

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA
7:30 o'clock, Monday, May 13, 1974.

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MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Education.

MR. HANUSCHAK: Mr. Chairman, in the process of considering the estimates of my department, I did indicate to honourable members that I will attempt to deal with all the points and issues raised by them, or at least with as many of them as I possibly can. Just going through my notes - you appreciate of course that there was the weekend that intervened between our last consideration of our estimates and today's and hence I did have to refer to my notes to refresh my memory just to make certain that I did deal with the comments raised by all members. I do find two or three that I believe deserve mention.

One: The Honourable Member for St. Boniface did make some further comments with respect to the Francais Program in Manitoba and he made particular reference to the present concern of some of the people in St. Boniface, and that is that it is the intention of, or appears to be the intention of the St. Boniface School Division to close one of the schools and provide a Francais Program in another school. I've also been advised that that school does operate a certain particular type of program, namely 90 percent French, 10 percent English, and there is no other school that offers such a program and that there may be some merit to keeping it open. Well as I had indicated in my first response to him, it is not my intention to intervene with the affairs, or the responsibility rather, of school divisions, but I also did indicate that Bill 113 was ours; it is our wish to do everything possible to provide for the proper and full implementation of it. Therefore with that in mind whatever we at the level of the Department of Education can do to assist, not only St. Boniface School Division but any School Division desirous of implementing those particular sections of the Act, we would do everything within our power to assist them.

In seeking the assistance of myself and my department, the Honourable Member for St. Boniface asked if I would act as arbiter in this case. Well it is not my intention to act as arbiter; as I have indicated, whatever assistance is proper to be offered, whatever assistance may be necessary to be offered to give effect to our legislation, that we will do, but that does not imply acting as arbiter between a school division and someone within a division.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: I do really hesitate to interrupt the Honourable Minister but I would like to ascertain whether or not the Honourable Minister. . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you on a point of order?

MR. ENNS: Yes. Is he speaking to resolution 51 curriculum development and special services and not merely filibustering his own estimates.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Education.

MR. HANUSCHAK: This is very much related to this resolution because this is part of the curriculum. We have an English curriculum and we have a Francais curriculum and this is one aspect of it. In assisting - (Interjection)-- yes I will come to that for the benefit of the Honourable Member for La Verendrye --(Interjection)-- In about 15 seconds. Yes. And I have a couple of comments to make that I'm sure the Honourable Member for La Verendrye will be only too pleased to hear.

And just one further comment on Bill 113, Mr. Chairman. In expressing our concern for its proper implementation, I would just wish to remind honourable members here, and in fact all of the people of the Province of Manitoba, that the intent of Bill 113 is to benefit all the people of Manitoba who wish to take advantage of making themselves more fluent in the two official languages of this country. As at the present time, as at the present time, we will find not large numbers but some nevertheless, and significant numbers of non Francophones enrolled in Francophone schools seeking the benefits of that type of instruction.

Now the Honourable Member for La Verendrye is concerned about instruction in languages other than French, in other second languages - yes here we are. The honourable member is concerned about two primarily, German and Ukrainian. Now, German is being taught in 218 schools in the Province of Manitoba, and English is one of our official languages as the Honourable Member for Swan River ought to know by now.

At the elementary level, German is taught in 75 public schools and one private school; at the junior high level, 101 public schools and four private schools; and at the senior high level, 31 public schools and six private schools. It is taught in all grades from kindergarten to

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(MR. HANUSCHAK cont'd) Grade 12, with a total enrollment of over 12,000. A sharp increase in the enrollment of students is taking place in elementary and junior high grades. The number of students is decreasing rapidly from Grade 9 on, and I would hope that the Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek would take note of this because despite the fact that a standing in a second language is no longer a university admission requirement, nevertheless enrollment in many second languages is increasing.

Two new programs for junior high German are being piloted, and should this program prove to be successful it would be a continuation for the new program for German at kindergarten to Grade 6. All teachers of German have the opportunity to attend in-service training sessions. The Department of Education assumed all costs in connection with these in-service sessions, transportation, fees for substitute teachers, and expenses for resource persons.

Twenty teachers of German were assisted financially in attending a course in Germany last summer. The visual education branch has purchased a total of 70 German teaching films which are used very extensively by the teachers; and he was also concerned about the teaching of Ukrainian.

Ukrainian is being taught in about 60 schools. The number of students has increased and stands at over 3,000 in all grades. The increase takes place mainly in the elementary and junior high grades. The teachers of Ukrainian have had an opportunity to take part in a number of workshops and in-service training sessions which were beneficial for all of them. The experimental course in elementary Ukrainian has been approved for the Province of Manitoba. In addition to this, Mr. Chairman, I would like the honourable members to know that Spanish is being taught in a couple of schools --(Interjection)-- How many teachers went to Russia? None. Fifteen teachers --(Interjection)-- No. Fifteen teachers went to the Ukraine but none went to Russia. They went there to attend a four week language seminar at the University of Kiev the capital of the Ukraine.

Spanish is being taught in two schools; Hebrew is mainly taught in private schools to about 900 students; Latin is still being taught; Icelandic has been introduced on an experimental basis for about 600 students in the Evergreen School Division at the beginning of this school year. --(Interjection)-- Well of course the Honourable Member for Swan River would know that as per one of the recent amendments to the Public Schools Act, there is nothing to prevent offering instruction in Chinese.

MR. BILTON: I've a good many Chinese in my constituency. Are they being recognized too?

MR. HANUSCHAK: I appreciate the honourable member's comments very much. I would hope that the honourable member had been listening to what I was saying and he could convey this message to his friends who are interested in instituting a course in Chinese, because at the present time there's nothing in the legislation prohibiting offering instruction in any language other than English or French for which there is a demand.

The Honourable Member for Crescentwood expressed his reaction to some of the changes that have come about. Now on the semester system I suppose it's six of one, half a dozen of the other. It's working very satisfactorily in many schools; different parents and students have different attitudes towards it, and I understand that most school divisions are very cognizant of this fact, and hence wherever possible, at least in the urban areas, and as well as in some of the rural areas, they are providing their students within their school division the option of one of two types, the traditional type of programming as opposed to the semester or trimester. I would agree with him that there is need for expert guidance counsellors in our school system. He asked whether a course in labour education will be introduced. The course in labour education is being developed, as is being developed a course in dealing with co-operatives, to put both of those, give them exactly the same treatment, give them the same time as other concepts in our economic life, and our economic life have, and certainly students ought to have an opportunity to learn about all.

I can't recall which order he dealt with the two, sex and then labour - no, with labour, and then he asked about sex education. Well at the present time there is a course in family life education that is dealt with by primarily our counsellors. So therefore I would say, Mr. Chairman, that at the present time our curriculum is not entirely devoid of family life education. Now to what extent it ought to be developed or expanded, it is difficult to say because this is not a subject area that one could compare with any other academic subject, mathematics, science, or what have you, because somewhere along the way you can't avoid touching upon or

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(MR. HANUSCHAK cont'd) dealing with people's religious standards, ethics, morals, cultural background, cultural values and so forth. Secondly, it is a matter that much more so than anything else that is being taught in the school system is no doubt, and every parent would admit, is largely the responsibility of the home to deal with and the type of instruction that should be the responsibility of the family to provide. I'm not saying that the school ought not assist the family, of course it should, but it's a question of determining to what degree.

Now that I believe, Mr. Chairman, deals with other than, ah yes, other than perhaps the Honourable Member for Souris Killarney, who is not in his seat, but he was concerned about a program . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Riel.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Chairman, yes. I rise on a point of privilege in view of the fact that the Member for Souris Killarney isn't here, and also that we have some very important estimates to look at yet, and in the interest of expediting that end, I'd like to move that the present estimates, items in education be adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: A motion has been made that the present estimates be concluded. I don't know what the procedure is in this regard.

A MEMBER: Call a vote.

MR. CHAIRMAN put the question and after a voice vote declared the motion carried.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 51 pass.

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MR. CHAIRMAN: The next department is the Department of Universities and Colleges Affairs. The Honourable Minister of Universities and College Affairs.

MR. HANUSCHAK: Mr. Speaker, or Mr. Chairman rather, it is my privilege to introduce the estimates of the Department of Colleges and Universities Affairs. I became Minister of this Department in September of last year and thus assuming the responsibility for education across the continuum from kindergarten through elementary, secondary, post-secondary, and what is now increasingly being referred to as continuing education.

I wish to pay my respects to my predecessor and colleague who's presently the Honourable Minister of Health and Social Development, under whose capable jurisdiction this department has remained in varying forms since 1969. In the process of paying my respects to him I should also wish to pay my respects to one other who acted as deputy minister of the department and who at the present time is, well previously he acted in dual capacity as chairman of the Universities Grants Commission and Deputy Minister, and who presently is continuing as Chairman of the Grants Commission, and that is Mr. Scott Bateman, who has been a longtime servant of the Department of Education, an educator, a servant of the people of the province.

It has become commonplace that our society has regarded education as a root for upward mobility, as well as the most effective way of achieving a more egalitarian society. Over the past several years there has been an increasing debate as to the validity of this assumption. There was some discussion of this during the debate on the Education Estimates, and I wish to state that the evidence which has questioned that increasing education leads to increasing opportunities is itself dubious, that there is just as much research that shows that it does lead to increasing opportunities.

We believe in equality of educational opportunity and its benefits. We also believe in increasing accessibility to post-secondary education. Now we deny that this is a threat to academic standards. It is a recognition that post-secondary education means continuing education that can be made available to all the different kinds of people and the needs they have. Post-secondary education therefore in our view embraces both the academic and continuing education. The Task Force on Post-secondary Education was commissioned in 1972 and reported in November of 1973. The government is now pondering the recommendations of this report. A working group on implementation of a task force was appointed and this group has been consulting extensively with those most concerned, the universities. These institutions have prepared their responses to the recommendations and have met, and are continuing to meet, with the working groups to discuss the different points of view that one could expect from any move to change existing systems. One of the first actions taken by us in response to the recommendations has been to set in motion a pilot project for the regional delivery of post-secondary education, because the task force saw a need for delivering post-secondary education to all areas of the province, it recommended a regional system for delivery of

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(MR. HANUSCHAK cont'd) educational programs, but it recommended at the same time that this should not take the form of buildings. The pilot project that I referred to was set up by the working group; the group named an advisory committee and selected the Parklands region for it. The Advisory Committee is now in the process of investigating the needs of this region and will report back to the working group and disband by June of this year.

