

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA
2:30 o'clock Friday, February 15, 1974

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. SPEAKER: Before we proceed, I should like to direct the attention of the honourable members to the gallery where we have 38 students of Grade 11 standing of the Neelin High School. These students are under the direction of Mr. Jackson and Mr. Hay. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Brandon East, the Minister of Industry and Commerce. On behalf of all the honourable members I welcome you here today.

TABLING OF REPORTS

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Industry and Commerce.

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, I wonder, by leave, if I may now table, as required by legislation, the annual reports of the Manitoba Research Council, the Manitoba Export Corporation, and the Manitoba Design Institute for the year ended March 31, 1973. (Agreed) Mr. Speaker, copies will be made available in a few days and these will be distributed to the members. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable House Leader.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I'm sorry. I wonder whether you can tell me whether all the bills . . .

MR. SPEAKER: We've covered all the bills to the very end.

MR. GREEN: Well then, Mr. Speaker, I would move, seconded by the Honourable the Minister of Industry and Commerce, that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a committee to consider of the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

MOTION presented and carried.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Logan.

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MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 97 (a) The Honourable Minister of Northern Affairs.

SOME MEMBERS: Pass. Pass.

HON. RON MCBRYDE (Minister of Northern Affairs) (The Pas): Mr. Chairman, I don't know if I just missed the chance of a lifetime to sit down and let it pass or not, but I'm very doubtful that I did. First of all, Mr. Chairman, I would like to again express some disappointment with the members of the opposition in their unwillingness to get into the discussion of policy and programs that are taking place unless, Mr. Speaker, they intend to get into that as we go through section by section of the various departmental estimates.

MR. GREEN: I would like to interrupt the honourable minister on a point of order. There appears, Mr. Chairman, to be some inclination to agree that the staff could be present during the entire presentation as against the specification in the rules that the staff would be present after the Minister's Salary. If I am correct in presuming that that is okay, then I would suggest that the arrangements be made - there need be no interruption at the present time - to have the desk brought forward and the staff come into the centre of the Assembly.

MR. JORGENSEN: Mr. Chairman, we have no objection to that course of action and I think the Minister of Northern Affairs requested that on one previous occasion and there was no objection to it, if the Minister feels that he wants - - of course the decision as to whether or not the Minister wants the officials in front of him, or requires them, really is up to the Minister, but we perhaps think at this time it might be a good idea that he does.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Chairman, rather than get into the reasons, it's not as if it was requested by the Minister but it was suggested to me that it would be okay, and that being the case it would probably save some running up and down.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do we have agreement of the House? (Agreed) The Honourable Minister of Northern Affairs.

MR. MCBRYDE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We were getting into a few questions of details on my salary and it was suggested by the Leader of the Opposition that maybe we should have staff in to give some of that detailed information, and since we have a considerable amount of time before us, that would probably be worthwhile.

Mr. Chairman, I was expressing some disappointment on the unwillingness of opposition members to get into policy and program discussion for them to propose alternatives and suggestions as to the kind of programs and policies that should be in effect in northern

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(MR. MCBRYDE Cont'd) Manitoba through the Department of Northern Affairs. Mr. Chairman, this is somewhat like the disappointment I expressed in my first remarks in regard to their strategy for this session of the Legislature. Mr. Chairman, I'm going to assume that members opposite would like to know in some details the programs of the Department of Northern Affairs and that there are a number of members who do not know some of the programs of the Department of Northern Affairs; they don't even have anything to start to ask questions on since they don't know these.

MR. BILTON: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if I may ask the Minister a question? I believe there are questions standing and the Minister is anticipating or attempting to anticipate what we might do or might not do. I think he would be better to answer the questions and take it from there. I'm sitting here waiting to ask questions, not listen to him all afternoon.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Northern Affairs.

MR. MCBRYDE: Mr. Chairman, I'm sorry. I didn't mean to include the Member for Swan River as one of those who wouldn't have some familiarity with the programs of the Department of Northern Affairs. Mr. Chairman, I intend to answer the questions that were raised as well as to explain perhaps further the role in the programs of this department, and I'm sure the Honourable Member from Swan River is quite interested in those and has a number of questions as they relate to his own area.

Mr. Chairman, one of the questions that was asked last evening was the question in regard to the staffing and the method of staffing in the Department of Northern Affairs, and I assume that will be a question in terms of other departments as they come before the House. There is a fairly detailed Order for Return that has been put forward and that related, Mr. Chairman, I believe from the Member for Morris, relating to all persons hired and method of hiring, salaries, length of service, qualifications, etc. etc., and upon receipt of that notice, of that order was coming forward, the staff have begun to assemble that information, but they have been informed by the Civil Service Commission that it will be probably two weeks anyway before that can all be compiled in that kind of depth or detail.

However, Mr. Chairman, I think I can give the Leader of the Opposition some of the information that he was requesting last evening. The breakdown of staff, Mr. Chairman, in the Department of Northern Affairs, in the managerial section in 1973 there were 25 staff; in 1974-75 fiscal year there will be 33 positions. In the professional category there were 37 for last fiscal year; it is proposed that there will be 36 for the upcoming year. In the technical category there were 103 positions last year; there will be 125 positions for the upcoming year. In the administrative support section there were 70 positions last year; there will be 86 positions this year. In the service section there were eight positions last year; there will be six positions in the upcoming year. In the temporary positions there were eight positions last year; there will be eight positions in the upcoming year. In the departmental casual category, there were zero positions last year; there will be six positions in the upcoming year. On the contract positions, Mr. Chairman, there were 48 contract positions in the department in '73-74; there will be proposed 45 contract positions in the Department of Northern Affairs for '74-75, for a total, Mr. Chairman, for this year of 299; for the upcoming year of 355.

Mr. Chairman, I gave some not entirely correct information last night when I explained the staff increases in terms of changed from contract to permanent. Mr. Chairman, there are only eight conversions from contract to permanent status that came about during the budget process. I think one of the reasons for the change in the estimates last year and the estimates this year was that a number of positions were agreed to during the year -- that is, we had 299 positions approved last estimates, during the year staff was added on approval through Management Committee to bring us much closer to the proposed figure for next year.

Mr. Chairman, we have the information on those eight persons that were converted from contract positions to permanent status. They were J. Wallace, Northern Coordinator, Northern Community Services Branch. I believe that's in the Lakeland or east side of the lake area. Mr. J. Perchaluk, Northern Coordinator, Northern Community Services Branch. I believe that's in the Dauphin area. Mr. J. Campbell, Northern Coordinator, Northern Community Services, again the east side of the lake area. Mr. R.B. Chernya, Assistant to the Director of the Community Services Branch; P. Williams, Training Officer, Training

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(MR. MCBRYDE Cont'd) Services Branch; D. Moose, Training Instructor, Training Services Branch; J. Moriceau, Program Director, Manipogo Extension Services; J. Lyons, Program Coordinator, Lakeland Extension Services.

Mr. Chairman, the procedure that I think is probably the common procedure or if the number of departments were looked at, the average procedure, can be broken down I think as the member requested, into permanent Civil Service appointments, term Civil Service appointments, contracts, and casual staff hired by the department. In the case, Mr. Chairman, of the permanent Civil Service appointments, all Civil Service appointments are recommended by the Minister and approved by the Civil Service Commission. The method involved here, Mr. Chairman, is the lower level entry positions are not bulletined or advertised, that is Clerk . . .

MR. BILTON: I wonder if the Minister would answer a question. Do I understand him to say that civil servants are recommended by the Minister to the Civil Service for approval?

MR. MCBRYDE: Mr. Chairman, that's sort of the official terminology of the process. The actuality of the process is that the positions are advertised, interviewed by staff, the recommendations come forward to the Minister, he approves it, and then that goes back to them as a recommendation. That is the normal procedure although it does sound the way it's described as a different process.

MR. ASPER: Mr. Chairman, while the Minister is interrupted, I wonder if he might answer another question or two.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Leader of the Liberal Party.

MR. ASPER: Am I correct in my understanding, did you say that the staff aggregate for 1973-74 was 299 and is going up to 355 for 1974-75? Is that what you said?

MR. MCBRYDE: Yes, Mr. Chairman, that's the amount that was approved last year was 299, the amount that we're seeking approval for this year is 355. The 299, however, figure went up during the year as positions, new positions, were approved through the management committee process, sub-committee of Cabinet.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Liberal Party.

MR. ASPER: Would it be possible while the Minister is at this stage of his remarks, to break out or tell us of the people added, the 56 people roughly added, how many are in the, say, over \$8,000 a year category and in the under \$8,000, or any convenient figure in that range, to give us an idea of salary escalations?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Northern Affairs.

MR. MCBRYDE: Mr. Chairman, I don't know if the member was in the House - I don't think he was when I started my remarks - I mentioned that sort of the full detailed breakdown in terms of, actually as laid out in the order for return, I believe it was, won't be ready for a couple of weeks, which would give every person hired's salary, how they were hired, etc., etc. and salaries. I can give some specific information. Mr. Chairman, I could read out if members wish, I mean every staff member that was on staff at the time that the Estimates book was compiled, but there's 200 and 300 of those people. I'm not sure the members would wish that.

MR. SPIVAK: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. CHAIRMAN: A point of order has been raised. The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: In view of the fact that the Minister indicated that he could read it out, why not allow him to table it in the House so that we can have that as a matter of record. It will save time reading it and that would be information that we then can deal with as we see fit.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Labour on the same point of order.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Chairman, it's possible, but these salaries to the Civil Service are contained within the Civil Service annual report and are available. I would question the advisability basically of ascribing to each and every individual in the Civil Service the salary that they receive. Surely to goodness, that is not what is being requested, a sort of a witch-hunt into what Mary Jane is receiving. --(Interjection)-- Now, now, now, of course now, now, now, and this has been rejected historically on the basis of infringements in personal affairs as to salary, but the salary classifications and ranges surely are available.

MR. ASPER: On the point of order, Mr. Chairman.

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MR. CHAIRMAN: The Leader of the Liberal Party on the same point of order?

MR. ASPER: On the same point of order, Mr. Chairman. The difficulty with the Minister's suggestion is that the data is not available at this time. It's true it may be available at another time in another form through the public accounts or through the Civil Service report, but it isn't before us at this time while we are debating the Estimates of the department. So I certainly would agree with the Minister's comment of protection of privacy but if we could have it in some form that we could deal with in the debate, if that's not too much trouble, it would make the debate a lot more -- would facilitate it considerably.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Chairman, just pursuing the thought that I had, we did decide by, I believe, almost unanimous consent that the contents in the public service, the public account, would deal with the category, I believe it was \$10,000 and over or something of that nature, and contained within the public accounts which my honourable friend I'm sure, as the rest of us, has already received a report. I appreciate the fact that it is a year old but it would give a base to my honourable friend and if he would apply an applicator I believe of 5 1/2 or 6 percent to that, he would get at the figure that he's wanting. I'm glad that my honourable friend agrees with me on some things but it's not -- he does respect the privacy of individuals.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, I think there is really no difficulty here on this point of order, if only the former House Leader would desist from interfering in his colleagues' consideration of the estimates. The Minister offered this information to us the other evening and it was just an offer that we felt we couldn't resist accepting.

MR. PAULLEY: On the point, Mr. Chairman, I'm not interfering with my colleague at all - I believe that I'm fulfilling my duty as the Minister responsible for the Civil Service Commission.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Leader of the Official Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: I have a question to put on this specifically, but I would like to know whether the Minister intends to table that with us or not.

MR. ENNS: Is he reneging on his offer of last night?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Northern Affairs.

MR. MCBRYDE: Mr. Chairman, I have some difficulty pinning down the offer that I couldn't refuse last night. Mr. Chairman, I am quite willing to make available the information as to the accepted agreed-on practice in terms of making the information available, especially in the terms of civil servants' salaries, and I'm quite willing to accept the advice of the Minister who has responsibility for that commission in regards to the appropriate manner of setting forward that information.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: On the point of order, in view of the statement by the Minister, I wonder then if he would be prepared to table the contractual arrangements with the 45 or 48 people who are not on the Civil Service so that we can deal with that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Northern Affairs.

MR. MCBRYDE: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I think that information can be made available but I think that is the information that I mentioned would probably be a couple of weeks coming out of the administrative system, although maybe for in terms of 45 as opposed to 300 it could be speeded up, but I don't think it's something I could produce for him this afternoon or even by the next sitting.

MR. SPIVAK: Just by way of question to the Minister, is it not in front of you right now?

MR. MCBRYDE: Mr. Chairman, there is some, you know, within the estimate books, the information on the persons as of early last fall which might be quite inaccurate for purposes now, and I would undertake to attempt to get the list in terms of contract position for the honourable members as soon as possible, but I can't guarantee that would be this afternoon.

MR. ASPER: Mr. Chairman, while the Minister is making that proposal . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please. We seem to be drifting into a bad habit where people are getting up on the floor without the Chair recognizing them. Now I'm going to instruct the recorder that until I recognize a person that his mike is going to stay off. We can't have

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(MR. CHAIRMAN Cont'd) two or three people on the floor arguing at the same time. The Honourable Leader of the Liberal Party.

MR. ASPER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The observation I have for the Minister, the question is: question a) would the people on contract, were they on contract for 12 months or were they intermittent during the past 12 months? And b) we have a figure of some 45 - 48 people on contract. Is that the highest it reached or was it higher or lower during the year? And c) during what period of the time were they on contract; and d) what was the payment to them on contract?

