

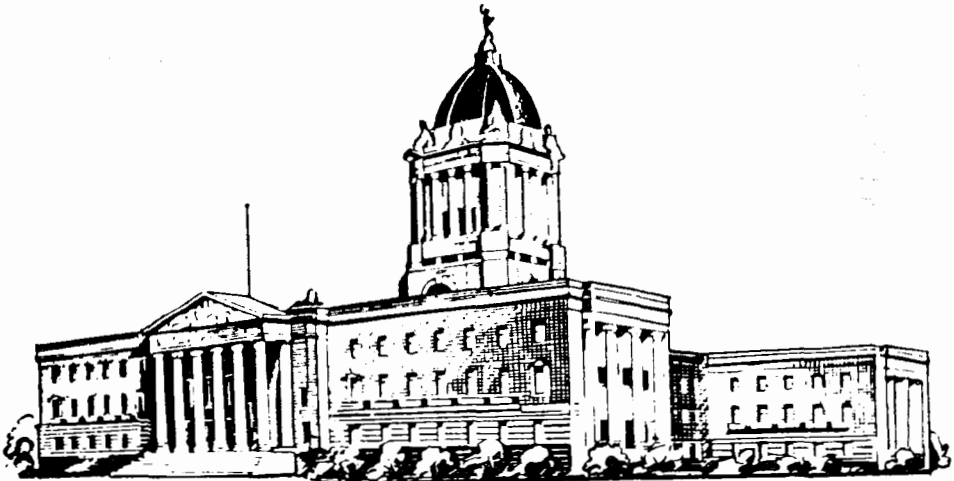


Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

Speaker

The Honourable Peter Fox



Vol. XXIII No. 47 8:00 p.m., Monday, March 22nd, 1976. Third Session, 30th Legislature.

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA
8 p.m. Monday, March 22, 1976

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. CHAIRMAN: Before we proceed this evening, I'd like to draw the attention of the honourable members to the gallery on my upper right where we have 26 members of the 33B Cub Pack under the direction of Mr. Bob Kirk. The Cub Pack is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek.

On behalf of the members of the Assembly, I bid you welcome this evening.

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MR. CHAIRMAN: I refer honourable members to Page 13. Resolution 29(a) - the Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Chairman, just before the committee rose I was endeavouring to answer a few questions posed by the Honourable the Member for Fort Rouge, and in particular matters dealing with women in employment and the Status of Women Advisory Council and so on. As we rose I read an excerpt from a News Bulletin that went out on October 3rd in my name indicating that what we are endeavouring to do within the Civil Service, to make people more aware of our desires and our targets within the government of the province and following the issuing of that particular communique, a policy statement was issued by the Premier giving emphasis and impetus to the statement that I, as Minister, had made in October and I think that it would be well for the record if I read the statement of the Premier dated December 12th.

"A policy statement indicating the Manitoba Government's commitment concept of equal employment opportunities in the Civil Service for those groups of Manitobans who appear to have been barred from fair and meaningful participation in the labour force has been distributed to all Provincial Government Ministers and Departments by Premier Ed Schreyer."

The statement lists these groups as women, native people, older workers and the physically, mentally and economically handicapped. And quote:

"Positive steps will be undertaken to ensure equal opportunities for members of these groups both in securing Civil Service employment and in career advancement within the Civil Service. All Ministers and Deputy Ministers will be responsible for the development and implementation of 'affirmative action programs in their department'.

"The career planning office of the Civil Service Commission will provide guidance and assistance in the development and monitoring of programs.

"All departments will be required to file their departmental affirmative action programs with the career planning office in the next fiscal year and provide for necessary additional funding of approved programs in their 1977-78 departmental Estimates.

"Our goal will be to ensure that the designated groups will be appropriately represented at all levels of employment in the Civil Service."

Now my honourable friend, the Member for Fort Rouge, and I don't fault him for it, says but what is being done now, as of this minute. I would suggest that through the co-ordinator within the Department of the Civil Service, the requirements as laid down by the policy statement of the government by the Premier, that departments are being contacted accordingly to start giving an indication of positive steps which will be taken in the next ensuing year.

I must say that as of this particular moment I cannot give any real precise indication of the details of those programs but information has been forwarded to me to indicate that the pronouncement of the First Minister is being carried through by the respective departments, through the Civil Service Commission and the staff. From the Career Planning Branch I indicate to my honourable friend that at the present time staff-wise the Career Planning Branch is staffed by the co-ordinator referred to, two equal employment officers, one new careerist, a seconded researcher in new careers and one administrative support person. I can say to my honourable friends that the concept of equal opportunity for employment recognizes that every individual must receive a fair chance, receive a fair chance for access to training, employment and advancement. Special programs are being

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(MR. PAULLEY cont'd) developed to provide this access where it has been denied in the past.

Ten government departments have initiated contact with the Career Planning Branch regarding the initial steps towards planning for equal employment opportunities. These departments are analyzing their work forces in order to determine base line data and to decide what steps they can take to improve the representation of women, native people and the other people referred to in the general statement that I made.

In addition to that, Mr. Chairman, the honourable member asked the question, quite legitimately, by comparing those on educational leave of a year ago, comparing the reports of '74 and '75. Why, he poses the question, so few educational leaves? Twenty-eight in number. This is slightly down from the number in the year 1974 but I would suggest that the answer lay, Mr. Chairman, in what I have just read out. The Manitoba Government is making use of internal senior staff, through the Director of Recruitment in the Civil Service or what I call the general manager, Mr. Bob Best, in the Civil Service Commission, to do training in a great variety of workshops and seminars. This has resulted in a decrease in the need for sending Civil Service on outside educational leave because more of it is being done internally. We feel in the Civil Service Branch that the more that we can achieve with internal training, the better it will be and the more likely of better results.

The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge also raised the question of the establishment of an Advisory Council on the Status of Women. I'm sure that he is aware of the fact that about three weeks ago, I believe it was, we, the Premier and myself, and two or three other members of Cabinet met with the Action Committee on the Status of Women and one of their requests was for the establishment of an Advisory Council similar to what they have at the Federal level and in one or two provinces, including Ontario. I want to repeat what I said at that meeting so there's no misunderstanding. I said it's very nice for the Federal authority and also for the authority in Ontario to produce lovely looking green brochures talking about the intents of government recognition of an input through the establishment of advisory councils comprising women as advisers to the government and the acceptance at the federal and provincial levels in some jurisdictions for the establishment of advisory councils.

I want to say to my honourable friends of this committee I have no objections at all to advisory councils. But having read, Mr. Chairman, the documentation from the federal jurisdiction, the input of the federal authority, the documentation of the Province of Ontario and the input there, nothing more is being gained simply because of the establishment of an Advisory Council on the Status of Women than we're achieving here without formally having one established.

Having said that, we did assure the representations that were made to us that the matter is under advisement and when there is an advisory council established it will be one that will be recognized but in the meantime even in its absence I think that we in Manitoba are doing far more than any other jurisdiction in Canada to recognize equal employment opportunities for all.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: Well, Mr. Chairman, I thank the Minister for his answers. They were quite informative. I'd like if I might to pick up on some of the points he did raise which I think perhaps just bear some further exploration.

The one comment he made which I thought was of some interest was his own personal observation that when applications are entered in for senior positions, managerial positions in the provincial service, that in fact he notices himself very few applications coming in from women which I think is a comment of some note. Perhaps it denotes a wider scale problem than one simply of taking out advertisements and inviting them to come. I think the problem is probably more deep set in terms of the whole--(Interjection)--Well I wouldn't want to advise the Minister to go chasing after applications. I think that that would be far beyond my powers of advisement. But it does strike me, Mr. Chairman, that aside from having the Minister scour the streets for likely possibilities or applicants, it does raise two questions. I think one is the issue of whether there

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(MR. AXWORTHY cont'd) should be an extra effort undertaken to ensure that when senior positions are offered that there is a special educational program outside the Civil Service, perhaps in the universities, community colleges, and managerial groups to enlist the enrolment or application of women.

I, over the dinner hour, was reading a speech, Mr. Chairman, from Sylvia Gilbert who is the well-known Director of the Womens Bureau in the Federal Government of Canada and she pointed out that close to two-fifths of all students receiving Bachelor degrees are women and that about 25 percent of all those receiving Masters degrees are women. Again it points out that, and she draws the conclusion, there obviously are a number of women who are properly qualified for such positions, so there must be some reason why they're not coming forward. I would think that that would be one of the areas or targets that the Provincial Government should aim at, to try and discern, while there's obviously a pool of potential of talent, why it is not coming forward into the Provincial Civil Service. I would simply suggest and I'm sure that's part of the program which the Provincial Government is now undertaking to isolate what are some of the factors. It may be that the counselling that goes on in the universities and the high schools may not be sufficient to stream people in that direction. It may also just be that there is a reluctance or lack of awareness that such positions are available. I think that we have conditioned so long in our society that there are certain jobs that are for women and certain jobs for men that it just may be that when someone sees an application for what looks to be like that kind of language we use in Civil Service applications - it always even frightened me a little bit sometimes - but what would be required to fill them, that it may be that there would have to be more recruitment.

I think in particular, by way of digression, Mr. Chairman, that I in the past year have had several discussions for example with the City of Winnipeg concerning potential management trainees in the urban field, in the planning field. Again it strikes me that the government itself isn't particularly aggressive in going out and explaining its programs to the variety and range of potential students that might come into it. That would be one issue that I would raise.

The second one, Mr. Chairman, might be a little more difficult. That is that I think one of the discriminations that does arise and I've seen it happen in the university where I work and other places, and that is that many women who are quite well qualified by way of experience for more senior positions, who may be presently occupying clerical positions that don't have the proper paper credentials, the official or formal training, feel reluctant to make applications. I noticed that in 1972 the Federal Government initiated a special training program in their Service for women in the clerical-secretarial field who had had experience as executive secretaries and so on who might want to make the jump into a managerial or administrative line of staff position, but just need some extra training support along the way. I again would be interested to know if that is included as part of the internal training program that is presently being offered by the program where specifically women in senior clerical positions are really offered and say here's your chance, and given some special consideration in applying for that job. I guess we discovered in the Federal level we are quite prepared to send people off for a year's language training if that's the requirement for the job. I'm wondering if we shouldn't be doing a similar thing in the issue of all those who suffered disadvantages. Not just women, I agree with the Minister, it should include other people who may come in with initial disadvantages. So I would simply raise that as a point and I would assume that it would be taken. It just does underline, I think, the importance that the Minister raised himself that you simply can't rely upon a passive, responsive kind of system, where you say here's the ad, come to us. I think the initiation of special education in particular is the way of upgrading and balancing out those inequities.

Mr. Chairman, there is a couple of side issues that I think are equally important. One issue - and this may be jumping a little bit ahead - but I notice that one of the concerns raised by the Status of Women organizations is that with so many women coming into the work force, I believe it is now 40-45 percent, one of the handicaps they often run into is the care of children, many married women in particular or women who are

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(MR. AXWORTHY cont'd) separated or are called single parent families. I am wondering if the Provincial Government has made any steps to utilize under its own day care program the establishment of day care centres in or near office complexes that house provincial civil servants. Are any efforts being made to ensure that there are proper day care facilities? I know that there are in the universities and the community colleges. I am wondering if that kind of program is being initiated for those who are just working generally in the Provincial Civil Service, whether there is any effort - whether first if the need has been canvassed, if that would make a substantial difference for people whether there was day care facilities available. I think that the fact that there is a day care program now operating in the province would make it so much easier to implement and I'm wondering if as part of the action program the Minister or the committee that he belongs to has initiated any efforts in that regard.

The second issue that I would like to raise, Mr. Chairman, which may be slightly off the pure question of the Civil Service Commission, and I'm quite prepared to leave it until we discuss the Women's Bureau, but it may be the Minister would want it asked now, is the issue that arose a week or two ago concerning maternity leave for school teachers who are after all, within purview of the provincial arm of - they are I think properly considered public servants that gain a good deal or a large part of their support from the provincial funds. I'm wondering if in fact we shouldn't be moving with some rapidity to correct what is an obvious error in the way in which women teachers, in the legislation in fact, that if the court has interpreted the Act to construe that maternity leave is not a right of teachers because of their so-called professional status, if that should not be clarified. Because it seems to me again an inequity that if a male teacher for example can book off, have so many sick days leave if he happens to have a goiter problem or sore foot or a pain in the wherever they get them these days in teaching, it would seem to be a similar instance to someone who is pregnant and who is having a baby. It seems to me it's a fair act of discrimination that does take place at the present moment. As I say while it doesn't come under the purview of the Civil Service Commission it seems to me an area where the government could take initiative that would very clearly demonstrate its concerns and feelings about this area.

I also would say, Mr. Chairman, I welcome the Minister's - I don't know if he's changed his mind or whether it's just more of a public declaration of acceptance of the notion that there could be an advisory council. I think that while I respect his assessment of the perhaps lack of progress that such councils have secured in the Ontario and the Federal level it has always struck me that if there is any valuable role to so-called advisory councils, it is to provide a little bit of an independent watchdog to the actions of government, a role I think that is always necessary in this day and age. One of the things that it could do would be provide a public independent point of view on progress or lack of progress, and I realize it's not always in the interest of government to invite criticism. It would seem to me in this area it would probably be the only way in which full public disclosure, dissemination of information could be had. While the Minister, the committee and so on have access - and I guess the co-ordinator of the Career Placement Training Program - know what's going on, really no one else does. If there is any need for public pressure, even to the point where if the Minister is anxious to achieve something that he finds his colleagues reluctant or not as aware, as attuned as he is then that kind of public pressure would be of some assistance in bringing that to their attention. So I would say that I think again that another useful initiative that could be taken on the part of the government would be the establishment of an advisory council. I don't see it as any too complicated a measure. I imagine that could be done quite simply and from what I gather the women's organizations are more than anxious to fill the positions and to get it initiated at a very low cost on a volunteer basis. I think that would be a very important symbolic step in demonstrating the intentions and I think general concern of all members of both sides of this House that the program accelerate its progress and provide for more measures.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, I have a final question in relation to this program. That is the Minister indicated that the directive that was issued when the press release or

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(MR. AXWORTHY cont'd) order-in-council, whoever it was, was passed suggested additional funding would be made available to provide for special programs or whatever would be required to do so. I wonder if the Minister could perhaps elaborate that a little bit more. I wasn't sure if he suggested that that additional funding was available for this year's Estimates or whether in fact each of the departments were supposed to lay down a plan of action that would carry with it an assessment of how much funds they would need for next year's Estimates. In effect, what we're looking for now is that each of these committees working in the departments is being requested to put forward a budget of whatever additional funds are required. Perhaps the Minister could indicate at this stage is there some time limit on that? When are these plans of action supposed to be prepared in each of the departments with budgets on them? Is there some timetable that has been set up to ensure that those additional programs would be operative by next year? Perhaps the Minister could comment on those questions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: I thank the member for his input, Mr. Speaker. One remark that he did make that intrigued me greatly, I don't know whether it was through inadvertence or not, his choice of phraseology which lended to me his support from what really and basically was what I had said about the setting up of the advisory councils in other jurisdictions, that it was a symbolic gesture. So if I can take his literal wording from my honourable friend that's exactly the position that I've taken, that as the Minister responsible I don't want that in Manitoba, any symbolic gesture in the setting up of an advisory council. We want to be able to do something that's really worthwhile.

Dealing with the matter of the additional . . .

MR. AXWORTHY: . . . clarify that remark. I didn't say symbolic gesture, I said it would be a symbolic demonstration of the intentions of the government to proceed with all action and it would provide a fairly strong visible demonstration.

MR. PAULLEY: Well, I don't know, I'm not going to argue with my friend on a play of words. To me the important part was that he said it was just symbolic, and as far as I'm concerned, symbolic has a connotation - well it's nice to look at, but in my opinion let's do something about it rather than it just be symbolic. My friend mentioned about the question of the program to bring about the basic principles involved with the equal work opportunities in the various departments and the funding of the same; the additional expenditures, will be applicable to the budget in the year 1977-1978 Estimates. The next fiscal year will be taken up with an assessment as to what can be done or should be done within the respective departments. In other words an assessment of what should be done to bring about more equal opportunities, and the department is already on stream in the initial stages to ascertain from each of the departments, what can you do? Or what can be done in your respective departments to achieve the desire of the government in bringing about equal employment opportunities? And if funding is required, or when funding is required, have a combination of this and when, then we will know for the Estimates of the next ensuing year after this one how much money will be required in order to achieve the desire. How much additional financial input will be necessary, say for instance, to have on our employment rolls a handicapped person whose physical capability of full work performance may be less than somebody else, how much will be required to carry that type of employment through? How much additional financing will be required for somebody who is educationally disadvantaged or hasn't had the opportunity of a comparable education? How much more will it cost because of the employment of that type of a person? So I think that answers the timing of the funding raised by the Honourable the Member for Fort Rouge. He made mention again of the decision of the Court of Appeals in respect of maternity leave, and that was of course in reference to the school teacher. I want to say that in accordance with our regulations, already we have a provision for the granting of maternity leave for all who require the same in the whole of the Civil Service, it's not just applicable to the non-professional but the professional as well. So at least in that area we are giving equal treatment to our - I guess it's safe enough to say - our pregnant employees, whether they're professionals or whether they're clerical staff. So at least maternity leave is applied across-the-board. I agree with my

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(MR. PAULLEY cont'd) honourable friend that we will have to take, and are taking, a very close look, taking a very close look as a result of the decision that was made the other day and as I announced in the House. I am also informed by my colleagues before me here that we even go beyond maternity leave, that we have paternity leave now, I believe one day in some cases, but where there's an adopted child coming into a family I believe it can be as high as ten days, or something along that general line, in order that the parents can become associated with their newly acquired offspring, particularly in the field of adoptions.

A member also mentioned the question of day care centres within the Civil Service: What are we doing, or are we doing anything about it? I can say, yes, we are making an assessment and one of the questionnaires I believe is being circulated within the Civil Services. If there were provisions for day care centres, would they be of assistance to you? Would you participate? And the need for them in general areas of the Civil Service. And, of course, I don't think I need to say to my honourable friend that in the whole area of the provision of day care centres that this government has done more than most governments in Canada, and certainly more than any other government ever has done in the Province of Manitoba.

Also in joint Council, where representatives of management and the employee representatives are in the process of setting up discussion groups for the purpose of ascertaining the need or the desirability of establishing day care centres, and I'm sure honourable members of the committee will realize these aren't facilities that can be established without a fair amount of financial involvement.

Another consideration that is being given within the Civil Service, which is really related to provision of day care centres, is consideration on behalf of the mothers, particularly single parents, and child care to ascertain how far we may be able to go in part-time employment. And I think this is important too, that if we can have an arrangement whereby a single parent would only be required or would come in for part-time employment, say, a half a day today and another half a day tomorrow, and some other single parent would take the other half of the day so that we have the advantages of a full day's employment insofar as input and requirements for the work production. If it can be done that way here is another avenue that is being surveyed at the present time to assist in the employment of more of those that may be - I don't use the word in its normal context - handicapped because of the requirements of provision for offspring.