Extensive discussions are being held with all communities in the Parklands Region. A co-ordinator, a resident of the Parklands, will be appointed within the month. The Task Force made a number of recommendations as well as that of regional delivery of post-secondary education. But, as I said before, responses from the universities have to be considered and we do not expect that the meetings between the parties will be completed before June.

The Department of Colleges and Universities Affairs is responsible for Universities, Universities Grants Commission, Community Colleges, Youth Secretariat, Student Aid and Special Projects. And I will dwell on these briefly.

The primary objective of the Community Colleges is to meet human development needs in the community by assisting individuals to develop the competencies and to acquire the skills required for a satisfying and rewarding career. The Educational activities of the colleges can be grouped into three program categories. Firstly adult basic education; second, career occupational education; and thirdly, extension and community services. While the primary focus of the programs of the community colleges is career directed, they also provide opportunities for self-development and personal integration supportive to career decisions and community responsibilities. Within the framework of career education individuals can gain knowledge of opportunities open to them, develop skills and problem solving, communicating and valuing, and acquire a capacity for social competence and creativity. In line with the foregoing the community colleges are prepared to make resources, facilities and staff competencies available to support community development and recreational needs, and to provide consultative assistance to public agencies.

I have stressed the need for increasing accessibility to post-secondary education. In the area of community colleges we have made some progress by establishing satellite centres even of a temporary nature. Programs have been taken to communities remote from the colleges, overcoming some of the geographical disadvantages that are characteristic of certain communities in Manitoba.

Other courses have become accessible to adults who had less than the academic pre-requisites normally considered necessary. By realistic application of a mature student admission's policy which recognizes that certain types of work experience may provide as valid a background for further training as is provided by high school completion. More recently the general educational development tests have provided verification of the validity of this approach.

For others whose educational development is inadequate for entrance to career training programs, basic literacy courses, followed by adult basic education courses, are used for general academic upgrading. Part-time enrollments are encouraged for those people who are unable to enroll on a full-time basis. Accessibility has also been improved by increased financial assistance in the form of bursaries and loans.

The Youth Secretariat was created in 1969 amid popular opinion that there was a serious youth problem. The initial objectives of Youth Secretariat were:

- (a) to provide direction for several existing youth programs, e. g. travel, employment;
- (b) to assess the feasibility of establishing a permanent government youth agency.

The policy of the Youth Secretariat was based on the underlying notion that youth was to be regarded as a resource not a problem, and as such youth constituted a significant degree of Manitoba's growth potential. The operating philosophy is to maximize the participation of young people in the social, economic and political life of Manitoba.

The Youth Secretariat functions: (a) to develop and support innovated programs in which youth assume rewarding and responsible social roles; (b) to provide information and co-ordination resources to youth programs; (c) to develop policy related to youth concerns.

One of the main concerns was to provide employment to students. In 1969 provincial initiative in creating employment opportunities for student youth was fragmented and minimal. Therefore the Youth Secretariat created a student placement office in 1969. It opened the maximum number of summer jobs within the Provincial Government to students and eliminated

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(MR. HANUSCHAK cont'd) lengthy department by department job search. This student employment office provides a central and single agency through which all students seeking summer employment in the Provincial Government are recruited, registered, and referred. Over the past four years job opportunities and salaries have been equalized to a close degree, and job opportunities are more evenly distributed within the province in order that students need not uproot themselves in order to secure a job.

There are a number of sub programs within this employment program. One, the Community STEP Program. Young people work together with local groups and organizations in designing and carrying out summer work projects that meet local needs. It also provides maximum opportunity for youth to implement ideas they consider socially useful. In 1972 60 percent of moneys went to projects providing services to disadvantaged groups, including old age pensioners, juvenile offenders, low income housing residents. In the past year, next, decision-making on funding projects has steadily involved more regional local groups of citizens.

Rural STEP is another. It was developed in 1973 in co-operation with Manitoba's Department of Agriculture and the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Manitoba, creating over 1,000 jobs for students on farms in rural communities. Beyond creating jobs students became aware of satisfactory lifestyles and careers outside of our urban communities. For agriculture students it provides a practical and academically recognized contribution to their education.

Summer education is another. 1973 was this program's third year of operation. It operated in Winnipeg, Cranberry Portage, Guy Hill, involving 1,900 Grade 5 students, 80 high school students and 140 councillors studying to become teachers.

Youth Secretariat is also responsible for travel and exchange which administers the Young Voyageurs Programs, providing high school students with opportunity to exchange visits with similar groups in other Canadian provinces. Since 1973 new emphasis was placed on travel and exchange programs between rural, northern and urban students within Manitoba.

Student Aid: As of April 26th of this year we had received 12,991 applications; an increase of 1304 over 1972-73. We made 9,079 bursary awards; an increase of 1087 over the previous year. The percentage of successful applicants increased from 68.7 to 69.9 percent in 73 - 74. The average bursary over-all rose from \$574.00 in 72-73 to 704 in 73-74, an increase of 22.7 percent. In addition to the bursary awards over 2,000 students received Canada Student Loans only. In all, over 85 percent of the applicants received assistance.

The criteria used to establish need for Manitoba Bursary Assistance are those established for Canada Student Loan purposes. When Canada Student Loan criteria were revised in 1973 to ease eligibility for assistance, this government maintained its policy of providing a greater proportion of need than bursary funds as total need increases. As a result an additional 725,000 was provided for bursary purposes, increasing our total bursary provision for 73-74 to \$5.7 million. After our 74-75 estimates had been finalized, we were advised that the administrative criteria for Canada Student Loans were being changed to include a cost of living increase in all categories of approximately 17.56 percent. In addition, the eligibility for Canada Student Loans is being widened to include many community college students formerly excluded. To maintain our provincial assistance program at its existing level we will have to provide approximately 4.3 million dollars in bursaries over and above the published amount for 74-75, and provision will be made for these additional expenditures.

As a measure of the effectiveness of our Student Aid Program in meeting the objective of greater accessibility, 95.5 percent of the applicants requiring parental contribution, and whose gross family income was \$10,000 or less in 73-74, received support ranging from \$100.00 to \$1,900 in either loan only or a combination of bursary and loan.

The Special Opportunity Bursaries for Medical and Dental Students first provided in 71-72 continued to attract many applicants. These special bursaries are repayable by service, usually outside the City of Winnipeg. To date some 330 students have taken advantage of this program. This year there were 80 new applications and 135 continuing. Approximately 115 individuals have either repaid by service or cash, or are in the process of repaying. Fifteen dentists are or have served in rural Manitoba under this program, and 12 doctors. The majority of the medical students interned in Manitoba and a significant number have deferred repayment by service in order to take further training before commencing practice.

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(MR. HANUSCHAK cont'd)

A significant feature of the 73-74 operation was the establishment of a Student Aid Review Board, independent of the Student Aid Branch, which reviews appeals against the original decisions of the branch. This body provides not only an external appeal mechanism but also a valuable additional source of information on the effects of the program on individuals who require special consideration. The board processed some 780 appeals, 433 of which received additional awards.

A few comments about the Universities Grants Commission appropriation. The amounts which this House has provided for the operation and expansion of our universities have increased very substantially year after year. In addition to the figure of \$54.6 million shown in the current Estimates you will be asked to authorize the borrowing of 5.7 million for capital purposes, making the total to be supplied for current and ongoing capital purposes \$60.3 million for 74-75. The corresponding figure for the last fiscal year was \$53.7 million.

The growth of our universities in size, function and service can be illustrated statistically in a number of ways. Full-time enrollment in 1960 was 6,232 students; in '65, 10,834; and in '73, 17,000. Full-time enrollment estimated for 74, 17,500; for part-time enrollment in 1960 was 4,369; in '65, 6,339; and in '73, 17,492. The increase in part-time enrollment, especially in the last decade shows a new degree of public commitment to continuing education in universities. Of those enrolled part-time in '73, 9,151 were in the regular winter session, and 8,341 in summer sessions. Several years ago it has been estimated that part-time enrollment would overtake full-time enrollment in the mid 70s. Clearly the number enrolled on a part-time basis now exceeds full-time enrollment.

Another measure of growth appears in the increase of gross operating expenditures which have risen from \$11.3 million in 60-61, to 24 million in 65-66, and 72.2 million in 72-73, the last year for which accounts have been audited. The universities budget figures for 73-74 were 76.5 million. In the same period, that is, 60-61 to 72-73 the universities' revenues from tuition fees have increased from \$2.1 million to 9.4 million; an increase of about 350 percent. Provincial operating grants have increased from 4.4 million to 42.7 million dollars, an increase of 870 percent. And research income has increased from \$1.6 million to 9 million during the same period of time, an increase of 460 percent. In the same time by way of comparison full-time enrollment increased from 6232 to 1706, an increase of 175 percent.

It is inevitable that under the pressures of rapid growth each university should tend to think of its own expansion and isolation from other universities, both within the province and in the prairie region. Without suitable controls unnecessary and undesirable duplication of programs and facilities would result. These controls are exercised in Manitoba by the Universities Grants Commission under its Statutory powers, and inter-provincially on the prairies by the Prairie Economic Council through its sponsorship by the Western Canada Post-Secondary Co-ordinating Committee. In Manitoba our three universities and St. Boniface College all offer programs at the undergraduate level. With graduate programs being confined to the University of Manitoba, except for a restricted area where there has been a co-operative teaching arrangement between the University of Manitoba and the University of Winnipeg for many years.

As the figures already quoted prove, the costs of post-secondary education have been increasing at a phenomenal rate, and both the Federal and Provincial Governments have been concerned about the nature of measures which would control these costs while continuing to guarantee education at a high level of quality to all those who want it and can profit from it. The Universities and the Commission are paying particular attention to the reduction or restraint of costs but without reducing needed services.

In February 1972 the government appointed a Task Force on Post-Secondary Education to which I have made reference earlier, and its functions were to survey the educational needs of Manitoba in relation to post-secondary education; to assess the adequacy of existing facilities and resources in for filling these needs, and to make recommendations on the future development of post-secondary education in the province. In February of '73 I received and released an interim report, or of last year rather, a predecessor received and released an interim report of the Task Force, and in November of this year I similarly received and released the Task Force's final report.