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MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please. Before the Minister answers I would like to draw to the attention of the honourable members the Loge on my right where we have as guests to our Assembly here this afternoon Senator Jay Schults, Senator Clair Sandness, Representative Bruce Laughlin, Representative William Gackle, and I believe that some of the remaining guests from the Legislature of North Dakota and representatives are up in the gallery. On behalf of all the honourable members, I bid you welcome this afternoon.

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MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Northern Affairs.

MR. MCBRYDE: Yes, Mr. Chairman, as I said I'll undertake to compile that information in a form that has been acceptable to the House and, Mr. Chairman, the question of the Leader of the Liberal Party has reminded me of something I wish to say in regard to contract positions, and that is, Mr. Chairman, that we have requested a review of contract positions in order to assess whether in fact some of those should be permanent positions within the Civil Service and could not be considered of a temporary or a normal contract nature, and that review is presently under way.

Mr. Chairman, the review that I'd mentioned earlier that the honourable member hollered from his seat was in terms of addition, adding staff during the fiscal year. What I'm talking about now, Mr. Chairman, is a review of the contract positions within this department because this department does have one of the higher number of contract positions in it, to see if in fact some of those positions would be more appropriately classified as permanent Civil Service positions and they would therefore be so changed over. That review is presently under way, as I mentioned.

Mr. Chairman, when I was first interrupted by the Member from Swan River to clarify the permanent Civil Service appointment, I was explaining the procedure in terms of permanent Civil Service appointments and, as I mentioned, the positions are first established and approved at a certain level, then the positions are bulletined and advertised and a competition board is held including a Civil Service Commission representative, the prospective supervisor and the director and departmental personnel administrator.

Mr. Chairman, there is one sort of change in that procedure in terms of the applications for the extension workers in specific communities. Sometimes members of the community are involved in that selection process. There is another note, Mr. Chairman, that in terms of the hiring of pilots and engineers in the more technical way, sometimes the board procedure has not proven to be the best method and sometimes pilots are hired by the chief pilot through testing of those pilots himself. And his recommendation is always accepted and always overrules that of a hiring board in that he has to be satisfied that they are technically competent personnel in the air.

The term Civil Service appointments, Mr. Chairman, the longer term positions are filled in the same process as permanent Civil Service positions. Short term positions are filled in various ways from responses of the Civil Service Commission for advertising in other competitions. They have names on file in various categories, sometimes from advertisement and sometimes they're making it known through the service that such a term position is available. It is not required in the Civil Service rules to hold a board or competition. However, these are sometimes held if it's a more senior position as opposed to a very junior position.

The contracts, Mr. Chairman, are approved by the Minister or the Deputy Minister. The Civil Service Commission is not formally involved. However, they do assist and are often involved in a board or in a panel for the hiring of contract people, so the same process in many

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(MR. MCBRYDE Cont'd) cases of contracts it goes through the same process as the permanent Civil Service position. That is, sometimes candidate jobs are advertised, word is passed through the Civil Service system, and if there are a number of applicants then a board is held which includes a member of the Civil Service Commission quite often.

The casual positions, Mr. Chairman, are approved by the Assistant Deputy Ministers or the head of the division unless the casual has supervisory responsibilities, and sometimes, Mr. Chairman, the casuals that are employed by Northern Affairs are senior in that they might be in charge of a specific building project or construction project, and those positions are approved by the Minister or Deputy Minister.

The clerical positions under the casual section, Mr. Chairman, in Winnipeg are filled with the assistance of the Civil Service Commission. If they can't assist us right away to fill these casual positions, we use people from Office Overload to fill those positions on a temporary basis.

Other positions are usually filled by advertisements or word of mouth. In both cases, competitions are not held due to the time constraint, urgency of request, and lack of choice. And Mr. Chairman, in some of the remote communities, of course, there might be only one or two people for example who can type and your choice is quite limited, and there's not that much logic in advertising the position in some of those communities, so the people with the capabilities are contacted directly.

Mr. Chairman, that's generally the overview of the procedures that are gone through in terms of the various positions and the hiring of staff within the department.

Mr. Chairman, yesterday we witnessed, in regard to the Estimates of Northern Affairs, the Leader of the Liberal Party, who rose in his place and expressed his deep concern and his deep interest on behalf of the people he represents to get more information, to have more time -- to have more time to debate the budgets, the Estimates in this Legislature. And, Mr. Speaker, he was certainly very humble and sincere in his proposal and his recommendation that he put forward. I suppose, except, Mr. Chairman, when you consider that in fact he made the same presentation the last session of the Legislature and then was absent for most of the Estimates that were presented in this House.

Mr. Chairman, the Member for Portage la Prairie asked if we could give some information on the relationship with the Department of Northern Affairs and the Provincial Auditor. Mr. Chairman, while the Department of Northern Affairs has not been contacted on matters of a procedure or audit nature during the past year, we have received assistance from the Provincial Auditor's office. Specifically, Mr. Chairman, we have requested their assistance in some management or administrative problems to assist us in setting up a better management system in relation to the Churchill housing plan. The Churchill housing plan grew quite quickly to fill a desperate need for jobs, and housing in the Churchill area, and the procedures -- our financial people were not satisfied with the procedures there established and the Provincial Auditor did make recommendations to us which we carried out and are now implemented in terms of that project.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Chairman, I just want to understand from the Minister, is the Churchill housing plan under Northern Affairs or is it under the Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Northern Affairs.

MR. MCBRYDE: The Northern Manpower Corps of the Department of Northern Affairs operates the Churchill Housing Plan under a contract with the Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation, and we've had contracts as well with the government of the Northwest Territories, and I believe we are in the process of negotiating or have already a contract directly with the Federal Government as well. So it is a Northern Manpower Corps operation. It got off the ground, though, in conjunction, co-operation with the Central Mortgage -- excuse me -- the Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation and their housing efforts.

The other occasion which we got assistance from the Provincial Auditor was in respect to the trust account which the Commissioner of Northern Affairs maintains in Thompson. The Auditor made a number of suggestions to assist us to improve our procedures. The operations were reviewed jointly by the Provincial Auditor, Management Committee of Cabinet, and Northern Affairs, and as a result detailed guidelines for the fund were

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(MR. MCBRYDE Cont'd) established and operative by the beginning of the fiscal year 1973/74. So, Mr. Chairman, on one occasion this year we received the assistance and one last year we received assistance from the office of the Provincial Auditor.

Mr. Chairman, in both of these cases there was not a matter of discrepancy or irregularity or illegal behaviour, it was a matter of more administrative procedures and assistance requested and received to set up more appropriate management systems in terms of the cash flow in those particular operations.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Leader of the Liberal Party.

MR. ASPER: Mr. Chairman, a question. The Minister seems to be leaving the employee report. I wonder if he would, before leaving it, indicate to us why he requires approximately a 20 percent increase in staff generally. What are they going to do? And why he feels it necessary to add some 56 employees to his staff over a period of 12 months, which is a 20 percent increment.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Northern Affairs.

MR. MCBRYDE: Mr. Chairman, I'm wondering if the quickest and simplest procedure for us to follow would be in terms of the section by section look at the budget, because there is a money increase as well as a staff increase, and we could give you the reasons for that increase as each section is gone through. I think that would be quicker than me touching on each section now in a general way. Well, the increases, Mr. Chairman, in staff are spread throughout the entire department. --(Interjection)-- Well, Mr. Chairman, I think that it would be much easier for me to deal with on a section by section basis and I think it would be much quicker for the House to deal with them in that manner and that's the method that I would proceed in answering that particular question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Leader of the Liberal Party.

MR. ASPER: Mr. Chairman, perhaps I can put the question in another way so that the Minister can answer it at this time. In looking at the Estimates it appears that there are no major new programs for Northern Affairs, and I'm wondering if the staff increase of approximately 20 percent is occasioned by expanding existing programs or to what extent it's occasioned by new programs that are added.

MR. MCBRYDE: Mr. Chairman, in a very general way, some of the increase that the member refers to, as I explained is increase that was added during the year. Some of the increase has been a transfer from the Department of Agriculture; some has been an increase in the present programming and, Mr. Chairman, there is a small increase in anticipation or in work being done in anticipation of an agreement with the Federal Government, hopefully during the upcoming fiscal year. That's a general answer and I think I can give a specific job description answer as we go section by section.

Mr. Chairman, another function of the Department, I suppose . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Leader of the Official Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Chairman, I assume that what we're going is that we'll be finished with the overview as far as the numbers are concerned, and if that's the case and you're moving on I'd like to ask one sort of direct question related to that - not the question that the Leader of the Liberal Party asked but because he came back to it and so we can finish that. Of the 355 personnel that are in fact hired by the Department without dealing now with the 45 on contract, based on what the Minister has said 270 of them will be outside of Winnipeg now. Is that correct? That is 270 are working and living outside of Winnipeg.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Northern Affairs.

MR. MCBRYDE: Mr. Chairman, I'm trying to recall exactly the 270 figure, if that's the figure after they move to Thompson or before; maybe I could just . . . Yes, of the 355 staff including contract - that's what I have the figures for, including contract. Yes, the 355 including contract, 270 will be located outside of the city as of August 15th, 1974. Mr. Chairman, there is some discussion as well in terms of further relocations of other sections of the Department, but there is no firm decision or plan having been made in that regard as yet.

Mr. Chairman, the . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie.

MR. GORDON E. JOHNSTON (Portage la Prairie): Would the Minister entertain a question dealing with what he just spoke about at this moment rather than go on to -- were

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(MR. GORDON E. JOHNSTON Cont'd) you going on to another -- well I pose a question to the Minister relating to the contract employees. How many -- is it 45 or 44 -- of the 45 employees hired under contract, how many were in the employ of the Department of Northern Affairs on the first of June, 1972, and how many were on staff the first of June, 1973, and how many of the 44 are still on staff at the present time?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Northern Affairs.

MR. MCBRYDE: Mr. Chairman, I'll make an attempt to answer that question as the afternoon proceeds. As I was mentioning

MR. BILTON: I wonder if I may be of assistance to your, Sir, and to the Minister. We're on the Minister's salary and, as you know, Mr. Chairman, it's far-ranging as far as the opposition are concerned. I wonder if the Minister would accept the questions that are being given to him and with the assistance that he has, that as the afternoon progresses or the time progresses, the answers can be given to him from time to time and he can reply to the questions, and if it will assist in breaking out I'll put two questions now, if I may. I think we'll make progress if we follow this procedure. The Minister being new in office he's attempting to handle each question as it comes up, but I think if he's a little patient and call upon the expensive help he's got in front of him to put the answers before him I think we'll make much more progress. So with your permission, Mr. Chairman, I'd like to put a couple of questions to the Minister in the interests of getting on with the job at hand.

My question - I forewarned the Minister the other day in the Throne Speech Debate - and that had to do with information communication program which is in The Pas. I understand that there is a staff of some 20 people there and I would like the Minister at some time before we get through with his Estimates to tell us what these people are doing, what their positions are and possibly the cost factor. I know it's a federal-provincial program and I have an understanding that somehow or other in 1975 that program as far as Ottawa is concerned may cease and I'd like to know whether or not it is this government's intention to carry on that propaganda situation that they have that put these things out every week, these things out every month, and the majority of them simply carry the releases from the government. All at public expense. I would like the Minister to explain the necessity for it and exactly what is going on there.

Whilst I'm on my feet, Mr. Chairman, I'd also like the Minister to give an answer to a question that's already been given as to whether or not the government intend to rent space in the new complex that's being developed up there and what communications he's had with the chief in assuring them as to the amount of space and the cost factor that they're paying each year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Northern Affairs.

MR. MCBRYDE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, not wanting to be impatient but having some of the answers to the questions just asked, I think that I'll deal with the information communication program in detail as we come to that section and certainly that is a program that considerable discussion can take place around and I have considerable information for honourable members on if they so wish it.

The member asked a question I believe in relation to the shopping centre complex that is going to be constructed on The Pas reserve near The Pas, Manitoba and that question was asked also some time ago by the Leader of the Conservative Party. The Department of Northern Affairs is in need of office space within The Pas area and we have indicated our interest to a number of persons in leasing office space from them. I have explained the situation to the band at The Pas that the Department of Public Works is the department that rents office space but that I would be recommending as Minister of Northern Affairs that when that complex is complete that some office space be made available to the Department of Northern Affairs, of course any agreement would be between the Department of Public Works. There are also some other office spaces within the Town of The Pas that we are looking at at this time because we are short of office space in that community.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Swan River.

MR. BILTON: Is the Honourable Minister telling the House that he is not guaranteeing space which will be taken by the government? Is not the chief asking for that guarantee?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Northern Affairs.

MR. MCBRYDE: Mr. Chairman, the people responsible for the construction of the new

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(MR. MCBRYDE Cont'd) building I believe quite logically would like a guarantee. We are unable to give them that guarantee at this time. It is our intent when the place is available to request that Public Works lease us some office space within it, as it is our intent to lease office space that comes available within the Town of The Pas. But there can be no guarantee at this time as far as I know.

Mr. Chairman, while we're on the general aspect I think it would be worthwhile to point out that as with all departments of government, a considerable part of the operation of the Department of Northern Affairs is in consultation and discussion with other departments in government as they relate to northern Manitoba and as they interrelate with the Department of Northern Affairs. For example, myself and staff deal with the Minister of Labour in regard to fire protection, fire commissioner's office. We relate to Municipal Affairs on a number of matters like planning, like the role of Northern Manpower Corps in the Churchill redevelopment and with the Minister of Housing in regard to our role in regards to the Housing Development in that community. Relate to the Minister of Tourism and Recreation in regard to Tourist Development in Northern Manitoba. We relate to Hydro in regard to their effect on various communities that come under the jurisdiction of the Minister of Northern Affairs and in regard to getting hydro services into communities that come under the jurisdiction of the Department.