So I think, Mr. Chairman, by and large in these general areas raised by the Honourable Member for Fort Rouge, we're not shattering the earth, we're not changing the colour of the moon, far be it from us even to indicate so, but we are very much aware of the problems that do exist in the Civil Service, and I'm sure that he would agree with me that it is not only in the Civil Service that we have these problems. It is our objective with the programs that have been announced by the department that we can put our own house in order and show a good example to private industry as to how they should function as well.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, the other day, Thursday, when the Minister introduced the Estimates for the Civil Service, he and I exchanged some views as to the state of the morale and content in the Civil Service, and also with respect to different philosophies as might be pursued by himself and myself, or by our respective parties, where the public service of a province is concerned. It's not my intention to get back into that area, but I would like to ask him a few specifics before we move off this item and try to proceed with the concluding stages of consideration of these Estimates.

There are some specifics that are troubling me, Mr. Chairman, and one of them is the new Careers Program. I am not certain but I'm assuming that the new Careers Program is carried out under the Civil Service through the Career Planning Branch. If I'm incorrect on that assumption, I'm sure the Minister will so advise me. If I'm correct, I would like to have an accounting from him as to what the new Careers Program essentially tries to do and to what degree he can assure this side of the House that it's successful, and that it does not result in waste of taxpayers' money and does not

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(MR. SHERMAN cont'd) result in programs that really are simply exercises in appearing to make the government look active in this particular area at public expense.

Some of the comments that have come to me about the new Careers Program have not been either flattering or reassuring, and I would appreciate the Minister's comments and instruction in this area. Just what is the New Careers Program aimed at doing, and how successful is it at doing it; or is it just a kind of a public relations exercise to make the government look good, look active in the area of trying to relocate and reassign persons in the public service, but in fact, an exercise which is not producing that result except superficially and that is resulting in unnecessary public expense?

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Chairman, I want to inform my honourable friend that the new Careers Program is based in the Ministry of Colleges and Universities and not within the Civil Service. So the detailed operation of the program I'm sure that my colleague the Minister of Colleges will be able to detail to a far greater depth than I.

But, notwithstanding that I would suggest to my honourable friend on behalf of the program itself that I will not support, or could not support the contention that it's a waste of money. I don't think that he used the phrase, "window dressing", but I want to assure him that, of course, it's costing money when one considers basically the background of the people involved in the new Careers Program. Here again we have a considerable number of those who have been historically disadvantaged by reasons of being from remote areas - I think it would be proper, ancestral background, and economic background and the likes of that - that haven't had the same advantage as others.

I will say, Mr. Chairman, that there is an involvement with the Civil Service and in the Civil Service because we are doing within the Civil Service with a reasonable number - I don't know offhand how many at the present time - a reasonable number of people who have come through the Career Training Program, at least for awhile, in that we are taking into the Civil Service for the purpose of further training of the students coming out of the Career Training Program of Colleges and Universities and having them involved in the Civil Service. We've been doing this now for a fair length of time, and that is one of the objectives, really, Mr. Chairman, that we have in our career planning process, that we can take graduates from the similarly named new Careers Program, have them involved in the Civil Service, and hopefully that with a culmination of the basic knowledge that they obtain in the Careers Program at the colleges and universities we'll augment that basic training within the Civil Service so that they can eventually take full part in the affairs and the production of what is required within the Civil Service.

So if my honourable friend feels that the new Careers Program is expensive, wasteful, I leave that assessment to him. All that I can say as one of the Ministers involved, after a spell in the new Careers Programs of individuals we are taking a number into the Civil Service to augment that training so that they can become more fully capable of reasonable production.

MR. SHERMAN: Well, Mr. Chairman, I raised a question as to whether it is a somewhat wasteful program in a fiscal sense. I'm not sure that it is, but I raise that question and I assume that I will have to explore it more fully on the Estimates of the Department of Colleges and Universities Affairs to make that determination. I appreciate what the Minister has said about the opportunities that are made available to Manitobans who perhaps have been disadvantaged in terms of achieving those opportunities in their own areas of the province, and if this goal is being achieved in an efficient and a productive way both for them and for the province and the community, well then the program is all to the good, but if it is a program which has been suggested to me is merely an exercise in public relations in some areas and results in the public service having to absorb additional staff that they would not otherwise normally absorb and thus increases the payroll of the public service, then I think that it is the duty and the responsibility of the Opposition to scrutinize that kind of an operation as closely as possible. If that can't be done under the Estimates of Civil Service, then I accept that, I'm prepared to do that on the Estimates of Department of Colleges and Universities Affairs.

Mr. Chairman, turning to another specific, I wonder if the Minister would be in a position without pinning him down to a precise one digit figure of telling us how many

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(MR. SHERMAN cont'd) contract employees there are in the MGEA; and approximately, once again without asking him to pin himself down to a one digit figure, how many such employees are there by department and by program and whether or not contract employees are included in the Civil Service Pension Plan. I know we haven't come to the Pension Plan on the Estimates yet, Sir, but the question is general and hopefully can be put to him under the resolution having to do with salaries.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: I hope, Mr. Chairman, that I got all of the questions from my honourable friend, the Member for Fort Garry. I believe the figure for the number of contract employees runs about 700. I want to say to my honourable friend they are not covered by the Manitoba Government Employees Agreement, in that they are no different than contract employees as I understand in any collective agreement at present registered with the Labour Board, because a contract is a contract that can be terminated at any time as I'm sure my honourable friend is well aware; they are not covered under the Civil Service Superannuation Fund because they are contract employees.

I am informed that there are about ten departments in total that have the majority of the 700 contract employees. I think for instance in my own Department of Labour there may be three or four which is a relatively insignificant number. In the Department of Northern Affairs, I think you would find that - I was going to say, and I thank my honourable colleague, the Member for Northern Affairs, originally there were a fair number in Northern Affairs when that department particularly was starting up and the situation now is they've probably been brought into the Civil Service on a full-time basis or their contracts have expired. But I would suggest that there is a constant turnover departmental-wise as to the number of contract employees involved.

I think that generally - I didn't quite, and I apologize, catch the last couple of questions of my honourable friend. I thought he mentioned something insofar as salaries, I'm not quite sure, but I think these are the prime questions that he asked.

If I could, Mr. Chairman, I would just like to go back for a moment to the observation of my honourable friend in respect of the New Careers' program. He mentioned something about it being more or less a dodge, or had a connotation of public relations. I would have to say to my honourable friend with all the vigor in my possession that this government doesn't carry on expensive programs, indeed I will admit the New Careers program is simply for the purpose of carrying on what one might term good public relations. It's fair game of course in the field of politics for government to be accused of this, and it might be, Mr. Chairman, that in some areas of government, even this very efficient government could be accused of it. But I would suggest, I would suggest it is not so, Mr. Chairman, in the field of new career development, because we are trying very hard in this particular field of activity to give people a chance to do things for themselves that they wouldn't have the chance if it wasn't for programs of the nature of the New Careers. I also want to indicate to my honourable friend that within the Civil Service, public service, we do not take people from the career programs simply so that they can be involved with them and so that it looks good; that little Mary Jane has graduated from a career program into the Civil Service and look what we've done for her, because we trust and hope that the Civil Service despite criticisms levied against it from time to time is a reasonably efficient operation. I felt that I had to make those remarks to my honourable friend so that there's no misunderstanding. The New Careers program is not a public relations' program per se, it's a program to help people help themselves. The input of the graduates from the career program into the Civil Service is acknowledgment of the basic training that they got and an opportunity for them to make further advancements.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 29(a). The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, just so there's no misunderstanding between the Minister and me, I am not being critical of the public relations function. There's nothing wrong with public relations, particularly if it's good public relations. But perhaps the Minister used the proper term which I didn't use in my original question; he used the term "window dressing", and perhaps that's the term I should have used rather

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(MR. SHERMAN cont'd) than public relations. I should have asked him whether the program was window dressing, because certainly - and he's answered it. But I want to make the point clear that I am not suggesting that this government any less than any other government or any less than any other public agency has no right to engage in legitimate public relations, but if it were a matter of window dressing - and I defer to the Minister in the choice of term because it's far more accurate with respect to what I'm trying to say - then I think in a period of so-called economic restraint it becomes a questionable kind of an exercise. I appreciate what the Minister has said about it, however, and also the fact that the essential questioning on the topic should probably come under the Department of Colleges and Universities Affairs and I'll pursue it at that point. I do so, I want to say, Mr. Chairman, because I have had my attention drawn to it and I believe that the First Minister has had his attention drawn to some criticisms with respect to the program. Perhaps they're not valid but they have been levied with the First Minister. I happen to know that because of the fact that the criticisms were sent to him with copies sent to some of my own colleagues. So it's no secret that some of us have been asked to examine the validity and the legitimacy and the viability of this program, and that's my reason for having raised it with the Minister.

On the point having to do with my questions with respect to the MGEA and the contract employees, Mr. Chairman, the Minister did answer most of the questions that I asked him. He anticipated one that I didn't ask him. I don't believe I asked him about wage categories or salaries because I thought it was probably an impossible question for him to answer in this context and should better be put in an Order for Return. But if he's in a position to do so, one of the questions that I did intend to ask him about it was while asking him if he could shed some light on the number of contract employees there are by department and by shared program, could he also shed some light on the wage categories, wage levels that the majority of these contract employees enjoy? If he can do so, then that certainly was the question that I intended to ask him; I don't recall that I did, but he obviously anticipated me, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Chairman, my honourable colleague before we're finished tonight, will call me the great anticipator.

I'd be more than happy to produce figures by way of an Order for Return if that is the desire of the honourable gentleman, because of course we can't hide figures and the payments that are made to individuals. But I would say that all of our contracts first of all go through a process of assessment with Planning and Priorities Committee as to the contract provisions, and then in co-operation with Planning and Priorities Committee and Management Committee, a cost figure is arrived at. The involvement that I have had as a member of the Treasury Branch - and of course my friend would appreciate that being one of the responsibilities of a Cabinet Minister, to look into prices paid for work functions. I think I can pretty well assure my honourable friend that any price arrived at in a contract is comparable to similar jobs that are paid for within the Civil Service and in private industry generally as well.

I don't think it could be established that there were any real posh contracts that were out of line with what would be paid for similar work performed in private industry or by other groups of employers. If my honourable friend will take that in the manner in which I give it to him as to my knowledgability in the process of assessment, if he would accept that, okay, but if he wants more definitive information, then I suggest an Order for Return.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 29(a): The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. PATRICK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a couple of questions. I asked a series of questions on Friday and made my remarks then. I know the Minister started to answer some of them in reply and I guess somewhere he got sidetracked since that time and perhaps didn't get an opportunity to answer all of them.

I raised such issues as setting up a grievance board as was requested by MGEA, I don't believe the Minister has touched on that area, and there was some other questions that I had raised to him at the same time.--(Interjections)--Well one is that perhaps

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(MR. PATRICK cont'd) he can give us some idea of - I asked him if it was feasible to set up a grievance board because they have requested that now on several occasions and I couldn't see any difficulties that this would cause to the government or to the Minister. In fact I believe it would perhaps help to resolve some of the minor problems that they're talking about in their brief. I know also before the Labour Relations Committee they've talked about - with regards to appointments and promotions that they were quite concerned about, and they felt that some of these are based on seniority and not on determined merit through competitive exams or however way it's done. Those were some real problems as far as they were concerned and they raised this question quite extensively and so perhaps the Minister can give us his expertise and see if this could not be accomplished.

I asked the Minister also several questions in respect to contract employees and I didn't hear if he answered fully. My question is how many people there are - if it was answered, then it's fine. I know last year there were around 1,000 employees which was quite high; this year I see it's reduced, it's 700. So that was another concern that I know know the MGEA had about contract employees that they had no jurisdiction over.

The point that I wish to ask the Minister about, the temporary appointments that's shown in the report. Does that mean the summer employment? The Minister did not answer that Friday. Because it is quite substantial, there's almost 6,000 people. If it's the program that we've been requesting the department to do, to take on extra help during the summer, or program their work within the department so they can take extra employees particularly students, university and high school students; if that's what it is, I have no argument, Mr. Chairman, no argument with that at all. But if it isn't, if that's not what it is, then I am concerned. As well I'm concerned with another factor, that there were 3,400 and fifty some resignations. Is that from the permanent employment of Civil Service, from the permanent number, or does it also include these temporary employees? If it's the permanent Civil Service of 13,000 and we're getting 3,000 resignations each year, I think there's something wrong, it's quite a substantial number. But if the whole Civil Service is shown, including the temporary, then I wouldn't be concerned. So that's the questions that I have.

The other point is, the Minister has indicated that there were 2,100 promotions, and this holds well for the Civil Service if we're talking about the permanent staff. I think it's a good indication, and I would be satisfied. The only other thing is, my colleague has mentioned it and I mentioned it on Friday and asked the Minister, that I was quite concerned that there were only 28 out of some 13,000 civil servants who asked for educational leave or had an educational leave. The thing that concerns me is if the Minister's really concerned about having a very able, and capable and good Civil Service, surely many of his people, out of 13,000, there must be some that would be requiring further education and some sabbatical leaves to further them, that's the only way that the Minister will build a very capable and able Civil Service and good staff; if they have no opportunity for any educational leave then there will be great difficulty for many of them to upgrade themselves. There are some that probably the Minister would like to see in certain fields that are very capable and could have expertise in certain areas, that he would like those people to upgrade themselves, and with what the report indicates there's probably no such program within the Civil Service Department. Perhaps the Minister can look in that area.

These are some of the points that I've raised the other day. I don't know how many others I raised, but I'm sure maybe the Minister has some, but the point that I would like him to also answer is if the promotions and transfers are determined on merit after they write their exams or are they determined on the many years they've been employed on a seniority basis.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: First of all, Mr. Chairman, as you are aware, a number of the questions posed by the Honourable Member for Assiniboia were replied to prior to tonight, but I think in all due respect to my honourable friend I should refer to one or two of them.

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(MR. PAULLEY cont'd)

First of all, insofar as the grievance board is concerned, during negotiations last year we had quite a thorough round of discussions on the setting up of grievance boards somewhat similar to those in private industry; it was agreed that we would pursue that and possibly during the negotiations about to commence that there may be some finality as to a due process. Of course, Mr. Chairman, we have in essence a grievance, a procedure contained within the Civil Service Act at the present time, where if an employee feels aggrieved of treatment by a supervisor the grievance can be taken up in the first instance to I believe to the Deputy Minister, the Director of the Department, and then to the Deputy Minister; and then if the grievance isn't resolved there of course that's why we have Mr. Duncan and the Civil Service Commission. So the provisions are there but they are not exactly the same, or in some cases not even similar to normal grievance procedures in industry where you have stage one, stage two, stage three boards of arbitration and the likes of that precisely with grievances. However there is a semblance now and it is a matter that we are in agreement, will be pursued in the future.

My honourable friend mentioned the question of promotion. Promotions are generally conducted in the Civil Service as they are externally, based principally on merit. There is provision in the Civil Service Act where it should be based on the basis of merit, seniority should be taken into consideration, and there's a third one insofar as employment is concerned. I question whether it is any longer valid being a veteran of the First or Second or Crimean War. But there is a basis. My honourable friend is perfectly correct when he indicates that there is a fair amount of discontent within the employees from time to time because Joe Blow got promoted and I didn't, and I'm sure that in the industry that my honourable friend is connected with he has given some better jobs to some of his employees who may not have been around quite as long as some others, and of course somebody's nose is out of joint; and it's no different I say to you in the Civil Service as it is in private industry and it's one of those things that you have from time to time, but we do try. I will say that as far as the departments are concerned, although I'm not directly involved, Mr. Chairman, with the internal functions of the departments in this area unless there are complaints, I would say that by and large the departments are fairly reasonable.

My honourable friend asked the reason - he mentioned about contract employees, I mentioned there were about 700 dispersed around the various departments - why the increase in temporary employment in 1975? Actually it was an increase of about 200 over the previous year, the total number of appointments about 5,975. The figure includes about 1,500 summer students, many of whom were able to continue their education because of these jobs. I think in this particular area of student employment, Manitoba is to the forefront right across the country in providing jobs for summer students.

My honourable friend mentioned the question of educational leave, why so few, 29 as compared with 39 the year before. The fact of the matter is, as I indicated to the Honourable Member for Fort Garry and also I believe to the Member for Fort Rouge, is because we are expanding our internal training program through the Civil Service into the various departments to obviate the necessity of educational leave externally. We find it's more conducive to the education of our own employees and less costly to the public.

My honourable friend did mention the other day and posed the question about the current low morale in the Civil Service, and I just pose this question to him: How then can it be explained as a fact that there were almost 500 fewer resignations in 1975 than there were in 1974? The accusation is made as if the morale of the Civil Service is deteriorating, it's getting worse, and yet there were 500 less resignations in '75 over '74, I don't know what the indicator is at the present time. My friend quite properly raises the question as to the statistically large number of separations and resignations in the public service even though there were less in '75 than '74, but this is historic in the Civil Service for some reason or other - what's it running at? About 9 to 10 percent - and this is an ongoing thing. I think a lot of students come out of school, come into the Civil Service, they're here for a little while and then go into other jobs or get married.

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(MR. PAULLEY cont'd) I guess we're a very attractive employer for young girls of 16 and 17 and 18 who have their eye on somebody else who is working in the Civil Service, and then in due course two becomes one, or one leaves the Civil Service. I think that is one of the reasons for the turnover. But I doubt it very much whether the situation has deteriorated to any considerable degree, and as I indicated a lesser number of 500 for '75 over what there was in '74. To me, that doesn't smack of low morale, because our employment level has remained fairly static over those two years.

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Chairman, I don't think I made that accusation that morale was low. I said that there may be problems and there's some ripples within the Civil Service, and I said if the Minister can approach it with some sincerity and enough confrontation perhaps we can resolve the small problems that there are in the Civil Service.

I just have one more question this time. Can the Minister indicate to me, because I've just had a couple of letters and I haven't checked on it, I know we had amendments to the Superannuation Act - the disability pension, is it after 10 years service or is it after 15 years' service in Manitoba, because it used to be, unless we've amended the Act and it's 10, but it used to be 15 at one time. Has it been amended, that's what I'm asking?

MR. PAULLEY: Yes, Mr. Chairman, in this area of very progressive government, it's 10.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 29(a). The Honourable Member for Crescentwood.

MR. WARREN STEEN (Crescentwood): Mr. Chairman, I have a few short questions for the Minister.

In his Estimates there, under Civil Service Commission, it shows for the year 1977, 508,700--(Interjection)--for the coming year ending in '77. The year ending March '76 has 456,600; for the next year it shows 508,700. Right? Down in the description it says, about the tail end of the second line, it says: "provides advice regarding employment opportunities to the public." Then I go to page 5 of the Civil Service Commission, Administration of Civil Service Act report; he talks about, and it mentions in there, 351 classified ads were I guess purchased, and 768 display ads, then it goes on to say that there were 1,538 job applicants' applications bulletins I guess, and that must mean through the Civil Service. Could he give me some indication of what type of money the province is spending in the way of classified ads and display ads? How much of that 508,000 for the year coming, or the 456 is being spent in the way of advertising for Civil Servants? Can I go on and ask a series of questions or would you prefer me to sit down after each and every one.--(Interjection)--I have four. All right, that is Question One.