The recommendations, suggestions, and comments contained in the report are now under active consideration by the government in the manner I outlined earlier. The government and

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(MR. HANUSCHAK cont'd). . . . the Universities Grants Commission faced with a more moderate enrollment growth have become much more cautious in approving any new capital or academic programs.

We are also well aware that previous enrollment forecasting methodology based upon historical trends is no longer valid. Students are no longer attending universities in the numbers characteristic of the 60s and are turning to other forms of post-secondary education or none at all. Some steps which have been taken by the Universities Grants Commission to clarify the enrollment trends and to make better use of our university resources are: Firstly, a demand study undertaken in the secondary schools in an attempt to develop a more sensitive and accurate forecast of students that intend to enroll in post secondary institutions has provided encouraging results.

A Task Force on Computer Rationalization formed to ascertain better ways and means to make use of existing and future computer facilities, recommended implementation of an inter-institutional computer network. The network became operative in the fiscal year 73-74. The universities are being encouraged to develop more accurate and comprehensive management information systems. Implementation of an operative integrated system has now taken place.

In 1972 the Fiscal Arrangements Act, which provides the legal basis for post-secondary cost-sharing, has been extended for two years but will now expire on March 31st of '74. By mutual agreement between the Federal Government and the provinces, the provisions of the Act have been extended for another three years. The Federal Government has indicated frequently and forcibly that it does not wish to continue this form of cost-sharing on an open-end basis and that some new approach will have to be developed which will impose a ceiling on federal obligations. During the extension of the agreement the Federal Government has stipulated the maximum 15 percent and the yearly rate of increase in its share. Talks will continue on this subject between the Secretary of State and the provincial ministers individually on the one hand, and amongst the responsible provincial ministers on the other hand. It is obvious that the cost of post-secondary programs could fall even more heavily on the provinces if a federal ceiling on a sharing arrangement continues to be imposed, and the current discussions are being approached by us with a full recognition of the very serious implications involved in any change of arrangements.

Another matter of serious concern is the Federal Government's expressed interest in considering major modifications of the structure and direction of federal support for research activities, an interest which followed the establishment of the Federal Ministry of State for Science and Technology and the release of a third report of the Lamontagne Commission on a government organization for the seventh.

The Council of Ministers of Education and the Western Canada Post-Secondary Co-ordinating Committee are actively concerned in regard to the nature and extent of such changes as have been proposed and have already made representations in respect thereof to the Minister of State for Science and Technology and to the Secretary of State. There has also been discussions between federal and provincial officials on current circumstances and proposals for the future.

Honourable members will be aware that the professional schools and faculties are concentrated at the University of Manitoba, although there is an established Faculty of Education at the Brandon University. In these faculties and in the Faculty of Graduate Studies, very extensive research is being conducted with the aid of grants which in 74-75 are estimated to be in excess of \$9 million. These activities not only add to the extension of knowledge, the development of abilities in areas of competence for graduate students and the prestige of the universities, but since most research grants come from sources outside the province they represent very substantial additions to the economy of the province. They also attract to the province other research oriented activities which bring with them a wealth of intellectual talent and very large payrolls.

A good example is the location on the Campus of the University of Manitoba of the Federal Fisheries Research Board, an establishment which will represent many millions of dollars in capital input and federal payrolls. There are many illustrations which could be given of the extent to which the universities are becoming involved in elements of service to the community. Major capital expansion programs paid for in whole, or in part, during the year 72-73 include the Basic Sciences Building at the University of Manitoba Medical Dental Campus, and a building for the training of teachers at the French Language Teacher Training Institute

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(MR. HANUSCHAK cont'd). . . . established to serve needs of Francophones in Manitoba, and elsewhere in Western Canada, at St. Boniface College.

Honourable members will recognize a severe reduction in the number of building projects in the university campuses resulting directly from the levelling enrollment which has been characteristic of the years since 1970.

The Department of Colleges and Universities Affairs has one more responsibility, an interesting one; it appears in the Estimates as Special Projects. Under Special Projects there appear such programs as Focus Special Mature Student Program at the University of Brandon, and the University of Manitoba IMPACT Winnipeg Centre Project New Careers. These are the programs that have received a more peculiar kind of publicity; they are programs that have aroused much discussion in and out of the House. I will only say about these programs that we are proud of them; that they have expanded, and I invite questions about them and about the other areas of my responsibility within the Department of Colleges and Universities Affairs. I'm sure that during the course of the debate there will be opportunity to comment further on many of the programs and answer whatever questions honourable members may have.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Minister for his explanation of the spending program and spending appropriations being sought by him and by the government for this particular department. Many areas that the Minister touched on are of extremely great interest and concern to all of us, higher education being the critical and valuable ingredient in any society, that it is.

For the most part, I think that we welcome the thrust and direction that the Department of Colleges and Universities Affairs is being given insofar as justifiable increases in spending are concerned. Of course keeping in mind the responsibility that we have to ride herd on the public purse and on the spending programs of this government, we necessarily, Mr. Chairman, feel some sense of anxiety about expansions in budgets such as the one reflected in the particular estimates in front of us. But we have to accept, and we do accept, that education is an expensive process, that it's an expensive service, an expensive necessity, particularly higher education. We have to accept, and we do accept, that to be competitive our province has to make it possible for our young people and other young people who aspire to study and live and work here, to receive the best possible training at the higher academic and vocational levels. So the Minister is not going to find any serious objection I'm sure from the Progressive Conservative Benches, Mr. Chairman, to the increases in the estimates being sought and allotted where his department is concerned this fiscal year.

The increase I'm sure can be justified on the grounds which I've suggested, and we're not going to criticize him or his colleagues at that level. Whether the appropriations are being spent in the best possible way, with the best possible efficiency, and towards the best possible goals, of course, is another question. But the appropriations themselves I think find acceptance from us, the costs of education and the inflationary factors being what they are today.

Specifically, Mr. Chairman, I'd like to mention one or two items coming under the aegis of the department we're looking at, and one is the question of the duplication of university services, particularly in an urban area like Metropolitan Winnipeg. I raise the question for the Minister's consideration because it has been raised to me on occasion. We have in the urban area of Winnipeg of course two good universities which concentrate perhaps on individual strengths and on specific courses and faculties that to some extent are exclusive of each other, and I think this is as it should be. But we have also a spirit of healthy competition between the two institutions which I think perhaps to some degree, and in some instances, becomes an illogical competition when the institutions find themselves competing with each other in specific faculties or specific academic directions. I'm not suggesting that because the University of Manitoba being the original provincially funded institution should have a prior claim on the opportunity to develop excellence in specific faculties, specific fields of study; I think that the University of Winnipeg and all other institutions of higher learning in our province have as much right to access to the public purse as the University of Manitoba does, but I wonder whether at all times the kinds of directions that some of the institutions are taking, and the kinds of ambitions they have are entirely reasonable and logical.

Their areas of activity, academic activity, and that covers the whole spectrum including,

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(MR. SHERMAN cont'd) for example, the area of physical education, in which the University of Manitoba has attempted over the years to develop some expertise and some excellence. In some of those areas I think the University of Manitoba has achieved a high degree of expertise and excellence. I would simply hope that the ambitions that the University of Winnipeg and that other institutions of higher learning in this community receiving support from the provincial treasury, the ambitions of other such institutions are sensibly and logically directed into other fields that don't bring them into unnecessary and wasteful conflict with the University of Manitoba. I would ask the Minister's consideration of that subject. I hesitate to describe it as a problem but it has been brought to my attention. I must admit, Mr. Chairman, that it has been brought to my attention largely from spokesmen for the University of Manitoba. I haven't had it raised or brought to my attention by spokesmen for the University of Winnipeg. But I have had spokesmen for the University of Manitoba suggest to me that it's wasteful and illogical for another university in this same area to try to develop the same kind of excellence, the same kind of expertise in precisely the same fields, and therefore wind up competing in those fields with the University of Manitoba when there are many fields which other institutions could refine to a high degree of excellence which are not now regarded as preeminent by the University of Manitoba. So I would hope there's some rational approach being taken by all parties to spending in those areas. I don't think it's logical to have two universities competing to be the best in architecture, or the best in physical education, or the best in commerce, in the same urban community; far better to have one striving for excellence let's say in those fields, the other striving for excellence in other fields, in perhaps science, in perhaps education, pedagogy, in perhaps engineering, in any number of fields you care to name.

Another area that I would bring to the Minister's attention, which is an area of concern for many of us I think, Mr. Chairman, is that of the Canadian content in the faculties of our universities. I know that we're in a numbers game here and we don't, of course, have the population that enables us to produce university teachers in quantity on an equal basis with, for example, the United States, so I recognize that there always will be a condition in which we will necessarily have to resort to the importation of teachers and instructors from other countries. But I think that it's valid to suggest that in certain sensitive areas in particular, and I would cite the field of history and the field of political science, in certain sensitive areas such as those, it's to our advantage as Canadians to attempt to have as high a content of Canadian teachers as is possible. I don't say they have to be Canadian born, but I think they should be Canadian immured, I think they should be Canadian oriented and Canadian interested. I think that it's only to our advantage as a nation, as a people, that we attempt to reach as high a quotient, or as high a quota of Canadian oriented teachers in our higher learning institutions as possible, and I repeat that the sensitive subjects, such as those that I've referred to are of particular concern. I've had some complaints, and I'm sure the Minister has had the point mentioned to him in the past, and I would hope that he and his departmental officials are keeping an eye on the problem.

The budget for community colleges, in the Community Colleges Division is one that finds substantial support from me, Mr. Chairman, and I'm sure from most of my colleagues. I think that the role that the community colleges are playing and the service that the community colleges are performing in our society now is an extremely valuable one, and I would hope that an increasing emphasis is being placed in our whole educational system on the value of education at that level as against the legendary value of education in the institutions of purely academic instruction. The truth of the matter of course is as we all recognize it, that although it's pleasant to have the opportunity to attend an academic university, it's not always entirely sensible, it's not always entirely practical, and in some cases it's a highly misguided ambition.

The community colleges with the kind of practical training that they are able to give to our young people, our young people and our older people now, are filling a void and a role that the universities are not able to fill, are delivering a satisfaction to a whole spectrum of students and potential students who would be left frustrated and dissatisfied by the purely academic regiment of a university education. I hope that the philosophy of community college training is being sown and cultivated as widely as possible throughout our whole educational system.

