing up my file to speak on Bill 33, I noticed that in there was a report the Manitoba Intercultural Council which also—we might want to make note, this government has cut off at the knees in many ways. But in 1987, so it is almost 10 years old, they made a presentation to the Manitoba High School Review Panel that had some 44 recommendations for anti-racist policies, multicultural-sensitive policies for the school system. In this report there is an appendix that is a policy discussion paper on multicultural education. There is also an appendix that is the Intercultural Council's response to education multicultural policy. There is an inventory of human rights teaching materials in this report. There is the Canadian Human Rights Foundation theme, What are Human Rights? There is the Manitoba Intercultural Council's recommendations regarding amendments to Section 79 of The Public Schools Act. So I am interested in seeing how many of these recommendations have been implemented by this government, some 44 in all.

* (1720)

It talks about how the purpose of education ought to foster individual self-fulfillment and provide each young person with the opportunity to achieve the promise that is in them to develop to their full potential in their own style and to their own limit. It has recommendations that deal with policy issues in the schools, recommendations that deal with teacher education, that deal with school curriculum, that deal with the availability and development of materials and resources. It has recommendations for programs and services that are needed or to be offered in schools to deal with both incidences as they arise or, for example, another thing that is becoming popular in schools which is develop a code of conduct and a very specific agreed-upon set of rules for how issues such as racism are going to be dealt with in that school. So the students buy in and participate in the development of those kinds of rules and then they know what to expect. I think those are the kinds of things that we want to see developed, and I think those are some of the things the member for Point Douglas (Mr. Hickes) has in mind when he brings forward a resolution such as this.

I know that from my point of view, dealing with racism or sexism or ageism is at the fundamental essence of my political point of view. I think we have to recognize the relationship between racism and the economic disparity that is growing in our community and how racism has been used in an economic stratification sense, that we know that certain segments of our community are far more disadvantaged, and we cannot only look at racism in terms of hurt feelings and being offended. It is a bread and butter, meat and potatoes issue, and it often means the difference between people being able to practice in their field of training with the immigrant credential issue or being able to have to live a life in our country, in Canada, where they are not able to practise because their credentials are not recognized here and they end up, I think at a cost to us all, of not really being able to contribute to the fullest that they could. If we could change some of those kinds of systemic barriers that are racist that still exist in our own society and community and in our own way of dealing with regulations on such matters as immigration.

I want to end my remarks now and give the members opposite a chance to close debate with support for this resolution, because it sounds like, from listening to the Minister of Education (Mrs. McIntosh), that she does support this, that she believes that it is being proposed by the member for Point Douglas in a very sincere and hopeful way. So I am wanting to end my remarks a little bit early for an opportunity for one of the other government members to rise and close debate and support and pass this resolution. Thank you.

Mr. Peter Dyck (Pembina): Madam Speaker, I too wish to thank the member for Point Douglas (Mr. Hickes) for bringing up this resolution. Certainly, as he indicated in his remarks before, the fact that we should do more, I believe in a resolution that is as important as this one that certainly until we live in that perfect world, we always need to continue to do more. The whole area of dealing with racism is something that we are all very sensitive to.

Madam Speaker, I would just like to reiterate some of my own experiences with that. In fact, in our family we had the opportunity and the privilege to have foster children. Certainly they came with another background, a different nationality, their culture was different, and the hurtful responses that were thrown at them and the hurtful words that were thrown towards us were things that one

does not like to experience. So certainly there are things that we need to continue to do in our education of children, of adults, and certainly not something that we want to make an excuse for when these words are thrown out which are hurtful to others.

I believe that the place to start is within the home. You and I have that responsibility of teaching and training our own children to respect each other. We are all created as equals and so it is important that we instill that respect in our children and in the people whom we come in contact with.

Certainly, as we mingle in groups and we talk, it is also our responsibility that when some of these hurtful words are thrown out that we correct one another and that we do this on an ongoing basis.

Starting in the home is the place to start. Certainly, as we educate our children, we need to be responsive to that within our own schools. I believe that we are making an effort and we are continuing to make an effort in the teaching and the training of our children. Teachers who are the teachers of our children do go to in-services. They go to professional development days and have had numerous occasions where they have dealt with issues of this nature. We need to continue to do this and are doing this, and I believe that as the minister has indicated, this is one of the priorities that we are looking at and are continuing to work with.