We relate to the Telephone System in regard to if our winter roads are going to be available to them to get their materials in as they expand their communications network in northern Manitoba, and relate to them in regard to service for the remote communities in northern Manitoba.

We relate to the Economic Development Fund in that they talk to staff in relation to applications and developments in remote northern communities for which we have jurisdiction. As I said, we relate to public works for office space, we relate to agriculture, Mr. Chairman, I don't think there is any other department that we don't have occasion to relate to to advise, to give opinions and to consult with. In none of these cases, Mr. Chairman, are we directing or telling them what to do, but only advising and consulting with them in terms of our role as it relates to their role in northern Manitoba.

Mr. Chairman, there are a number of comments I would like to make on the other section - like the Air Division, like Northern Manpower Corps, but I think I would take this opportunity to wait and see if other members of the House have some general statements they want to make in regard to this department or have other questions that I could take note of and hopefully answer when I rise again.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I would like to thank the Minister for his indication that we would still have some opportunity to raise general questions about the administration and policy and program of the department, because I have been interested in looking at these estimates and would like to have the opportunity to raise with the Minister some questions specifically on the basic strategy of the Department of Northern Affairs in the way it is trying to apply government services and government funds to the development of activities.

The first question I would like to raise, Mr. Chairman, with the Minister, is the basic division between what I think is a strategy of social development or community development which seems to be the underlying theme of the present department as compared to what I would consider to be and this group considers to be the primary strategy which should be one of economic development and that there has been a tendency as we look over these estimates and as our leader has consistently pointed out, it's very difficult to tell looking at these estimates what they really mean. But if there is anything that comes off those pages, it is that the thrust and underlying direction of this department is in the field of community organizing and social development, in the organization of people, and while I recognize the value of that particular activity, there are some basic questions that should be raised about it. The first one really is - should government be doing community organizing? Now, Mr. Chairman, I don't know if members of this Chamber want to get into that kind of debate which may be better placed within the confines of the department but I think there are a number of problems attendant on the situation where you have community organizers of substantial number working in communities who are directly in the employ of the provincial government.

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(MR. AXWORTHY Cont'd)

In reading past comments of this House it has been quite apparent that many members have been skeptical about the independence of community development workers in the north and the degree to which their work actually is on behalf of the community and the degree to which it is on behalf of the government. I think this is always one of the dangers, and I'm not suggesting that that is the case, but I am suggesting that when community development workers are directly in the employ of a government agency it naturally leads to the, if not the reality, at least the appearance that perhaps those workers are not minding their business purely and simply as organizers in a community but may in fact, be involved in activities and organizing communities on behalf of political purposes. And I think that one of the important questions that should be raised in the development of this concept of community organizing is this - and it is, should it in fact, be done through the employment of independent or intermediate agencies. I think that is a very important question for the sake of the government itself, because I know the Minister would be very loath and reluctant to have any act of his subject to skepticism and therefore I think he can remove the cause by removing the source of that and that would be to change the nature by which the community organizing process is carried out.

Let me go on to one other point which I am intrigued by, and that is the obvious importance the Minister has placed on the whole field of policy and planning because obviously the amount of money dedicated to the budget this year to policy planning is substantially higher than it was last year, and again, we can credit the Minister with seeing the requirement and need for good policy and good planning, but I would like to recount to the Minister that at one point a few years back I had the opportunity to work in Ottawa and at that time it was very fashionable as well to establish very high priced policy planning divisions but as one of the people I was working with at the time said, that they had about as much use as a second udder on a cow. Now I would defer to my colleague the Member from Lakeside as to being more of an expert on second udders on cows than I am, but I think that we would generally concede on this side that they are not of much use in terms of the actual functioning of the cow itself. And I'm suggesting that perhaps, unless the Minister is prepared in much more specific terms to relate the actual value and benefit that he sees deriving from this increased expenditure and is prepared to justify it to this House, then I think we again would have to raise some questions about the actual cost and benefit related to this doubling or significant increase in expenditures in policy planning. I want to emphasize I'm not necessarily against the idea, but I am against it simply as a way of wool gathering or wasting time of whatever other proposals; it should be related to some specific objective, some specific goal; it should have a specific program attached to it.

That's why, Mr. Speaker, that I come to perhaps the major concern, and that is that the direction and thrust of the department has not been in the area what I consider to be far more important in the north, and that is to establish a basic infrastructure and framework for the economic stability of northern Manitoba, because I think that there are a number of activities that could be introduced and initiative taken. And I recall with some puzzlement the comments of the Premier in his defence of his Throne Speech when he was prone to call the rest of us wretches, that he was very proud of his activities in northern Manitoba and yet when I recall going through the list of things that I've read coming from representatives of the northern communities, none of those things were on them. For example, the development of the great northern road which connects Highway 6 and 10 to provide access for southern Manitobans to go north in a more easy, convenient fashion. There's a strange paradox right now that the north, as we all recognize, has a high degree of opportunity potential for the tourist industry but it's a potential which is primarily being exploited and used by Americans who can afford to fly up there, not by the ordinary average person who lives in Brandon or in Carman or in Winnipeg who would like to take his family and get in his car and travel up there because frankly the road system and the connecting road system is awful. We think they would be far more interested in seeing the kind of emphasis placed on that development of our great northern road so that the use of the north could be made by the population in southern Manitoba.

Now combined with that, Mr. Speaker, this party has advocated as have our colleagues in Ottawa, consistently, the development of a major national park system in that triangle in

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(MR. AXWORTHY Cont'd) the Lynn Lake, Thompson, Flin Flon area, again to provide specific facilities and the kind of recreational facilities and services that would make not only the north itself attractive but a specific place to go; and again we would certainly like to see far more emphasis being put on the development of that kind of proposal, just as we would like to see if the Minister and his colleagues were to undertake the development of that great northern road system, the establishment of a park system on the eastern side of Lake Winnipeg.

We have tried to raise questions in this House, Mr. Speaker, with the Minister of Mines and Resources concerning the intentions of the government in relation to the east side of Lake Winnipeg and all we have received is very general, very vague answers about that he's prepared to see anybody at any time. Well that's not really an answer to anything as we all know. What we are concerned about is that in the present moment there should be a specific commitment and proposal . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. The Honourable . . .

MR. GREEN: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, I do not recall being asked in the House about a national park on the east side of Lake Winnipeg, nor do I recall giving an answer such as my honourable friend has referred to. --(Interjection)--

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: I believe it was yesterday, concerning whether he had had negotiations with Mr. Courchene the president and to be former president at M.I.B. concerning the development of use of Crown lands and recreation facilities on the east side of Lake Winnipeg, and all we received back was that his door is open or he's prepared to see anybody.

MR. GREEN: . . . that's what the honourable member was referring to. I thought he was talking about a national park on the east side of Lake Winnipeg. That is what I thought he referred to. If I am incorrect then I apologize.

A MEMBER: I talked about it last year.

MR. GREEN: Yeah, but I'm talking about now.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: Obviously the Minister and I agree on this aspect of things in any event. So what we're saying, Mr. Chairman, is that there is great importance in promoting the economic development of northern Manitoba and we don't think that the thrust and strategic position and priority of the department indicates that prime requirement. I think that there are other kinds of promotion and development we'd also like to see, if in fact the priority is to switch from the social development one to an economic development one; there are a number of things which have been proposed in the past in terms of development of commercial fisheries in the north; in terms of the development of the Port of Churchill; in terms of the development within Churchill itself of the kind of training program which makes sense to the industries up there.

I have here an interesting article written by Mr. Robert Law in the Winnipeg Free Press where he talks about the dissatisfaction of manpower corps officials with the fact that they cannot get the Provincial Government to support the kind of training programs they think is necessary. That is from the October 3, 1973 of Winnipeg Free Press and I would be very pleased to hear from the Minister if in fact that position is now corrected. But there was without question the fact that they say that the present ability to train the underemployed in the north for the kind of jobs in Hydro and construction and mining is not meeting with any success. And we think that one of the reasons is because the form and nature that the educational system takes is not geared that way. There are, granted, a number of very good educational services in The Pas and Churchill and the community colleges in Keewatin which we all recognize. We think what is lacking however in that area is a form of northern educational centre which would provide for basic planning and direction in the provision of post-secondary training and in-service training for existing workers in the development of specific skills so that things would be brought together and co-ordinated, run by a board of people living in northern Manitoba. We talked about that in the last election, I'd like to refer to the Minister, if he'd like to get more information of that specific proposal we'd certainly be very glad to provide it to him. But it is simply again an indication that we must develop the communities that are there now and to get away a little bit from the kind of, oh I suppose

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(MR. AXWORTH **V** Cont'd) romantic charging and the kind of community development thing which is all very nice and very important and which we support - not in its present form but we'd like to see it being done through more intermediate or independent centres so that the government itself would not have quite that same connection. But in connection with that, we think there is a great deal more that could be done in emphasizing the economic development aspect.

And in this case in particular I would just like to close by reiterating the importance of transportation in the north, the importance of establishing those transportation links, both air, but also road and railway traffic; and finally in terms of looking at the question of the Arctic pipeline as a way of supporting and providing again a stimulus in terms of northern Manitoba for bringing in the natural gas which is now being developed. And again we don't feel this government has taken nearly enough emphasis or promoted that idea or supported that idea in conjunction with the Federal Government enough to determine its economic feasibility.

So by way of general comment, Mr. Chairman, we think that while we certainly appreciate without question the commitment of this government to assisting the development of northern Manitoba, we would ask them to seriously consider whether the emphasis of the department is in the right area and whether the early emphasis upon community development may not be transferred somewhat so we could get a much stronger influence in the economic development side, I would like to preface this by saying that we'll be making similar comments in terms of the activity of the government in the City of Winnipeg as well, that we think the same kind of thing could be done; but at the same time to provide a much greater support for the development of stable economic development and the opportunity for people in the north to work. I think that the future of the north is simply providing stable economic opportunity, not the sort of short term kind of in and out ad hoc kind of things that are happening now. We think that is the form of developing the north and we would hope that this policy planning department that the Minister is adding to in a significant way in terms of budget will put it's mind to work on those problems and not on the problems which we don't know it's doing now. I would simply like to reiterate and underline one final point which I think we have tried to make throughout, at least so far in these estimates discussions, and that is that it is still very difficult in the way that these estimates are drawn up to make any connection between the dollar value that is going into specific programs and the ultimate output or product of those programs, and until we start seeing those connections and those relationships it's very difficult for this opposition to fully comment fairly upon the activities of each of these departments.

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MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Leader of the Official Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, I just have a few comments. They arise to a large extent from the statements the Minister made and also from the comments the Member from Fort Rouge just presented.

To begin with, Mr. Chairman, for approximately an hour and three quarters, for approximately an hour and three quarters of the Minister's estimates, we've been in estimates for two hours, we literally have had, first a presentation by the Minister which the Honourable Member from Portage la Prairie referred to as self-congratulatory statements which could have been summarized in a few moments, and a series of direct questions to the Minister for information which could have been answered within five minutes, we have spent literally an hour and three quarters gaining very little of an insight into the Department of Northern Affairs; and in the course of it the Minister basically suggested that he wanted us to get involved in policy and he wanted us to be discussing on his ministerial salary the problems and the differences, points of view that we would be expressing with respect to government policy and suggestions.

Now I must at this point, because I think this is the most appropriate and has nothing to do particularly with this Minister, but it has to do generally with what I think has to now become very clear, is the role of the Opposition with respect to the New Democratic Party and with respect to government spending that has now reached the billion dollars that it has, to now suggest that the time has come for the Committee of the Legislature dealing with the Estimates to be able to get information, not to be given a snow job, not to be told by the Minister we should be told to discuss policy because I don't want to answer questions, not to be told that the information is available, because I was a Minister and I know how those Estimate books are prepared, and so does the Member for Lakeside. And I know with the deputy there and the assistants there, that the information is all available, and I know that this is a whole bunch of nonsense when the suggestion is made, file an Order for Return and then the Order for Return is never submitted by the government after it's approved. --(Interjection)-- Yes, we'll talk about that in time. Then in turn to say, well I'll get the information, then get the information after the Estimates are finished, and put us in the impossible position of being able to deal with any facts with respect to the Minister's Estimates.

Now the Honourable Member for . . .

A MEMBER: Paranoid.

MR. SPIVAK: I'm not paranoid at all. I'm talking about reality, and everyone on that side knows what I'm saying to be correct.

The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge has been very charitable in respect to the community development program, and he says, he doesn't know it but it could happen that it could be accused of being involved in a political process. Well, Mr. Speaker, I would suggest to you at this particular time that it is considered by many many people in the north, involved entirely in the political process, and entirely committed to the Minister personally and to the New Democratic Party. And I'm not necessarily sure in what order. Now I say that to you very directly and there is just no point kidding ourselves about that particular aspect. Now I had hoped that we had maybe reached a maturity in this particular House whereby questions could be asked and answered, and if those questions were asked (?) there would be no need for us to get involved in what is considered allegations but rather to determine to try and establish facts. And the Minister may very well be in a position to give us information and that information itself may allay the fears of many people. And I say this very frankly. What is happening now in the process in this two hours on Estimates is the same procedure that has happened over and over again which provides, I think, or just adds to the basic confusion and fear that people have with respect to information being supplied so that there can be some understanding.