The area of job opportunities and student employment services is one that I think will find the least kind of satisfaction and support from this side of the House, Mr. Chairman.

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(MR. SHERMAN cont'd)

We're not at all convinced that the student employment initiatives undertaken by the government thus far have been as efficiently administered and as successfully administered as we would like to see. The Minister is familiar with many of the criticisms we've raised in the past with regard to favoritism in the placing, in the filling of student job applications, and in the placing of student job applicants. He's familiar I am sure with some of the criticisms we've raised in the past having to do with the requirements facing a student when he or she is seeking a job through the Student Employment Service; we're unhappy with the kind of information the student has to divulge about family background and family income; and we're unhappy with some of the obvious, and I think demonstrated, wastages of public money in the operation of the programs.

However, the concept of student employment programs and student job opportunity machinery is a highly necessary and a highly desirable one, and it goes hand in hand with the education process. There's no point in trying to develop a sophisticated and a valuable system of higher learning in universities and colleges for our young people unless at the same time we take into account the natural ambition of those young people, and the natural requirement of those young people, to be able to do something with the things that they're learning and to be able to maintain themselves insofar as it's possible in economic terms during their courses. So that the whole idea of student job opportunities and student employment programs is part and parcel, is a vital ingredient of the higher education system, and we subscribe to the recognition that this government has given to that operation. The administration of it; the control of spending, or lack of control over the spending employed in it, opens up an area in which there's much to be desired from our perspective. But we would not want to see the Minister or his departmental aides minimize or reduce their interest and their emphasis in student employment programs in any way. If anything the opposite is true, Mr. Chairman; an expanded approach to student employment opportunities would be highly welcome I am sure by most of the thousands of high school and university and college students in Manitoba.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would make passing reference to the report on post-secondary education in Manitoba prepared by the Task Force referred to by the Minister. I don't intend to go into it in detail because my colleague from Riel I think wants to say a few words on it, but I want to record for the House at the moment that we have our concerns about the philosophy embodied in that report. We have our concerns about the personnel who were appointed to prepare the report; and we share some of the unhappiness and some of the anxiety about the report itself that has been expressed I think in the community generally in the past few months, notably by some of the newspapers in the province. The essential quality that any university or any higher institution must have and must be allowed to retain at all times to achieve the goals which we set for those institutions is a freedom and an independence, not only academic but a freedom and independence that expands the whole area of social activity. And I think that there are areas for concern in that field that can be found in some of the philosophy being brought to bear on arguments and approaches with regard to post-secondary education under the present government.

As I've said, my colleague from Riel will have some things I think to say in this particular area, but I want to register for the Minister's edification the fact that we do have reservations about some aspects of the report; and we do have reservations about some of the philosophy implicit in the Minister's approach to post-secondary education, and its particular position vis-a-vis government.

With those comments, Mr. Chairman, I will relinquish the floor at this juncture. I'd be interested in hearing, when he has his opportunity next, the Minister's response to the questions that I've raised, particularly those having to do with the possible duplication of university services and the need for a high content of Canadian teachers in the faculties and in the subject fields that are of particular sensitivity.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. PATRICK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do wish to thank the Minister for his introductory remarks. He gave us some indication what we expect, or the course of direction that he would like to see the universities and colleges take direction. I will try to keep my remarks very limited because I know we only have about six hours in all of the estimates and I know that some of our members on this side would like to get to the Industry and Commerce.

Mr. Speaker, in the area of post-secondary education, I feel it's important that taxpayers should know what they are paying for and what they are receiving in return. I know that the costs

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(MR. PATRICK cont'd) of post-secondary education has been increasing, and in fact we had reports from many areas that they're staggering, but I believe that we must guard ourselves, Mr. Chairman, from the generalities and from perhaps the public defenders of the purse, and I have no argument with these people because we should defend the public purse. But I would like to come to the defence of the universities. I feel that the three universities that spend good money and good dollars on teaching, learning, and research, have been subjected to perhaps the guns of editorial writers about waste and overspending and need for change; and, Mr. Chairman, I feel that this is the area that we have to perhaps come to the defence of our universities and colleges.

I would like to perhaps raise questions as to the whys and wherefores of financing post-secondary education, Mr. Chairman. Years ago the governments did not hand out bursaries as they do now and make it much more possible for many of our students that were not able to attend universities to attend universities today. The majority who attended university years ago were perhaps well-to-do and their lot could be expressed as they were the privileged few, Mr. Chairman. And of course the institutions did not have the elaborate facilities such as libraries and research labs, gymnasiums, and so on. I think that university costs surely they have increased, but they have increased with enrollment, Mr. Chairman. More recently I believe it's quite true that universities themselves have started to, as recently as last year have started to tighten up their budgets and their belts.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to suggest to the Minister perhaps he can look at some economy measures, and perhaps the government can consider some special tax credits for private donors making gifts to the universities. I know that when the legislation was introduced just a year ago I believe that on a gift tax you're only limited to a certain figure, and this is an area that the Minister can look at. I know that it's been mentioned that courses are not only duplicated in the city but are duplicated within the institutions within the universities themselves.

I feel that perhaps a higher tuition fee for non resident students should be considered, Mr. Chairman. This is not something new, this would be similar to what is happening in the universities in the United States; they have a higher university fee for non resident students. I think that we should gear up our programs that would allow such as day and evening seminar during the summer sessions instead of just using the buildings in the day time.

I know that I mentioned last year that perhaps we should give some consideration to have our universities on a trimester basis, and this to me appeals very much, Mr. Chairman, because the students can study for say two semesters and they can work for a year before they go into a third semester, and this would give them some objectivity and some idea of what area they really want to stay in or get involved for the rest of their lives, and I think it would make it much easier for some of the students to be able to complete their education. Because just recently I've had a couple of students come to see me in the buildings and they were in nursing at the university, and they had financial difficulties because they were turned down for any bursaries and they were unable to get any finances at home, the father was - not the real father - was a stepfather of these girls and they really had serious difficulties.

I think that we should have perhaps joint operations of libraries. I know at the present time at the university campus in many faculties each one has its own research department and its own libraries, and why couldn't there be for some of them one central library that could be used by many students. So these are some of the points that I would like to raise to the Minister at the present time.

I again would point out that there is some concern about duplication of courses, and the Member for Fort Garry has properly brought it to the attention of the Minister. I know in respect to even physical education we have a course and the facilities that will probably provide enough students, will turn out enough teachers in that area for the next 25 years at the University of Manitoba, and we're proceeding to set up the same - this is my information - the same course except it's differently named at a local university here, the University of Winnipeg. I'm not against another course being set up but if it is duplication and the other one has the facilities for the students, that this is an area that perhaps should be looked at.

I know that the Provincial Government is spending some \$54 million, according to the estimates that's before us, Mr. Chairman, for universities, and only \$17 million for community colleges; and perhaps we should look maybe at more equal distribution of these funds, because, Mr. Chairman, community colleges should not be considered as second rate institutions. I

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(MR. PATRICK cont'd) think we are educating technologists, we are educating para-professionals of the future, and I know that if you check with the business community many will tell you that the people that are coming out of our Red River Community College are very good, are capable, and are ready to come into the industry; in fact in some of the area, in some of the courses, their business administration courses, there's many more applications than students coming out of those courses, or science courses, Mr. Chairman. So again I feel that the community colleges cannot be considered as second rate, I think they're tops, and maybe we should look at the distribution of our funds as between the universities and colleges.

The other point that I would like to bring to the Minister's attention - I know that in the past, that over half of our university graduates live outside this province, and if we take in more technical courses the engineers and graduates, perhaps 70 to 80 percent leaves this province. And two points: First it seems that we didn't have sufficient jobs for them; and the second, are we paying too much for the cost of education, and I believe the province is bearing too much and we should be receiving more financing from the Federal Government who must come into the picture if this will continue. I know, it's been brought to my attention on many occasions that - I've talked to engineering classes, and these people have told me that from their class and the class years later on that they've graduated, there's probably one or two in the province, and their graduating classes were in the neighborhood of 50 or 75 in that particular year. So this indicates in itself that the statistics are pretty well correct - right on, as the Member for Churchill would say - somewhere in the neighborhood of 70 to 80 percent leave this province in these fields. For this reason I feel that our post-secondary education is producing products who do not stay in the province and I feel that the Federal Government should bear more of the costs in this area.

I know that the Minister also touched a little bit about student employment offices and the job opportunities. I would like to say at this time that perhaps it has been an improvement in the last couple of years that the students have a better opportunity to get jobs, but I would like to again direct to him and feel that there should be some program within the government itself, within all the government departments, that every year that each department would be prepared to hire so many students for some of the extra work that has to be done within the departments, and I know the departments are no different than perhaps any other businesses that there is quite a bit of work to do. So that area may be covered by the graduating, by the students who are looking for jobs during summertime. I would like to know from the Minister how many students do get jobs within the government departments? How many jobs are created within each department of government for the summer jobs? I know that the Chamber of Commerce and the Industry has been extremely receptive to taking students, even on part-time, and sometimes it's expensive for the, but they try to accommodate and make job opportunities available for the students. So that's the point I would like to mention to him.

I'm somewhat concerned and disappointed about the STEP program. I know that last year the St. James Collegiate in St. James had a very good project undertaken; there were over 250 students employed. They had more jobs than they were able to handle and they did a very good job within that institution, and the whole community was quite proud about that. In fact the school board thought that this should be expanded and they received \$10,000 last year for their STEP program; they had to buy equipment and the jobs that they were doing was lawn service, cutting grass, house painting, house repairing; they were doing baby sitting, and building patios, and all kinds of jobs, doing some small contracting, and they had to buy all their equipment, and they were very successful. When I say 250 jobs I'm using a low figure because I'm told, and the information that was supplied to me, it was between 250 and 400 jobs that were created within that program. Now I understand, and it's a great disappointment, and I have students come to see me, but that program this year has been cut down tremendously. Last year they had I believe \$10,000 and it's cut down to \$3,500.00. At the end of the STEP program you know they have to sell all their equipment and return the balance, or any of the money that they received for their equipment, back to the government, and that was done. So this year they're starting new and we're thinking of perhaps creating 400 jobs within that area, and when I'm talking St. James Collegiate, this covers the whole entire division, the Westwood Collegiate, St. Johns and Hedges, all the schools within the St. James division. To me, I thought it would have been a very good program; their intentions were at least 400 jobs, and the program cut down to 3,500, and the kids received endorsement from the school board what a good job they did, and they said, well we haven't even got enough money to begin buying any

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(MR. PATRICK cont'd) equipment with this type of grant. So perhaps the Minister can give me some answers and review again that program.