The second question I'd like to know is, that for the forthcoming year he is showing a decrease in the budget for salaries under 29(a), it's a very slight decrease, but is that because you're having a reduction in staff? I surely wouldn't expect that you're paying people less.

My third question is, that in the description that I mentioned and referred to earlier, it says the Career Planning Branch is responsible for design implementation and so on; yet under 29(c) for this past year there shows nothing under that particular item, Career Planning, and for this coming year he's got 61,000 in Salaries under (1) and under (2) Other Expenditures, 8,000. Perhaps he was answering this question when I came into the Chamber this evening, is this a new Career Department or is this one that's replacing one that you had before that is referred to in the print above? That is Question Three.

Question Four is referred to you, Mr. Minister, by the Member for Assiniboia, speaking of resignations. He mentioned I believe the figure 3,456 which you said was less than the previous year, which is a good sign and I'm pleased to hear that. And I believe I heard you say that is about a 10 percent turnover within the Civil Service. Does that mean that you've got 34,000 Civil Servants? Because I would think that that would mean a turnover of somewhere in the neighbourhood of about 30 percent or 25 percent, in that area. Those are the four points that I'd like cleared up.

MR. PAULLEY: Maybe it would be better for me to clear up the last one first, Mr. Chairman. When we talk about resignations, it's in total; it isn't related to the

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(MR. PAULLEY cont'd) total Civil Service, which is approximately 13,000. When we take the figure of the--(Interjection)--No, no. This is just the Civil Service under the responsibility of this Minister. But anyone who resigns, be they here for a month or two months, is considered as a resignation, but the total staff level remains between 12,000 and 13,000. So it would be improper really to say that the 3,900 represents about 30 percent, taking that into consideration. So on average it has been considered, and that's why I used the figure between 8 and 10 percent, trying to relate a level throughout the year, if I make myself clear to my honourable friend.

Now then, I'm informed that the cost of advertising referred to by my honourable friend is contained in Other Expenditures. There's about \$10,000 related for advertising directly to the Civil Service, and then there's departmental classified display advertising for the Civil Service or on behalf of the Civil Service - it goes through the Civil Service, let me put it that way, because every advertisement relates to applications going to the Civil Service. In total it amounts to about \$60,000 for advertising in the year.

The Honourable Member for Crescentwood, Mr. Chairman, due to attention in the Estimates a lesser amount for salaries in appropriation 1(a). It's a reduction of around about \$4,000.00. The reason for that is--(Interjection)--Yes, I appreciate that. The reason for that is that part of the \$61,000 for Career Planning involves a young lady who is the co-ordinator of Career Planning who for a portion of the year was in the \$387,000 referred to last year and that went in, or goes into the new Career Planning. And the reason for the (c) item of the about 61,000 is because of the people - my honourable friend was not here, I referred to them - of the new staff that we have in Career Planning for the next fiscal year that were not in the Civil Service in the year that's just finishing off.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Crescentwood.

MR. STEEN: One further question on that same point, Mr. Chairman, through you to the Minister. The Career Planning Branch which you had in existence in the past, now you have a Career Planning section, if I understood you correctly, for new employees, so that these two will be sort of operated separately and that's why they're shown in your Estimates in two separate places?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: No, Mr. Chairman, because if my honourable friend takes a look at the total Estimates, last year the total Estimates for this appropriation (1) was about, let us say, \$337,000, going up to 508,000, reflects a new venture or a new program of Career Planning. If my honourable friend follows what I'm trying to get at. So we didn't have the establishment, or haven't got it precisely in this area, with the exception of the director, or co-ordinator as we call her, in Career Planning at the present time. But her coming out of the general operation of the Civil Service reflects the \$4,000 reduction in the actual operation of the Civil Service per se, with the exclusion of the Career Planning. That \$4,000 we'll find in the \$61,000 in Career Planning because of the transfer of that position into the new Career Planning area.

MR. STEEN: The reason, Mr. Chairman, through you to the Minister, I was asking is that your Estimates are up \$52,000 in the top bracket from 456,600 to 508,700, and yet you've got a new item down below and one is up 52,000, and then you've got a new item Salaries 61 and Other Expenditures of 8, which gives you 69, so you're up over 100,000, and that's why my concern about the Career Planning. Well maybe I don't . . .

MR. PAULLEY: We're only up about 50 because you pointed out there that on Salaries (a) we're down by about \$4,000, and that's where you were happy, because you saw that reduction it made you happy. Now the figures are such that you're unhappy because it reflects an increase.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 29(a). The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, we've been moving along fairly placidly this evening and just before we wind up consideration of this particular resolution and before we establish a dangerous precedent here, I want to just revert to one subject that has been debated at length in the last few days on these Estimates, and to which oblique reference was made a few moments ago when the Minister was responding to questions posed by the

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(MR. SHERMAN cont'd) Honourable Member for Assiniboia, and the question of morale in the Civil Service was again referred to. I know the Minister is of the opinion that there is no difficulty in the area of morale and I know that he knows that I believe there is, and my colleagues believe there is, and that further that there seemed to be some support for that position expressed, or at least reported to have been expressed by the President of the MGEA the other day in the local newspapers. Now it's possible that Mr. Ridgeway was misquoted. It's also possible that what he had to say was foreshortened but certainly what I took out of the remarks that were reported and carried in the newspapers was the sentiment that he essentially was agreeing with what members on this side of the House had said and that is, that there is a morale problem, there is anxiety, there is uncertainty and discontent. I think that in a large part it may stem from the grievance situation with which the Association demonstrably is unhappy. They have raised the question before the Industrial Relations Committee; they've raised it on frequent occasions in their bargaining procedures with the government; they've raised it formally and informally in discussion and conversation, and the Member for Assiniboia has referred to it, and I asked the Minister about it or made reference to it when we first opened consideration of these Estimates last Thursday.

The matter of grievance, the matter of appeal against decisions in the area of promotions, transfers, appointments, and that type of thing, and just where and how does the member or the MGEA, where and how does the Manitoba civil servant go to obtain the kind of appeal hearing that he or she would like to receive when they consider that they have a legitimate grievance. There is evidence in the 58th Annual Report of the Commission and the administration of the Civil Service Act for the year ending December 31st, 1975, which is in possession of all members of this House, that appeals are piling upon appeals now in the Civil Service, that there have been many more than lodged in the past twelve month period than was the situation in the immediately preceding twelve month period, that many of them have been disposed of in a manner that I would think would have been unsatisfactory where the appellant was concerned because a great many of them have been denied.

So there is certainly something here that is troubling the Civil Service of our province. They are not finding available to them the open unfettered avenue of appeal and grievance procedure that they feel they're entitled to, and that I think many of us would agree they're entitled to. They're not getting the hearings that they believe they should get, and that I think many of us believe that they should get. But notwithstanding that, why do they want those hearings in the first place, why are they making those appeals in the first place? Why are there many more appeals being lodged at the present time than was the case a year previous? There must be a level of discontent, of uncertainty in the Civil Service that is giving rise to this sort of thing. As I've suggested the comments reported the other day of the President would seem to bear that out.

So I think, Sir, without attempting to belabour the point or delay the Estimates on this resolution, and I sincerely don't intend to be doing that, I am still concerned though that there is that kind of a morale problem, that there is that kind of an under-current of concern and discontent that this government is either not getting at or not appreciating, or simply not recognizing, simply refusing to acknowledge. I would like to leave that challenge with the Minister to respond to or to ignore as he sees fit. But this is my feeling and I wanted to express it again for the record because it had come up in oblique reference a few minutes ago, as I say, and the impression left at that time I think was that the morale problem was not bad, was not of a serious nature, did not deserve any more examination than it had already been given. I don't want to leave that impression on the record, I think that it is serious, I think it does deserve much more attention, and I think the Minister faces a pretty substantial challenge there.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: I don't know, Mr. Chairman, whether the Minister is bragging or not but he never evades a challenge, and I have no intention of evading any challenge at the present time from any of my friends in this Committee.

There is no question of doubt that statistically there was almost, or a little better than double of the number of appeals entered into in 1975, over 1974. There's no doubt.

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(MR. PAULLEY cont'd) The figures show it for themselves that that was the case.

My honourable friend however at one stage in debate when we were talking of morale - it was not he, it was the Member for Lakeside this afternoon was talking about the militancy of the Civil Service. He referred back to a couple of years ago when there was demonstrations galore on the steps, although he didn't refer precisely to the demonstration, but the fact that there were demonstrations. The Honourable Member for Lakeside mentioned that at that particular time it appeared as though there could be an invasion into the right of representation by CUPE as against the Manitoba Government Employees Association. I suggest, and I'm not trying to duck the issue at all but trying to face it realistically, that that to me is evidence of a change of approach and involvement of the Employee Association. Why is it, Mr. Chairman, and it's not an aside, but it's the situation that's on us today, why are there more strikes in industry now than there was, say, two or three years ago. I suggest it's because of a greater militancy of the employees, a greater desire to be heard. I think that was very evident today with what happened on Parliament Hill, where my honourable friend once sat. And this is universal. Now I'm not suggesting when I say that that the Manitoba Government Employees Association is wont to strike or to cause upheavals, but I think that it can be said with reasonable justification that one of the reasons for the increases in appeals is a change in attitude of the employees, not only in the Civil Service but in industry as a whole. And I really don't think I need tell you, Mr. Chairman, that as Minister of Labour as against the Minister responsible for the Civil Service I am finding this more evident every day.

There's another factor. There's another factor that I think accounts for the increase in the number of appeals, that there is a recognition that appeals will be heard to a greater degree now than ever before. And they are being heard. So I think that in all fairness, that we have to take these factors into consideration. We only had 80 appeals in '74, 170 in '75. And there is no question of doubt in my mind that the members of the Civil Service haven't really changed all that much insofar as morale is concerned on an individual basis but they feel now possibly as the confrontations that existed two years ago, and what were referred to by the Member for Lakeside, with other organizations, that in order to show their worth and to earn their salt - and I'm thinking primarily of the organization itself now - more appeals must be made to the appeal body, the Civil Service Commission under the Chairmanship of Chris Hubert. I think that goes a long way to answering the points raised by my honourable friend from Fort Garry.

His questions are quite legitimate and statistically right and true. But I think, Mr. Chairman, that just taking a look at the figures themselves is not sufficient. We have to take into consideration attitudes that are prevailing today which were not prevailing before. There's another factor too, and another factor too that I suggest could conceivably be as a reason for appeals, is that within the departments themselves the directors of the departments are informing their employees to a greater degree than ever before of their rights of appeal of decisions and the employee is taking that course, and I for one would not fault them at all. Because we have said, and I have said, and I'm not trying to brag about this at all, I have said, as a matter of fact I have issued guidelines to directors of personnel, under no circumstances will we tolerate dictatorial attitudes to employees by superiors and it is an onus on the employing authority, which are the Ministers, the Deputy Ministers and others, it is an onus on the responsibility of the employing authority to let the employees know what their rights are. Now fault me, after having been Minister responsible for the Civil Service since 1969, when we became government, fault me for not having done that before, but I am sure that one of the answers at least to my honourable friend is the fact that the employees are more knowledgeable of their right to appeal than they ever were before; and secondly, that the employees of the government in the public service are basically no different than employees generally, not only across the province, the nation, but the whole industrial world. I don't know if I've satisfied my honourable friend or not. I only attempt in reply to him without rancour to try and indicate what I feel can be, and is, an answer to the very important point that he raised insofar as comparative statistics are concerned.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 29(a)--pass; 29(b) Other Expenditures--pass; (c) Career Planning, Salaries (1)--pass; Other Expenditures (2)--pass. Resolution 29, resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$508,700 for Civil

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(MR. CHAIRMAN cont'd) Service--pass. Resolution 30, Civil Service Benefit Plans, Civil Service Superannuation Act, \$2,150,000--pass. The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Just one question on this item, Mr. Chairman. In the 36th Annual Report of the Manitoba Civil Service Superannuation Fund on page 14, which is the last printed page in the report, the statistics are given on payments and contributions under the Civil Service Superannuation Fund for the year ended December 31, 1974; the employers' payments and contributions are shown at \$2.3 million, the employees' payments and contributions are shown at \$11 million plus a fraction, for a total in the fund of \$13.4 million. I'm sure that there is a reasonable statistical explanation, but to the unpracticed eye, Mr. Chairman, it would appear that there is a pretty substantial discrepancy between the sum that has been contributed by the employees which totals in excess of \$11 million, and the sum which has been contributed to date by the employers which totals just \$2.3 million. Now I'd appreciate the Minister's explanation on that point.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Chairman, the reason for the difference in the figures is, that under the setup of the Civil Service Superannuation Fund the employer contribution just comes into effect on retirement of the employee. I have the General Manager, Mr. Worosz, coming in now, and he can correct me if I'm wrong. The figure of the employers' payments and contributions, the two million three, represents the expenditure by government for outlay for pensions. Is that correct?--(Interjection)--That represents, Mr. Chairman, I think I was pretty well on track, that represents half of the pension which is paid by the employer, or the Province of Manitoba, on retirement, the other half comes out of the employees' contributions; and the difference is that the employees' amount is related to the percentage of earnings each year, whereas the employers' share is a guarantee for the life of the pension. I believe that's correct.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 30(a). The Honourable Member for Crescentwood.

MR. STEEN: I think, Mr. Chairman, what the Minister was trying to refer to is what we in the private pension business refer to as Money Purchase Pension Plan, meaning that the employer puts in the contribution when it's needed at the end of the life span and that the figure of 2.3 million is likely the figure that is required to look after the pensions that are going to be paid out in this calendar or fiscal year. The employee pays a regular amount all the way through his career, but management only puts in their dollars when they have to face up to the pension to be paid out, and that is called in the private world as the Money Purchased Pension Plan which in my opinion, for a government, is smart pension purchasing. I think that's what you were trying to get across. Am I correct? Can I carry on and ask a few questions? Under Item 30, Civil Service Pension Benefit Plans, I noticed that under (a) Civil Service Superannuation Act, that the increase this year is up approximately 30 percent, or half-a-million dollars. Maybe the Minister can answer that. Is this because of more people reaching retirement age, therefore the government has greater input? And under (b) the Canada Pension Plan, the amount is up substantially, about 25 percent, and this could be tied in with (a) if you have more people reaching retirement age in this coming year than you have in the past. Maybe the Minister might want to comment on (a) and (b).

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: The answer is, Mr. Chairman - and I appreciate my adviser, I'm sure my honourable friend the Member for Crescentwood will realize that they may not have without assistance all of the answers - parts of the increase of about a half-a-million dollars are in the relative figures due to salary basis on which the 6 percent employee contribution is arrived at, plus the fact that last year we had an increased number of early retirements which reflects that as well, if that answer my honourable friends basic question on (a).--(Interjection)--Yes, basically it would be the same although I believe that there was some adjustment made in the Canada Pension contributions, were there not? The ceiling was increased which results in the increased figure, so on that one I'm informed that I was correct.

MR. STEEN: Mr. Chairman, under item (c) Civil Service Group Insurance, am

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(MR. STEEN cont'd) I correct, Mr. Minister, in assuming that the group insurance is carried by a private carrier, it's not self insurance? And if so, with a rate increase or a contribution on behalf of the employer going from 400,000 to 600,000, does that come within the guidelines?

MR. PAULLEY: The Group Insurance first of all is carried by a private corporation, I believe it's Canada Life if memory serves me correctly, is that right? Canada life. One of the reasons for the increase is that a new deal was negotiated for increased benefits for Civil Service I believe last Spring which will have a reflection on the cost of the next ensuing year. And I may say if memory also serves me correctly, in the contract it was entered into with Canada Life there is a clause there whereby we can have a reassessment in a shorter period than the three years that prevailed before.

MR. STEEN: Therefore Mr. Chairman, the sharp increase is not because their rates jumped, it's because the benefit package that they're providing you has been enhanced. Their benefits package has been enhanced, that's why the great increase, it's not that their rates all of a sudden jumped, and therefore I wondered if it would meet the guidelines set by the new Federal Government Price and Wage Control thing.

MR. PAULLEY: First of all, I would say to my honourable friend the contract was entered into before the new guidelines were brought into effect, that is, even before Thanksgiving Day. The rates chargeable by the insurer were reduced; the rates were reduced, but the value to the beneficiary was increased. Also, whereas previously I believe the maximum that anyone could be entitled to receive life insurance for was twice their annual income, it is now three times, with a relative increase of course in premiums. But in essence the rates went down, the coverage increased, with a maximum of 50,000.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please. We're dealing with the Civil Service Superannuation Act, and according to our rules we're supposed to keep down to the item and--(Interjection)--Well, I haven't passed (a) yet, can I pass (a) Civil Service Superannuation Act?

MR. STEEN: My apology, Mr. Chairman, I thought we could go through the whole five items and get it over with.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (a)--pass; (b) the Canada Pension Plan--pass. The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Chairman, can the Minister explain - on the Canada Pension Plan there was 2.5 million last year as compared to 3.4 which is a substantial increase, and I'm sure there must be a reason for it. Can the Minister explain?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: Yes. Mr. Chairman, I explained it to the Honourable Member for Crescentwood, but I will repeat it for my honourable friend whom I admire very very much, that due to action at the federal level the ceiling on contributions to the Canada Pension Plan was increased which resulted in the requirement of a greater provision in the Estimates for next year.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (b)--pass; (c)--pass; (d) Workers' Compensation Board--pass; Unemployment Insurance Plan, the government share . . . The Honourable Member for Crescentwood.

MR. STEEN: Just one short question to the Minister, Mr. Chairman. The sharp increase in the Unemployment Insurance Plan costs to the government, does the same answer apply to it as it did in the Canada Pension Plan; that the benefits scale has been increased, therefore the premiums have increased, therefore management or the employer's portion is away up as well.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: Yes, Mr. Chairman, my Honourable Friend from Crescentwood is quite correct, there were adjustments made insofar as Unemployment Insurance, greater coverage to the employee with a subsequent increase in payments by the employee and the employer, and that is reflected in the increase of - oh, it's just over a million dollars. It's some considerable sum, but that is what is reflected in the increase.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 30(e)--pass. Resolution 30, resolved that there be

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(MR. CHAIRMAN cont'd) granted to Her Majesty the sum not exceeding \$11,195,300 to Civil Service--pass. That completes the department. Committee rise.

Mr. Speaker, your Committee of Supply has considered certain resolutions, reports progress, and asks leave to sit again.

IN SESSION

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Ste. Rose.

MR. A. R. (Pete) ADAM (Ste. Rose): Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Member for Thompson that the report of the committee be received.

MOTION presented and carried.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Honourable House Leader.

MR. GREEN: Well, Mr. Speaker, I'm just waiting for the other Committee to finalize their work. I don't know if you are in the habit of receiving another report from them, or--(Interjection)--well then I think you can adjourn the House. I would call it ten o'clock.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hour of adjournment having arrived, the House is adjourned and will stand adjourned until 2:30 p.m. tomorrow afternoon. (Tuesday).

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MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. We have a quorum gentlemen. The committee will come to order. I would refer members to Page 16 in their Estimates Book, Consumer, Corporate and Internal Services. Resolution 36(a)(1). The Honourable Member for Wolseley.