Now let me now go very directly to the questions: We asked initially, how many people were employed by the department? I don't think that's a very serious question to ask, I think it's pretty germane. And the Minister has given us the answer. I'm not suggesting that he hasn't. And we've asked for the breakdown which he's given; we've asked how many in fact are going to be moved to other places. He's given us that information. He's talked about the term contracts. I gather that term contracts will be filed in this House in this Committee, and this is fine. And I would hope that we would get this as quickly as possible, possibly by

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(MR. SPIVAK cont'd) . . . Monday, because it is available to them, and we should be able to deal with it and then we can ask particular questions if we deem fit. But I resent, Mr. Speaker, the suggestion by the Minister that we have to start talking about policy at this point. Our purpose now is to find out how and in what way money is being spent, and we will face the situation, we will face the situation that if the information is not given, then we will make our presentation and we will discuss policy, and I suggest that policy does have to be discussed, but certainly it has to be discussed when we have the relevant information, because otherwise all we are going to do is make the allusions and the charges that the majority of people, or many people, feel to be the case because of the lack of information. And if we cannot use this Committee as the vehicle to obtain it, then I don't know where it's going to be forthcoming.

Now it's interesting because when the Minister was questioned with respect to the statement he made on the Reply to the Speech from the Throne he basically said, and I quote, "You know I welcome discussion on this subject," this was referring to a particular aspect, "but I would rather do it in the more appropriate time rather than in the debate on the Speech from the Throne. My colleagues have offered me the opportunity to be the first one up on the Estimates so maybe members could hold all their questions until that time." And as soon as we start asking questions he immediately stands up and says why aren't you talking about policy? Now you can't have it both ways. And the problem at this point, Mr. Chairman, the problem at this point is that the practice has been for essentially a snow job to be done by the Minister who will talk on any subject, or any question, for 15, 20 minutes and have the effect of eliminating, you know, the question from even being answered, or being confused by other detail and not being in a position to be able to understand it.

Now I must say, Mr. Chairman, that for the next period of time, and I don't know how long we're going to be able to do this because I don't know what the government's response will be, it will be my intention to ask specific questions, and I would hope to get specific answers. And if it means, not a major speech by myself or by the Minister but just an opportunity to be able to ask the question and get information, let us see how mature we are in dealing with this because if we can, then in effect we're going to be in a position to at least deal with this in the proper manner. If not, then I think we're going to revert back to the way we have been before which will be rhetoric on both sides, which really doesn't you know, accomplish the objective of surveying the Estimates of government and covering it in the interests of the public of Manitoba.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I will now then direct a question to the Minister. There is a group who are at the present time under his ministry going to the communities and now dealing with proposed changes of The Northern Affairs Act. I wonder if he can indicate who the people are? What terms of reference were given? Whether they're included in the group of employees referred to? Whether they are in contract or whether they are additional consultants that have been hired by the department?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Chairman, I just want to say a brief word relative to the comments just made by the Leader of the Opposition. I really don't understand why there is any sense of confusion as to the proper process by which the Estimates are taken through this House. First of all with reference to a statement made by the Member for Fort Garry -- Fort Rouge rather, that the format is in itself inadequate; one can easily debate that point, and I have already said on a previous occasion that perhaps it is time to consider some alteration of the format of the Estimates, and we are proposing to do just that, to consider either on a staged basis, a gradual basis of one or two years or three to change the format to something approaching more detailed program budgeting system presentation. The format in the meantime remains in its traditional form, as has been the case for I don't know how many years, many long years.

Now more specifically with respect to the comments and observations of the Leader of the Opposition I would say that I believe it always has been a well understood arrangements and practice that during the presentation of the Estimates of any given department that it was open to honourable members opposite to deal both with policy matters, that is to debate policy and also ask questions of specifics, and that is often the case when questions of specifics are raised. The Minister of the given department either replies that same day if possible or not, simply makes notations of the questions and brings the information at the next sitting of the House, and on some occasions it has been necessary to defer somewhat longer until - but

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(MR. SCHREYER cont'd) . . . certainly before the Estimates are passed and before going on to the consideration of the Estimates of the next department. Well I believe that that is precisely how we have proceeded in recent years and will continue to proceed. So I don't know what great detail or difficulty is involved. I do know this, Sir, that insofar as questions of specific detail are concerned, as often as not, and usually more often, it is necessary for a Minister to take note or a notation of the questions and reply on the next day or two days hence or whatever. And I believe that staff complement size figures have been made available, names of individuals as a rule have not. That has been the practice and convention and I don't know what's unusual the way we're proceeding now.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Leader of the Liberal Party.

MR. ASPER: Mr. Chairman, I made my position very clear, I hope, last night, and I don't intend to resurrect the concept --(Interjection)-- Yes, Mr. Chairman, I believe the First Minister says, well who cares about your position. That's exactly the hallmark and the characteristic of him, his government, and this debate. --(Interjection)-- The First Minister from his seat bellows, you have no understanding of the process, or something. Mr. Chairman if this process is as closed as we have had it for the past several years I don't want to understand it. I frankly said that last evening. I don't intend to debate with the First Minister. He takes great comfort in being able to say as he said a minute ago, that why are we so uptight? Why are we so upset about the idea of doing this? It's just as bad as it always was before, it's no worse, and that's true. Well that's the very gist of what he said a few minutes ago, and that's what he's been saying for the last five years, yeah, we're bad, but we're no worse than anyone else.

Well, Mr. Chairman, the media who report the proceedings of this Chamber to the public should note, as should all new members of this Legislature, that as every hour goes by in 90 hours, we are talking about \$9 million. That's our time. And that's what the time to the people of Manitoba is valued at on a budget of approximately \$800 million. Now sure we can talk policy; we've done that for years. We haven't seen very much productivity out of that. We can do what the Minister would like, get into a general debate on policy, but before we do that we need the data which he is capable of putting before us. It's simple, he's got it; you don't go to a community club board meeting much less a Legislative Assembly and say, Other Expenditures, \$4 million; \$4 million, Other Expenditures.--(Interjection)--No, no that's general. The term Other Expenditures without saying to the--that's the aggregate, Mr. Chairman, in case you're looking for the reference. You wouldn't do that, you wouldn't even go to a Kiwanis, a Lion's Club, a trade union meeting, a Chamber of Commerce meeting, and say, here, approve the Estimates - other expenditures 4 million out of 12 million.

Mr. Chairman, what we want to know - this department's spending is up 25 percent, roughly 2.5 million; we want to know in this part of the debate what are the people of northern Manitoba getting for that extra money. And in order for us to comment on it, if they're getting more of the same, then our question will be, why does it take 25 percent more to give them what they got last year? Now we want to get the specific; we want to know where we are on air ambulance, something we've been talking about in this Chamber for a long time. Is that where we're going? Are we improving that service? Where are we on flying clinics? Where are we on the issue of more effective local government for the north. . . ? Does the Minister who's in charge of the north - never mind that he can cop out by saying, "ah, well that's municipal affairs and that's highway." I think this Minister's in charge of the north, the whole two-thirds of Manitoba that constitutes the north. So if he wants to talk about policy, then let him tell us where we're going. What is the two and a half million dollars extra to accomplish? What is the 20 percent increment in the number of bodies, the number of employees in the department going to achieve? If you want to be more specific tell us where we stand on the park; we've talked about a new national park; we've talked about a new provincial park; we've talked about a 400 mile sand beach area of Lake Winnipeg on the east side that offers tremendous recreation potential; we don't hear that, we don't see it, and we want to know what is going to happen for \$12 million. If he wants to be specific, then we want to know exactly what the 56 added people are going to do? We want to know why is planning and not action, why is planning up by 160 percent? What is there to plan; why not do instead of plan? The biggest increment in his whole department is planning.

Well, Mr. Chairman, as we develop over the next 90 hours we're going to see this trend

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(MR. ASPER Cont'd) continue, planning, thinking, researching, but after five years little action.

Mr. Chairman, we have the classic example of the auditor of Manitoba department being up approximately one-half of one percent. We have this Minister's department up 25 percent, and this will develop as we go through. So if the opposition spokesmen seem frustrated in an inability to get to the meat of this department it's because we don't have the information.

Other Expenditure - \$4 million, Mr. Chairman. That's the hallmark of this debate.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Northern Affairs.

MR. MCBRYDE: Mr. Chairman, I would hope that the Honourable Leader of the Opposition, honourable members, didn't misconstrue my remarks about policy, into any inference that I didn't mean to answer all the questions that were asked. I've attempted to answer every question that was asked so far, and I'm preparing the answers to the others that were asked. I was quite pleased to see the Member for Fort Rouge also get into some areas of policy discussion as well, which I think is pretty important when you look at the overall estimates of a department of the government.

Now, Mr. Chairman, there was a specific question asked by the Leader of the Opposition in regards to the consultation process in regards to the new proposed new Northern Affairs Act and the department of course has been most anxious to get the community input and community involvement in the preparation of a new act and find out from the community councils and the communities generally what they would like to see in that act. Mr. Chairman, this refers to the Northern Affairs Act and communities under the Northern Affairs Act. Sometimes there's some confusion because there are some local government districts in the north that were not affected by that process.

The agreement we have to carry out the consultation process with the communities is with the Manitoba Human Relations Centre at 301 Vaughan Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba. The two people whom I've had to have contact with from the Human Relations Centre are Dr. Bruce Pellegrin and Miss Elsie Ferguson. The contract price of the total consultation process with the communities was \$37,000 which involves them travelling into all the communities that come under the Department of Northern Affairs, and conducting extensive workshops in terms of how their local government is working at this time and what they would like to see in terms of the structure of their local government process. The process also involved a taping of a considerable amount of those meetings and the deputy and myself have been using those tapes as well as written feedback, as well as general community feedback, to try and assess the position of the communities in terms of what changes they would like to see take place in the act.

Mr. Chairman, there was a specific question that was asked by the Leader of the Official Opposition. Mr. Chairman, I am not sure if there was much direct comment --(Interjection)-- Yes, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: I gather then these people are under a, or were selected under a contractual basis to do this. Can I ask their particular qualifications for the work that they're doing?

MR. MCBRYDE: Yes, Mr. Chairman. The department on a number of occasions in northern Manitoba, in fact, carries on quite a number of seminars and workshops in communities in northern Manitoba. Sometimes we carry out that service ourselves and on occasion we have used the Manitoba Human Relations Centre; we have used the Extension Division of Brandon University, and I would guess probably and, I believe, from the University of Manitoba. The group that did the consultation process was one that's staff found it was able to relate and deal with the remote communities in Northern Manitoba and able to get a pretty accurate feedback of what people in northern communities were thinking in terms of how their local government structure should be. So the process was, Mr. Chairman, to go into the communities, to explain how the present Act works, how the present local government working in sort of the legal structure of it, to explain that we wanted to look at some change if the communities wanted change, and then to get from the communities their ideas of what those changes should be. That is not a really difficult task in the communities that are quite sophisticated in the process, in others it is somewhat difficult to enable the people in the remote communities to come out and understand the

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(MR. MCBRYDE Cont'd) process of local government and to be able to say what their preference is in terms of what that structure should be.

Mr. Chairman, we are waiting a final report from the centre and I believe that report will be a form that could be made available to members in terms of the feedback they got from the communities involved.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: You indicated on this that the cost of their contract was \$37,000.00. Does that include just their professional fees? Are their expenses paid for by the department? Does the Government Air Service supply them the air service in free?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Northern Affairs.

MR. MCBRYDE: Mr. Chairman, my understanding is that that is the professional services fee and that the travel expenses are dealt with by the department.

MR. SPIVAK: What would the overall budget be for this particular program?

MR. MCBRYDE: We may have a rough estimate on that in a moment and a detailed breakdown of that a little later. The process is just recently finished so we won't have the exact cents right away.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: I want to establish - these people are not considered on contract in terms of the numbers that you gave me; these are people who have a professional relationship with the department for the specific project?

MR. MCBRYDE: No, they're not on contract. These are not in any way employees of the Department of Northern Affairs but are contract consultants and I think, Mr. Chairman, that would be, part of the process is that we saw some benefit in getting outside persons to do this job and get feedback from the community rather than the direct department to do that. I think the general estimate of that overall cost of that consultation process would be in the order of \$50,000, and as I said as the process is just completed we wouldn't have the dollar and cents breakdown for that immediately.

Mr. Chairman, the Member for Fort Rouge raised a number of items for consideration. In general, one of the thrusts of his opinion was sort of the social development programs that come under the Department of Northern Affairs and I think it would be worthwhile if you were to take a look at his budget book again to look at the comparative costs. The Extension Services Division of the Department of Northern Affairs, which I suppose, Mr. Chairman, performs a part of the function that honourable members are mentioning in the Budget Speech Debate, and that is the emphasis is on getting information to people within the communities that are served by this type of program. The total cost of that section, its proposed cost for the upcoming year is \$915,600 which is not the most significant thrust of the government in terms of the almost \$12 million that are budgeted for this particular department of government.

Mr. Chairman, there were a whole raft of issues that the member raised and one was in relation to proposed changes in the planning section of the department. There is a proposal in the budget, Mr. Chairman for 22 positions in that section in relation to planning. Of those 22 positions, Mr. Chairman, 9 are in relation to community planning, that is there is town planners and draftsmen that are involved in the direct planning in remote communities in northern Manitoba. The real demand for the planning was brought about I suppose by the remote housing program which requires lots to be developed, requires title to be held in order to develop the remote housing program. The department has had a very difficult time in meeting that kind of need in remote communities; in fact we are behind in enabling remote housing to proceed because of the lack of a plan, because of the lack of the proper authority to go ahead with those remote housing. So of that planning staff, \$350,000 of that approximately would be in the budget of the nine persons, that is the professional people, the draftsmen, the secretaries involved in delivering that community planning aspect through our planning division. The other, Mr. Chairman, is 13 positions which would more traditionally be considered planning and policy development positions.