I know that there's been a lot of criticism about some of the STEP programs, and maybe some were not successful, and some didn't have the advantages that it did in our area, in the St. James Assiniboia School Division, because it was extremely successful. All the reports from many people, from the business community, were very much impressed with this program in our area. I'm disappointed that it's cut down to the point where it may not get off the ground in that area. To me, if you can employ 400 students that's quite a bit; it's a very small grant to get this program off the ground.

The other point, Mr. Chairman, that I'd like to bring to the Minister's attention, and I'm very disappointed and concerned, and I think the government has completely neglected the Brandon University. This institution that serves western Manitoba, and perhaps a good part of agricultural students that enroll in that university, and was crying for funds and it was in serious financial difficulty last year, and the information that I have --(Interjection)-- Somebody says they were bailed out, but the information that I have is that they're still in serious difficulty today.

I think it's an institution that has served that part of Manitoba for many good years, and I think it would be a shame for the Minister and the government not to give it the kind of support that it requires. I think that perhaps we can transfer some more of our agricultural students taking agriculture to that area, to that institution, and I think it must be helped. I wonder what is the government doing to assist, and what has the government done to assist it when there were cries in the newspapers last fall that it will have to close the doors, and this is something that the Minister did not tell us and did not touch. I know that perhaps some courses could be established, a Faculty of Northern Studies, instead of it being established maybe at the University of Manitoba, or at the local colleges, which in my opinion the enrollment will continue to climb, I think something like that could be established at the University of Brandon to make sure that it survives. This is disappointing to me that there wan't, you know, action taken immediately, not even to see the bad publicity that was created at that time that the institution at the University may close.

So, Mr. Chairman, these are the few points that I wanted to bring to the Minister's attention. I have correspondence in respect from the St. James Collegiate in respect to their program, and it's documented and many pages, and I think it was an excellent program. I was familiar with it last year because the students called on the business community to raise extra funds, and I know there's a letter from the Chairman of the School Board and he's - just quote you one paragraph: "The St. James Assiniboia School Board highly endorses your plan to again operate the St. James Collegiate Youth Company during the summer holiday period of 1974. It is obvious from all reports that the students and the community as a whole benefitted a great deal from the activities of your company. Provision will be made for use of the gymnasium, and so on. . ." So this is the kind of report, not that you're getting from the local school board, it's got very responsible citizens on its board, but as well you're getting from the community at large. So I would hope that the Minister will certainly give this some consideration and review that point. And I would hope that he will give me some answers to the other questions I raised to him.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I want to thank the Honourable Member for Assiniboia for making it possible for me to make a few remarks, and they are just a few remarks that I would like to make with respect to this particular aspect of the estimates of the Minister responsible for Universities and Colleges. I would like to by way of introducing those few remarks, read one particular sentence or two, or convey a thought or two, that's contained in the response of the Board of Regents of the University of Winnipeg to the post-secondary education in Manitoba, and suggest that the Honourable Minister has, certainly has a degree of responsibility in accepting this kind of a statement and indeed, answering for it and seeing to it that that sentiment that I will express in a few moments is indeed carried out in the Province of Manitoba, particularly in our centres of higher learning. They refer to the universities and the colleges generally, and the post-secondary field generally, that they must also be havens for independent critical thought and centres of international awareness. Further, the universities of Manitoba must as much as possible meet the needs of the individual Manitobans.

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(MR. ENNS cont'd)

Now I quote those particular few lines to the Honourable Minister in the context of the remarks that I want to address to him about the really unsatisfactory dismissal, removal from office of his former colleague the Member for Crescentwood, Professor Cy Gonick, of whom he needs no further introduction, and the manner and way in which the dismissal took place. Because, Mr. Chairman, there are many times that different individual politicians, or indeed political parties, people of political doctrine, are not particularly enthused about a particular course of events or direction that is pursued by an individual academic in our institutes of higher learning. However, Mr. Chairman, it's been a pretty well established fact that the, you know, the area of academic freedom is a pretty fundamental one with respect to our universities and colleges, and one that should not be tampered with lightly. I, Sir, without making accusations directly to the Minister, but would have to say that in response to questions made by either the Member from Fort Garry or the Member from Brandon West, who is not with us tonight, has been somewhat less than candid in his response to some of these direct questions with respect to this particular individual, and the program that he was involved in, and his subsequent dismissal. I really would like to take this opportunity when we're discussing generally the affairs of secondary education in universities and colleges, I think the latitude of the Estimates allows us to bring in, latitudes of debate allow us to bring in subject matter such as this at this particular time, to really solicit from the Minister you know, a kind of straightforward explanation of just what in fact took place. Because, Mr. Chairman, we're led, we're led to believe by the information that we have now, that a certain influential labour leader was that influential within the higher halls of learning of this province, that he could reach past the Minister of Education, that he could reach into the universities and say, that man, that particular man is persona non grata and we want him out of here, and he was removed.

Now, Mr. Chairman, the irony of the fact is that I may well agree with that particular labour leader, I may well agree in political terms that that particular person should be removed because I don't agree with the particular kind of political philosophy that he was espousing. But, Sir, I argued with that member, with that same person when he was an honourable member representing the constituency of Crescentwood in this Chamber, in a free and democratic way that I would show him every respect as a Member of this Chamber. It was not for me to suggest that he should not have the right to sit in this Chamber, it was for the people of the constituency of Crescentwood to decide that. He for some reason chose not to give them that opportunity to reinstate his position or not, but that's his business. But, Sir, the fact of the matter that some people, and people perhaps in the news media may take it as a hypocritical stance on the part of people like myself, or indeed anybody from the Conservative side, to take up any issue on behalf of the former member from Crescentwood, whom we detested fully and completely on political grounds; whom we fought with, fully and completely on political grounds, but nonetheless, Mr. Chairman, you know, the sheer audacity and the spinelessness of this government has never really been more properly demonstrated; and really where the power and the control lies with this government has never been more properly demonstrated than by the fact that a non elected international unionist can reach in and say, and dictate, to this Minister of Education, to this government, who and who can not be part of their educational program.

Mr. Chairman I make those statements simply because the Minister of Education has been if anything, less than candid with us up to now. He has to at least say, not accept the words from the Member from Brandon West, or the Member from Fort Garry, or anybody else that has raised the question in this House, but he had to at least say to his former colleague that he's lying through his teeth when he says the Minister of Education is lying in some of his responses that he's made in this House, which is by the way precisely what Mr. Gonick has said about the Minister of Education when the Minister of Education explained his dismissal.

Now, Mr. Chairman, there can't be four or five stories to a simple question of dismissal. Did the Labour Movement --(Interjection)-- Well Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Minister asks me what's my story? I'm prepared to accept the story that is given to me candidly, straightforwardly and honestly. I'm at this stage prepared to have to accept the story that was given to the public, to the news media, by the person to whom it happened to him, namely, Mr. Cy Gonick, who said he was fired; influence was used by one Mr. Len Stevens who didn't like the

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(MR. ENNS cont'd) kind of meddling that Mr. Gonick and his program was bringing into the affairs of unionism, particularly in the north, and for that reason all of a sudden Mr. Gonick was left without a job. Now that's what the person most directly affected said, namely one Mr. Gonick.

Now the Honourable Minister says that he knows nothing of all this. I'm only asking for a straightforward answer, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. The Hour being 9:00 o'clock, committee rise, call in the Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Committee of Supply has considered certain resolutions, has directed me to report same, and asks leave to sit again.

IN SESSION

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Radisson.

MR. SHAFRANSKY: Mr. Speaker, I move seconded by the Honourable Member for Crescentwood, that the report of the committee be received.

MOTION presented and carried.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTIONS - RESOLUTION NO. 34

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. We're into Private Members' Hour now. The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I beg to move seconded by the Member for Assiniboia, the following resolution, that

WHEREAS open space vegetation and plant life in settled areas is of major benefit in contributing to environmental protection and human betterment; and

WHEREAS there is not enough green acreage in settled human areas and the costs of providing space and vegetation impose heavy costs on local communities; and

WHEREAS there is a serious need to undertake preventative action to protect existing green areas from destruction; and

WHEREAS there is a need to know more about the green area requirements of settled areas;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Provincial Government consider the advisability of establishing a local communities green area bank in order to

(1) provide no interest loans and some grant assistance to local communities or civic voluntary groups to acquire and develop open space and plant trees and vegetation in accordance with local plans,

(2) to work with local communities in providing such green areas through technical assistance,

(3) to provide assistance to local communities in developing preventative measures against threatened destruction of green areas or plant life, and

(4) to undertake research and development of various forms of species that are suitable to settled areas and beneficial to their environmental systems.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Speaker, in proposing this resolution I'd like to begin by simply quoting the remarks of Mr. Martin Benham who is the chairman and director of the Winnipeg Parks System, as recorded in the April 6th edition of the Winnipeg Free Press. He says: "Everything 'soft, green and pleasant' has been eliminated from the downtown areas leaving them hot, inhuman, psychologically depressing for those who live and work there." He goes on to say: "As a result people want trees and plant them in areas where from the tree's point of view survival is doubtful. Holes are dug, blasted, created in concrete along avenues on corners, in front of buildings and hollows. Trees are placed in pots, tubs, containers; shrubs are placed in elevated troughs of concrete with too little soil and far too much heat. All in all there is a self sprinkling of green throughout environment that's completely hostile to plant growth." He then went on to say in a fairly extensive article on a speech given to the International Shade Tree Conference that what was required was a major effort by all levels of government to provide for a re-greening of our cities.

I think that particular statement by Mr. Benham, who is the director of Parks in the City of Winnipeg, highlights and emphasizes very well the purpose of this resolution, and that

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(MR. AXWORTHY cont'd) is to bring attention to this House the what may appear to be mundane matter of how do we try to promote and give incentive to the development of a different variety and a choice amongst the green areas and vegetation that are available in our cities and in our communities. The reasons I think, Mr. Chairman, are obvious and probably most people in this Chamber at least subconsciously have paid some service to the requirement for trees. I think we have all been raised in a - basically a frontier community or certainly a community which has always had very close ties to nature. And all of us have always felt that the ability to find some grass and some trees has been added beauty to our cities and to our towns and something that we have long cherished.