MR. WILSON: Mr. Chairman, I wondered if under this section you could direct me, I realize it probably should have been under the Minister's compensation and we should come back to it except the remarks that I have to say basically do cover - well it's called Consumer, Corporate and Internal Services, and I feel under this section that I really gave it some thought pertaining to this particular section, but also encompassing the whole responsibility of which the Minister is responsible for. And I couldn't help but start thinking of when this department first came into being under probably our administration and since the Minister has taken over, where we are going in this department, and I had wanted the Minister to . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. TURNBULL: Mr. Chairman, I wouldn't want the member to get off the track here. This administration was set up under this government, not under the previous one. That's the point you're making.

MR. WILSON: Well, yes and I'm glad you said that because this is exactly my point. What I was saying is that it seems that having watched television Sunday night and having thought about it all weekend, I've come to the conclusion that I think that this particular department was a luxury of good times. And I think now that we've fallen on hard times and a time of restraint, I think it's incumbent upon this government to turn around and look with the advent of legal aid, and with the advent of a number of situations, that maybe this department has outgrown its usefulness in some areas and should be severely curtailed. And I think particularly in the area, when I think of watching how the hospitals are closing and how education suffers, we foolishly seem to spend, and I've got the figures here, you can correct me if I'm wrong, it says 6.8 million . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. Order please. Would the honourable member direct his remarks to the Resolution, 36 Consumers' Bureau. If he has remarks to make on the department in general he can make them when we come back to the Minister's Salary at the end.

MR. WILSON: Fine. Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Mines.

MR. GREEN: On a point of order. It's in Ontario that the hospitals are closing. There's no hospitals closed in the Province of Manitoba. I thought we were discussing our Estimates.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Wolseley.

MR. WILSON: I am - in correction, Mr. Chairman, I'm talking about the fact that I feel sincerely, I feel that this department has to be curtailed in light of the times that we're in. However, I will stick to the Consumers' Bureau.

Under the Consumer Protection Act - I didn't get the answer from you the other day whether we could talk about the entire structure of this particular department which came under these three sections which was not the legal interpretation, but possibly the interpretation as to how I see the department, and whether we are indeed getting value for our money under Salaries, 490,000, and under Expenditures for a total of whatever, 655,900. I referred in specific to letters that I've received in . . . to Mrs. Gillies' article in the paper where we talked about warranties and things under the Consumer Protection Act, and particularly when I brought out questions about how all these Acts that have been put through seem to be of a very vague nature and subject to the interpretation of civil servants. I wondered, as one of the Ministers pointed out today, whether we're getting the advice that we need in some of these sections because obviously there's many vague terms in them.

I wanted to particularly point out that I notice that the Minister under what we could call The Landlord and Tenant Act, had in the provisions of the 1970 bill, before my time, in Bill 139, under Section 121 of the Rent Review Process, had actually in that particular Act allowed for complaints under the Landlord and Tenant Act, and especially under rental increases and that, he made provisions so that he could deal

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(MR. WILSON cont'd)with them. And here he has been for two years, as people have been complaining under the Landlord and Tenant Act and under other things about how rents are going up, and here under Section 121 there's a provision for him to deal with the complaints and he never dealt with them. Now he's come forward with another bill called Bill 19, which is I agree tremendously different, but the solution to rental increases was written right into this Bill 139. And that again, I'm pointing out to the Minister, I feel is a particular problem for him to deal with.

Under the Personal Investigations Act I notice that a person cannot --(Interjection)-- Well that was the area, of course, where you wouldn't allow me to deal with the two together. Personal investigations was reports that came in under your name, whereas the Personal Investigations Act, that Chapter was P33, but under the Personal Investigations Act, which was 55, Bill 61, I couldn't deal with those two together because it was felt that they were irrelevant, but I say that they very much fall upon one another. And again I point to obviously the ambiguity of these particular Acts in which the government seems to be the godfather in the case and tells a person that he cannot be a private investigator as well as doing other occupations. And I question as to the right of government to tell people how they can make a living.

And with that, Mr. Chairman, I'm going to leave it because most of my remarks are under the entire umbrella. I do feel that this particular department has served its usefulness in affluent times and now that we're on hard times we should look at cutting it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 36. The Honourable Minister.

MR. TURNBULL: Mr. Chairman, really I find it incredible that any member of the Legislature who has a responsible position to fill in the political system of the society can regard legislation which is designed to protect the ordinary person in the matter of certain consumer transactions, to be legislation that is not serving a worthwhile purpose. Every day the Consumers' Bureau deals with complaints, with problems that consumers have, that ordinary wage earners have in the marketplace, and to suggest that they are not getting well served by this administration, I think is just ridiculous.

The ludicrousness of the remarks just made really I can focus on by referring to the remarks the member made with regard to Section 121 of the Landlord and Tenant Act. That section, Mr. Chairman, contains no provision, no legal statutory provision for the control of rent increases. What it does provide for is a rather ineffective review of the rental situation. In other words, what it does allow is for the office of the Rentalsman to request of landlords that they provide certain information with regard to rents. That's all that's provided there although it could have been used, it was in fact in practice used by me as early as May 1974 when I asked various landlords in the city, in the province, to come in and provide certain information. What that provision provides for can be achieved without the invocation of the actual section. And I think that with regard to his reference to Bill 19, that Bill 19 deals with an incipient and existing problem in the marketplace with regard to rental accommodations, and goes much much further and provides the government with much stronger statutory provisions than Section 121 of the Landlord and Tenant Act ever did.

I think that if one can cite various remarks that have been made to me, there are letters that I have received from people in the community, both consumers, and businessmen, to the effect that the office of the Rentalsman and the staff there and the office of the Consumers' Bureau and the staff there have in fact done an excellent job. I think if you'll check with members in the business community you'll find that many of them do agree.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Wolseley.

MR. WILSON: I'd like to respond to that, first of all, by saying that this chapter in . . . says, "The Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council may make regulations, rules, procedures and guidelines." That seems to me very clear, I'll leave it at that, it's past history, but I do feel there was provision, and the Minister has never proven it to me in any letter or any reports. I noticed last year where he promised, I believe it was the Member for Assiniboia, to give a report, or was it the Member for Portage la Prairie, in Hansard, where he promised to supply him with information as to what his department was doing, how many complaints they received, how many convictions,

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(MR. WILSON cont'd)so on and so forth. There apparently was supposed to be something, a sessional paper, available on that. I will be looking for that in the future.

I did want to say that I felt by strengthening the Ombudsman Department, by allowing a little more emphasis in that department, combined with the courts that we have, you have summary convictions, you combine licensing, regulation and control; if need be you go into a Professional Society's Act, and you even have summary convictions throughout the courts, which would mean that we would, according to this budget - which will be explained to me in detail - we're talking about a couple of million dollars. We possibly could save \$500,000 just by . . . and then combined with that, we are talking about duplicating federal services; we're talking about going into trade practices, we talk about another Mrs. Plumtre in Manitoba here.

I say that we should have inspectors or a clearing house where we could turn around and help the citizens of this province, direct them into the federal departments where we could get the clout and that's where the money is, they've got the big pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. The Federal Government has the programs in place, they have the civil servants, let's use them. Let's not incur more taxpayers' dollars in new programs. We are completely protected, we are over-protected.

You know, I would really like to see some figures and some percentages because I know so many people - and it's referred to in last year's Hansard and it's more so this year - people are using the Consumer and Corporate Department, professional debt dodgers, people who are using your department to go against the corporate structure of this city, the private sector, and yet the private sector never loses money, they pass that cost on to the consumer. It's the same as when you turned around and removed sections out of this Act, you turned around and what happened? Every person that owns an apartment block runs it as a business. We heard that this afternoon, they've got a balance sheet, and what do they do? If they have five or six people skip out and don't pay their rent, they've got a balance sheet, that means up goes the rental increase and the good tenants pay for the bad. The same thing is people that use your complaint system and your pressure system to turn around and avoid paying just obligations. And I've even seen some articles in the media applauding the fact that you are now going to be able to use your department, and failing your department, they can then be referred to legal aid. What you people are basically doing, from the man on the street that I'm talking to is, if he can't get satisfaction from you, you're right there to refer him to an agent for legal aid, all at the taxpayers' expense to help somebody avoid paying a just obligation.

There doesn't seem to be any use for the courts the way you people are going about it. And I really respect the fact that I pointed out, and I should repeat them again, but we have all these safeguards, we have the summary convictions, we have the fact that people respond, we have licensing regulation and control, which is no better. . . and plus strengthening the Ombudsman Department and I don't see any effort on the lawyer to curtail legal aid, so you've got all those lawyers willing to take the private sector to court if they make a mistake.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 36. The Honourable Minister.

MR. TURNBULL: I don't suppose there's much point in carrying on the debate with the member. He does display complete ignorance of the Constitution and the division of powers between the Federal Government and the Provincial Government. The province is responsible for certain matters with regard to property and civil rights and the Consumer Protection Act and the Landlord and Tenant Act passed under that general constitutional ambit. If he thinks that the Federal Government can get involved in those fields, then I suggest that he look again at the Constitution and try to come to some understanding of it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 36(a)(1)--pass; (a)(2)--pass; (a)--pass; Resolution 36 (b)(1). The Honourable Member for Pembina.

MR. GEORGE HENDERSON (Pembina): There's quite an increase in there. What is the increase in salaries, that's quite a large amount?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. TURNBULL: The increase of \$45,300 to \$49,500, as I understand it, is

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(MR. TURNBULL cont'd) the increase that is required to cover the increase negotiated by the MGEA. Basically that's it, it's an allowance for that increase that would normally occur. This amount, this increase, this kind of increase occurs in every salaries' appropriation right through the whole Estimates Book.

MR. HENDERSON: What are you really doing in research though? This is what I was wondering, what are you doing in that department?

MR. TURNBULL: Well there are two people there. Their basic purpose is to provide baseline data for consumer problems.

MR. HENDERSON: Or just to be trouble-shooters as you call them, right? Or is it research?

MR. TURNBULL: No, I wouldn't call them trouble-shooters exactly. Their objective is to collect data on emerging consumer problems, and basically what they do is get together basic data and bring together information that other departments have collected.

MR. HENDERSON: How about the Better Business Bureau nowadays? Do you work pretty much in conjunction with them in some of your actions?

MR. TURNBULL: I think that to the extent that working with the BBB is possible there is good co-operation. Certainly I emphasize with the staff of the department that they work as closely as can be possible with both the BBB, the Federal Government and other agencies that are involved in consumer protection.

MR. HENDERSON: Would you know if the BBB is doing much work now since the Consumer Bureau is doing more or has their work load been cut down?

MR. TURNBULL: The interesting thing of course is that, if I recall offhand the statistics, the interesting thing is that the statistics in terms of numbers of complaints dealt with by the BBB, the Federal agency here and our own department, these statistics have increased with each of them. There has been a remarkable increase in the number of complaints, which I suppose one could find different reasons depending on whether you believe in consumer protection or whether you do not believe in consumer protection. Unlike the Member for Wolseley I believe in the need for consumer protection therefore, I'm inclined to think that the increase in number of complaints that are received by the BBB, the Federal Consumer Affairs Department and the Provincial Consumer Affairs Department, reflect the increasing number of problems that consumers are encountering in the marketplace, that that's the root cause of this increase in statistics.

And then of course, you know, we have gone through a period of unbelievable prosperity and people just buy more goods, so that the very turnover of money for the purchase of goods may result in some increase in problems.

MR. OSLAND: More of an awareness.

MR. TURNBULL: That's right.

A MEMBER: Interesting speech.

MR. HENDERSON: The honourable member says there's more of an awareness. I don't know whether there is or not. I would think that there's probably less of an awareness on the part of the consumer that's why you have so many troubles later. I think probably it's the other way round.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Wolseley.

MR. WILSON: Mr. Chairman, under the Research and Planning he talked about an awareness, and I did object to the remark that he said I was not interested in consumer protection. I said I was interested in consumer protection for the unwary, elderly, sick and mentally retarded, and people who need consumer protection. And I say that if he had research and planning, if he did not hire political appointments and political friends of the family, that if he hired some knowledgeable people in consumer law, then maybe we could turn around and ferret out these people. We could ferret out these people who are turning around and using the bureau. Let's get down to some figures. You give me some samples. I know people that are elderly, mentally retarded, that the Better Business Bureau and yourself have helped them. That is to be congratulated, and that I support. I'm saying that I heard somebody mention you got 22,000 phone calls, 22,000 phone calls, or was it 19,000. I would like to see that report that the Member

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(MR. WILSON cont'd)for Assiniboia asked for last year. Did the Minister ever supply it? To take an example . . .

MR. TURNBULL: Mr. Chairman, I try to avoid repetition even though it might be for the benefit of the Member for Wolseley.

MR. WILSON: Your insulting remarks are not going to help the debate because I haven't yet . . . Mr. Chairman, I think I have the floor.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. Order please. Order please. Order please. Order please. The Chair recognizes the Honourable Minister.

MR. TURNBULL: Mr. Chairman, the Member for Wolseley has just made what I regard to be one of his usual slanderous remarks against the staff of the Consumers' Bureau, the Companies Branch, the office of the Rentalsman, the Public Utilities Board, and every branch of this department, including people, Mr. Chairman, who have been employed by the Government of Manitoba through three different administrations. I might say four, the Campbell administration . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please.

MR. TURNBULL: . . . the Roblin administration, the Weir administration, and the Schreyer administration. And to level charges of friends of the family of those people I think is, well it's unbecoming, even the Member for Wolseley.

I can say, Mr. Chairman, that the report - this is the point of repetition that I was trying to avoid - the point with regard to the Annual Report was made by me at the first meeting of this committee to consider the Consumers' Bureau. That report is in its final draft stage. I had anticipated that my Estimates would be coming up about a month from now rather than now when the Conservative Party, I'm told, wanted these Estimates before them, therefore, I don't have the report yet printed. But I did say, I think it was on Friday when we first met, that that report is in the process of being prepared, and it will be before the member shortly.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Wolseley.

MR. WILSON: Pass, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. LES OSLAND (Churchill): I just wanted to clarify that one thing. When I mentioned the word awareness, the fact that we have a TV program now that a lot of women, and men actually watch too, with regard to good buying in the marketplace, and I think there is an awareness amongst the people now that there is a place to turn and that's why I think there's such things as more activity over on the BBB side, on the federal level and also with your department. At one time you had nowhere to turn really, and now I think they know that there is somewhere to turn and there's a lot of questions being asked. I think that's darn good.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 36(b)(1)--pass; (b)(2)--pass; (b)--pass. Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$655,900 for Consumer, Corporate and Internal Services--pass. Resolution . . .

MR. TURNBULL: I want the record to show, Mr. Chairman, that the Member for Wolseley is voting against the appropriation for Consumer Protection.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 37 - Manitoba Gazette (a) Salaries -- pass. The Honourable Member for Pembina.

MR. HENDERSON: . . . that I wonder how you keep that staff on that small amount of salaries. It just happens to be one of the odd ones, because it's so irregular to see this. You must have a fair staff on that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. TURNBULL: Well there are two people only in the operation that produces the Manitoba Gazette and they obviously do their work efficiently.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Wolseley.

MR. WILSON: I wonder if the Minister might care to answer in a more civil way of explaining this. Do you turn around and . . .

MR. TURNBULL: Ask a civil question and you get a civil answer.

MR. WILSON: In this particular department, do the revenues show up here? I mean are you telling me that \$13,100 is your entire salary structure, you have two people working there for \$13,000 or do you deduct the money . . .? What's the revenue

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(MR. WILSON cont'd)side of this department? Obviously you charge to put articles into the Gazette. Maybe you could give me the total salary and then maybe the total revenue.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. TURNBULL: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The revenue side of these things is normally discussed during the Budget, I think, and it does go into Consolidated Revenue. Is that satisfactory now? I'd like to know if the member feels that's satisfactory?

MR. WILSON: You told me two employees on salary. Is this the entire staff on salaries?

MR. TURNBULL: That's it for the Manitoba Gazette, yes.

MR. WILSON: Right.

MR. TURNBULL: There were two in 1975-76 and two in 1976-77 for a zero growth.

MR. WILSON: Okay.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Pembina.

MR. HENDERSON: . . . I understand you to say that this other expenditure is another necessary expense in connection with this department, but the money you take in goes into the Consolidated Revenue . . .

MR. TURNBULL: Consolidated Revenue, yes.

MR. HENDERSON: . . . and doesn't show up in this department anymore?

MR. TURNBULL: No. I don't think it ever did. It goes into Consolidated, I know that, but I don't think it ever showed up. Not while I've been the Minister here anyway. Unlike the Queen's Printer which is a zero balance.

MR. HENDERSON: It's okay.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 37(a)--pass; (b)--pass. The Honourable Member for La Verendrye.

MR. BANMAN: I wonder if the Minister could explain that \$48,000.00. Does this include the mailing costs as well as the publication costs of the Manitoba Gazette?

MR. TURNBULL: It does not include postage but I gather it includes just about everything else. Well it must include everything else, except postage. This operation breaks even, a little bit better than break even.

MR. BANMAN: How many people would be subscribing, or how many copies would be printed of the Manitoba Gazette now?

MR. TURNBULL: I'll try to get that for you.

MR. BANMAN: And does this figure then include the postage on that too?

MR. TURNBULL: I'm told that there's 1,500 copies of the Gazette sent out and as I said, it does not include postage.

MR. BANMAN: Who would pay for the postage then?

MR. TURNBULL: It's all paid by Public Works.

MR. BANMAN: You mean on . . .

MR. TURNBULL: All government postage is paid by Public Works.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Pembina.

MR. HENDERSON: You're on 38 now are you?

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. 37(b).

MR. HENDERSON: Well I'll wait until 38.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 37(b)--pass; Resolution 37. Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$61,800 for Consumer, Corporate and Internal Services--Pass.

Resolution 38, Securities Commission. (a)-Salaries. The Honourable Member for Pembina.

MR. HENDERSON: In connection with this department I know there's a fairly large fee charged for every real estate broker and everybody has to be registered, and all this. I'm not saying that you aren't right in having your recording procedures the way you have, but I'd often like to know just like how much goes into the Consolidated Fund from this department, from the Securities Commission. Would you have that figure? Because it seems like all these fees have gone up and more and more people have to be

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(MR. HENDERSON cont'd)registered and I was just wondering how much do you get out of it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. TURNBULL: The revenue from this operation, that is the Securities Commission, including the operation of the Securities Commission with regard to the Securities Act and The Real Estate Acts, the Mortgage and Brokers, the Mortgage Dealers Act, is about \$185,000, and that's projected. That's a projection, not an actual.

MR. HENDERSON: \$185,000 in revenue?

MR. TURNBULL: Yes.

MR. HENDERSON: And yet your salaries is 301,400. I just find this a little bit odd really, but maybe it's . . .like I think it should almost balance out, I would think so, . . .

MR. TURNBULL: Be self-supporting.

MR. HENDERSON: . . .be self-supporting but it's not.

MR. TURNBULL: Not quite.

MR. HENDERSON: Well you said 184 . . .

MR. TURNBULL: Yes.

MR. HENDERSON: So it's not, not even, just about half? Well that's a surprise.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Wolseley.