Mr. Chairman, I think it's appropriate one of the members made reference to the Federal Government in that regard because a big part of our planning input at this time is involved in proposals and planning and negotiations in terms of an agreement for northern Manitoba through the Department of Regional Economic Expansion. And I think, Mr. Chairman,

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(MR. MCBRYDE Cont'd) that would be fair to say that the main thrust has been in relation to developing that agreement, in proposals for that agreement, and a good part of that agreement will employ the persons in terms of the planning of specific projects.

So, Mr. Chairman, this is not a futuristic or a long-term planning or an ivory tower planning process that we're talking about. As a matter of fact, Mr. Chairman, with 13 staff envisioned for next year and the amount of immediate planning and preparation of proposals and negotiations I think that this 13 is going to be quite hard-pressed to be able to deliver that kind of service as well as the need within the department overall for specific planning in certain areas of our program and policy development, especially in relationship to manpower development which is a very interesting but quite complicated area to assist northern people to get into jobs available in northern Manitoba.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: Would the Minister take a question now or would he prefer to wait till he's through that explanation? Mr. Chairman, I'd like to . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. Order please. The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge, I can't hear what the honourable member is saying, there's too much gabble going on.

MR. AXWORTHY: I agree, Mr. Chairman, I can't hear myself. I'd like to ask the Minister if he would be able to specify or elaborate more carefully what is the nature of the agreement that is being negotiated with the Department of Regional Expansion, what is the exact objectives of that agreement and what does it encompass.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: On the specific point of the ARDA Agreement and because there's particular reference made to it in the estimates, in terms of the numbers of people within the department and including the 13 that you've just referred to as new positions, are there any who are working with the department who are included within the ARDA costs that are in fact not listed in the 356 including those on term contracts within the department?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Northern Affairs.

MR. MCBRYDE: Mr. Chairman, in relation to the last question it's important that the member understand, I mentioned the discussion and negotiation of a possible DREE Agreement in Northern Manitoba. In the Estimates is listed the special ARDA Agreement which is a separate special agreement which is in the process of being delivered. The persons employed in that program now are in fact evaluating community proposals, assisting communities in applying for ARDA grants and receiving special ARDA III-B assistance. There is also some DREE mentioned here under The Pas Special Area agreement as well. Did you have further questions?

MR. SPIVAK: The people you're referring to are within that 355 or 356 number that you referred to, they're not charged to the agreement or the ARDA program?

MR. MCBRYDE: Mr. Chairman, the staff man-years or the positions in the department, the 355 or 356 are included in the ARDA staff and are included in that particular number. There are nine staff dealing with the Special ARDA program for example. The 13 proposed for next year in the Planning Section are dealing mostly with the proposed new agreement. And the proposed new agreement, Mr. Chairman, is the Federal Government has indicated a willingness to enter into agreement with the Province of Manitoba and I believe with the other three western provinces in terms of a northern development agreement under the Department of Economic Regional Expansion. The proposals are still in the discussion stage and I couldn't at this time give any details on what those discussions are until in fact we're able to enter into an agreement with the Federal Government and make a joint announcement on what has been agreed to in terms of a new agreement for Northern Manitoba.

MR. AXWORTHY: . . . a question to the Minister?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: Could the Minister tell us in relation to the nine people employed for community planning purposes what was the actual number of units built under the remote northern housing program last year and what is the specific goal that he is setting for his department in the building of those units in the forthcoming fiscal year?

MR. MCBRYDE: Mr. Chairman, this remote housing program is one that we provide the planning services for the communities and some assistance but the program itself is

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(MR. MCBRYDE Cont'd) delivered through the Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation. The target for last year was 200 housing units, remote housing units. I believe that that target was fallen short of by a fairly considerable amount. I think the target will be in a similar nature for the upcoming year although the Federal Minister has indicated a willingness to proceed at a faster pace although the Minister responsible for housing might wish to comment on that further.

Mr. Chairman, one of the hold-ups on that program has been, I think it's very fair to say though, is the problem of getting the land titles in remote communities in Northern Manitoba and the problems in that are pretty numerous, and pretty long to list and a considerable amount of planner's time is taken working proposals through the system that has been established for the approval to receive new subdivisions and land titles in Northern Manitoba, and we are aggressively trying to overcome the problems in relation to that in order to have the communities ready for the remote houses when they are available through the MHRC.

The other comments, Mr. Chairman, I'll agree with the Member for Fort Rouge that there are a number of important issues in Northern Manitoba that do not appear in the Estimates of the Department of Northern Affairs which are of interest to myself as Minister and of interest to the northern MLAs, but this government made a deliberate decision, Mr. Chairman, not to have an entirely regional department, not to have a department similar to the one taking place in Saskatchewan where the Department of Northern Saskatchewan is in fact responsible for the delivery of all services to that part of the province. So, Mr. Chairman, there are major programs especially in terms of highways in northern Manitoba, in terms of tourism in northern Manitoba, in terms of mines and resources in northern Manitoba and the Minister's responsible will be able to give some detail, for example, of the new fur marketing, of the problems and programs in terms of harvesting fish, in terms of hopes and proposals and past programs in terms of tourist development in northern Manitoba. But these certainly are key areas and certainly our departmental staff have been assisting communities in whatever way possible so that they could make full use of the kind of programs that are available from other departments of government, from the Federal Government or from whatever other source that may be available to them.

Mr. Chairman, I think that's what I see and I believe that we have reiterated as the responsibility of the Extension Division of the Department of Northern Affairs to get that kind of information into the remote communities that come under the responsibility of the Department of Northern Affairs. And, Mr. Chairman, the communities have been saying to us for some time that this is their biggest problem. They do not know what is available, they do not know how to make use of what is available.

Mr. Chairman, there was a time in the past when we had a problem, we were able to assist people in their communities to develop but then there wasn't programs available for them to take the next step onwards. Mr. Chairman, that has been overcome and there are a considerable number of programs available for people so that they can help themselves to develop that community in which they live and especially in terms of the economic development in those communities, Mr. Chairman. I think there will be quite a long list of programs that are available but let's give it a try in terms of the communities economic development fund; in terms of the Bill 17, natural resources, Crown corporation; in terms of the Co-op Services; in the special ARDA III-B program and a number of other programs that are available to people. But it is quite a problem, Mr. Chairman, for some of those people to be able to connect into those programs and make full use of those programs, and this has been, the emphasis that we have had in our Extension Division is the providing of information and information flow, Mr. Chairman, in both directions, so that in fact government departments whether they're federal, provincial or local can learn what the people are after in those communities to help their communities to develop and help those communities be aware of what the possibilities are.

Mr. Chairman, it may sound like a fairly simple process but unfortunately it is not that simple a process and even though the staff and budget in that program are somewhat limited the effort is being made to get that information to people and then to help them to make use of that information once it is available to them.

MR. AXWORTHY: Would the Honourable Minister submit to a question?

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MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: I'd just like to ask the Minister to clarify for me the statement he made. Is it true then that as the Minister of Northern Affairs your department is not responsible for the planning of the economic development strategy for the north but simply acts to facilitate the information and communication between the numbers of different departments which provide separated programs. In other words are we still saying that there is still no central responsibility for the planning of economic development in the north in your department?

MR. MCBRYDE: Mr. Chairman, there is a process, a procedure, a structure established to deal with the overall planning in the northern part of our province. The economic development planning, Mr. Chairman, is carried out through the Resources and Economic Development Sub-Committee of Cabinet and they have responsibility for the overall look at Manitoba and its economic and resource development, and a considerable part of that thrust, Mr. Chairman is looking at economic development and planning for northern Manitoba.

Mr. Chairman, there is also the Manpower Sub-Committee of Cabinet which also relate very directly to the Department of Northern Affairs as they look at the training and manpower needs in the Province of Manitoba and they are considerably involved in some direction and long-term planning in terms of the Northern Manpower Corps.

Mr. Chairman, I think it's worthwhile for the Member from Fort Rouge just for me to trace very briefly so he understands, you know, sort of the direct responsibility of the department. I think he is aware of those, but I'll just double check that he is aware of those. And that is responsibility of the air service which is just a delivery of service basically to the whole government; has a responsibility for basically being the municipal government for the remote non-treaty communities in northern Manitoba; that was the traditional Commissioner of Northern Affairs role. There is a responsibility for the physical infrastructure in some aspects, and that is in the Air strip program and in the Winter Roads program. There is a responsibility, Mr. Chairman, for the Northern Manpower Corps which relates to the employment of northern people, jobs in northern Manitoba, and the responsibility for the delivery of the Canada-Manitoba Special ARDA Agreement.

So those are the specific delivery functions that the department has, but we are involved, Mr. Chairman, in a general way in advice to communities and assistance to communities in their overall development as well as myself as Minister and departmental staff are involved in those Cabinet committees that relate directly to the overall planning and development for northern Manitoba.

Mr. Chairman, the . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: One of the things that intrigues me with respect to the presentation just now was the reference to the government air service and the responsibility of just servicing the other departments. Now I wonder on that basis if one was to look at the - and I'll direct the question - one was to look at the estimates - and going to the estimates for the year ending March 31, 1974 we see - and I don't want to deal with the specific section because we will when we get to it, but I want to deal with it in general to understand what you're suggesting. That if it was 1,600,000 as a cost with an appropriation of 989,000 recoverable, that really is the recovery of the servicing of the other departments of government, is that correct? Yes. Well, that would mean, based on what the Minister said, that 300 employees of Northern Affairs Department spent \$600,000 travelling in northern Manitoba, which is an average of \$2,000 each, as far as government expenditure. Now, is that correct?

MR. MCBRYDE: I'm not sure I got the full import of the question, Mr. Chairman. I wonder if he could clarify that.

MR. SPIVAK: You see, you suggested that the government air services basically in terms of responsibility is servicing the other departments of government and I accept that; but if one looks at your appropriation and one listens to what you suggested as far as the numbers, and I accept them at this point, the numbers of people who were employed by the department, the Department of Northern Affairs spent \$600,000 for 300 people which is an average of \$2,000 per person, because the only recovery you receive was 989,000. So therefore that's the full servicing of the other areas of governmental activity, so therefore

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(MR. SPIVAK Cont'd) the Department of Northern Affairs spent \$600,000 in government air services for 300 people who are employees, or an average of \$2,000 per person.

MR. MCBRYDE: Mr. Chairman, the Leader of the Conservative Party I'm sure has the report of the government air services which gives a breakdown there, Mr. Chairman, of the use by various departments of the Government Air Service including Northern Affairs . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. A point of order has been raised. The Honourable Leader of the Official Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Well, the book that was submitted was for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1973; I'm now referring to the appropriations indicated in Northern Affairs for March 31, 1974, so this isn't even relevant. What I'm trying to indicate, because I think this is important in understanding what the Minister considers responsibilities, that if the Government Air Service is under his responsibility then in effect it should be chargeable to the other departments for the work that the Government Air Service has undertaken, and the remaining part would be for the Department of Northern Affairs which shows an amount of \$600,000 for 300 employees.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order. I don't see where that is a point of order. The Honourable Leader of the Opposition is now asking a question. If you have a point of order, fine and dandy, I'm prepared to hear it, but I'm not prepared to have someone yield the floor if you want to ask an additional question.

MR. SPIVAK: Well, Mr. Chairman, just on a point of order, the reference the Minister made was to the report tabled for last year, whereas the reference I was making was to this past year.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Northern Affairs.

MR. MCBRYDE: Mr. Chairman, if the member would take a look at his budget book for the upcoming fiscal year, the first figure, the Air Radio Division (a) Administration and Flight Co-Ordinators \$203,300, is an item that covers the Assistant Deputy Minister and his office and the flight co-ordinators of the Department of Northern Affairs, and that is an item that is not in effect recovered through the normal operation of the Government Air Services. If he takes a look at the next figure, the Air Operations which is \$1.6 million, that is the portion that is recoverable on an ongoing basis from the users of the Government Air Service, including the patient air transportation program which will recover the funds from, through the appropriation of the Department of Health and Social Development.

You'll note that the recovery in terms of Radio Communications is not significant, the main recovery comes through the recovery from billings to other departments by the Air Services Division, and I believe that we in fact bill ourselves and show up in the annual report as a department, that is the Northern Affairs Department is billed the same as everyone else by the Air Services.

MR. SPIVAK: . . . simply means that the statement that it's recoverable is incorrect, but the statement that you made earlier that it is recoverable isn't. Some is recoverable, not all of it's recoverable, which means that there's a continuing expense to the Department of Northern Affairs for operating the government Air Radio Division, and it is not something just entirely recoverable from the department.

MR. MCBRYDE: I think that, you know, is a correct statement, and certainly we are interested in - you can see by the change in the estimates for this year over last year, to be able to account in terms of the government air services in a manner that would accurately reflect the cost of other service, so in effect we would hope to be able and I think are moving in the direction of sort of a self-sustaining operation that would recover in fact its own expenses. But there is the administrative, the Assistant Deputy Minister's office and his staff and the flight co-ordinators that are in fact an expense to the department -- Assistant Deputy Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member from Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: I'd just like to ask the Minister, in relation to this particular point, has the department or someone in the Air Service Division ever costed out the comparison between the cost to the government or the taxpayer or public servants using the Air Service Division as opposed to using commercial aircraft, and could he also give some

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(MR. AXWORTHY cont'd) indication as to what the actual utilization time is of the government aircraft - how much time are they spending on the ground. The reason I ask this is it's my understanding that one of the major cost factors in any air business is dependent upon utilization to write off a capital cost. Now, have you ever done a comparative cost factor as to what would happen if you were using the commercial northern airlines as compared to the public one?