It's interesting to note though, Mr. Speaker, that the value of vegetation and small open spaces goes much beyond simply their aesthetic value or their beauty value, that in this time when we are constantly being reminded of the poison that's beginning to occur in our air where we're being besieged by hordes of mosquitoes that we can't spray where the quality of life in terms of its plant life and its ecological systems is becoming ever more pressing upon us. We have forgotten that one of the ways that we restore that balance, that we maintain a proper environmental system is through the maintenance of proper vegetation and green areas, and one of the most serious causes of the imbalance in our ecology of cities is that increasingly we are eliminating those areas of vegetation and plant life that are so important to it. So that when in this House we have heard serious questions raised for example of the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources about the "Why can't we use increased pesticides to spray mosquitoes?" - well some scientists are prepared to say that we wouldn't require pesticides at all if we had proper plant life in our cities that if we provided for proper vegetation then we could restore some of the balances and eliminate many requirements to resort to chemical ways of treating the small pests and so forth.

I think it's also an important factor, Mr. Speaker, of just the way that we live our life in urban areas. Again we have in this House spent some time over the past two or three months talking about pressures of growth; and talking about how we increase housing supply and how we get more sort of residential land into production, and how we build better transportation systems. What we also forget about is that the urban system itself has very severe consequences to the psychology of people, that if you put enough human creatures of any kind into a close enough dense space and don't provide any relief, any opportunity for privacy, any opportunity for a variety of visual and spaces then sooner or later there's going to be a degree of psychotic tendencies. I suppose without trying to stretch the argument too far it's quite possible to attribute some of the major problems of our urban areas to the fact that we simply build more and denser areas to live in without ever being concerned about the small spaces between those dense areas that people must occupy.

And I'm reminded, Mr. Speaker, of the time I spent in graduate school down in the United States and I had the opportunity to work in both New York and Philadelphia which at that time had very extensive sort of park areas --(Interjection)-- They do have an awful lot of good hockey places and I suppose it's attributable. But one of the interesting experiments they were trying was a tremendous variety of small vest pocket parks placed throughout the city where in some cases they were no wider than 40 or 50 feet, maybe 100 feet in depth, where trees are being planted, certain grass would be laid for office workers, for children. And all of a sudden you began finding people using these places; the demand all of a sudden once they were there began to increase far more than anyone had expected. And strangely enough, Mr. Speaker, we are now in a danger of eliminating what used to be one of the great advantages of Winnipeg as a city - and that is its open space and its contact with natural forms of life - simply by the pressure of our growth. And in fact a study done about three years ago on recreation land in Canadian cities showed that Winnipeg had probably the least amount of open recreation space area of any comparable Canadian city per population, which I think is a serious statistic and one that we should take some lesson from, that if we continue to allow that trend to grow then we're going to find ourselves in serious problems in relation to the kind and quality of life that we have in our city.

But the purpose of this resolution, Mr. Speaker, goes beyond simply major assistance to the City of Winnipeg and to the kinds of problems that Mr. Benham talked about, because I would envision a program of incentive such as we are proposing here to apply also to a number of smaller communities throughout the province. And I was fairly intrigued by reading a

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(MR. AXWORTHY cont'd) report about a forestry program undertaken in the State of Texas where again they have applied a program very similar to this to something close to 300 communities in the State of Texas ranging in size from a population of 150 up to the major cities of Kansas City and so on in Wichita, which are about comparable in size to Winnipeg. And so in towns and cities of four, five thousand, ten thousand, three thousand, five hundred, there was major incentives given to community groups, civic groups and to the small municipalities to undertake the planting of trees and the acquisition of open space. And at last count something close to since the program was introduced in 1971, something close to 18,000 trees have been planted in the communities of that state. And several thousand acres of open space have been acquired in the smaller communities, because again we must recognize that these communities too are also changing and also acquire sort of a change in vegetation and a change in that style of life that they like to bring about.

So the purpose of this program of the resolution is to bring a strong reminder that while the weighty issues of the day dealing with millions of dollars and the great problems of inflation and costs and education we just heard about that I think government must also be concerned about the smaller aspects of life, the kinds of things that may make the difference between having a quality kind of environment and one that is simply nondescript. And I think that is the purpose of this particular resolution.

The method that we propose or that is proposed in this resolution is to basically provide incentives to municipalities and to civic groups to provide them with no interest loans and also some grant and technical assistance so that they could acquire land, and of course once those loans are paid back the money could turn over and could be re-used again and again to re-purchase along the way. It would be a gesture, an act of incentive on the part of the provincial government both to demonstrate its concern and to provide another additional incentive to our local areas to provide for improved programs in terms of improving life.

One of the primary aspects of this resolution, Mr. Speaker, is the incentive it would provide to a number of civic and voluntary groups. That there are many private organizations throughout our communities, Rotary Clubs, civic clubs, church organizations, schools and so forth, all of which certainly from my experience are looking for projects to undertake and are certainly interested in the betterment of their community, but are unable to undertake this kind of program of providing for open space, of providing for new kinds of vegetation because the initial capital is oftentimes too expensive. They are able to amortize it by their fund raising ventures over a period of time, but it's the initial capital which is a problem. And I can envision if a program like this was introduced that many of our local and civic organizations throughout the province would be prepared to undertake within their own neighbourhoods and in their own communities the acquisition of small parks, to undertake the planting of trees and to begin to undertake that kind of implantation of green areas in their own communities through the prospect of such a loan.

Another important aspect of the resolution is to provide some technical assistance because this is a fairly complicated deal, it involves the fields of landscape architecture, of forestry, of vegetation. There is a good deal of research going on in this province but it finds difficulty in being applied. I think that again if the model that I'm proposing this resolution would be followed it could be very similar to that followed by groups like some of the development banks in the Maritimes or even some of the new national development banks, where not only are low interest or soft loans provided but also a degree of technical assistance and help so the program would be properly implemented. And the required technical skills could be borrowed by the community group or the local municipality which would not want to buy let's say a land - or have a landscape architect on its staff; say a smaller town like Dauphin, Neepawa or Selkirk would not be able to afford a landscape architect to advise it in the implementation of a program but could through the use of that technical assistance be able to use his services or her services for a period of time and then they could go on and work in another community. And I think that this is also a very important aspect, the technical assistance.

The third aspect of the resolution is one which may have a more immediate concern and that is we are now facing in North America a series of extremely dangerous diseases that affect particularly the trees of North America. We are presently, as the, I think it was the Member from Fort Garry in a question today brought up the problem of canker worms and its effects upon trees and so forth in the City of Winnipeg. And of course just to the south of us in the State of North Dakota, some 80, 90 miles south, the frontier line of the Dutch Elm

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(MR. AXWORTHY cont'd) disease is beginning to approach, and as I understand it, close to 80 percent of the trees planted in Winnipeg are elm trees and therefore very vulnerable to the problem of Dutch Elm. Now there is an Act that we have somewhere in the books, I think it's the prevention of something or other - I have the reference here - which does make mention of the willingness of the province to assist in the control of Dutch Elm disease. But I think we need further efforts in that. To begin with I think we should begin developing species and kinds of vegetation and tree life that is particularly adaptable and hardy in an urban environment. We forget that many of the trees that we normally grow aren't used to intaking of carbon monoxide and all the other kinds of gases and fumes that we spew out in our urban environment. And I believe a good deal of research is needed both in the forms of prevention as well as in new forms of vegetation that can be introduced to offset these and to begin a replanting program so that we can both try to protect ourselves against what is one of the most serious problems in vegetation and at the same time to provide for an alternative program of replanting where it does begin to affect it. And again the kind of research we are doing in Manitoba is one of a more basic nature and doesn't have the kind of application or the practical implementation that if a program such as we're proposing here was introduced they would be able to provide.

I'd also like to see us do research going beyond simply the protection against diseases of trees but also begin to experiment and develop a variety of projects in our cities and towns to reclaim open space, to begin looking for those nooks and crannies and niches in our human settlements that can be adapted for human use, where small trees can be planted and this could range all the way to a variety of things that experiments are being tried elsewhere but we don't have the capacity in our cities and towns to try now. The use of Hydro rights-of-way, of reclaiming old railway rights, taking sort of old warehouse areas; even looking as extreme as it may sound, of going into high rise areas and seeing what can be done on the top of buildings or sort of on decks and plazas within those high density areas; looking at the use of parking lots and the tops of corridors, so that around the city all of a sudden we begin to provide a much wider range of choice of open spaces with vegetation in them. And that would take both the implementation of pilot projects, it would take experiments to find out what vegetation would be suitable, it would take a good deal of investigation to find out what kind of spaces are applicable to human use. The same is true in the suburbs. I can recall I was out speaking in a high school in the area that the Member for Charleswood represents, a very large new suburban sub-division - and again the major concern of the people, of the young students in that school, was that while they had access to sort of the bald prairie there is really no play areas that they - that whole sub-division may be developed without proper provision for any kind of decent open space, when they were walking to school they didn't really have a corridor to walk along. They just really felt that again it was one more example of a new sub-division being implanted in the city without much care or concern about the amenities that would go along with it. And it's that kind of program which I think Mr. Benham was talking about originally in his program, and which I think requires some partnership, some co-operation from the provincial government providing the incentives through a financial incentive to enable these kinds of programs to come about.

So in short, Mr. Speaker, that is the purpose of the resolution. We don't claim that it is earth shattering but I feel that it is the kind of step that we could take from a provincial level to indicate our interest in the quality and nature of our human settlement areas, our small communities that would provide a much higher degree of choice. I think it would provide us with some specific protection against the intrusion of serious diseases of plant and vegetable life, and may overall provide us with probably a healthier environment than the one we now enjoy in our cities and towns.