MR. WILSON: Mr. Chairman, under this Securities Commission I realize the responsibility of the Securities Commission is to regulate securities trading and traders within the Province of Manitoba. I was wondering if the information that I have is correct, that you have 15 full-time and 4 part-time employees, and that would probably explain the \$301,000.00.

One of the things that I would rather like to see come out of the expanding department is an annual report. It says here there's no provision for an annual report from the Commission, and they told me they dealt with something like 200 prospectus. I guess that would probably be one similar to this one that the government put out, a Manitoba Hydro Electric Board prospectus where I got the information that this province was in debt \$2.8 billion, and I was called certain names in the House. However, what I wanted to say was that it seems that if we had an annual report we might get down to a gut feeling that we're getting value for our money in this department. What I'm concerned with is that I notice that one particular Manitoba stock that deals in small appliances, and what have you, went from about a \$30.00 to \$50.00 stock down to \$16.00 to \$18.00, and maybe down as low as what have you. When people started complaining of this Winnipeg firm and trying to investigate it, they found out that it really wasn't a Winnipeg firm that their corporate head office and their books were kept in Minneapolis. And I think this is the type of thing that your Securities Commission should be protecting the public about. In my experience that I've had, which goes back to the Bank of Western Canada days, I had some limited experience with them and it was felt that a lot of this particular information could have been acquired from the Ontario Clearance Houses, and what have you, but I have found that most of the complaints that I heard about coming in this particular department were over the counter stocks in Vancouver and Toronto, and I wondered - buyer beware. I'm just wondering if we're not doing some tremendous amount of work for - I think there should maybe be a residency clause or something because it seems to me that if we're going to have very expensive staff go to a lot a trouble to find out about over the counter stock in Vancouver, that's been promoted across Canada then really we're going into a great deal of expense and the fellow may not necessarily be a resident of Manitoba and I think that there should be possibly, if we're going to spend all this money to search out a poor investment on his part, that maybe we should be looking at some sort of a guideline as to who these people help.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 38(a)--pass; Resolution 38(b). The Honourable Member for La Verendrye.

MR. BANMAN: Yes, Mr. Chairman, through you to the Minister. Awhile back we spoke about, I think in the last year we mentioned the government was anticipating setting up a clearing house for chattel mortgages and conditional sales contracts. I

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(MR. BANMAN cont'd)wonder if that falls under the Minister's portfolio or would it fall under the Attorney-General's jurisdiction?

MR. TURNBULL: Yes. I think you're referring there to the properties, Personal Properties Securities Act and that's under the AG's Department.

MR. BANMAN: Has the Minister had some representation from people who have had trouble with goods that have been sold through chattels and conditional sales agreements?

MR. TURNBULL: That would normally be under the Personal Properties Securities Act. Not that I can recall in the last 12 months.

MR. BANMAN: So this would come under the Attorney-General's Department and he would be looking after it.

MR. TURNBULL: The Executive Administrative Act is the responsibility of the Attorney-General, yes.

MR. BANMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Wolseley.

MR. WILSON: It seems to me that there was many talks in past years that possibly due to the fact credit was being made so easy that a lot of these notes, chattel mortgages and liens should be - that is the type of protection that goes a two-way flow and if you're going to continue on with this huge administration and program here, I think you should be protecting both sides of the fence, and I'd like to see the day come when you turn around and register lien notes, have some way that a person could register lien notes as well as chattel mortgages. And under this Lien Note Act here it also tells certain people selling products that they should have a stamp or a stencil or something to identify their goods. And I'd like to see your department work with the AG's Department to see that some time in the future that lien notes are registered.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 38(b)--pass. Resolution 38. Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$341,500 for Consumer, Corporate and Internal Services--pass. Resolution 39, Public Information Services. (a) Salaries. The Honourable Member for Pembina.

MR. HENDERSON: I must say I'm glad to see you've cut this one down because I believe no matter which government's in power that that's just a propaganda agency whichever government's in power. And I see the publications that come out, there's so much duplication and so much repetition it just really makes you think that it's a propaganda agency for . . .

MR. TURNBULL: Which publication agency are you talking about?

MR. HENDERSON: In the Information Services. --(Interjection)-- Yes, the ones that are mailed out and all the ones I imagine that appear in the paper, in all the different papers, Information Services. You know, explaining the government's program, and everything.

MR. TURNBULL: Not all, not all pieces of, or pamphlets that are produced are produced by Information Services.

MR. HENDERSON: No, not all pamphlets I know like in your department the Landlord and Tenant Act Questions and Answers, that's not a part of this. I'm referring to the bulletins that come out in these envelopes all the time, and then the ones that appear in the paper all the time. I think we all must admit that these are propaganda sheets for whichever government's in power.

MR. TURNBULL: Well of course . . .

MR. HENDERSON: To a large extent.

MR. TURNBULL: . . . one can always make charges of any kind at all, I suppose, and my only rebuttal to this is to say that the Information Services bulletins that are put out by this branch are used by mostly, I think, by rural and weekly newspapers. And it is indeed to provide, you know, a basic reference data for the rural areas. In the city where we have three TV stations and a couple of cable channels, two major newspapers, plus a great number of suburban papers there is perhaps not quite as much need but they're still used there. They're useful, and I don't think that they're propaganda in the derogatory sense, in the derogatory use of that word, I think that they're publications that provide basic data and generally factual.

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(MR. TURNBULL cont'd)

The other thing of course is, you know, when you're having a press conference, it's useful when you've got 15 or 20 people to have a piece of paper on which the basic facts are contained, the basic position of the government. I think it's only fair to the public of Manitoba that they know what the position of the government is as that position develops. This is one way of getting it known.

MR. HENDERSON: Yes. I'm not saying that it isn't informational to a certain extent but it's repetition, and it is slanted towards the government side no matter which government's in. If it's the Land Lease Program, they're talking about how you can use it and how you can use your cattle program, or any of these things. It is slanted towards the government, so it is a propaganda.

MR. TURNBULL: I am advised that those two particular programs are not produced by the Information Services Branch. Now I don't mean to include in that the Information Services bulletins but the actual pamphlets are not produced by this branch. They're produced by people in the Department of Agriculture as far as I know.

MR. HENDERSON: I'm not just referring to little pamphlets that go out, I'm referring to these sheets that keep coming out continuously. The News Service that keeps coming out continually, and they keep appearing in the papers continually.

And I was wondering also in your Information News Service, does it include any of your TV or your radio programs at all, or is it just in these news service sheets that go out.

MR. TURNBULL: Would you repeat the question?

MR. HENDERSON: Does it include any of your advertising on radio and TV, or does it just include sheets that go out in your News Service Bulletin?

MR. TURNBULL: Advertising on various media or in various media is carried by the line department not by Information Services.

MR. HENDERSON: Oh, it's carried by what?

MR. TURNBULL: Information Services does not pay for advertising for a line department.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Pembina. The Honourable Minister of Tourism.

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Chairman, I can't speak for my other colleagues but I've been a Minister now for about six and a half years and I've always used Information Services. I can't recall having used Information Services once to announce a philosophy of the New Democratic Party. I've asked them to prepare press releases while I was Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, Health and Social Development, Tourism and Recreation, Cultural Affairs, Co-operative Development, and the type of information that I make available to Information Services is the type of information that is requested of me as a Minister of the Crown. That doesn't mean that it's carried by the press, but at least it's prepared with minds of people that are trained for that purpose, and I have to congratulate Information Services for the type of services rendered, not to me as a Minister of the Crown but to the people of Manitoba. I don't say that I can speak for all of my colleagues because not all of my colleagues use Information Services to the extent that I do. But I feel that they've rendered a service and I don't see it as a propaganda machine.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Wolseley.

MR. WILSON: Mr. Chairman, I wanted to respond in kind to the Minister of Tourism except that he did say that it's never been used for government philosophy, and I agree; in the short time I've read it, I could say that. But they certainly are in many cases just simply press releases that the following day that I can see verbatim in a couple of the Winnipeg Dailies or one of the local weekly sheets. However, I do want to say this, the Minister in replying again last year in Hansard obviously put the blame on the previous government and talked about his acquisition of all his television equipment. And I wondered if he can enlighten a new member how his VRT equipment is coming in light of the fact that the Public Works Minister admitted that there was a rheostat and some new lighting in the Chamber that's going to allow television coverage of our proceedings. And I wondered if the Minister could tell me whatever happened to the

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(MR. WILSON cont'd) acquisition of all this VRT and television equipment. Is this going to be put in to use with the new lights that the Minister of Public Works has put in? Are we to look forward to filming you Ministers speaking and then showing it on a Saturday afternoon on one of the local channels, or could you possibly explain what you have in mind for that area?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. TURNBULL: . . . look forward to that?

MR. WILSON: No, I didn't say I was looking forward to it. I think it's terribly unfair as a member of the Opposition, terribly unfair to have to overcome this obvious lead that you have in the race like the tortoise and the hare because you have this propaganda machine to grind out all this information, plus you have now television equipment. When we get down later on, we're going to talk about a million point nine in advertising, plus. I'm just wondering what you're doing with all this money. Please explain the television equipment, how you intend to use it this coming session or possibly this coming season. What are you doing with it? Has it now become redundant, or are you using it?

MR. TURNBULL: Mr. Chairman, I can well sympathize with the member's feeling about being a tortoise because as a backbencher for four years, I can assure him that it's even more difficult to get your point of view across in the public media than it is for a member of the opposition.

With regard to the acquisition of the VTR equipment, he was referring there to Hansard, and I can tell him that I believe in that Hansard. On my Estimates last year I indicated that the amount of money shown for the acquisition of the VTR in last year's Estimates would be a one-shot affair and that I would be able to report in this year's Estimates a reduction in that appropriation. And there is a decrease of \$112,600 in the detailed breakdown of the appropriation (5)(b).

The VTR equipment was acquired and is being used. It is used for a variety of purposes, including the making of video tape on conferences, seminars, and what-not that are sometimes sponsored by the government. The first time I saw this equipment used was in the Centennial Concert Hall when there was a conference there on, if I recall correctly, Urban Housing. And the VTR equipment was used there to film some of the proceedings, and I must say to film people other than politicians.

The equipment can be used and is used to make video tape which can be sent to local TV Stations outside of Winnipeg.

MR. WILSON: It's not used in Winnipeg at all?

MR. TURNBULL: Well it can be used in Winnipeg, certainly. And I'm told it has. I don't always keep close tab on what the VTR equipment is being used for but I know that it is present, the equipment is present, the crew are present at various meetings and this tape that is made is often used on three Winnipeg stations as well.

MR. WILSON: Is the equipment available to the members of this House or is this just to your Civil Service

MR. TURNBULL: It is used in the same way as is the Information Services bulletins. It's a government service primarily.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. OSLAND: Mr. Chairman, I'd just like to try and get this discussion away from just how we see it here at this table. I'd like to kind of see it as the people that are out there in Manitoba that would like to kind of like to get a little more involved in the decision making process around.

So often I hear the criticism of a lot of the programs as if it's the Province of Winnipeg instead of the Province of Manitoba. In the north we depend on this news service, completely. My wife goes through it daily as where or whatever the distribution is. Our different communities such as Lynn Lake, Leaf Rapids, etc., especially school boards and that, religiously go through it in order to pick up things that are known, that are broadcast possibly in Winnipeg area and taken for granted that everybody understands it.

For instance the case in point, and I don't like talking about things, airy things way up in the sky. I'd like to bring it right down to a case in point. I got a phone call from Lynn Lake and the school board had at first heard that there was a northern grant

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(MR. OSLAND cont'd)going to be issued for the northern school districts. And then the time elapsed and nothing came of it, and then at last the secretary of the school board phoned me, and by this time she had received a news release and she was able to quote the release right from the paper telling us who had released it and where I could trace it down to. And I took it from there, and of course we found out that if we hadn't have picked it up in the next, I think we had about 20 days to go, that the year end would have come up and we'd have lost out on that money. So that by her checking and reading the news release I ended up picking it up for Lynn Lake, but not just for Lynn Lake, it meant Leaf Rapids, Gillam and Churchill. So that there was quite a considerable number of dollars.

My biggest complaint is with the government, and I'm not talking about our government, I'm talking about the Government of Manitoba, is that so damned often we do things here but our own people don't even know about it. And there's certain people within organized society that make it their business to know what's going on, so they pick up the goodies and they make it work for them. What about the people that haven't got this expertise or are not this close to the source of power? And I think this news service, I'm not saying it's the living end, I think that possibly we should be looking at it critically to criticize it in a positive manner to produce something better. I have never been against these TV broadcasts, there's been debates on this whether we're actually advertising the use of alcoholism by our programs to do with the Liquor Commission, but I think we've held a lot of things underneath a cloud of darkness for a long time, and I think this sort of promotion should be actually stepped up and that the people somehow or another as Manitobans without organizations should be involved and should be able to get on the bandwagon along with the expertise in this line. Thank you.

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

MR. GRAHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You know I often wonder if there's something wrong when a member of the Opposition agrees with a member of the government side. I have to agree with a lot of things that have been said by the Member for Churchill, because the Public Information Service is used extensively in rural Manitoba as a barometer on the operation of the various departments. And I think it's quite common knowledge that the more paper that comes out from any particular department they realize the more trouble that Minister is in; that the good Minister who's riding high uses it very little and the one that isn't doing too well he uses a tremendous amount of paper. So when the Member for Churchill tells us that it should be increased, quite obviously he realizes that his government is in trouble.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 39(a)--pass; 39(b)--pass. Resolution 39.Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$373,200 for Consumer, Corporate and Internal Services--pass.

Resolution 40, Telecommunications Development Branch. (a) Salaries. The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Chairman, I have some questions for the Minister concerning the computer facility. He spent some time when he brought the bill in last year discussing the number of issues related to it. First was the question of the costs of the consolidation of the government computer facilities into one centralized organization...

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. TURNBULL: Mr. Chairman, the Member for Fort Rouge and I have a certain common interest in these kinds of topics and I'd be very happy to discuss it with him now or any other time, but to be in order that discussion on an amendment to the Manitoba Telephone System Act to provide for a subsidiary corporation to set up a data centre is not provided for in this appropriation. This branch had virtually nothing to do with the consolidation as set up. I can advise the member that we will have the Telephone System executive here on the 30th if memory serves me, and that that would be perhaps the best time to discuss this particular topic.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Chairman, I'll certainly be prepared at that time. Could the Minister then explain why under the description of the Telecommunications Branch you're talking about computer communications. I wasn't going to talk about that facility necessarily specifically, I was as much interested in what was happening with

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(MR. AXWORTHY cont'd)the other departments. If you want to hold that off, I just thought because it's

MR. TURNBULL: It's a fair question, and if we can steer clear of the Manitoba Data Services Centre and deal with computer communications insofar as they would get the Provincial Government involved in federal-provincial discussions and negotiations, that's really what this reference is to.

In other words this is the policy aspect rather than the operational aspect that we're talking about in the Telecommunications Development Branch. Here we're talking about the kinds of policy that might flow from an electronic payments system. Now that particular discussion has not got down to tangible, concrete discussion but that's the type of thing that the reference in Resolution 40 is about.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Chairman, if I might then, I'd like to ask the Minister if this particular branch is concerned about the policy development, perhaps he could describe at this stage, recognizing the existence of that data centre and the other things it was planned to do, if he could indicate at this stage what plans the Provincial Government has for the utilization of this in terms of universalized computer services, what sort of policy plans are you now developing within the Provincial Government either to hook into nationwide data centres or particularly to the different departments and agencies of the Provincial Civil Service at this stage. Is it planned that, are all of them coming under the purview, are they all being hooked up to the common centre? Perhaps he could just elaborate what policy they're now using in relation to the use of these.

MR. TURNBULL: The main concept in carrying out the centralization of computer facilities was to move those computers and the staff that was associated with the operation of the main frame from a government computer centre which was under Management Committee to the Manitoba Telephone System. And the transfer of the equipment has been accomplished; it's still in the Norquay Building, but the actual ownership of the equipment has been moved and I believe a good part of the staff from the Computer Centre has been moved. Now the initial concept was that the administrative aspects of Hydro, including accounting and what not, and the same aspects with regard to Manitoba Telephone System, and the inventory process carried on by the Liquor Commission, would be functions that would be moved to the centralized computer facility.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Chairman, perhaps I could raise a specific question then with the Minister on a policy matter, if he would indulge me for a moment just to back up and make some notes of explanation. One of the areas where the computer as a machine is of particular use and relevance is in the servicing of local government, particularly in things like fire protection and police services and so on; that there has been very effective use of computer technology for example, in crime prevention and apprehension, being able to apply data from centres across Canada, incorporate it into a local centre and make it available to cops on the beat or in their cars or whatever it may be. Manitoba is not particularly forward in this matter and there has been a good deal of discussion on the local level, the City of Winnipeg, of the need to develop computer services in the police area which is just really beginning to apply.

One question I have is, to what degree does your department aid and assist local government in developing improved computer facilities for police service? Another good example is in the fire service area. We I think will have an opportunity in a short while to discuss with the Minister of Labour the role of the province in fire prevention and fire handling. But again, one of the issues is that the fire departments throughout Manitoba, particularly again in the City of Winnipeg, have very limited technology in this area and yet it's one of the most effective tools that they could manage. Has the Provincial Government established any policy for either assisting local government to acquire computer time or facilities for the service of police and fire in particular, or is there any plans to allow them to use provincial facilities for the same?

And thirdly, to also make sure there's a direct correspondence between provincial data collection known as computer and what's happening in local government. Again, I use fire protection as a prime example where in a sense there's two different sets of records being kept and therefore it doesn't give any basis for maintaining an ongoing and up-to-date record of fire data related to future programming. So what I would really

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(MR. AXWORTHY cont'd) want to know is if the policy development is now reaching out to where the computer technology would have perhaps its most use.

Another area of great application is in health services, again, the application in hospitals, health clinics and so on, being able to keep records and cross-match people and use it for research purposes some day.

MR. TURNBULL: Mr. Chairman, the possibility of putting police data information on the central government computer operated by MDS was not in my policy conception when the centralization scheme went forward, nor was there likely going to be the integration of health data, although that could happen.