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Chairman, a sort of very preliminary look at the economics would show that in fact to use a scheduled air carrier such as TransAir into northern Manitoba is cheaper for civil servants, unless there is almost a plane load travelling up and back it's cheaper to go by the commercial carrier. In terms of the cost to the public of Manitoba, the preliminary indication is that, you know, we can provide a cheaper service to ourselves. Utilization of the aircraft, and I'm sorry I don't have the exact figures in front of me, but of course people who lease aircraft and private charter companies, you know, have an outline of how many hours have to be put on that plane to make an economical operation; and the usage of government airplanes have been higher than that rate which would be economical, in fact I think that the utilization rate for government air service planes is quite higher than the average charter operator.

I think that the savings, Mr. Chairman, in terms of the government air service - and since we're in the government air service I should make a few general comments so members could understand how the service operates. The nature of government air service has changed somewhat, because in the past a civil servant with any department would in fact call directly to a commercial charter carrier or he could call Government Air Services for a flight into an area. Mr. Chairman, I know, for example, within my own constituency you might have for example, going into the community of Moose Lake which has no other access except by water or by air, except during winter road time, that you might find three or four planes coming in with three or four different civil servants from different departments, and the cost to the government was extremely high; and in fact, you know, what would happen is you might phone the commercial carrier and he said, yes I could take you at 11 o'clock, but he wouldn't tell you that he has taken somebody else at 10 o'clock, so in fact he could have put two people at least on one plane but in effect would try and get as many miles as possible and make two separate trips. So the rules for the use of government aircraft, or the use of aircraft period, in terms of charter aircraft were changed so that in fact a civil servant now phones the co-ordinator for Government Air Services who then assigns him the time when, you know, he says I want to go to Brochet at a certain time, the co-ordinator will say, fine there's somebody from the Mines and Resources also wants to go there, the best time for both of you appears to be such and such, so maximum utilization is made of the aircraft. And in fact there's been quite a drastic change and aircraft are not usually travelling around with only one passenger or one or two passengers, but a good utilization has been made using this system. The other thing that I guess we considered or looked at is that even in the case of--I do this myself and I think some of the staff do it now--but if I'm scheduled to go to Thompson by TransAir I just double check and let Government Air know that I'm going by TransAir to Thompson; if there's a plane going to Thompson, Government Air with an empty seat then I go on that, because that's cheaper than taking the commercial carrier.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Yes, I wonder if the Minister would indicate whether in the past year there have been any charges or personal trips taken by the members of the Cabinet or by members of the government for personal use or for political use. Have there been any charges back individually to the members?

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Chairman, not to my knowledge, I'm sure that is not the case.

MR. SPIVAK: Can the Minister assure that so far as the Government Air Service is concerned, that it has not been used by the members of the government for personal use or for political use?

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Chairman, I am not aware of any instances where Manitoba Government Air Services aircraft were used for personal use or for political use. Mr. Chairman, the Government Air Service does act as a service agency and the sort of arrangement of a trip is at the discretion of that department, so, for example, if someone phoned up and said I want to go to Shamattawa as a civil servant, they would not say, no you can't go to

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(MR. McBRYDE cont'd) Shamattawa, the government Air Service would provide that service. And that department has to make sure of course that its staff is using the aircraft for the best use of that department and the most economical use of that department. Mr. Chairman, there has not been use . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please.

MR. McBRYDE: . . . of government aircraft . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: A point of order has been raised. The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: A point of order to a question directly related to members of the government. I'm assuming that the Minister's not trying to indicate that civil servants are - members are involved in the political process at this point. And again, the question that was put--(Interjection)--no, the question that was put--(Interjection)--yeah, the question that was put was whether any members of the government had used it. Now again, if there is an indication that a plane was going somewhere and a member of the government used that because it was available, that still I think is travelling on Government Air Service for political purposes. Now can he assure the House that that has not happened?

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Chairman, I'm sorry the member misunderstood me. I answered his question and was going on to expand on the use of government aircraft. Mr. Speaker, my answer was that to the best of my knowledge government aircraft has not been used for personal or political purposes, but in the general policy sense, and I might continue if the member doesn't misunderstand me again, that the determination to use a government aircraft is determined by the department involved and by the Minister involved or by the civil servants involved in that department.

Mr. Chairman, I think it's probably the knowledge of the House that when we have offered a sort of--if in fact there is a plane going to a certain destination with an empty seat available, I believe this policy was established by the previous government, even previous to ourselves, that members of for example the Nor-Man Development Corporation, the Manitoba Indian Brotherhood, the Metis Federation, . . .

A MEMBER: And MLAs.

MR. McBRYDE: . . . Northern Association of Community Council, MLAs - if there is an aircraft already going with empty space, then they are taken along, and I don't believe, Mr. Chairman, to my knowledge that any charge has been made for them since in fact they are not costing the Government Air Service any more money to take any more passengers along. I believe that MLAs who might have use of that service were advised of that service although I doubt if they have had the occasion yet to take advantage of it, although I believe that the late Member for Churchill did use that service on a number of occasions.

The other aspect of the Government Air Service, and I might say, Mr. Chairman, that - and I'm not being self-congratulatory here because I believe that the development of the air service was by previous government, we have only expanded and made effective use of that service, so as much credit would be due to the Member for Lakeside and others as to anyone on this side of the House, but we do have an effective and efficient and a safe operation, Mr. Chairman. This is becoming more important in northern Manitoba in relation to the number of aircraft accidents involving private carriers in the northern part of our province and in fact we've run into a situation where there are now within the civil servants of the province of Manitoba people who will not use other than Manitoba Government Air Services aircraft.

Mr. Chairman, I was quite surprised to - on that kind of basis I mentioned, there was an Indian Affairs' staff person stuck in Shamattawa when we were there who has been in the north 15 years I believe who received a ride on Government Air Services back to Gillam cause just nobody else was available, he couldn't get hold of anybody else, and he stated to me that he was actually going to quit his job because he didn't want to fly any more with private carriers in northern Manitoba. So I think that we've been very fortunate in the safety record. . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please. The hour being 4:30, the last hour of every day being Private Members' Hour, Committee rise and report. The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: . . . it's not even a question, one request of the Minister. I wonder if he can furnish for the next meeting of this committee the list of all those who are on external contracts with the department?

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MR. CHAIRMAN: Committee rise and report. Call in the Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the Committee of Supply has directed me to report progress, and ask leave to sit again.

IN SESSION

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. The Honourable Member for Logan.

MR. WILLIAM JENKINS (Logan): Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Ste. Rose, that the report of the Committee be received.

MOTION presented and carried.

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PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTIONS

MR. SPEAKER: Private Members' Hour on Friday is private members' resolutions. The first resolution is No. 4. The Honourable Member for St. Boniface.

MR. MARION: Mr. Speaker, I'm not ready to pursue the matter. Can I have this matter stand please. (Agreed)

MR. SPEAKER: It goes to the bottom of the Order Paper.

No. 5 - the Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Member for St. Boniface,

WHEREAS the lands of the nation are its lifeblood and Manitoba is endowed with great richness in its agricultural land which is capable of producing the necessities of life, and is further vastly endowed with further lands which are capable of being used as recreational facilities for Manitobans and Canadians now and into the future; and

WHEREAS these lands are still largely owned by Canadians but in recent years there has been a marked trend towards more foreign ownership of Canadian farming and recreation areas, and

WHEREAS it is in the best interests of the people of Manitoba that the Government of Manitoba act now before it is too late to deal with the potential problems which will be created if these lands become owned by non-Canadian citizens; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of Manitoba consider the advisability of the introducing legislation which will have the effect of restricting the sale and purchase of Manitoba farm and recreation lands in such a way as to ensure that such land will only be owned by Canadian citizens or landed immigrants.

MOTION presented.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, a similar resolution was introduced by myself at the last Session, in 1973, and it did receive some attention by members by way of debate and eventually it was voted down. Now I bring, Mr. Speaker, I bring the resolution forward again because I think every member will recognize the fact that there is, if not at the moment but there certainly is going to be in the near future, some difficulties in retaining Canadian ownership of the type of land described in the resolution. We only have to look to other jurisdictions to see what happens when there is no such legislation.

Now I would refer honourable members to the situation as it now exists in Hawaii. Before Hawaii was a State of the Union it was run as a colony and any type of a regulation could be introduced without regard to the Constitution of the United States. Well now that it is a State, they cannot put a type of control on the holding back or the sale of foreign land to foreigners, and what is happening in Hawaii today is that the native born Hawaiians are being pushed back. In many cases they have no access to the beachfront; in many cases they are almost strangers and beggars in their own land because of so much foreign ownership, and I'm not saying it's that bad in Manitoba, it certainly is not, but the problem is coming, the problem is coming. It's the governments position to anticipate some problems and if not immediately enact legislation, perhaps they should study the matter and come forward with a recommendation that a committee examine it and then through that process it's possible that legislation would be introduced into this House. I know near my own constituency, in the constituency of Lakeside, there is a large estate that has been owned by a very fine American family, I might say, very good people, but this estate bordering on Lake Manitoba has about 14 miles of beach front and there are people in Winnipeg, in Portage and areas, who are looking for places to go for recreation and this is a private reserve and it's private property, and I would hate to see more beach land go in that manner where the Canadian or Manitoban can't get down to the beach front in his own country.

I say that our provincial park system which was started many years ago and each administration has improved on it and increased the number of parks; this is a good idea and I don't think it's based on any particular philosophy, it's just common sense that large tracts and large areas should be retained in perpetuity for the good of the citizen. I agree with that philosophy and I think, with the exception of the Province of Quebec, every province in Canada has provincial parks.

So all I'm suggesting by way of the resolution is that we should look to the future before it's too late, before it's too late. I know in southern Saskatchewan there is large tracts of farmland have been bought up by American farmers who have some money to invest so they see

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(MR. G. JOHNSTON cont'd) the price of Canadian farmland and they come and buy it as an investment. Perhaps there's not that much wrong with it but if it were to be a widespread practice eventually the day would come when the Canadian farm boys would be unable to get into the farming business unless they leased from someone who lived in another country.

So for these reasons, Mr. Speaker, I have introduced the legislation or the resolution. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Vital.

MR. D. JAMES WALDING (St. Vital): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had rather expected the Member for Portage la Prairie to speak at somewhat longer length than he did. Perhaps he feels that having introduced a very similar resolution last year that maybe it speaks for itself, or maybe we should go back and read the debate from last year.

I rather feel that the resolution proposed by the Member for Portage la Prairie last year was in slightly different form from this. He mentioned at that time when speaking of both farming and recreational areas the matter of ownership, both of residents and of Canadian citizens and there seemed, as I believe I had pointed out at the time, some little confusion as to just what he was referring to whether the matter of residence was important or whether the matter of citizenship was important, but I noticed that this year there is one extra little phrase in there tacked right on the end, the last two words referring to "landed immigrants".

The member for Portage spoke in his opening remarks of the situation in Hawaii where he mentioned that native born Hawaiians were losing some of their lands, possibly some right of access to beach property, although he didn't tell us to whom they were losing it, and who was becoming the new owners of land there. I would guess that it was other American citizens. --(Interjection)-- Well it's suggested to me from the other side that it may be taken over by aliens. However that really doesn't help us very much in Canada and it is true that I believe Prince Edward Island and Saskatchewan have enacted laws to limit ownership of lands in those two provinces to both citizens and residents of the province I believe. Well I'm also told that the legislation in Saskatchewan has not yet been proclaimed, they have recognized some of the difficulties involved.

The purpose of a Private Members' Hour and bringing forward resolutions I'm sure is not just to get the position of the government and of opposition members, that it is an opportunity for the backbenchers on both sides to bring forward ideas and new policy suggestions so that they can be debated and individual members might give their own personal views. Possibly the Member for Portage la Prairie knows that there is a division of opinion on this very matter even within our party, and I'm sure within our caucus too, and hopefully he will hear a variety of views and some from one side and some from the other.

I do recognize a number of problems inherent in this type of restrictive legislation, one of which comes in with the third Whereas, the resolutions says: "And Whereas it is in the best interests of the people of Manitoba that the Government of Manitoba act now before it is too late to deal with the potential problems which will be created if these lands become owned by non-Canadian citizens." I had rather expected that the Member for Portage la Prairie would outline to us what these potential problems are or might be in the future, and why these same problems would not occur if land was owned by Canadian citizens. Is he suggesting for instance that ownership by Manitoba land buyer, a person who lives in Newfoundland is somehow to be equated with ownership by a Manitoban? Is residency a matter of importance here? He sort of skates over that, not really saying whether or not it is of importance or not. It is to be assumed I suppose that a Canadian citizen is resident in Canada but we're all very aware that there are a great many citizens who live in the United States, and in other parts of the world, and is ownership by a non-Canadian resident somewhere else necessarily any worse for Manitoba than ownership by a non-resident Canadian. The Member for Portage la Prairie doesn't go into that; nor does he contrast that for instance with what might be the situation with a long time resident of Canada who has not yet taken out his citizenship but who would be a citizen of some other country. Is he suggesting for instance that in that latter case that that person would not administer or use those farms or vacation lands to the best interest of Manitoba, whereas a Canadian resident a long way away might do so?