So this is the purpose of the resolution and I would hope that members of this Chamber would be prepared to support it because I think it is the kind of idea if nothing else that I'd like to see the provincial government examine with some care and over a period of time sort of introduce something in short order, because again I think the longer we wait for this kind of initiative to be taken the less opportunity we have; that we are foreclosing our choices, we're foreclosing our options the longer we allow spaces to be used up, and the sooner we begin to act on this thing - it's not a big financial item, it's not a big cost item; I think the State of Kansas program costs perhaps 100,000 or so a year to bring it about. But it could make that small inch of difference between a community which is just ordinary and one which

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(MR. AXWORTHY cont'd) has an extra sparkle to it, and I think that is the purpose of the resolution, to see how we can begin to add different aspects of our community so that they become different, more enjoyable and healthier for all of us.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell.

MR. HARRY E. GRAHAM (Birtle-Russell): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I've listened with interest to the remarks of the Member for Fort Rouge and his plea and his concern for green areas both in the urban and the rural areas of Manitoba - and I can't help but wonder, Sir, as an individual and one who has spent most of his life working with nature in one form or another, just what the member wants, whether he wants a huge bureaucracy and a planning secretariat and all the rest of it who is going to plan for each and everyone of us what is good for you and I and ignore the needs of the individual in society. Mr. Speaker, coming from a rural area I can tell the Member for Fort Rouge that I have planted as many trees as most members in this Chamber. I am just as concerned about nature and the need for green areas. But also I want to say to you, Sir, that the need for those green areas and the location of such must also coincide with the need for individuals in society. And I can only recall to you, Sir, the problems that have existed in my own constituency, where the needs of the community which I represent and the needs of the community north of the Riding Mountain National Park are completely ignored by bureaucrats and others, who have endeavoured to preserve for time immemorial the Riding Mountain National Park unsullied by the people of this province, untouched, and to preserve it for posterity.

Sir, I can only say that while nature is beautiful to watch, it also has to provide for the needs of people, and if we could have a road linking the communities of Grandview and the communities of Rosburn through the Riding Mountain National Park, I can assure members of this Legislature, and indeed members of the House of Commons in Ottawa, that the beauty of the Riding Mountain National Park would not be disturbed, in fact it would be improved; that people would then be able to see at close range rather than having to walk or to travel by canoe, because they won't allow motor boats in there, and the needs of the communities which must make a living in the area, all this can live, Sir, in harmony and nothing can be destroyed. In fact it can be enhanced. I'm sure that the beauties of nature are for all people, not just for the two or three that want to take the extra special effort and walk ten or twelve or fifteen miles.

While the Member for Fort Rouge, granted he has an urban background, and probably he is appealing to the constituents which he represents, I, Sir, also have a right to represent the view of those in my constituency and their needs, and I feel, Sir, that nature and civilization can live in harmony to the benefit of both. We find in today's agricultural community, for example, that farmers today are planting trees where farmers of 30 and 40 years ago were taking out trees. They are enhancing their community and they are improving their agricultural economy at the same time so that nature and industry can live together. Unfortunately, Sir - and I say this with a great deal of regret - far too often the bureaucrat, the planner, and all those that have basically an inherent desire to improve things, get between the practical aspect of things and the theoretical, and disaster can result. I often wonder, Sir, whether the bureaucrats are more concerned with doing sufficient work to justify their job rather than doing the job that they were hired to do. And the same I think applies to the planners. I do not believe, Sir, that individuals in this society are intent on destroying nature. I think that given the freedom to express their own views and to do their own thing, that nature will not be harmed, that nature will be improved and, in doing so, we have eliminated many of the so-called do-gooders and the bureaucrats who seek to impede rather than to enhance the nature in this province.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Winnipeg Centre.

MR. BOYCE: Well, after the Member for Fort Rouge made his contribution, you know, I felt like, well saying hurray or hallelujah or something. It brings to mind, "I do not think that I will ever see a poem as lovely as a tree, a tree whose loving breasts" - or what is it? "mouth is pressed against her sweet flowing breasts" - something like that, Sir. Some of the truths of history come down to us through poems. But I couldn't help but think also, as the Member for Fort Rouge was making his contribution that it was about time that some other groups besides a small number of people who have for some reason or other chosen to associate themselves with the Liberal group, including the gentleman who ran against me in Winnipeg Centre, because it made it very difficult in some areas, because sometimes it was

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(MR. BOYCE cont'd) . . . a matter of saying, "Me too," after either one of us spoke in these regards. But, you know, there is hope perhaps.

The Member for Birtle-Russell of course re --I better not use that word "reactionary" because I used it in jest the other night with the Member for St. Boniface relative to his former position with the St. Boniface School Board, and the present members of the board took violent exception to me using that term, even in jest, because they thought I was alluding to the present members of the board. So I won't use that term "reactionary". But nevertheless what the Member for Fort Rouge is talking about is the necessity of realizing what human beings do need. Certainly they need economic security and ways to express themselves, but people have been like a voice crying in the wilderness for years. You can go back and read such things as Lucretius' *The Nature of Things* and hear the threads of the Member for Fort Rouge, or you can read some of the works of many people since then. It is strange also that the Prime Minister of the country would choose to make a somewhat comparable speech to a group down in North Carolina over the weekend, that we cannot measure the quality of life in strict economic terms, that we have to start thinking of other considerations.

There is much evidence around that we ignore other perils, some of the things that the Member for Fort Rouge was talking about. It may seem rather, you know, a remote possibility, something that borders on the philosophical, which is by some people's standards synonymous with the ridiculous, talking about things philosophical, because they think there is no pragmatic necessity of talking about philosophical things. But nevertheless there is coming into the literature, evidence, empirical evidence, case by case, the relationship between people being removed from some type of physical contact with their environment and some of the social ills which are plaguing us, and plaguing us at an increasing rate. You talk to some people in some of the technical jargon which floats around, as we had occasion to do the other day, and some people don't want to understand, perhaps some of them don't want to understand because they're fearful; they really don't see the necessity of perhaps inhibiting some of our desires. I know, for example, in my own self-interest I should lose weight, but that doesn't make me want to lose weight immediately, even intellectually if I accept that I should lose weight. But maybe some of the things that the Member for Fort Rouge is talking about are more of an immediate necessity than we do realize.

I see no reason why I shouldn't recommend to my colleagues on this side of the House that we accept this resolution. I would caution the Member for Fort Rouge not to be that enthusiastic because it being worded in the abstract, all it can be is another push in the right direction, I would suggest; that there are several recommendations coming to government from the various agencies such as some that he's familiar with -- recommendations to the Department of Urban Affairs, recommendations to the Department of Agriculture, Municipal Affairs and the rest.

But just one more brief word on this, Mr. Speaker. The Member for Birtle-Russell who makes his case, and he makes his case well because, as he says, he has the responsibility to represent his constituents and the wants and aims and desires of the people in his community, I think perhaps they're over-apprehensive about what is implicit in planning, and I for one am afraid of absolute control by any group, government or anyone else, in this word "planning." And I heard him when he said that he wants somebody to, or what do we want to do? Set up a bureaucracy that will control the very nature of, you know, what is around man? Well if that is what he meant I certainly would watch any government or any bureaucracy that set that forth. -- (Interjection) -- Well, you know, one group ran around and said, "self control, not state control," but nevertheless if we frighten people to death that planning means control, absolute control of people, I think that regardless of why we do it, if we do it for political gain, then we do our constituents a great disservice, because what we're talking about is sensible, rational planning; and planning means to say, No. 1, in this area that is alluded to by the Member for Fort Rouge in this resolution, what does man need to survive? What kind of contact does he need with his environment to survive?

There's one piece of work that was done in the University of British Columbia between the relationship of eye contact and the incident of mental illness and other stuff, contact through these--from high rise apartments and all the rest of it, their contact with an external reality, not using the word "reality" in a philosophical sense but, to use Nixon's words, "its operational sense;" that there seems to be some relationship between depriving people of their involvement with their environment and how well they can survive. It's strange also that some of the Indian

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(MR. BOYCE cont'd) leaders have been telling the white society this for years but we didn't listen. But the idea that we can sit back and not address ourselves, just let society or the individual exert his absolute freedom in some willy-nilly way at the peril of all, I would say is not good sense. The member says that people should have the right to exercise their freedom. Well, if you take that to its logical conclusion then we should, you know, just continue strip mining and all the rest of things, just let people do what they want to do and to heck with the consequence. You know, I don't know what any other member of this Chamber's personal conception of their place in reality is, because we don't discuss such things, but nevertheless if we look at our existence on this thin crust of this world, it's not that long. Yet I would suggest Mr. Speaker, to my colleagues in the House, that we undertake a sacred trust in this regard; that as the evidence builds up, that we are not discharging our responsibility to future generations, and if we protect the environmental components which are necessary for their survival, then we're doing society a disservice.

You know, Darwin, when he came out with his survival of the fittest, things have moved a long way since then, that man has devised many support systems for human beings and had them involved environmentally in many different ways. If you take a look at our society here in North America, in Canada, I haven't seen the latest actuarial figures but nevertheless the life expectancy in Canada is about 72 years, but yet in Mexico it is only 40 years. Now what is the relationship between, you know, this resolution and what I mentioned? That we build these medical systems, these support systems, so that we interfere with the natural evolution and survival of us as an entity.

Let me use just one specific example of how a whole species can change. There was in England a species of moth the preponderance of them were white with black spots. Now they found some coal in this district and it wasn't too long after that the whole countryside was peppered with this coal dust, so as a result these moths in these trees stuck out on the trees in relief, and as a result the birds ate them first. There were some mutations among them so that the moths, some of them were black. So what happened is the only gene pool that survived after a few generations were the black ones because the birds ate the light ones. So what happened here was the environment. The change in the environment was such that the whole species changed. Now I'm not saying, trying to show an analogous situation between those moths and birds and mankind and things which are parasitic to us, but nevertheless the environmental impact is becoming, I would suggest with the Member for Fort Rouge, of more and more importance to us, and I am personally glad to see this on the Order Paper, and I'm glad to support it, and I hope my colleagues will support it, and not only that, I hope the other groups in our communities, such as the Environmental Council will, albeit some might disagree with some of their approaches to problems, will continue helping to get through to the public the necessity of us looking at this particular problem because politicians can do nothing without the support of the people. If the people themselves don't realize what we're talking about, we'll never get anything done but the mere fact that this resolution appears on the Order Paper, and the public is talking about it more and more, and the information's getting through to the public, I think that they will support the taxes necessary to do what the member suggests.

No I'd better not get on - I'll have another opportunity to -- (Interjection) -- I thought everybody had gone to sleep.