The main point here is that the Manitoba Data Services Centre in effect operates as a wholesaler of computer time. In other words it's in the market selling, and it will market data services to anybody who wants to buy them, including the City of Winnipeg. I'm sure that MDS would be very happy to get that account. And I'm sure they'd be happy to get any other account that came along, whether it was a local government or the police or the health facilities or whatever. But it is in the process merely of wholesaling. And insofar as Telecommunications Development Branch is concerned with regard to developing policy to bring along the accounts of say, local governments, including the City of Winnipeg or local police operations, that has not been an active thrust of the Telecommunications Development Branch, far from it. Rather than encourage local governments to get involved in that way, I would assume that they would take the initiative if in fact they wanted to get onto a computer facility. And let's face it, that putting administrative functions onto computers is not necessarily the best way to go for many middle-sized and small operations, so that there has been no thrust within the line department branch to encourage municipal police, municipal governments, etc., fire departments, to get onto the government computer. But on the other hand, if those local agencies decided on their own, in consultation, presumably with the staff of MDS, that they in fact wanted to purchase computer time, then I'm sure MDS would be only too happy to sell them that time and whatever service went along with it.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Chairman, on that point. When the Minister used the word "wholesaling" does he mean that simply as an act of providing a service? Does he mean that wholesaling is that they're going to get it cheaper? Because the point about the use of computers is that it's an expensive item, oftentimes beyond the budgetary limits of a local government, again I would say the City of Winnipeg would be the most applicable. And yet it's one, as I say, which could have a very major impact, the uses of computer technology in fire protection as they've been applied elsewhere are really immense and have had major - for example, the ability to record the number of inspections and buildings that have had previous fire records and so on and therefore be able to adapt, and even to the point where some cities use it to determine the nature of how much water should flow to hoses and that. Without getting into all the details, the fact is that it has a number of applications and I'm wondering if the other problem that goes along with it, unless there is some attempt to consolidate or centralize, then smaller localities or cities would each develop their own systems which are distinct and not integrated with provincial-wide, nation-wide systems. And again, I'm wondering would it not be in order for the Provincial Government to take the initiative in this area, provide an incentive, whether it's through a grant program or whatever the means may be to ensure that the computer time that's being made available through provincial facilities might be down there, the cost-plus or even a write-down cost for local governments' purposes to enable them to make better use of these facilities.

MR. TURNBULL: I've said, Mr. Chairman, that this is not a thrust that the branch has undertaken. The main reason for it is - I certainly have not been approached by representatives of these local municipal governments, police operations and fire departments, about the need for that kind of service. I would think that if they did feel the need that their best approach would be through MDS, and I'm assuming that MDS staff are in the business of marketing computer time and that they will provide a good price for whoever wants to buy the services.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Wolseley.

MR. WILSON: Mr. Chairman, . . . the Minister. This department sort of

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(MR. WILSON cont'd) gives me a kind of uneasy feeling that we have sort of a sleepy Turnbull puppy here, because we have the cable television situation here and I wondered if the Minister might use this opportunity to explain some of my concerns or possibly give some thought as to where he's going to go with this department. Before I get onto that subject I want to talk about if he had any discussions with the Federal Government, because I know the Americans were talking about jamming cable television in Eastern Canada and I wondered, it could happen here and I know so many elderly citizens depend on television for their entertainment. I wondered if possibly the Minister has had any federal consultations or anything with the Federal Government regarding that.

And also what is he planning on this cable television. I hear all kinds of rumors that the Minister has this pet thing to take over the cable-vision industry or the cable-vision hardware or something and I wondered if he could possibly explain it to me. Because I get the uneasy feeling looking at this, there's only three people employed here according to this book, they've got over \$6,000 in travelling expenses; they seem to subscribe to every publication, it seems that they're just getting ready to do something. I wonder if the Minister might enlighten me, what are they going to be doing?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. TURNBULL: Mr. Chairman, the points made by the Member for Wolseley really are all one point. The Telecommunications Development Branch has adopted an aggressive stance with regard to the Federal Government insofar as development of cable technology in the province is concerned. If the member will ask some of his colleagues you might find that there is a major policy paper which was distributed in May of 1974, and in that paper the basic conceptual approach to the development of cable operations in the province is spelled out. Basically what the paper says is that the Manitoba Telephone System being the common carrier within the province should have within its control the development of the hardware for cable communication within the province. The reason for that is very elementary, it is to save money, it is to prevent the duplication of microwave and cable distribution facilities throughout this province. It is really a policy which is very similar to that being developed in Saskatchewan where it's also a government telephone system. I think that in this province it would be most efficient to allow the telephone common carrier to provide the microwave, because if that does not happen we will have through much of the sparsely populated regions of Manitoba two or three or whatever number of microwave facilities and whatever number of duplicate cable distribution facilities within local communities. You know, the kind of capital investment that would be involved in duplicating that service is just not one that I think the people of Manitoba should be asked to bear.

And so, starting with the publication and publicity surrounding the policy paper in the spring of '74, there has been through a series of conferences with the Federal Government and with other provincial governments putting our position which calls for the common carrier to own all distribution facilities on microwave and cable, and that policy in the parlance of the people involved is what we call a full lease policy. It's a policy whereby the common carrier, the telephone system, says to cable companies seeking a licence that if they have a licence we will provide them with all the microwave facilities and the cable facilities and the amplifiers on the cable. I think it's an efficient way of doing it, it's the least expensive way of doing it, and in the long run I think it will bring service on CA-TV signal, entertainment signals, to communities within the province much more quickly than it would if there was duplicating of services.

Then too, what this policy means is that the initial capital outlay of cable licences fees will be kept down. I'm sure the member appreciates that for a cable operator who gets a licence say in Brandon to carry the signal from the gateway head end at Tolstoi, from Tolstoi through Winnipeg or via Winnipeg to Brandon on the microwave and then to cable Brandon, you know, that is a significant capital investment that would have to be faced by a local entrepreneur, say in Brandon, and I think that that kind of capital outlay should not necessarily be required of a cable licensee. So the policy of full lease of the common carrier owning the microwave and the cable does mean that local entrepreneurs, co-op groups or whoever; the local church group, the local newspaper in a community can get into the cable entertainment business.

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(MR. TURNBULL cont'd)

Now that's the cable entertainment business, and by that, you know I'm confining it to entertainment. But there is in addition to the entertainment TV signal being provided on cable, there is also the possibility of a great range of technological developments that will enable the cable to provide almost anything you can dream of, including shopping information, two-way communication, you know, anything you want. And all of those other services outside of the entertainment TV signal are usually considered to be the responsibility of the common carrier; that has been the policy in this province since 1908 when the Manitoba Telephone System was bought by the then government from Bell. Many of the reasons for this cable policy are the same reasons that led the government in 1908 to buy Bell, and the basic reason then and now is to provide good, reliable service to as many people as possible throughout the province.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Wolseley.

MR. WILSON: I was responding to one of the members opposite who said that they carry the government message, and again that's one of the things that I was alluding to and that I felt Saskatchewan, Regina, the Regina manifesto - are you going to take over the hardware first and then take over the service? Is this your intention, or what are you talking about? Are you talking about densely populated areas subsidizing sparsely populated areas? This is what I'm trying to get at. Are you just going to settle for the hardware in this decade?

MR. TURNBULL: I'm glad the remark was made, and that the Member for Wolseley took it up, because it does enable me to make clarification. And again it gets back to the constitution. It's pretty clear under the constitution and judicial interpretations over the years since the development of radio and TV that the regulation of broadcasting is clearly the responsibility of the Federal Government, and there was no intent on the part of the Province of Manitoba to encroach on that federal jurisdiction; and that means of course that there is no intent on behalf of the Government of Manitoba to get involved in the signal itself, that is the message content. All that the telephone system would be involved in would be the common carrier aspects. It would be much like a truck on a highway, what goes in the truck is not the concern of the truck operator particularly as long as it's safe and legal. It is the function of the truck operator to carry that equipment to wherever it's going, and the telephone system would be performing much the same service. What signal went in, whether it was an American signal, or Canadian signal, it would be the responsibility of the appropriate federal agency now called the CITC I think, still, and the province would not be concerned with the message. That's why I'm talking about all kinds of messages, not just entertainment signal, data signals, shopping messages, weather information, pricing information in the consumer market, you name it.

MR. WILSON: I can see why Dr. O gets all excited about doing away with the three Rs, having consulted with the Minister. I wonder if he would last but not least talk about the federal jamming, I was talking about the jamming of the stations down East and I wondered if the Minister could say if he was concerned about the possibility of the American stations jamming our particular reception.

MR. TURNBULL: Well, if the Member for Wolseley has been watching the newspapers he will have noted that the jamming or the suggested jamming of the TV signals coming out of the States into Canada is one that has been sparked by the fact that the cable companies are pirating in effect, signals. They pay nothing in terms of copyright charges or anything else to American broadcasters and the producers to those American signals. So that there may be some justification for the Americans taking the position that they do with regard to jamming, because of this piracy of the cable operators here. But there is within the policy paper enunciated by the Provincial Government here, the possibility of avoiding the kind of problem that has arisen with regard to American signals; and the policy here is that the cable operation should provide from its monetary operation some support for broadcasters, and by this I mean Canadian Broadcasters. So if that approach had been followed, the leading threats of the Americans with regards to jamming the signals would never have arisen.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister for Corrections.

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MR. BOYCE: Mr. Chairman, through you to the Member for Fort Rouge, just as a matter of information. There is in existence a group called "CANJIS" which is the Canadian Criminal Justice Information System, it's a rather loose consortium of Stats. Canada, the Solicitors-General or Attorneys-General, the Minister of Justice, and those Ministers responsible for corrections. Manitoba is represented on this particular group by senior people of my department and we were about 18 months ahead on the particular suggestion that the Member for Fort Rouge makes relative to the utilization of computers and computer capacity for criminal information and crime control and the rest of it, which even gets over into the area of arson and such things as this. The Member for River Heights asked me in the House last night about one small aspect of it, and I replied as best in the short time that usually is available in the question period. Hopefully, Mr. Chairman, if my colleague the Minister of Consumer Affairs can keep his rates competitive, that we should be able to have somewhere in the neighbourhood of three millions of dollars brought to Manitoba, and perhaps the Member for Fort Rouge can assist us in this regard in convincing his colleagues in Ottawa that Manitoba should have some part of the business which is generated relative to this computer system.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Chairman, I wanted to ask the Minister of Consumer Affairs further questions, but just in response to the intervention by the Minister of Corrections. I'm still puzzled though really by - the Minister said we're so much further ahead and yet the facts somehow don't seem to jibe with the dilemmas that the City of Winnipeg Police Department, Fire Departments get, that they don't have the money to bring in proper computer facilities. I think it's only just very recently that the City of Winnipeg has acquired some capital budgeting for development of a proper computer information system, a very simple one at that. And it again strikes me that we're not carrying our responsibilities so that we can get federal money and we can hit the local guys - and my question is, what are we doing about it? I mean, are we simply acting as sort of go-betweens, or are we in fact saying that even in the development of the cable system which the Minister talks about as having all these wondrous possibilities of wired cities and these tremendous magical technological opportunities, the issue I'm really raising - and I guess it goes back to the Minister of Consumer Affairs, where he says, going back to his '74 document, Winnipeg is getting very heavily cabled. I think the percentage is now up to around 60 percent cable maybe higher than that. You're developing cables in some of the rural areas, you have this new means of delivering all kinds of information services, and yet aside from the existence of the one public television station, community television station, none of these things seem to be forthcoming. There has been a channel reserved for example for educational use; several other provinces have used cable as a very significant means of developing in-home educational purposes for younger children. Manitoba has done nothing like this.

Now again it branches over to maybe the Department of Education's fault, but if the Minister is concerned about the application of this technology for a range of community purposes, social purposes, and educational purposes, the issue I'm asking is that it's not enough to wish for them, you have to sometimes put your money where your wishes are and say if we want to develop better educational cable television then we are going to have to try and develop it, we have to get something over those cables, moving in those areas. Again, perhaps what I'd like to ask the Minister of Consumer Affairs, that since 1974 when he published his policy paper, and where we had I believe some initial discussions about this, could he tell us what progress has been made for enriching or broadening the use of the cable system for community, social, educational, local government service, whatever areas, let's say for non-entertainment purposes, could you enlighten us as to what progress we've made in the province of Manitoba since 1974?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Correction.

MR. BOYCE: Before the Minister replies, if I may, the details should be dealt with perhaps under my Estimates. But all I'm saying is that the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs through the Manitoba Telephone System is providing the capacity to service other departments, and the questions raised by the Member for Fort Rouge, I'll be

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(MR. BOYCE cont'd) glad to answer them in great detail just exactly where we are and what we are doing under my estimates, as other Ministers will be, too, the Minister responsible for the Statistics Bureau.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. TURNBULL: Yes, I did say, Mr. Chairman, that my department, and as far as I know the government is not involved with the provision of the message, and I think that what the Member for Fort Rouge is asking about is, what message will there be? What I'm providing through MDS and MTS is the hardware, the facility, not the message. If you want to talk about message, you should really be dealing with it in the Estimates of the Minister for Corrections, he apparently has got something going there - the Department of Education. These are cultural affairs mainly. But the Telecommunications Development Branch is the branch that deals primarily with the Federal Government, and tries to develop policy, not operations.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Chairman, perhaps we could get back on this problem that government departments begin falling between the stools they sit on, sliding off them at least. I recognize that you are talking about a common carrier and that you follow the analogy that you're simply providing a truck line to carry goods or messages, but I suppose any good trucking operator is also a bit of an entrepreneur, he goes out and drums up business; he sees a need and he sort of develops it in many cases. What I'm saying is this --(Interjection)-- Well, I don't say that the Minister is responsible for the actual content, but what I want to know, has this government made a commitment for example that one of the channels on cable is going to be utilized as an educational television channel and then go and recruit the Department of Education and the Colleges and Universities and all the rest of them to provide a range of educational teaching programs, is that commitment made, is someone saying that within five years we want the funding for it and then we've got to go out and broker this to the different educational agencies so that we can provide? One good example would be - I think the Member for Churchill was concerned about the disparities. Well, once you get cable established in some of the northern communities it becomes a very important tool for education, could become a very important tool for education. In the province of Ontario for one example, the province there has supported a

MR. TURNBULL: Do you know what their budget is? What's the Ontario budget?

MR. AXWORTHY: Well, a couple of a million dollars.

MR. TURNBULL: A couple million? \$36 million.

MR. AXWORTHY: Well, okay. They're also dealing with six million people as well, and these are

MR. TURNBULL: Six million, eh?

MR. AXWORTHY: Yes. The issue that I'm raising though, without even making those comparisons - - let's say, that when we're talking of development of cable systems in rural area, northern areas, the City of Winnipeg

MR. TURNBULL: The paper talked about communities in the thousands, or more.

MR. AXWORTHY: Well, if I might continue, Mr. Chairman. The issue I'm asking is, is there any kind of commitment on the part of the Provincial Government to say that over a defined period of years, two years, five, ten, we want to be using these cable systems so that there will be a complete educational system in the Province of Manitoba and then we will then work out whatever combination of federal-provincial funding, private funding, that is necessary to put educational so that the people of Manitoba, that by 1980 that Channel 7 on their cable system will, in fact, when they turn it on they are going to see programs where there is adult education, for children, for retraining programs, or whatever it may be, and that Channel 3 or 4, or whatever it is, will be used for a service area where you can get consumer information and shopping information. Those are the things that I'm trying to find out. Do we have any goals in mind, any targets in mind, for turning this hardware into simply something

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(MR. AXWORTHY cont'd) that is now almost exclusively used for entertainment with the one exception of the community channel, to something beyond that, because you've raised the possibilities yourself, and saying now, "What can we expect in those possibilities and do we have a policy to implement them?"

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. TURNBULL: Mr. Chairman, I can tell the Member for Fort Rouge that I have not made commitments to develop production facilities which would produce the kinds of programs that he is alluding to, or that I would perhaps like to see developed myself. And the main reason for that is cost. The Ontario Television, or Ontario TV operation that is carried on in Ontario under the educational power in the Constitution, even on a pro rata basis here would be something like \$6 million, and that kind of cost in education I just don't think is something that Manitoba taxpayers are willing to face and bear at this particular time. So I have made no commitments to produce television programs of any content at all. That isn't the function of the branch.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 40(a)--pass; 40(b)--pass; Resolution 40. Resolved that there be granted to Her majesty a sum not exceeding \$110,800 for Consumer, Corporate and Internal Services--Pass.

Resolution 41, Queen's Printer (a) Salaries. The Honourable Member for Wolseley.

MR. WILSON: I'm glad to see we're outnumbered about 8 to 2, one each I guess, but I wanted to talk about this particular section. It probably contains some of the largest amounts of money.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please.

MR. WILSON: Well there is a lot of money involved. I wanted to talk in particular about - under there it says advertising media buying and it came up that the Minister and his sort of ex-tax-saving left-hand man there - What's his name? Mr. Goldstein - they promised at the time - I remember the articles, I don't have them here, but they promised that this department would not exceed \$30,000.00. I can see by the \$67,000 figure that these projections and the establishment of the NDP advertising audit-buying or audit agency, or whatever it is, have sort of proved to be a mistake.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. We're on Resolution 41 (a) Salaries. The honourable member seems to be on a different . . .

MR. WILSON: Can we not talk, Mr. Chairman, about the whole commitment of the money?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The honourable member seems to be discussing the Advertising Audit Centre, that's under (d).

MR. WILSON: Well that's fair enough; I'll wait for that then, that's fine.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You'll wait until we get there?

Resolution 41(a)--pass; (b)(1)--pass. The Honourable Member for Wolseley.

MR. WILSON: I wonder if the Minister could explain because it has one million - of course over on this side it has \$2,353,500, and it's a sort of in and out ledger book-keeping thing, but if you add that plus the \$1.9 million it shows his department really has a \$6.8 million budget. I was wondering if the Minister could explain why he would try to sort of shelter and suggest that his departmental budgets are really only \$2.5 million.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. TURNBULL: Mr. Chairman, the budget for the operation of the Queen's Printer for as long as I can remember, since 1946, for 30 years, has been on a zero balance, open ledger account system. And what that reflects basically is that the operation is covered by billings to the line departments. In other words, the work done is recovered from the departments. That's why it's shown as a zero balance.

MR. WILSON: . . . other department gets stuck with the waste and that type of thing. In other words, if you have a lot of stationery left over and some other department gets stuck with that charge.

MR. TURNBULL: The stationery that the Queen's Printer has is bought, you know, it's either general stationery or general paper bought for general uses and can be used for whatever purposes the Queen's Printer needs to put it. In other words, it's

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(MR. TURNBULL cont'd) blank stock or it's stock that the departments have ordered, have insisted that it be printed or cut to a certain size, and the department if they don't need it will have to pay for it, that's correct.

But I would hope that one of the functions, well one of the functions of the Queen's Printer is to give professional advice to line departments to keep them from buying stock that they won't use. It's much better, by the way, I think to have this kind of central operation with inventory control and proper use of the equipment and of the inventory, than it is to have the whole service spread out through every line department. It just makes sense to do it this way, and has made sense for 30 years.

MR. WILSON: Is the Minister telling me that the entire cost of paper of this government is only \$2.3 million. I shouldn't say not only, it's a lot of money, but would he be able to generalize? Is this the total cost, or does it go four or five million higher? What is the cost of that?

MR. TURNBULL: I don't know what the total cost is, this is not everything that departments buy, obviously.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 41(b)(1)--pass. The Honourable Member for Pembina.

MR. HENDERSON: Is the price of the Hansard that you send out still the same as it was years ago, or is there an increase in that now?

MR. TURNBULL: I'm advised there's been no change in the last little while. Do you think there should be George?

MR. HENDERSON: No, I was just wondering with inflation the way it is, if by any chance that you'd raised your price on it, that's all.

MR. TURNBULL: It hasn't changed.

MR. HENDERSON: What is it? Three dollars?

A MEMBER: Between three and five.

MR. TURNBULL: But this year there's been no change.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Wolseley.

MR. WILSON: Just one last brief question. I wondered if the professional fees which I assume are lawyers fees, \$2,044.50, that's last year, I wonder - possibly they're higher this year . . .