But perhaps there is a more basic objection to the type of resolution proposed by the Member for Portage and that is a matter of freedom, and I remember that in the election campaign of last year there was - his very own party made a particular issue of self control and not

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(MR. WALDING cont'd) state control. What he is suggesting here is that the Government of Manitoba enact some form of legislation which would take away that freedom of a land owner to do what he wants with his own property. I would really not have expected that sort of thing to come from a Member of the Liberal Party.

What could well develop with legislation of this type is that a farmer coming close to retirement age might want to sell his farm and retire to Florida or Hawaii, or somewhere like that, and find that the best offer he can get from anyone in Manitoba or Saskatchewan or anywhere in Canada might be \$50,000, yet there is a farmer from the midwest United States rushes up to Canada clutching a cheque for \$100,000 in his hot little hand, anxious and willing to buy that piece of land. The Member for Portage la Prairie will presumably want to tell that farmer you must accept the \$50,000, you cannot accept \$100,000 for that piece of land.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Portage.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Does the member realize that this type of control already exists with respecting newspapers and television stations and radio stations, that they cannot be sold to foreigners?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Vital.

MR. WALDING: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I'm well aware of that.

One further problem that was not dealt with in this resolution, nor do I believe it came up in the debate of the resolution of last year, was that of ownership of land and recreational area by corporations. It is a fairly simple matter to determine the nationality of an individual, the citizenship of an individual, when it comes to making a sale. But as we know it's not only individuals that buy and sell land, it's also companies and corporations. There is no reference in this resolution to how that particular problem might be resolved. Whether the Member for Portage la Prairie wishes to somehow exempt corporations entirely from this sort of legislation, which would be, you know, clearly discriminatory, and any foreigner who would wish to get around such limitations could do so quite simply by setting up a company registered overseas or in Canada, or in Manitoba itself, simply as a vehicle to purchase and gain control of that particular land.

A further extension of that is to say, well all right, we'll make it only Canadian companies or corporations to conform with this idea of purchase by citizenship, which the Member for Portage is advocating. But then again we come up against the problem of what is a Canadian corporation, whether it is one which is registered in Manitoba or registered anywhere in Canada, whether it should be a federal registered company, or in any other province of Canada. Is that to be the criterion because if that is the case then quite obviously that corporation could be set up with alien shareholders; or is the criterion to be that, you know, a certain percentage or a certain proportion of those shareholders should be Canadian citizens; or that a certain percentage or proportion of the shares held by those shareholders be Canadian citizens; or is it a matter of directorship on the board of that company? These are problems which obviously face the sort of legislation that the Member for Portage la Prairie is advocating. And while it is very easy to sympathize with him and the aims that he has in mind, there are a number of difficulties involved in proceeding along the lines that he recommends.

As I mentioned before, I had hoped that following the debate on a very similar resolution this year that the Member for Portage la Prairie would have given this some further thought, possibly have done a little research, and would have come up with some of the answers to some of the rather difficult questions which do loom when we are facing such a proposition. I can assure him that his suggestions and his wishes are received with a good deal of sympathy on this side. It's very easy, sort of an emotional thing to say, Yes, Canada for Canadians, you know. The Member for Portage is aware I am sure that a great deal of Canada, not only in terms of actual land, but in productive capacity and reserves of minerals and natural resources and fossil fuels and all this sort of thing is currently in foreign hands, owned mostly of course by foreign and multi-national corporations, some of them registered through subsidiary companies in Canada and possibly they could be termed in the strictest sense Canadian corporations. But he and I both know that that is not true and that the ownership behind those is held in the alien hands that he wants.

May I just in conclusion hope that he will get together with some of his colleagues behind him and they take another look at this and hopefully come forward and suggest some ways where this can be done without the discriminatory aspects that have been suggested.

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MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, there was a popular love song of a few years ago that had something to do with "Love is better, the second time around" or something or other, or maybe it gets better the third time around. I can't really say that this resolution looks any more attractive to me the second time around than it did the first time around a year ago. I recall having made some comments at that particular time which I to some extent want to reiterate and then add a few extra comments because I really think that we are getting a monumental snow job from the honourable government on this particular question, and I'll explain that in a few moments.

I think also if my vision was correct and had the speaker, the Honourable Member for St. Vital, taken the proffered assistance I believe from the Minister of Corporate and Consumer Affairs who is about to hand him a particular piece of literature in which I think among other things outlined the kind of ringing endorsement of a Human Rights Act brought out by the Liberal Party at about the same time, which among other things there was a very clear endorsement of the rights to property and to pass on to one's heirs and no discrimination in that fact. Now this is of course the difficulty with this resolution: What happens if I happen to have, you know, a long lost cousin living in Arkansas or something like that that I would like to leave my 40 acres to when I pass on to my reward, but if we adopt the resolution put before us then of course that would not be possible.

Mr. Speaker, the resolution has of course appeal and I think I said this the last time. I'm not suggesting, Mr. Speaker, that the Honourable Member from Portage has put it before the House for that sole purpose. I know that it is a concern, particularly in areas where undue pressure is exerted by outside non-Canadians purchasing specific land. But I suggest, as I believe I suggested a year ago, that the approach taken here is far too simplistic and really premature because there is a bigger argument to be fought, a bigger battle to be fought on this whole question of ownership, land ownership in particular, that I have a feeling that we will be fighting, if not us as individual present members of the Legislature then some future legislators sitting in this same Assembly.

Before I get into that which really is the kernel to what I would like to talk about, the heart of the subject, I have to deal a little bit more with the Honourable Member from Portage la Prairie. He exhibits in my judgment too little faith and a certain amount of ignorance perhaps in what governments can now do. He raised a particular question as it affected a parcel of land within his constituency having to do with prime recreational land.

Mr. Speaker, the past ten, fifteen, twenty years this government, any preceding government and any future government has the right and can make that decision that a particular parcel of land which is eminently suitable for the public use rather than private use and proceeds on that basis. It's being done every day, Mr. Speaker, sometimes without any pains but sometimes with pains when expropriation proceedings are involved. It's done to facilitate the building of a transportation system, it's done to facilitate the development of a drainage system on agricultural land, it's done in the protection of our wildlife and our management of wildlife, it's done, as the Member for Portage la Prairie himself indicated, for the creation of parks and recreational areas.

So, Mr. Speaker, the kind of urgency or immediate concern that the Member for Portage attached to this resolution that ownership, or not having ownership, residing in Canadian hands somehow tied the hands of any government agency from making a judgment as to the best possible use of that particular parcel of land in the public interest, that simply isn't the case. So I would have to, you know, reject that principal argument, which is used by the way very often by those very proponents for this kind of resolution. They overlook the very real, you know, the real power that governments have to do precisely that if they deem it in the public interest.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, however that the other issue that this resolution raises is by far the more important one. That is trying to resolve the whole question of basic human rights as we and the Liberal Party now understands them to be which include the right to own property and whether or not this in fact will be one of those unassailable basic human rights forever entrenched in the constitution that governs our society. I have to suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, that while in the expedient manner that we've witnessed so often this government will resist from rising to the political temptation of maybe agreeing with this resolution, because as I said, I think on other occasions there is a degree of political schmaltz to this kind of resolution.

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(MR. ENNS cont'd) Kick the foreigners out, keep the aliens away from our land, Canada No. 1, and this land is our land, and be damned if any yankee is going to have an acre of it or something like that. That has some appeal on the hustings. But of course it has another problem associated with it, which is namely trying to balance that, at the same time declaiming any real desire for that eventual and overall and complete state control, the very things that we were concerned about in the last election.

Mr. Speaker, if you look at the subject matter at hand - land - and if you look at some of the pronouncements of this government, this government and the NDP Party both provincially and nationally have indicated that such a valuable resource as oil, for instance; or if you look more deeply in this own Legislature some of the mineral resources as were studied by Professor Kierans in his report, that these kind of resources surely can no longer be left in the hands of private corporations or private individuals. Mr. Speaker, let's remember that these same resources, they're non-renewable, they're dissipating, if you believe some alarmists they're dissipating at an alarming rate, and of course really won't be with us all that long depending on how alarmed you are as to how long they'll be with us.

I really can't take seriously the suggestion that, you know, the real socialists on the other side, the fellows there with the gray matter you know that are guiding the destiny - and some gray hair - that are guiding the destiny of this party, are so short-sighted, are so short-sighted not to recognize that of course the greatest natural resource that we have, leave aside for a moment the people, which I will always be prepared to acknowledge as being the single biggest resource of any country, but the next biggest natural resource surely has to be our land, the land that produces the millions and millions of bushels of wheat year in and year out; the land that produces our very livelihood in every form; surely this is the biggest resource that any honest socialist will tell you he cannot leave in the hands of private individuals for too long. Indeed, Mr. Speaker, of course in those jurisdictions where the gloves have come off of our socialist friends and have been replaced with proletarian, you know, mitts, they make no bones about it; land is usually one of the first items, the first resource confiscated by the state in order to control that major and basic resource. Mr. Speaker, I don't really think that anybody opposite, certainly not the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources, can give me a serious intellectual argument why that particular resource should not be so regarded by those who think that the state can best manage our resources, can best manage our lives.

For anybody opposite who honestly believes in overall supply of management, for instance, in agriculture, in that the state can better manage the overall resources of our country whether it's oil, coal, these all diminishing resources which are going to run out, you mean to tell me that those fellows are so short-sighted over there that they have not recognized that land is of course the single, most worthwhile, ever there resource that we are talking about in this country when we generally get ourselves into the debate about how our resources are being used; are they being managed properly; are certain segments of our society abusing, ripping off from these resources?

Mr. Speaker, I couldn't help but resist the urge to read into this resolution this philosophical approach to the greater question of property ownership, land ownership, and I really look forward to hearing a response from members opposite. Not of the nature just given by the Member for St. Vital which is the understandable, safe, currently safe political line, expedient line for a government to take, particularly, Mr. Speaker, when out of one side of its mouth it's talking about its concern about the stay options programs in rural Manitoba, about doing nothing to in any way jeopardize the sacred, that holy family farm which certainly includes ownership of that land. Mr. Speaker, on the other side of that same mouth they are already working in the direction I suggested.

I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that they have not worried about doing the necessary studies, doing the necessary investigations in seeing what are the consequences of the actions that they have already taken in buying up the private lands, the farm holdings of people in rural Manitoba. Mr. Speaker, I'm not suggesting that they are out there grabbing up whatever land they can, but they have made it possible, they are starting, and I know of at least one individual situation where a person who I consider to be an excellent farmer, made an application for a loan from the Manitoba Agricultural Credit Corporation, was refused that loan, but in the same breath was given an offer to purchase by the corporation of that land. In this particular instance I was grateful, although I am on record for having expressed my doubts as to the validity of having

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(MR. ENNS cont'd) kind of a dual credit corporation systems operating, namely the Federal Credit Corporation, in this case I was grateful for a federal credit corporation because this gentleman I referred to had no difficulty in getting a federal loan and thereby avoid the temptation of selling to the government and he retained the ownership of his land.

Mr. Speaker, what I am just saying is that I suspect under the pressures that farmers fall into from time to time and with the constant lure, particularly when applications are being made for new credit or otherwise, that here you have a buyer of last resort, and a buyer who I am sure will be reasonably fair in prices quoted, but I'm suggesting that none of them have really worried about what happens five years from now, ten years from now, twenty years from now. I'm not prepared to suggest how long it will take when all of a sudden it's 70 or 80 per cent of the land now held in private hands are indeed controlled by the state - are indeed controlled by the state. What are the sociological effects of that kind of transition? Mr. Speaker, I suggest that they have not worried about it because that is in fact the goal that they want to arrive. They have convinced themselves completely of the rightness of that position, they believe they have convinced themselves completely of the correctness of reducing the now proud and individual independent farmer to that of a tenant or indeed serf relationship with the state. Because, Mr. Speaker, it comes down to their recognition of the fact that while they have expressed themselves clearly about the desirability of the state owning the resources of such items as coal or oil or minerals that surely nobody there is that short-sighted that they have not also thought of land in the same context.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to hearing some remarks from members opposite. I close with simply suggesting to the Honourable Member from Portage la Prairie that the simplistic approach that this resolution takes to an admittedly, you know, vexatious problem--I don't think we can call it you know, a massive or an uncontrollable problem in this province. I know that it is a problem in specific areas but I suggest the kind of universal approach that this resolution proposes to adopt brings along with it so many undesirable features, tramples on so many individual human freedoms that for many of us, you know, if challenged on that basis we would reject out of hand, that it's not the kind of resolution that this House should be giving serious consideration to at this particular time.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines and Resources.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, how could one resist the kind of invitation that has been proffered by the Member for Lakeside. I think that for a person to have entered the debate and to have, in my opinion, very well defined at least what the issues are, if not what the immediate issue is, is a very very valuable contribution and makes it possible to discuss the question on terms which I will have to agree with the Member for Lakeside, are put rather simplistically - and I beg forgiveness of the Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie for having to follow that particular characterization of his resolution - but I believe that it is rather simplistic. However, I think that the Member for Lakeside and I are in a small minority in considering this to be a simplistic question. I find that there is about, Mr. Speaker, a very very prevalent mood that somehow if you reserve Canadian land for Canadians, then I suppose if you carry that logic further, Manitoba land for Manitobans, well if the logic is good in the one case - the Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie is shaking his head - I find it very difficult to know why on logical grounds the line should be drawn, but nevertheless to stay with his best argument of say Canadian land for Canadians, that somehow you are going to solve the kind of problems that he raised. Because what were the problems that he raised? One, that there is, for instance, a large estate of lakefront in his constituency, and we both know what he is referring to, and that it's owned by an American and this fellow happens to be a nice American, but it could get into the hands of one of those nasty Americans and then it would be foreclosed from all, public use --(Interjection)-- "Ugly American" - that's a better expression.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I'll tell you something. I'd prefer almost any American to the Member for Wolseley - and he's a Canadian; I'll take an American, Mr. Speaker, sight unseen, to the Leader of the Liberal Party. And I say that, Mr. Speaker, of course with some facetiousness, but not entirely. What makes one think that a privately owned piece of land owned by an American is more available to the citizens of Manitoba or to the citizens of Canada, than a privately owned piece of land owned by a Canadian, or a Manitoban, or a Winnipegger? I would submit that the concept of private property in land is not in any way enhanced in terms of making that land available to the public if that landowner happens to be an American or a Canadian--and