In 1984, Manitoba Education and Training initiated the development of multicultural education policies and initiatives. The position of multicultural education consultant was created in that year and, in 1993-94, the multicultural education consultant was expanded to include English as a Second Language. Certainly, Madam Speaker, the ESL program as we know it today is something that I have been made quite aware of because we have used it quite extensively within our own school division. We have the opportunity of also having many families move into the area who come with a different ethnic background but bring with them expertise in different areas of work that they are involved with and, yet, though, they do not come with the English language, and so we have a responsibility to teach them and to give them an opportunity to learn it. So we are continuing to help to give these people the opportunity to learn the

language so that they can in fact continue to contribute to our society and become a part of it.

Then in May of 1992, Manitoba Education and Training released the Multicultural Education, A Policy for the 1990s. This document provided a conceptual framework for multicultural education in Manitoba. Many resources, documents, teacher in-services and sessions on a variety of subjects support and strengthen multicultural and intercultural education in the schools.

For example, both the English and the French language instructional resources units emphasize the acquisition of learning resources which are relevant and free from bias. In addition, professional development of teachers, librarians and library technicians have been conducted in the area of racism, discrimination and prejudice.

Madam Speaker, we need to on an ongoing basis continue to encourage our teachers, those who have this responsibility, to continue to teach our children and to be examples for them. School divisions are encouraged to develop relevant policies in support of multiculturalism and antiracism. The member opposite was talking about Winnipeg School Division No. 1. St. James School Division has formal policies. St. Vital and Seven Oaks have drafted policies. River East and Transcona-Springfield School Divisions have committees working on policies and plans. I believe that it is important that we continue to stress this and that the boards and

administration have the responsibilities of carrying through on these responsibilities.

There are many other policies and activities at both school and divisional levels which are important. Examples include student codes of conduct, conflict resolution programs, cultural activities and an emphasis on tolerance and understanding all in-school activities. Most of us have been on the playgrounds and have had the opportunity to witness young people as they play with each other. We need to continue to instill in them the importance of tolerance for one another. I know the member opposite was speaking about some of the things that are happening within the inner city; certainly, we are all concerned and aware of what is taking place. What can we do to help them? I believe that we need to continue to do our very best in helping them to deal with the situations that they are involved with from day to day

The Foundation for Excellence released in 1995 described a curriculum development process, program and course details and the elements which will be integrated into all curriculum—

Madam Speaker: Order, please. When this matter is again before the House, the honourable member for Pembina (Mr. Dyck) will have eight minutes remaining.

The hour being 5:30 p.m., this House is adjourned and stands adjourned until 1:30 p.m. tomorrow (Tuesday).

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Monday, October 7, 1996

CONTENTS

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS		Members' Statements	
Presenting Petitions		South Winnipeg Technical Centre McAlpine	4020
Pharmacare Martindale	4009	Children and Youth Secretariat Cerilli	4020
Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees		Hudson's Bay Company Museum Collection Radcliffe	4021
Standing Committee on Municipal Affairs Second Report Tweed	4009	Manitoba Telephone System Ashton	4021
Oral Questions		Rat River Restoration Project Penner	4021
Special Needs Children Doer; McIntosh	4011		
Doer; McCrae	4011		
Sale; Mitchelson	4012		
	4013		
Martindale; Mitchelson	4013		
Children and Youth Secretariat Cerilli; Mitchelson	4014		
Domestic Violence Kowalski; Vodrey	4015		
Firearms Control Kowalski; Vodrey	4016		
Adolescent Pregnancy McGifford; McIntosh	4016		
McGifford; McCrae	4017		
McGifford; Mitchelson	4017		
Youth Advisory Council Mackintosh; Vodrey	4017		
Health Care Facilities Wowchuk; McCrae	4019		
Speaker's Ruling Dacquay	4019		
		ORDERS OF THE DAY	
		Debate on Second Readings	
		Bill 62, Jobs Fund Repeal Act L. Evans	4023
		Maloway	4026
		Bill 49, Regional Health Authorities and Consequential Amendments Act L. Evans	4031
		Bill 36, Social Allowances Amendment and Consequential Amendments Act McGifford	4036
		Bill 33, Education Administration Amendment Act Cerilli	4041
		Private Members' Business	
		Proposed Resolutions	
		Res. 15, Racism Education Hickes	4042
		McIntosh	4046
		Kowalski	4048
		Cerilli	4049
		Dyck	4051