MR. TURNBULL: Is this in the Estimates or in Public Accounts?

MR. WILSON: This is under Public Accounts.

MR. TURNBULL: Public Accounts meets tomorrow morning.

MR. WILSON: All right.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 41(b)(1)--pass; (b)(2)--pass; (b)(3)--pass; (b)--pass; 41(c)--pass; 41(d) Advertising Audit. The Honourable Member for Wolseley.

MR. WILSON: Again, the Minister will possibly give me the same answer for the \$1,977,000. But in this case I notice there's a deficit of \$77,000, so I assume that the comment that I was making earlier in which I accused the Minister of misleading the public through his left-hand man, Mr. Goldstein, said that this would never exceed \$30,000 in wages - I really honestly feel that, remembering that many of my friends were hurt under this decision and I questioned it at the time and I'd like to bring it up again, when I say that these projections and the establishment of this audit, advertising audit, proved a mistake in my opinion. You know, the taxpayers were promised a lot of money, a lot of savings, and I wonder if the Minister could tell me if the taxpayers have saved any money, because I realize that they were trying to avoid the 15 percent. This is something that I would like to ask him.

I thought maybe we might look at the - again the First Minister's always referring to Ontario - so I'd like to comment about a phone call I made that said that they use agencies of record, which means that the agencies that the government use appoint a spokesman, he goes out and buys the bulk and the government still gets the benefit of the bulk or quantity buying which seems to be the initial reason why the government went into this. I just wondered if - you know we could probably have this authority to buy the media time advertising at these particular rates and volume, but it seems that by hiring the ad agencies this way all the salaries would be paid by the private sector, we could avoid this

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(MR. WILSON cont'd) \$77,000-plus charge; and since the same agencies charge the government for the art work and the layout and the advice, etc. It seems to me that by losing the 15 percent, I might possibly respectfully suggest that these agencies would get even with the, sort of this know-it-all Minister, for lack of a better word, and increase their charges. It seems to me there's more than one way to sweet talk or forsake one's principles to get lost revenue back. And by lost revenue back I'm talking about the 15 percent that this government took away from those ad agencies.

I'd like to know the complete salary costs, including those which are not charged by your department, because obviously if you tell me that you only have the initial two people working there, my investigation proves that you probably, at least I think you have six or eight people working there, not two. Where does the rent show up, where does the postage, the office furniture, the office supplies, the staff luncheons, where does this show up here in this section?

I wondered if the Minister could comment if this \$1.9 million, does this really include all the NDP ads; I mean, the Minister has said, "Hold the line", it seems like a cement contract, \$1.9 million every year. But does this include the Crown corporations? Does this include the Liquor Control ads, you know the Liquor Commission advertising take it easy, those type of things, does this \$1.9 million include this? And where does this Mr. Smith's salary show up? I understand he's the head boy down there, because your left-hand man, Mr. Goldstein, apparently is no longer with you, Mr. Minister. I'd like to know some time along the way, I'd like to know how we can compare, how much the Dunskey New Democrat Agency gets in advertising compared to the Foster Advertising. I understand they haven't received a nickels worth of business from your department. This is the kind of unfairness that I think exists in this department and it should be made public awareness.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Before the Minister replies, for the information of the honourable member, I should point out to him that notwithstanding the fact that Public Accounts is meeting tomorrow, the honourable member is not precluded from referring to Public Accounts as long as they refer to this department. The Honourable Minister.

MR. WILSON: Yes. But, Mr. Chairman, what I was talking about as I looked at this Minister's department, I saw . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. TURNBULL: Mr. Chairman, I believe you did call me. Before the Member for Wolseley runs off any more, I would like to give some response to some of the points that he feels he's made.

In 1974-75 this account was \$1.9 million; in 1975-76 it's been held to \$1.9 million. The control that's exercised there is the result of the operation of the Advertising Audit Office. The control can be exercised most effectively through this central agency. The person that runs the Advertising Audit Office is a person that is highly respected amongst those people who are in the private industry of media buying. She knows her job very very well and she has been commended a number of times to me personally by people that are involved in the industry.

The \$1.9 million that advertising has been held to, I think, is quite remarkable and does show in fact a reduction in government expenditure on advertising. And the reason for that is that costs have gone up at least 25 percent for media buying, both time and space. And if you take into consideration the rapid increase in costs and see that we've held the line here and are attempting to continue to hold the line, you can see that obviously costs have not gone up for government advertising, in fact the amount of advertising has gone down somewhat.

The salary cost that he sees there should be compared somewhat to the 15 percent on the \$1.9 million. That would be \$285,000 in fees. That \$285,000 in fees is quite simply a saving that is accomplished through the advertising audit office. The \$77,000 that he referred to which is shown as a net, a bottom line figure here, results from a time lag that does occur from a line department billing the advertising, or sending rather its bills to the Advertising Audit Office and the time that the office takes to pay them. I mean everything can't be done simultaneously, I'm sure the

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(MR. TURNBULL cont'd) member appreciates that. That \$77,000 will be recovered in the following fiscal year.

With regards to distribution of advertising moneys amongst the various agencies, the policy of this government has been for some time to attempt to distribute advertising moneys in a reasonably equitable way amongst the various agencies. Before this government came to office advertising moneys were quite unfairly distributed amongst certain agencies and that has been altered. I can get figures for the various agencies if that's what the member would like. But as I say, the attempt has been to distribute advertising moneys amongst the various agencies.

Now this is an advertising audit and media co-ordination centre, this is the agency primarily that buys the space and the time. It is not the agency of the government that develops the art work or what have you, the creative work for the ads. That as I understand it is still done by the private agencies to a large extent.

MR. WILSON: Well, that's exactly what I mean about really saying nothing. I asked him, I said, do the profits from the 15 percent that this agency was set up offset absolutely all the charges? And the Minister has indicated they do. I respectfully submit, to me in my simple arithmetic, this has proved to be a failure, it is costing the taxpayer something. I am also submitting that this 15 percent should be left to the ad agencies, because as I mentioned, I respectfully suggest that they are increasing their costs in order to get this lost revenue back. I don't care who you are in business, if somebody takes away your revenue you've got to replace it somehow; and if you're dealing with the government and they've taken 15 percent away from you, you've got to get it back somewhere. I think that the entire staff could be eliminated and we could go back to the original concept of not costing the taxpayers any money. The architect of this particular scheme, Mr. Goldstein, is no longer there and I think when he left his strange and unworkable idea which the Minister endorsed should have gone with him.

With those remarks, I'll simply say that I'll ask for an Order for Return and I can assure you, Mr. Minister, it's common knowledge in the industry that Dunsky Travel got a far lot more business than Foster Advertising, and if the Minister has given Foster Advertising over \$10,000 worth of business in the last two years, I'd like him to say so now.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. TURNBULL: Mr. Chairman, if the member wants to file an Order for Return for that, fine. I don't have the figures in front of me now. File the Order for Return and we'll give it to you.

The other point with regard to the effectiveness of this agency is a rather amusing one. Since this agency was established I believe number of other people, organizations that buy a lot of advertising have gone the same route. In other words they have seen in this particular operation, this particular operation more than perhaps any other operation established in this department, they see it as a success, such a success that they have copied it in a number of different organizations across the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 41(d)(1)--pass; (d)(2)--pass; (d)(3)--pass; (d)(4)--pass; (d)--pass. Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$182,900 for Consumer, Corporate and Internal Services--pass.

Resolution 42. Public Utilities Board (a) The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Chairman, this may be the opportunity for the Minister to clarify some of his more mystifying statements that he's made over the past month or so concerning the role the Public Utilities Board plays, particularly in relation to the anti-inflation program and the control program. There's been a number of statements made. I suppose the basic one really that confounds the public is why it is that the utilities that are to be regulated by this Public Board in fact don't seem to be in any way responsible or come under the guidelines that have been set for the control of rates and costs and so on, and it seems that with the number of very exaggerated increases that have taken place in hydro and telephones that that has been a matter of some concern and consternation publicly, that the utilities appear to be escaping out from under the guideline program.

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(MR. AXWORTHY cont'd)

I think in particular, Mr. Chairman, the issue is important when it comes down to the Minister's own bill on rent stabilization, that a lot of the information that is passed on to the committee and has been passed on today is that one of the bulging areas of costs in the area of rental apartment blocks and everything else is the utility rates, and that we could probably do much to stabilize rents if we're controlling utility cost, by putting a control mechanism on. And I guess the issue really is raised this way, Mr. Chairman, that I realize that by the formulas the Public Utilities Board apply, they say that everything is a cost in a sense and all they're simply doing is recovering their money. But does the Utility Board not have some responsibility to really measuring how realistic those costs are, because I suppose any public Crown corporation has almost as its basic objective to expand itself, and while it isn't a profit making organization, it seems if they think they're going to make some money this year, they might as well go and build another generator or provide another facility or put up some more poles or whatever it is that they do, in other words just to keep all the engineers and all the people busy, so that everything in effect becomes a cost, and what they really should be translating is how do they begin restraining their operations to conform to some restraint upon capital investment program. Because in effect what Public Utilities are really paying for now is a large amount of interest on capital, I think what hydro says, what is it? - 45 cents on every dollar goes out to pay the interest on hydro's capital. And I expect with the increasing investments they're now making, that it will be even higher than that. So that would be one of the issues I raise.

I think the other issue is the specific one where the Minister indicated that he feels that he doesn't want to have Manitoba Telephone System coming before boards to be regulated because that would just cost the taxpayer money and yet it would appear that that's the only place in which the public, the consumer advocate, the spokesman, has any opportunity to raise their voices in opposition or in protest against the rise in utilities, in telephone rates or whatever it may be.

So it seems, Mr. Chairman, that one of the things that has not been clarified at all in this government's anti-inflation program is the role that Public Utilities should play in it and whether in fact the Public Utilities Board has been given some instruction to alter its formulas it applies for rate increases to take into account guidelines and perhaps to take the next step further back and start raising some questions about the nature of the investments being made by the Public Utilities themselves, because that ends up simply being a cost that's passed through to the consumer and adds to the general inflationary rate. So maybe with that opening question the Minister might provide initial response.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. TURNBULL: Mr. Chairman, with the signing of the agreement between the Provincial Government and the Government of Canada, I have sent a memorandum to the Public Utilities Board telling them that they should take into consideration the AIB guidelines in determining applications for rate increases.

The points that the member made with regard to hydro utilities are points I suppose that could be made any time. There is no guarantee, of course, that the Utility Board in reviewing hydro rates would in fact approve the rates as applied for or reduce them. Quite the contrary could happen. Depending on the Utilities Board's evaluation of the position of the hydro utility, the Utilities Board could approve in fact a higher rate, in fact demand a higher rate be charged for the services provided to consumers in Manitoba or in any province. I do believe that that did happen in other provincial jurisdictions where the provincially-owned utility went before that provincial utility board and found that utility board wanted them to charge a higher rate than the one they had applied for.

The instructions that have gone to the Board with regard to its formulation of rate bases for the various utilities are non-existent. I have never asked the Utility Board to alter the method in which it prepares its criteria or guidelines for the formulation of the rate base.

The other area, of course, that I find of some interest is whether or not the

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(MR. TURNBULL cont'd) Telephone System should come before the Utilities Board for approval of its rate increase. The point here, Mr. Chairman, was that the Telephone System's rates now charged for service that is as good if not better than provided in most other jurisdictions, the rates for that service are competitive. In fact they are better than competitive. The rates charged here in Manitoba by the telephone utility are lower, have been the lowest in Canada for many many years; and the rates that have been applied for and granted with the interim order of the Utilities Board I think still place the rates charged by the Manitoba Telephone System below the rates charged in most other provincial jurisdictions. So when you have that competitive comparison that does show that the rates are well in line, if not below what's charged elsewhere for same levels of service, then I wonder if further expenditure before the Utilities Board is really a wise expenditure. I emphasize what I said there, I said, "I wonder," I do think about it. But I have not reached any conclusions about this primarily because I haven't seen the cost figures come in from the Utilities Board. The cost figures that I'll be looking at of course are the figures charged by the Board when it recovers its costs expended from the Telephone System; and I'll be looking at that amount along with the amount of money that the Telephone System itself has expended in salaries of staff used to prepare the 122, I think it is, interrogatories that Utilities Board asked for.

I think that costs have to be looked at. As simple as that. And if the costs are running at a half a million dollars, I think it's worthwhile to examine the policy of having the Telephone System's rate applications approved by the Utilities Board. I see nothing wrong with that. I've been perfectly public and open about doing that; "out front", as I think the colloquial expression is, about it. I think it's certainly a worthwhile examination. But, in the back of my mind I must tie in Utility Board hearings with the whole concept of consumer advocacy, and I again have to question the effectiveness of consumer representation before a Utilities Board, whether it's in this province or any other province or in the States or wherever, when the application being heard is of such an enormous complexity that the average consumer just hasn't got the time to devote to preparing his case before the Utility Board. So I would think that perhaps the best way of providing for consumer advocacy, which I happen to endorse, would be to take some of the money that is now expended by the Utilities Board and turn it over to a consumer advocacy agency, that agency, however, structured in relationship to the government, would then be able to make its case very effectively for Public Utilities, that is Crown utilities before the Standing Committees of this Legislature, and that might be a better way of getting the consumer viewpoint put across than having the Utility Board examine the applicant and other people who appear before the Board.

However, you know, the whole idea of consumer advocacy really has to be taken in historical perspective of the development of Utility Board Acts and Utility Board regulation, and when those Boards and those Acts governing them were first set up, the whole point was that the Utility Board would be a judicious and fair judge of the rate application. So I think embodied in the Utility Board Act and in the Utility Board and in the mandate that the Utility Board members feel they have, is the idea that they do in fact protect the consumer interest; and, you know, one has to make a judgment one way or the other as to whether the protection of that interest is being maintained or not. I am inclined to think that it is. And with regard to the Telephone System rate application, I think there have been a number of issues that come to light that has shown that the Utility Board has done a reasonably good job. Nonetheless, despite it's historical mandate and despite the good job that I believe it's now doing, I think there's still need for a direct consumer advocacy role somewhere in this whole process, and if I could find the money to develop that I'd be very pleased.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Chairman, I'm as much intrigued as the Minister is by the notion he puts forward about consumer advocacy, but it was my understanding that one of the functions that the Utility Board would play is that because it has access to a certain amount of professional staff and counsel, that when this complex matter of rate increases comes before it it is able therefore to provide a pretty fair assessment of some of the more difficult and complicated pieces of economics, or whatever, that are

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(MR. AXWORTHY cont'd) involved in determining whether the rate is applicable or not. And again, at this point in time, until the Minister gets his advocacy system, the rates are going up, and I think that a lack of access to some forum where those can be examined in public view and where they can be challenged in fact by competent professionals who are able to raise the right economic and technical questions must be considered. And while the objective of consumer advocacy appearing before a Standing Committee is one I would endorse, it doesn't do much good right now, because I imagine it's going to take some time, if and when it does happen, and that therefore I think the Minister also has to take into account the particular degree of public apprehension in this area because the effectiveness of an anti inflation program in part depends upon its public acceptance, and if there appears to be loopholes in the program that in particular the public agency seemed to be slipping through then it would destroy or impair the credibility of an attempt to fight inflation from the public side. And that's what concerns me, that the way in which both the increases themselves are escalating and I think the Minister's own statement that he didn't want to send it before the Board did create in the minds of many that maybe government was kind of protecting its own while the private sector was kind of taking it in the neck on . . . stabilizations and dividend limitations and wage controls and everything else. So I think that the requirement for that kind of airing is very very important at this point.

Now the other question I would raise if I can get back to it, and it maybe not the time of the evening, but the economics of Public Utilities as I understand it is one where the rate increase is geared by some ratio to its capital and assets, the assets that it has, and therefore the economic formulations that a public utility goes through are quite different from what they would go through say in the private sector, so that in a sense every additional telephone booth that MTS puts on the ground increases capital asset and therefore justifies a lighter rate base because as it broadens its base of the pyramid is therefore able to request more revenue to cover the investments or cover the cost of that increased capital, and there is a kind of a curious - I guess almost, the analogy I would use, like the sorcerer's apprentice kind of thing, that once you get the public utilities going they can't stop expanding or they can't stop activity because that somehow defeats their original objectives and therefore there's almost an infernal machine to keep widening and expanding their assets, their activities, rather than simply saying, look, this is the year we're not going to require any more princess telephones or any more improvements, we're just going to stand still for a while and just in a sense hold the line on services and not attempt to bring more machinery or more equipment into place and therefore be able to go forward and justify the rate increase. I don't know if it would be totally comparable but I did read fairly thoroughly the applications of Bell applications in Eastern Canada and that was the major charge that was paid against them in the Eastern system, that in fact they were playing that game of broadening the pyramidal base in order to justify the rate increases. And I, without being able to prove it, because I'm not a public utilities economist, but would wonder if that's the same kind of phenomena that we're going through here and whether that should not be the kind of thing that when the Minister says he's setting guidelines is something that should be specifically pinpointed, that in fact we should be holding the line on those services at this point in time, or at least on that acquisition or expansion of capital assets.

MR. TURNBULL: Mr. Chairman, the concept that the Utility Board does follow, of course, is to set a rate base based on investment made in telephone plant and equipment by the Telephone System. That investment the Act requires to be made prudently, has to be used and has to be useful, and there are those guidelines, if you can call them that, set right out in the Public Utilities Board Act. So that here I do not believe that the Telephone System has made unjudicious investment. You can compare it quite easily, you know, by getting involved with the Bell operation and seeing the scale and style in which they operate and scale and the style in which the MTS operates. And there's quite a difference. Here it's much more parsimonious, without any doubt at all. So that I think that the rate base here is likely proportionately lower than that in Ontario given the geographic factors and the dispersal of population factors that we have here

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(MR. TURNBULL cont'd) which were peculiar really with half the population in Winnipeg and the rest scattered throughout the province.

The guidelines of the AIB, as I did indicate, are to be followed by the Public Utilities Board and I have no intention at the moment of removing the Telephone System from the Utility Board operation. But the Utilities Board had hearings - well there were not that many sort of ordinary consumers that appeared before the Utilities Board, although when the Board went to rural Manitoba there were representations made. And I would like to see a greater involvement of the consumer interest before the board and that goal, I think, needs to be achieved one way or another.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Chairman, I'm not sure if the Minister said - if he now is saying that in fact the Manitoba Telephone System will be required to appear before the Public Utilities Board?

MR. TURNBULL: It is in the Utilities Board Act, as I recall, and I think it's in the Telephone System Act as well and any change is going to require at least two Legislative Amendments. And I am not about to propose those amendments.

MR. AXWORTHY: You're not about to propose, that's what I wanted to know.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Pembina.

MR. HENDERSON: Mr. Chairman, did I hear you saying that the Telephone System is going to appear before the Public Utilities Committee or is this the place to ask questions on the Manitoba Telephones, as to its centralization and the number on party lines and so forth.

MR. TURNBULL: I'd be inclined to think that those kinds of questions should be asked of the executive of the Telephone System when they're before Public Utilities Committee which I believe is on March 30th. You don't have long to wait.