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(MR. GREEN cont'd) I for one, I don't know that the Member for Lakeside was referring to me, but I will admit that there is great differences of opinions within this Party—that I have always regarded any argument that rests on nationalism to be a defeated argument from the start, because if you had a good argument you wouldn't bring in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, I realize that this is not agreed to by many people and I - if I may, the Honourable Member for Lakeside said, it's the unpopular position so obviously I'm putting myself in my worst light and I know the Member for Fort Rouge would not be worried about me doing that so he doesn't have to interrupt. The fact is, Mr. Speaker, I have never yet heard an argument which in the last analysis is based on raising a flag which is a good argument. If it is a good argument, it doesn't need the flag; if it is a bad argument, the flag doesn't help it. And in no greater instance is that demonstrative than in the case of ownership of land. Because I, Mr. Speaker, suggest to you that if every piece of land in Manitoba was owned by a private Canadian that it would be no more accessible to the people of Manitoba generally than if it was owned by a private American; that there is no relationship between the two situations; and therefore the Member for Lakeside has properly put it. The question is not really Canadian ownership versus American ownership, because if you make it Canadian ownership then the Member for St. Vital I think made a good speech, I don't know why the Member for Lakeside poohed poohed it. He had a hundred reasons as to why this is a problem. One is that if an American wants to hold it and he can't hold it in his own name, he'll hold it in the name of some Canadian. If he can't hold it in his own name, he'll incorporate a Canadian company and hold it in the name of that Canadian company. If he can't hold it in his own name, therefore you are going to say to a Manitoba citizen, I have a house on Cathedral Avenue or Westgate, I want to sell my house to a fellow who comes in and offers maybe \$50,000 and the State says, no you can't sell it to him you gotta sell it to some Canadian, even if you don't have a buyer. Some people say, well if that's the case give the State the right to first refusal, that when a man makes an offer if you cannot sell it to the American, makes an offer for \$75,000 and you say you can't sell it then the State has to take it, at least the vendor then is protected for the sale of his property. They've never passed such a law. There would be hundreds of offers to purchase property which the State would then be paying fortunes for because they are trying to possess Canadian property which hasn't really been sold at all.

Now I think, Mr. Speaker, that these are all practical considerations properly brought up by the Member for St. Vital, who may be on one side of this issue or on the other side of this issue. I really don't think it matters, I think that the practical problems that he presented are right. I can tell you that I have looked at the issue and the member's resolution says that the government should consider the advisability, and I would suggest that that is going to happen, that passing or defeating the resolution or amending it or doing something, that what the Member for Portage la Prairie wants is going to take place, and I think he knows it and at the same time I think it's valuable that he brings forward the resolution, because we can just have the type of discussion that we're having. But I believe that the question of accessibility of the people of Manitoba to land in the Province of Manitoba depends on whether the land is public or whether it is private, and if one wants to ensure accessibility of all Manitobans to land within the Province of Manitoba, he has to take the position that it's public land.

Now I'm not going to the position that the Member for Lakeside is trying to direct me to, that all lands in the Province of Manitoba should be public, but for those who say that they want to ensure accessibility of land to all of the people of Manitoba, they have no choice but to say that that portion of the land that they want accessible has to be public land. And in this regard, Mr. Speaker, the government has an existing policy which I think should commend itself to the Member for Portage la Prairie, because the government that has since it's been in office, with some exceptions, maintained the position that what is now held public will not be sold to a private Canadian, a private American, a private Hungarian or a private Yankee. It will be kept for the people of the Province of Manitoba. --(Interjection)--Well, Mr. Speaker --(Interjection)--pardon me? Well, it is not so, it is retained in ownership by the people of Manitoba and some is leased and you write them. I don't know whether I'll be able to get to that, but it is a very important consideration. But the public has not sold any land to speak of--that's with reservations, that's not an absolute statement.

The government has also said that it will buy land, that it will increase its stock of public land for those people who are worried that some Americans had land that they were leasing out

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(MR. GREEN cont'd) for shooting rights. We said if there are not enough shooting places we will buy land but we won't say to an American, you have to let Canadians on your land; and to a Canadian, you don't have to let Canadians on your land. The laws respecting the land holding by individuals in Manitoba--this should commend itself particularly to the Leader of the Liberal Party--are equal no matter who owns the land, and if we are going to say that the land that you own is free for anybody to go on, and we haven't said that, and I would resist saying that, then it's going to apply to a Canadian as well as to an American. We don't say that you can run and shoot on American land but you cannot run and shoot on Canadian land. So we have said that if there is a problem with recreational land, we will buy recreational land. If there is a problem with land holding in urban areas, skyrocketing prices, we will try to land bank for the public so that we can follow the lead that's offered by Ottawa for land banking in urban areas, and that to that extent we would try to make more land available to the public.

I've thus far stayed from the position that some land should be accessible to everybody, that has to be public. If land is to be not accessible to everybody, I believe personally--and I may be stuck with a position which I'll have to change from and I admit it because I believe that it is a minority position--but if land is held privately I personally don't care if it's held by an American, Canadian or anybody else. As far as I'm concerned, once it's private ownership that that should be privately tradeable to anybody who wishes to buy it. And I will admit that I may be walking on dangerous ground in a position that I'll have to retreat from which will cause some people with glee say, see you had to go for something that you weren't entirely accepting. That's happened before and it'll probably happen again and it will not bother me a great deal. I will be annoyed that I don't think that anything real is happening.

Now comes to the question that is raised by the Member for Lakeside, who says that this government believes that all the land should be public, and that any true socialist will say that all the land should be public. Well, the Honourable Member for Lakeside should know and any economist will confirm that there is no other source of wealth than land. The only source of wealth is human resources applied to land.--(Interjection)--Well, Mr. Speaker . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

MR. GREEN: Well, I will admit, Mr. Speaker, having an individual love for wealth, and I will admit that I would like that socially the people of Manitoba had as much wealth as we could put our efforts to accumulating, but the fact is that the only source of wealth is the application of human effort to natural resources, and natural resources are available only in one place, that's in the land. And the notion that any socialist would say that all the land should be public has got to be put in juxtaposition with the notion--and I commend my honourable friends to look at it --in the Bible that all land should be public, that--(Interjection)--Well, the honourable friend wishes me to quote it chapter and verse, I will give it to him, but the fact is that in the Bible it says that what God has created, that is the land, no man can take unto himself to the exclusion of others. And that every 50 years, even the leases on land on jubilation day have to be removed and it goes back into the common pool to be then redistributed.

Now, I don't care whether you agree with that or not, but if you don't agree with it at least don't identify it with socialism, identify it with the testaments which apparently are adopted by all people of the Christian faith and the Judiac faith, that this is there, and is alleged to be divine. So that if you are moving to that position then at least move to it from the point of not doctrinaire socialism but a notion that has validity in doctrines that are completely the opposite of socialism.

And to give an example of the most articulate person on this subject in my opinion, and I commend this to the Honourable Member for Lakeside in particular, read a book called Progress in Poverty; it's written by a man by the name of Henry George who was an economist in the late 1800s; who was not a socialist, who people have projected as being the only man, the only economist who is able to take the two conflicting teachers that we deal with in economics, one, namely the collective wealth; and secondly, a reward for individual initiative, and has put them into harmony one with the other. Because what did George say. Henry George said the same thing as I repeated that the Bible said, that it's inconceivable to think that God who created the universe intended that certain people could co-opt unto themselves to the exclusion of all others certain parts of it and say, you are not entitled, get off.--(Interjection)--Well, if you will read Henry George, the Member for Roblin, I assure you he said it very much like I am now saying it.

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A MEMBER: I'm talking about God.

MR. GREEN: Well, I am talking about Henry George. So read it, if you will contradict me, first read it. And then he said that once we accept the fact that nobody can take unto themselves land which he has done nothing to put there, to the exclusion of all others, then nobody has a right to take what a person creates through his individual initiative. That the State cannot take what one has privately created, that that belongs to a private person; and no private person can take what nature has created as the endowment to all of us.

Now the Honourable Member for Lakeside indicated at the opening of his remarks that even he agrees with that position, because no matter what we have done in our free enterprise world, whatever philosophy you want to attach to any of the systems we have, we have recognized that the Torrens title in the last analysis is an indefinite lease. And the Member for Lakeside has pointed it out, that any day the public together can walk in and say, you no longer have that title, we will compensate you for it, but it belongs to the people of this province. When they say it, it would be a matter I suppose of a difference of opinion, depending on who happens to be involved and what happens to be happening, but the recognition that in the last analysis it is a public trust which is given out in a Torrens title and appears to be permanent, but in the last analysis is owned by the public, is a recognition of what both the Bible said and Henry George said, that in the last analysis the surface of the globe or land, which includes in George's terms the water and sea and the air, belong to everybody; and it can be charged to somebody's trust for a definite period of time or an indefinite period of time. And there's where the question of leasing comes in, and this is the most difficult question of all, because if a person--and the Member for Morris I am sure will appreciate what I am saying--if a person is not given the feeling that what he creates towards improving land, cultivating it, making it yield more than it would yield under nature, is not to some extent to his credit, we would not have good husbandry on the land. And the Technocrats in the 1800s in dealing with the French system where they divided the land and tried to make the peasants produce more, was based on the fact that if they were not given some security of tenure for the purpose of realizing ambition through their hard work that the land would not yield and that they would not produce on it. --(Interjection)--Well they're finding it out--you know, I don't think anything is ever found out anew, I think that what we are talking about some guys probably five thousand years ago thought that they were making very sound profound statements and that they had found something new and they were saying exactly the same thing, that nothing ever happens that is new in the world. It's just different people go through the same arguments time and time again, and we are doing that and 500 years from now I expect that there will be 57 members or a different number, and it doesn't make any difference, probably discussing the same type of philosophical questions that we are discussing today.

But when the Member for Portage la Prairie indicates that the Crown has leased land, of course the Crown has leased land, and the Crown will have to lease land, and the question is, and I admit that it is a fine distinction, is to whether it is a Torrens lease, which doesn't say that it expires on a certain day and which also says, only because legislators have chosen to say it, that when we cancel the lease, we will value the property as its market values, what somebody else would have paid if it wasn't cancelled, is nevertheless a lease, not in legal terms but in substantial terms. It is a lease to a group of people by the State which is ultimately the collection of all individuals who are within the jurisdiction saying that you will have that piece of property to do with it what we say, it may or may not include the mineral rights depending on what year you got it, and if it does, they may be taxed and they may be taken --(Interjection)--Well the honourable member, we're now on sort of delicate ground, but the honourable member knows that it's correct. It's not, you know, these terrible New Democrats came in and taxed mineral rights. Social Credit tax mineral rights, Alberta was taxing mineral rights and they weren't even socialists--(Interjection)--Pardon me?

A MEMBER: Never had inflation till we got the NDP.

MR. GREEN: Is the honourable member really serious that we never had inflation . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The Honourable Minister has half a minute.

MR. GREEN: Well, Mr. Speaker, that kind of a remark is not even worth responding to. The fact is that if the honourable member would look very deeply into the situation he will find that inflation on the North American continent probably came, and I only say probably, I'm not as sure as he is in his statements, as a result of the war in Vietnam. That you had a

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(MR. GREEN cont'd) productive machine in the United States which was producing - I am going to try to remember the figure - but I believe that it was \$30 billion a year in goods and services which were then removed from the market and thrown into the ocean. If you ever do that you raise the price of all the rest of goods and services that are on the market.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The Honourable Minister's time is up. Does the Honourable House Leader wish to outline next week's proceedings?

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, next week we will try to proceed in the same way by staying with bills and coming to the Estimates only after the bills have been fully canvassed.

I have an apology to make to honourable members because the Minister of Northern Affairs will not be here Monday and Tuesday and if we get to Estimates on those days I will have to be calling upon the Minister of Public Works. And if I do, what I would then suggest is that we finish Public Works and come back to the Minister of Northern Affairs so that we won't have breaks in two departments. I apologize for that.

I don't think that there are any other surprises for next week, that that's the way we will proceed. Is there any question before we adjourn?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. JORGENSEN: One thing, Mr. Speaker. If we are going to go on Public Works on Monday and in the event that Public Works might go through quite speedily, what would be the next department that we would be . . . ?

MR. GREEN: I can't remember but I sent my honourable friend and the Member for Portage la Prairie a letter indicating six departments, like Northern Affairs, Public Works and several others. I expect it may be at your office now. --(Interjection)--Well I would hope my secretary didn't do that, but if I don't I'll tell you on Monday.

MR. SPEAKER: The hour of adjournment having arrived, the House is now adjourned and stands adjourned until 2:30 p. m. Monday afternoon.