Well this is perhaps the first time in five years - Maybe I can make that Greek speech that I made four years ago that nobody listened to. -- (Interjection) -- Well I think I'll decline. No I'm sorry, Mr. Speaker, I'm going to save the rest of it until a future date. I've only got about four good speeches in the session. I'm going to save that part of it until the next time.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell.

MR. GRAHAM: Would the Member agree that the Department of Highways should consider very seriously following existing slashes through the natural wilderness of Manitoba or should . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. As I've explained previously, questions are for clarification not to open up further debate.

MR. BOYCE: I think the member did make reference to one thread that I . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Awful thin thread. The Honourable Member for Winnipeg Centre.

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MR. BOYCE: The member did make reference to this in his speech. Mr. Speaker, this is exactly what the Member for Fort Rouge and I were talking about, is planning, and this is implicit in the gentleman's question, the integration of plans. Before you can have, you know, a sensible plan for a community, an area where there's the City of Winnipeg, your constituency, Northern Manitoba, the Rocky Mountain National Park, is to, you know, first of all decide what the Member for Fort Rouge suggested is, what are the needs of man relative to his environment, and there's some pretty shattering evidence, Mr. Speaker, that we have ignored some of the most important attributes of nature that are necessary to our survival. So really it's whether the Minister of Highways should follow some (you thought I wasn't going to relate it) whether the Minister of Highways should follow, you know, the existing slashes, or whatever, it has to be relative to some over-all plan, some plan which can be adjusted as we evolve, not something that's going to lock us in to a hundred years, a hundred years hence we haven't got a clue where we're going to be.

But nevertheless you still have to have you know some broad guidelines in planning and the first place to start is to realize where you need to . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. I think the thread has become a rope. The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Thanks, Mr. Speaker, for pulling the thread on that. I appreciate philosophy I think as much as anyone in the Chamber, and I was glad to listen to the Member for Winnipeg Centre, but I want to take a different tack at the moment, particularly because the Minister of Environmental Management is in the House and I welcome the opportunity to have a chance to say a word to him about an immediate problem that I think falls under the aegis and purview of this kind of resolution. I know what the Member for Fort Rouge is getting at in his resolution. I think we all do, and I think that we subscribe to the broad overview implicit in that resolution.

The Member for Fort Rouge speaks of course as a skilled and expert urban planner, and that is a desirable perspective to bring to this kind of argument, but I think it's ironic and certainly timely that the argument he brings to the House and the resolution that comes before us this evening should come at a time when we're talking about a possible threat of a very serious dimension to much of the greenery that we have in the City of Winnipeg at the present time. The Member from Fort Rouge referred to Mr. Martin Benham and to his call for what he describes as a regreening of our cities, and I think that without getting into the philosophical I can say that I stand with the Member for Winnipeg Centre and the Member for Fort Rouge in the desire implicit in that call.

A MEMBER: Would you permit a question?

MR. SHERMAN: Well I'll permit a question, but just let me finish this one paragraph of thought if I may.

I stand with him in the desire implicit in that call but I'm reminded a little bit of a situation I encountered two, three weeks ago in the southern extreme of my constituency when there was considerable flooding, and the people in South St. Norbert and the people in Richot Municipality were subjected to some inconvenience, and indeed some competition, and a great deal of difficulty in terms of obtaining some of the equipment that they wanted to fight the flood, and at the same time there was the argument about the raising of the gates at the floodway inlet, and the level of the water in the Red River going through Winnipeg, and what should be done to prevent this kind of thing.

Well there are many things that can be done, and I'm sure that there'll be representation from St. Norbert and elsewhere sitting down with the Minister of Environmental Management and the First Minister, and me, and many of us in this House, to develop machinery with which to cope with and fight floods in the future, but that wasn't the important issue at the time. The important issue at the time was to get the sandbags, and get the pumps, and get the boats, and save what property they could in the circumstances. Now what the Member for Winnipeg Centre and the Member for Fort Rouge are saying tonight is a highly desirable long-term objective, but the important issue at the time I suggest through you, Sir, to the Minister of Environmental Management and to the honourable member who advanced the resolution, is to save the greenery we've got at the moment. It's the height of irony to be talking here about the regreening of our cities when we are faced with a degreening of our cities on a possibly massive scale as a consequence of insect pests and insect infestations.

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(MR. SHERMAN cont'd)

It's true that a balance of proper vegetation can help preserve your greenery, but a balance of proper vegetation is going to take some time to achieve. I'm not suggesting we shouldn't start on it tomorrow. I'm not suggesting we shouldn't start on it tonight, but it's not going to be with us even if we go out and start on it tonight, for two, three, four years, and the threat to the greenery of our city posed by the cankerworm and posed by Dutch Elm disease is with us now. With all respect for the environmentalists, and with all respect for those who argue against the use of chemical pesticides, I think that the lesser of two evils, Sir, is to cope with the issue at hand by dealing with it with whatever weapons are available to us. We are advised by entomologists and by experts in the field that we face an extremely serious threat to our trees now because of the impending cankerworm invasion, which is suggested by them, by those experts, to be extremely serious.

The Clean Environment Commission and the City of Winnipeg I know have made their decisions to aerial spraying with pesticides, but those decisions I think were made - I stand to be corrected by the Minister of Environmental Management - but I think those decisions were made from the perspective of the mosquito threat, not specifically from a perspective of a massive invasion of cankerworms. I think that it's time that this kind of decision that has been made in recent weeks might have to be reviewed to meet the immediate crisis. I don't denigrate or in any way criticise the concept advanced in this resolution. I hope that all of us in this Chamber recognize the value of green belts, recognize the value of the quality of life that can be provided society by nature, properly cultivated and permitted to flourish, but there comes a time in modern society - there's always come a time in society when crises have arisen of one nature or another and when strong measures have to be taken to combat them. I just find it ironic, as I've suggested, Mr. Speaker, and highly timely that we should be talking about greening when we're faced with this particular threat.

Now I know that I have a colleague who wishes, provided he catches your eye in the rotation, Mr. Speaker, to speak on this subject, so I'm not going to continue my remarks. But I do want to emphasize that - I am appealing really to the Minister of Environmental Management. I am taking advantage of this opportunity to ask him to review the situation as I did in question period this afternoon, and to see whether there are some initiatives the province can take together with the City and under the rules as they apply insofar as the responsibility of the Clean Environment Commission is concerned, to see whether the emergency cannot be dealt with in a way that will help preserve the greenery we have now, let alone the greenery we want three years from now. But like getting the sandbags and getting the pumps to fight the flood at the time it was occurring, can we get the insecticides, and can we get the permission for the aerial spraying and the other forms of spraying that are going to be necessary to cope with the cankerworm infestation and save the greenery that we have now.

MR. SPEAKER: The Member for Winnipeg Centre.

MR. BOYCE: The member said that he would respond to a question. The member has a very good vocabulary but maybe it's me, I wonder if he could give me a definition of philosophical. I mean, I get the impression that you make philosophy synonymous with heifer dust, you know. I was just wondering if you could define philosophy in your terms.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: I find that an incredible question. We listened to the Member for Winnipeg Centre talk about the approach to which he subscribes having to do with the things that man needs for his spirit and his soul, for the quality of life; we listened to him refer to commentators and commentaries from the era of ancient Greece, we listened to him talk about the kinds of things that he found wrong in the remarks of the Member for Birtle-Russell, and if he can't understand my reference to that kind of discussion as being philosophical, then I'm not equipped to explain it to him, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines.

MR. GREEN: Well, Mr. Speaker, I rise particularly in courtesy to my honourable friend who in dealing with this resolution which calls for the means of preserving green areas, a sympathy with which, Mr. Speaker, I wholly associate myself both as it relates to foliage and as it relates to political returns from constituencies, that he raised a specific problem. Before I am able to deal with it in the manner in which he raised it, I'd have to be certain that I understood the terms of reference. He indicated that the previous decision of the Clean

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(MR. GREEN cont'd) Environment Commission related to mosquitoes, and there has been some misunderstanding relative to that decision, Mr. Speaker. The Clean Environment Commission - the City of Winnipeg applied, I believe it was at the end of June or in July of 1973 for permission to use methoxychlor and other insecticides in relation to a mosquito abatement program, to use these substances in residential areas.

Now, Mr. Speaker, my information is that the City had discontinued fogging of residential areas for some time but that due to a re-thinking of the problem they wanted to use this in residential areas in July of 1973, and I ask the honourable member to note that they applied at the end of June or in July to spray in July of 1973. So when one talks about a decision being made late, because it's made in April for spraying in the spring of 1974, one has to put that in the context of the City last year making an application at the end of June for spraying in July. That particular application was dealt with by the Clean Environment Commission who made an order which was appealed by the City of Winnipeg. By the time that the appeal came up, Mr. Speaker, the order was in itself inoperative because it only applied to the summer of last year. When an order was made by - or when recommendations were forwarded by the Municipal Board, who had had this order referred to it, it indicated that there should be no spraying allowed for the years 1974, that the order should continue until December 31, 1974, which would have meant that the City could not spray at all. The matter came to my attention and I ordered that the City be entitled to spray in '74, that the order be not to the end of December but that they be entitled to make another application this year to permit them to spray for mosquitoes in '74 should they be able to convince the Clean Environment Commission as to the validity of that. So that if the City does apply and convinces the Clean Environment Commission they could spray for mosquitoes. That takes care of the mosquito problem.

Another application was made by the City of Winnipeg to be able to use methoxychlor for the spraying of cankerworms. That application was heard by the Clean Environment Commission, and approximately a week ago they approved the right of the City to spray for the elimination of cankerworms or protection of cankerworms with methoxychlor, and with certain limits set in the order. That order was appealed from by a Mrs. Irene Stein who filed an appeal with my office. I've already indicated to Mrs. Stein and to the City of Winnipeg that there is no intention to effect that order before the City brings its program into effect. In other words I would not stay any proceedings of that order, and have so advised the City, so that the City is now able to deal with the cankerworm problem through the spraying program that was allowed by the Clean Environment Commission. Now if there is an additional problem, which is what I got out of my honourable friend's question this afternoon - in other words, if the problem has been more severe and more anticipated and the City wants additional input by the province, that has not yet come to my attention except through the remarks that have been made by the honourable member.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The hour being 10:00 o'clock, the House is now adjourned and stands adjourned until 1:30 tomorrow afternoon. (Tuesday)