MR. HENDERSON: Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 42(a)--pass; 42 (b)--pass. Resolution 42, resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$292,800 for Consumer, Corporate and Internal Services -- pass.

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(MR. CHAIRMAN cont'd)

Resolution 35(a) Minister's Compensation. The Honourable Member for Wolseley.

MR. WILSON: Mr. Chairman, I'll try not to carry my thoughts in quite as enthusiastic a manner, but I do really honestly believe, and when I'm willing to repeat the same statements twice it means I honestly believe them, that I think that we've got to go one way or the other; either the Minister has to seriously cut his staff and save tax dollars because of the fact we're in a time of restraint, in the late '70s, and when education costs are being cut, when health care is being affected. I think that this department is a luxury that we could do without.

Added to that is the phenomena of the ever-increasing legal aid which in a large part is supported by the private sector funds which are hidden in your Consolidated Fund. We never know how much money the lawyers give you people and we feel that with this money you could strengthen the Ombudsman's department.

MR. TURNBULL: On a point of privilege. What was that remark about . . . ?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister on a point of privilege.

MR. WILSON: I'm saying that the funds from the Lawyers Trust Account go into the government Consolidated Fund and there doesn't seem to be any accounting as to . . .

MR. TURNBULL: Then I have a point of order. You know, I don't mean to be hard on the Member for Wolseley but that point really needs to be dealt with in the Estimates of the Attorney-General's department and not here.

MR. WILSON: But if we're under one umbrella and this is the case where you cover the entire umbrella, if we're talking about the costs of protecting the consumers in this province, I'm saying that we can do so by strengthening the Ombudsman's department. We could do so by allowing Legal Aid to continue upon its merry way because certainly lawyers are more capable than laymen of handling consumers problems and taking aggrieved people that have a just complaint to court.

MR. TURNBULL: Can I just ask the member a question? I mean that's an interesting point and really I would be very pleased if we could hire enough lawyers to deal with all the consumer complaints that exist in the community. But are you suggesting that by hiring lawyers to handle consumer litigation in the courts it would really, in the long run, be less expensive a way of handling consumer complaints than the system we now have.

MR. WILSON: No, what I am saying is we have a duplication of service now because mainly your department is a forwarding agency because you refer people on. When people don't buy your glowing letters that you send out with your large secretarial staff, when they don't pay any attention to them, then the aggrieved person, because you have no statute in which to take these people to court, are then referred to a lawyer. So you're really just a forwarding agency and the people end up with a lawyer in the end anyway. So what I am saying is if we strengthen Legal Aid, the Ombudsman, licensing and control . . .

MR. TURNBULL: Can I ask the Member . . . ?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. The honourable member is entitled to finish his remarks. The Honourable Member for Wolseley.

MR. WILSON: Go ahead.

MR. TURNBULL: . . . question, I was wondering, he's made that statement a couple of times, do you have any figures? And what's the statement based on?

MR. WILSON: It's based on a "university of life" degree and the very grassroots pulse that I have of what's going on in this city. I was born and raised here and know what's happening.

MR. TURNBULL: Do you have examples? Because I would like to know if you have examples of cases that have been dealt with by the Consumers Bureau and the person has been referred to Legal Aid to further their complaint against the company through the courts. And, you know, it's not a matter of . . .

MR. WILSON: I could cite about half a dozen right off the . . . Do you want one for an example?

MR. TURNBULL: Well I would like to hear - Mr. Mason is here and . . .

MR. WILSON: All right. We'll give you the case of an American musician that came up here, he was a non-resident of this city, he was playing at the Holiday Inn and we received a wire, through an associate company, to have this gentleman's car repossessed. The gentleman, of course, was a professional debt dodger and ran to the Consumers Bureau on the advice

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(MR. WILSON cont'd)of friends in the entertainment community. Your particular department could not do anything because the American Banking Association and the company involved were able to have this gentleman, Mr. Harris, prove that they acted responsibly, and I say and rightfully so, in the judgment of your officers, this man had a civil action. He then went to Legal Aid, he was a non-resident of this province, he was an American, he shouldn't have been entitled to legal aid and he received legal aid of which he took this company to court. The company ended up winning but lost \$900 in legal fees defending their position.

What I'm simply trying to say is so many people are using your Bureau as a means to recover aggrieved situations. Now I don't want to go into the specifics because you're interrupting my train of thought which was simply that I feel that cuts could be made because in time of restraint, this particular department, either you've got to go one way or the other.

If you would have let me finish I would have given you the second example which would have been to strengthen this department, curtail legal aid in the Ombudsman's department because obviously you're doing that. But I'm simply saying if you follow my thinking that under licensing regulation and control, and you know yourself that the same people that handle the complaints under your pamphlet that you put out, the same people that handle the complaints handle the licences. And especially when it comes to collection practices you have the authority to be able to remove anybody's licence who is continually offending the consumer. So, therefore, you have regulation and control of which you can control the behaviour of a certain industry. So that way you can establish, you are really just a simple overview or reviewing agency for the complaints that come in. And I'm simply saying you have the summary convictions through the courts, anybody that does anything wrong - you know, in the old days before the phenomena of your department anybody that was aggrieved under a civil action had a remedy to the courts. Now anybody in small business has to go through the Consumers Bureau, through Legal Aid and then through the court system, so they got three cracks at them, and in the meantime the small businessman is the vehicle against dishonesty, defending his position against people who have overloaded themselves with debt, and in many many cases using the establishment and the government to avoid paying their just obligations. And those are comments that I make in this regard.

Now as far as the other department, you've got to put more teeth in your department and help to remove the absolute expansion of legal aid because if you're qualified, if by the time we get around to 1977-78, maybe they'll have had enough on-the-job training, they'll turn out to be terrific guys since they originally started out in the credit union or somewhere. But they'll start out and gain the expertise by studying the Act, studying the statutes and be able to - again all of these Acts are written, they supersede a lot of the provincial Acts and they're based on the incredible situation where a layman has the final say. The rentalsman has the final say according to some of these documents that we have here, and a lot of the rules of the game are based on the fact of this one man's opinion, sitting there interpreting the Act, and I would like to if I could, if I can find it, I will give you some examples of what I mean by interpreting the Act.

There's just so many of them, but they're so very vague things where this particular government can tell you who can work for you, they tell you what you can call yourself. They have taken over the revenue from the City of Winnipeg, they've taken over all the licensing that the City of Winnipeg used to have - in a good portion of it anyway - and this was revenue that the city used to have and they've taken all the control out of the city and the Big Brother attitude towards these professional debt dodgers, has reduced, has reduced in the particular section that I know about, has reduced the licensed bailiffs in this province from 28 down to 3.

Now this is the particular situation which was also caused by Bill 139, the bill in which I referred to where you had a remedy for rental increases which you did not exercise. And in that Bill 139 under Section 88 you had distress abolished, and you literally took away the livelihood of a lot of people and what you have . . .

MR. TURNBULL: What was that bill again?

MR. WILSON: Bill 139, Section 88.

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MR. TURNBULL: What year and what type of . . . ?

MR. WILSON: 1970. --(Interjection)-- The Landlord and Tenant Act. And what I am saying is that the government felt that they were outsmarting the private sector, but you see, businessmen in the private sector they pass these costs on to the consumer. There is no way that anybody who is a property management person or who is in business is going to be outwitted by the government. They simply pass it on to the poor consumer, goods and services increase. And I would like to suggest that the way your department is going, it's contributing to inflation because the businessmen simply pass on the annoyance from some of you people on to the consumer - and I sincerely mean that. And when I look at some of these costs where you've got lawyers fees or professional fees \$152,000; where I see you've got an advertising budget of \$1.8 million; where I see that you've got travelling expenses of \$32,000, boy, there's an awful lot of people having a good time protecting the consumers within your department and there may be outside consultants, I don't know. And that's the kind of thing that bothers me.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Chairman, I hardly know what to say after all that, but I would want to divorce myself, I think, from those sentiments because, I think, in fact, if there was any major complaint I had about the Minister's department, it was that it was far too passive and . . .

MR. TURNBULL: Well we'll spend more.

MR. AXWORTHY: . . . not necessarily spend more but perhaps work in different ways. I think that I have a great respect for some areas of the department. Because of the nature of my constituency, I have a number of dealings with the Rentalsman as the Minister well knows and have found in most instances for them to be quite fair and impartial in their dealings. My complaints would be that you never get through to their phones because they're obviously too busy and I hope you'll sort of cure that problem, and also frankly that in many cases, at certain peak periods, just not able to handle the load. But that in certain very critical areas, I think mainly in the policy areas, the question of food pricing, I don't think that this department has taken anywhere near the kind of leadership and investigation and information supply that it could to make sure that there would be a proper understanding on the part of consumers about the food problems. And I hope that now with the study of the Supermarket Reports that the Food Prices Review Board nationally has done and the Meat Report that we have just recently had here in the Province of Manitoba, that that will then give the basis for a much more concerted action in the area of providing for more adequate protection and information about consumer choices in these areas. And I think that that would be the registry of concern I would have about the department.

There are several areas, I think, where they have allowed their mandate to lapse as opposed to enforcing it or bringing it to its full effectiveness, that I don't think you can have trade-offs one between the other. I think the former speaker suggested you either have an Ombudsman or a Consumer Protection Branch. I don't think the two are necessarily mutually exclusive, I think that they can work in common. But the Minister in his previous remarks struck upon something that was very critical and that is that the ability of consumers to provide protection for themselves is much more difficult in this day and age when goods and services are either so heavily packaged or cosmeticed or masqueraded and that the kind of process, the manufacturing that goes into them are far more complicated, that the ability of the layman to intercede on his or her own behalf is much more difficult.

And I think this question of advocacy is a very critical one, and I hope that the Minister will be able to follow up further in his efforts, because strangely enough, I think, in relation to the remarks of the former speaker, one of the best ways of economizing is through good consumerism. If consumers are fully informed about the kinds of products that are good products that are available to them, good businessmen that service those products, then they are able to make much more efficient purchases and be able to make the market work more effectively. And it's a good way of fleecing out the gyp artists of whom there are a few in this society, and it's only through proper information, disseminative information, that they're able to do that. And I think that should be

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(MR. AXWORTHY cont'd)one of the roles of a department, that in fact, consumer protection is one of the best protections that the small businessman himself can obtain - the good, small businessman who has nothing to fear. That those are the ones who are in fact best protected under a Consumer Protection Act. That it is a way of sort of catching the ones who are trying to shade the consumer and shade the community as a whole.

So, Mr. Chairman, my comments generally on the Minister's salary would be that now with the stimulation of all those landlords breathing down his neck, that that will serve to excite and sort of activate his metabolism to the point where perhaps he'll become even more active in other areas and understand, I think, that the Rent Control Bill is only one part of a piece and we've got to look much more seriously at a number of areas that come under the purview of his department. And I say that one of the areas that we are seriously lacking in this province, with any serious attention, has been the area of food investigation, price control and the role of shopping for food products. I think it's something where the consumer really hasn't yet felt the full weight or support that he needs to get.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. TURNBULL: Mr. Chairman, that's the most encouraging two speeches because I gather that half of the point made by the Member for Wolseley, and all of the point made by the Member for Fort Rouge is really to urge my department and myself on to bring about even greater consumer protection in Manitoba. And I think the Member for Fort Rouge will remember that I do have a Fair Trade Practices Act under review, that that Act will in fact enable the Consumer's Bureau, if I can get it passed, to act against only those people in the marketplace who are engaged in unfair practices and unconscionable transactions, and if we can get that kind of legislation in place we can perhaps simplify the existing Consumer Protections Act.

There is then this one legislative thrust which I think will be - it's omnibus legislation, umbrella legislation and proven very effective in B.C. and our Act is quite similar. In addition, thanks to the urging of the Member for Fort Rouge in the past, we now have before the Legislature a rent control bill and that clearly is another area of consumer protection.

In addition to that, the legislative program this session will include the amendments to the Fair Trade Practices Inquiry Act which will enable us to establish prices for certain basic commodities, and that Act too, then, will provide greater areas of consumer protection, and I look to the support from the Member for Fort Rouge for that particular bill.

And finally, we have my new Companies Act coming along which I hope, and I'm told, will make things easier and more simple for people who want to incorporate. So that there has been some activity in drafting new legislative thrusts.

In addition, I can tell members now that there will be amendments to the Telephone System Act which you will see will again provide greater areas of consumer protection with regard to telecommunication devices. So that we have, that is, may summarize, the Fair Trade Practices Act which is an entirely new and more effective concept of consumer protection. We have rent control. We have a bill in the works to establish prices for basic commodities; we have amendments to the Telephone System Act and we have the Companies Act; all of which I hope will be legislative programs that will improve consumer protection and make things a little easier for some businessmen.

Thanks for your urging me on to more legislation. I look for your support.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Wolseley.

MR. WILSON: Well, Mr. Chairman, after those two very interesting remarks by the Member for Fort Rouge and the Minister patting each other on the back for different programs, they all should know, as they do, that in particular when I was a councillor, I sent the Minister . . . took up petitions, spent many an hour knocking on doors trying to stop the unfair increases of rent at the Devon Court and a number of other blocks in the area. I shared the Minister's concern about a rent review, it was written into the Landlord and Tenant Act, it was indicated in last year's Hansard by many people that it was rent review we were talking about, and now we're talking rent control and the bill is before us.

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(MR. WILSON cont'd) . . .

At the same time the Minister has had the privilege, without being challenged on a point of privilege in the House by myself where he has taken my crystal-balling and called me very uncomplimentary names, of which I received this information mainly through civil servants and through newspaper copies, where it was indicated to me that the rollback date from many of these, including the February 21st '76 article which quoted October 1st and other articles which appeared by Mary Ann Fitzgerald which quoted at least October 1st, all guessing and suggesting that the date, which they were, that the Minister to me has not justified his change of date. A gentleman in the lunchroom today was heard to blame the change of dates on myself, which I find absolutely ridiculous, and I find it very strange that he gave me no hint in any of the conversations that I had that he was going to exclude the government, was going to exclude MHRC, was going to exclude the Winnipeg Housing authority from the same guidelines which he was hoping to impose on the landlords and property management people of the city. I've always been battling for unfair and unjust gouging landlords, I've taken Globe General Agencies to task many times and I have no qualms in identifying these people and felt that a rent review situation. . . now that the bill is before us we hope that some of the unfair parts of it will be levelled off. I know that many of the tenants in my area are very pleased with the work that I've been doing on their behalf. So if you're going to be passing bouquets around that's fine, I'm simply saying that we all share your concern, we're trying to keep this rent review and the unfair rental increases out of the political arena and hopefully they can be dealt with fairly at Law Amendments.

I did want to comment again that I agreed, I notice that the Minister has been sort of taken to task by the Member for St. Johns, which he advocated controlling the flow of advertising, on Page 1456, and he said there's too much money being spent on advertising and he felt that diverting people and encouraging people through advertising. . . and this reminded me of your Turnbull type of thing where you keep pounding the people through this Information Services and everything, telling them over and over and over again until such time as they believe it. And now you're going into the television thing where you've got the VRT equipment going and I'm sure that looking at this one, which has nothing to do with your department but I could never find out where this million dollars came from, another brainwashing attempt called the Co-operative Curriculum project is a typical example what we mean by new government programs, information programs telling the wonderful story of the socialists throughout the Province of Manitoba. Well I'm afraid you're going to be found out, because thank goodness the Fourth Estate deals with a lot of these things in an objective manner and I'm looking forward to the whole province finding out how you are wasting money on programs that are a duplication.

I wanted to ask the Member from Fort Rouge if he ever heard of Mrs. Plumtre in the federal program. I think there's a girl named Tammis, locally, a lady that I've met who is in charge of the Winnipeg Branch of the federal control program. If the federal program isn't working, and I am in agreement, you took me wrong, I said, look, either you're going to get more teeth in your department or you're going to turn around and pass it off to where it should be and you can just be a forwarding agency. So maybe the Federal Government should give you a grant instead of these duplication of services; either that or let them do it.

And finally, I just wanted one minute, Mr. Minister, while I've got this here. I disagree that, as I say, I'm sorry for my bias in this way but my experience has been that your department has to, from time to time, reassess its thinking, and in Hansard it was admitted that your department from time to time has to realize there are landlords as well as tenants. I suggest to you there are small businessmen, there are clothing stores, there are furniture stores and for your department to just think in terms of protecting the debtor and suggesting that Legal Aid protect harassed debtors, as far as my concern, I had to laugh, again you talk about ambiguous words -- (Interjection) -- No, I'm not, these are my own personal views and my own experience. I'm simply saying that in my opinion there has to be a re-thinking of the civil servants working in the staff that make it of equal balance. The Minister always talks about equal balance and I'm looking forward to some improvement in that area.

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(MR. WILSON cont'd)

I just wanted to say that I get many letters about people that are aggrieved by the Rentalsman's Department. Poor Mrs. Fletcher, a 69-year-old widow on Greenwood wrote me pertaining to a group of truck drivers who wrecked her place, and couldn't get an answer for six months so finally she hired a group of relatives to clean up the place, and lo and behold if they didn't turn around and give the security deposit to these people, and she's had to take medical . . . she's just overwrought with depression - because of the handling of Mrs. Fletcher by the department. This is a type of thing that I think is tragic, when your workers won't get out of the office, get out and find out who the people are dealing with, especially when it's with low income senior citizens, and lack of compassion to check out both sides of the story. In other words, this questionable tenant came down to the Rentalsman's office, they were so used to siding with the tenant they immediately ruled that this person should get the security deposit without checking into this tragic story of this Mrs. Fletcher on Greenwood Place, and believe you me, it's the type of thing that would really get at your heart when you could see what the department has done to this poor woman, which to her was a very major thing, her battle with a rowdy and unappreciative tenant who literally destroyed the fridge and she was given \$25.00. And her answer to the - written again by a relative - to the Rentalsman is, "I have turned this matter over to Mr. Wilson who will be representing me in this matter." Well I'm representing her today. I've written to the Rentalsman. We realize that there's no condition for appeal and probably nothing done but I wanted to get her case on the record.

With those remarks, Mr. Chairman, I just summarize by saying that this department has got to go one way or the other. We've either got to put more teeth in this department or we've just got to slow it down, because there's absolutely no way that a lot of these functions that are being performed by these civil servants who are on the job training, who are just turning around and they're really sort of a weigh station on the way to legal aid, a weigh station on the way to the courts, and I just think really there has to be an assessment of the whole situation in really these tough times. Is this department a high priority compared to shelter, compared to a lot of the other social services like education, special programs, nutritional programs in the school? I would say the first thing to get rid of is the \$10 million government parking garage for employees; and the second thing is a lot of the fat in this department.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. TURNBULL: Mr. Chairman, if the member could table that letter from Mrs. Fletcher we can certainly have it examined as we will have the Harris case examined and the other points that the member has made.

I was correct when I last spoke and summed up one-half of his speech as being one that will - really is one that encourages myself and the department to increase our activities in the field of consumer protection, and if that's his position, or one-half of it, then I'd like to thank him for it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 35(a)--pass. Resolved there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$491,500 for Consumer, Corporate and Internal Services--pass. That completes the Department of Consumer, Corporate and Internal Services. Committee rise.